

Film  
Connects  
Us

**FILM**  
PITTSBURGH

**FALL**  
**FESTIVAL** 20  
20

**NOV 11-22**

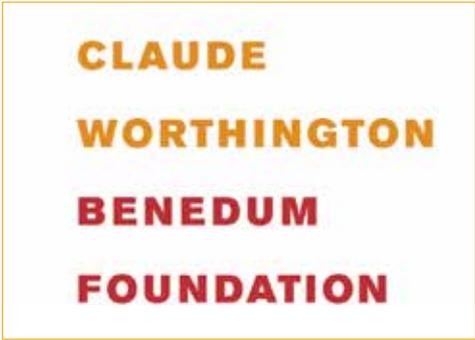
[FilmPittsburgh.org](http://FilmPittsburgh.org)



ReelAbilities

# Film Pittsburgh Fall Festival SPONSORS

## LEAD



## PREMIERE



## GOLD



## FESTIVAL PARTNER



## MEDIA SPONSORS



## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

County City Task Force on Disabilities  
Fancypants Popcorn  
Highmark  
Screenshot: Asia

## OPERATING SUPPORT

Allegheny Regional Asset District  
Jack Buncher Foundation  
Philip Chosky Charitable & Educational Foundation

The Heinz Endowments  
Henry L Hillman Foundation  
PA Council on the Arts

# Welcome from the Executive Director

Dear Film Pittsburgh Family,

It's been a challenging time for all of us these past several months and we're disappointed that we can't gather in person for this year's Fall Festival. But we're excited to be able to pivot and present an incredible array of films at a virtual festival. Our Film Pittsburgh Fall Festival will include Pittsburgh Shorts, ReelAbilities Pittsburgh, and the 38th Three Rivers Film Festival – featuring a JFilm Festival track of films, too! All festival screenings and Q&As will be found on our website: FilmPittsburgh.org. And, we're here to help! We've worked hard to make this virtual festival as user-friendly as possible but realize you might still have some

technical challenges. Look for the FAQ section on our website to help you navigate any issues you may have. We've curated an outstanding and extensive lineup of short and feature length films from all over the world which we're eager to share with you. While the Film Pittsburgh team looks forward to the time when we can be together again to celebrate independent film, we hope that you'll enjoy this year's festival from the comfort of your home.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Spitz Cohan

## TICKETS: FilmPittsburgh.org

### SINGLE TICKETS

**Festival Friend: \$100**  
(\$15 ticket + \$85 charitable contribution)

**General Admission: \$15**

### PASSES

**All Festival Pass** (\$705 value)

- \$120 Early Bird - before Nov. 11
- \$150 Regular Price

**Six Pack** (\$90 value)

- \$60 Early Bird - before Nov. 11
- \$75 Regular Price

### FREE EVENTS

**CODE OF THE FREAKS**  
(page 12)

**PROSECUTING EVIL:  
THE EXTRAORDINARY WORLD  
OF BEN FERENCZ**  
(page 16)

**ALL AGES BLOCK 1  
November 14 and 15 only**  
(page 24)

### ACCESSIBILITY

All ReelAbilities films have subtitles or captions.

### QUESTIONS?

The fastest way to reach us is by email: [Info@FilmPittsburgh.org](mailto:Info@FilmPittsburgh.org)

**Phone: 412-426-FILM (3456)**

We are not working in the office, but if you leave a voicemail message, someone will return your call within 24 hours.

All content subject to change.

Following many of the screenings we'll offer Q&As with members of the filmmaking teams. More information about Q&As will be listed on the film pages of the website.

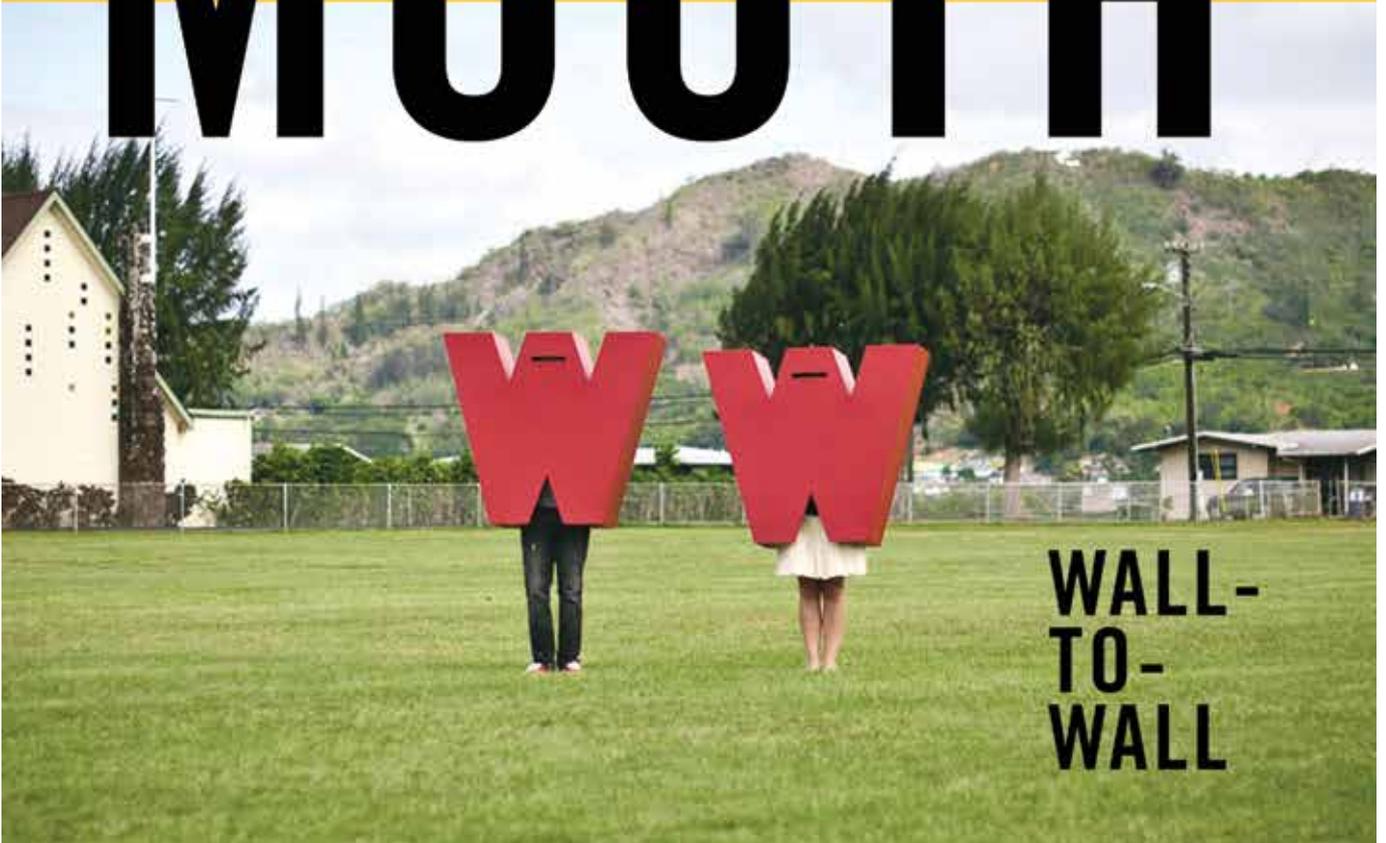
### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At a minimum, feature films are available for viewing in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. Some are available in the United States only and a few are available worldwide. Many of the feature films are available to be viewed over the course of the festival beginning on November 12 but some have restrictions. In most instances, after "unlocking" your film for viewing, you will have 24-hours to watch it. Please check the individual film page for details. All short film blocks are available for viewing in the United States for the duration of the festival, November 12-22.

Adult content has been listed after feature-length film descriptions. Short films are not rated and may contain disturbing language or images. All Ages short film blocks are suitable for – you guessed it! – all ages.

# SMILE- TO- MOUTH

BRANDING FOR PRINT, INTERACTIVE & BROADCAST



WALL-  
TO-  
WALL

# Three Rivers Film Festival 2020 Opening/Closing



PHOTO: MARIO FURLONI

## OPENING NIGHT FILM

### FREELAND

Pittsburgh Premiere

**Directors: Kate McLean & Mario Furloni**  
2020, USA, 80 minutes

English

Devi is an aging but legendary breeder of pot strains who over decades has built a business on her remote homestead in beautiful Humboldt County, CA. But now that cannabis is legal, she finds herself in a fight for survival. Krisha Fairchild embodies the role of Devi in a tour-de-force performance. Shot on off-the-grid pot farms, Pittsburgh-based producer Laura Heberton and directors Mario Furloni and Kate McLean offer up an authentic and emotionally charged thriller. (Adult content: casual drug use)

*Official Selection – SXSW and Mill Valley Film Festivals*

*Winner – Nashville Film Festival - Best New Directors*

"Fairchild's performance is so deftly layered with ferocity and wisdom, heartache and desperation, that it suggests whole realms beyond the screenplay's understated yet trenchant dialogue." – Sheri Linden, *Hollywood Reporter*

"A stoner midlife-crisis drama." – Eric Kohn, *IndieWire*

*Freeland* is preceded by:

### PHARMACOPEIA

**(Director: Tania Taiwo, USA, 6 minutes)**

A pharmacist drowning in student loan debt rebels against the system.

Available for viewing

**November 11, 7:30pm**

United States only

*Live Q&A with producer Laura Heberton, cast and crew follows at 9pm.*

 LOCAL CONNECTION



## CLOSING NIGHT

### BEST OF THE FEST

Sunday, November 22, 7 pm

Join us for the Awards Ceremony announcing the Jury Prizes for Short Films and Audience Awards (voted on by you!) for both shorts and features. A selection of the winning short films will be screened.

## 2020 JURORS



**Michael Killen** is co-creator, writer and director of the ABC series *Downward Dog*, and co-founder of Animal Inc., a production company and VFX studio. *Michael will present the \$1,000 prize for Best Animated Short Film.*



**Deesha Philyaw** is a writer whose work focuses on race, parenting, gender, and culture. Her debut short story collection, *The Secret Lives Of Church Ladies*, has been shortlisted for a 2020 National Book Award. *Deesha will present the \$1,000 prize for Best Live Action Short Film.*



**Martha Rial** is a photographer who has been recognized internationally including a Pulitzer Prize for her work documenting the lives of Burundian and Rwandan survivors of the 1994 genocide. *Martha will present the \$1,000 prize for Best Documentary Short Film.*

Our communities flourish when all people can participate.

Since 1951, CLASS has been creating communities where people with disabilities and their families can live, work, and play in the communities of their choice.

CLASS provides:

Attendant Care Services  
Brain Injury Services  
Community Skill Building  
Community Habilitation  
Community Partners  
Extended School Year

Information and Referral  
Multiple Sclerosis Services  
Residential Services  
Technology For Our Whole Lives (TechOWL)  
Vocational Programs



For more information about CLASS and the services it provides, visit:  
[www.classcommunity.org](http://www.classcommunity.org)



We are... Working Toward A Community Where Each Belongs



6524 Wilkins Avenue  
Squirrel Hill

Tue-Fri 7am-6pm  
Sat 8am-5pm  
Sun 8am-2pm

[fivepointsartisanbakeshop.com](http://fivepointsartisanbakeshop.com)

# Script Competition/Tracks/Sidebars



## PITTSBURGH SHORTS

### SCRIPT COMPETITION

For the 2nd year, we've partnered with Carnegie Screenwriters to honor screenwriters who've submitted scripts that are 15 pages or less. Four finalists will be given virtual readings by professional actors. Prizes totaling \$1,000 will be announced at the Closing Night Awards Ceremony.

#### SCRIPT FINALISTS

**Ain't My Type of Hype**  
by Tanisha Jackson

**Bernie**  
by Fred Perry

**Hawk Bells**  
by Kristian Mercado

**Next, Please**  
by Diego Trovarelli

The script readings are followed by:

**COMMON DECENCY**  
(Directors: Stefan Dezil, Courtney HopeThérond, USA, 11 minutes)

Congratulations to writer Caroline Bloom for bringing her script, which was a finalist at last year's script competition, to the screen.

Available for viewing  
**November 12-22**  
United States only



#### REELABILITIES TRACK

We're thrilled to include ReelAbilities Pittsburgh in our Fall Festival. If you haven't ever attended this festival you're in for a treat! All films highlight the lives and stories of people with disabilities. Included in the ReelAbilities Track are three feature films, a feature length program and two shorts blocks.

#### FEATURES

**Can You Hear My Voice?**

**The Code of Freaks**

**The Feeling Through Experience**  
(includes 3 short films and a live Q&A)

**Icarus. The Legend Of Mietek Kosz**

#### SHORTS

**ReelAbilities Block 1**

**ReelAbilities Block 2**

#### MERITZER AWARD

The Richard Meritzer Award, co-sponsored by the City-County Task Force on Disabilities and ReelAbilities Pittsburgh, will be presented to Oakland for All as part of *The Feeling Through Experience*. The award honors the memory of Richard Meritzer (1953-2019), who served as ADA Coordinator for the City of Pittsburgh from 2007 to 2019 and was a leader in promoting understanding and implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### CREATIVE CITIZEN STUDIOS: ARTWORK THAT POPS!



Visit the online gallery that includes artwork (for sale!) by artists from Creative Citizen Studios. All work was created during virtual and in-person workshops in partnership with the Andy Warhol Museum.

[CitizenStudios.org/POP-Artwork](http://CitizenStudios.org/POP-Artwork)



#### JFILM TRACK

We were so disappointed to have to cancel the 27th annual JFilm Festival last spring but we're excited to share four feature films that would have played as part of that festival.

#### NARRATIVES

**Asia**

**The Crossing**

**Those Who Remained**

#### DOCUMENTARY

**Prosecuting Evil:  
The Extraordinary World of  
Ben Ferencz**



#### ASIAN SIDEBAR

We're pleased to collaborate with Screenshot: Asia from the University of Pittsburgh to present four feature films about the Asian experience.

#### NARRATIVES

**Definition Please**

**Twilight's Kiss**

#### DOCUMENTARIES

**Beethoven in Beijing**

**Picture Character**

Please see individual film pages  
for more information.

# Three Rivers Film Festival 2020 Centerpiece/Spotlight



## CENTERPIECE FILM

### MLK/FBI

**Pittsburgh Premiere**

**Director: Sam Pollard**

2020, USA, 104 minutes

English

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is regarded as an American hero today, but for much of his life he was considered an enemy of the state and a threat by U.S. intelligence and law enforcement. Based on newly discovered and declassified FBI files, and featuring revelatory restored footage of King, director Sam Pollard deftly explores the history of the U.S. government's targeting of black activists in this rich, archival tapestry. As the film reveals the extent to which the FBI surveilled and harassed Dr. King, it challenges the very meaning of some of our most cherished American ideals.

*Official Selection – Telluride, Toronto and New York Film Festivals*

*Winner – Truly Moving Picture Award - Heartland Film*

"In *MLK/FBI*, the treacherous dance of King and the FBI becomes a sinister soap opera of espionage." –Owen Gleiberman, *Variety*

**Available for viewing**

**November 12-22**

**PA, WV, and OH only**



## SPOTLIGHT FILM

### NIGHT OF THE KINGS

**Pittsburgh Premiere**

**Director: Philippe Lacôte**

2020, France/Ivory Coast/Canada/Senegal, 99 minutes

French & Dyula with subtitles

At the notorious Maca correctional facility in the Ivorian capital of Abidjan, the inmates run the prison. Upon the rising of a red moon, a newly arrived prisoner is selected to be the "Roman," or storyteller, and must keep his fellow inmates entertained until dawn or risk his own life. Paying homage to the tradition of the griot in West African culture, *Night of the Kings* is a fantastical fictional look at the culture inside the Maca and an altogether original vision from breakout Ivory Coast filmmaker Philippe Lacôte. (Adult content: violence)

*Official Selection – Venice, Toronto and New York Film Festivals*

*Ivory Coast's official entry – 2021 Academy Award for Best International Film*

"Night of the Kings is through and through an intoxicating and immersive visual experience even as it unfolds almost like a filmed play." –Ryan Lattanzio, *IndieWire*

**Available for viewing**

**Friday, November 13, 7pm – 11pm**

**Saturday, November 21, 7pm – 11pm**

**United States only**

# Three Rivers Film Festival 2020 FILM GUIDE

(in alphabetical order)



## 9TO5: THE STORY OF A MOVEMENT

**Pittsburgh Premiere**

**Directors: Steve Bognar & Julia Reichert**

2020, USA, 86 minutes

English

Many have heard the song "Nine to Five" by Dolly Parton or seen the 1980s film of the same name starring Parton, Lily Tomlin, and Jane Fonda. Yet few know that these two icons of popular culture were based on a social movement that started in Boston in the early 1970s. Oscar winners Julia Reichert and Steve Bognar's illuminating documentary tells this little-known story that addresses still-relevant issues such as sexual harassment, pay equity, and the importance of protest.

*Winner - Audience Award - Best Documentary - Cordillera International Film Festival*

"9to5 is sleek and astute, a valuable addition...to the history of the women's movement." – Caryn James, *Hollywood Reporter*

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22**  
PA, WV, and OH only



## A PERFECTLY NORMAL FAMILY

**Pittsburgh Premiere**

**Director: Malou Reymann**  
2020, Denmark, 97 minutes

Danish with subtitles

Eleven-year-old Emma has a perfectly normal family until the day she learns that her dad, Thomas, is transgender. As Thomas transitions to Agnete, both father and daughter struggle to maintain their relationship, while accepting that everything they have known is changing. A sensitive debut by director Malou Reymann, based loosely on her own experience as a child, the film includes impactful home movies and wonderful performances especially by Kaya Toft Loholt who plays Emma.

*Winner - Big Screen Award - Rotterdam International Film Festival*

"A Perfectly Normal Family is an engagingly sincere picture of good people trying to negotiate barely charted territory to the best of their abilities." – Jay Weissberg, *Variety*

**In collaboration with ReelQ  
Film Festival**

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22**  
PA, WV, and OH only



## ADAM

**Pittsburgh Premiere**

**Director: Maryam Touzani**  
2019, Morocco/France/Belgium, 101 minutes

Arabic with subtitles

A single mom, Abla, runs a modest bakery from her home in Casablanca where she lives with her 8-year-old daughter. Enter a young pregnant woman looking for a job and a roof over her head. Unwilling at first to allow a stranger into their lives, Abla's resolve softens and the change becomes a positive for all of them. This beautifully acted debut feature from Maryam Touzani is a character-driven tale that blends the perfect ingredients to create a satisfying and heartfelt story. (Adult Content: sexual situations, nudity)

*Official Selection – Cannes and Toronto International Film Festivals*

*Winner – Roger Ebert Award – Chicago International Film Festival*

"The beautiful story of two women who transform each other's lives..." – Deborah Young, *The Hollywood Reporter*

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22**  
United States only

Many of the films will include post-film Q&As with members of the filmmaking teams. More information available at [FilmPittsburgh.org](http://FilmPittsburgh.org)

All content subject to change.

# Three Rivers Film Festival 2020 FILM GUIDE



## ANTIGONE

**Pittsburgh Premiere**

**Director: Sophie Deraspe**  
2019, Canada, 109 minutes

French & Arabic with subtitles

Loosely adapted from Sophocles' Greek tragedy, the award-winning *Antigone* delivers a subtle but scathing indictment of the current refugee experience in North America. An Algerian-born teenager living in Montreal with her tight-knit immigrant family finds her world shattered when her brother faces deportation after being arrested. Jeopardizing her promising future, she invents a fearless, dangerous plan to free him. Featuring a stunning performance by Nahéma Ricci in the lead role. (Adult Content: sexual situations, violence, drug use)

*Official Selection – Toronto International Film Festival*

*Winner – Best Film, Best Actress – Canadian Screen Awards*

"Canada's Oscar submission is an intelligent, moving reworking of Sophocles' tragedy, electrified by a breakout turn from star Nahéma Ricci." –Jessica Kiang, *Variety*

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22  
United States only**



**JFILM TRACK**

## ASIA

**Pittsburgh Premiere**

**Director: Ruthy Pribar**  
2020, Israel, 86 minutes

Hebrew & Russian with subtitles

Nominated for 13 Israeli Academy Awards including best film, *Asia* is the story of a young mother, Asia, and her ailing daughter, Vika, played by the talented Shira Haas (Shtisel, Unorthodox). More like sisters than mother and daughter, the two go about their own lives until Vika's deteriorating health makes it necessary for Asia to become the kind of mother she's never been before. In the process, the two discover the connection and love they've been missing. (Adult content: sexual situations, drug use)

*Official Selection – Tribeca Film Festival*

*Winner – Best Actress, Cinematography, Nora Ephron Prize – Tribeca Film Festival*

"The maturity of the directorial voice is evident in its clear-eyed, rigorously unsentimental assessment of a shattering situation." –David Rooney, *Hollywood Reporter*

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22  
PA, WV, and OH only**



**ASIAN SIDEBAR**

## BEETHOVEN IN BEIJING

**Pittsburgh Premiere**

**Directors: Jennifer Lin & Sharon Mullally**  
2020, USA/China, 92 minutes

English

The often-tense relationship between the U.S. and China is seen through a different lens in *Beethoven in Beijing*. Targeted for elimination during the Communist Revolution, Western classical music had all but disappeared from China. But in 1973, Chinese interest in classical music was rekindled when President Nixon dispatched the Philadelphia Orchestra to help open the bamboo curtain. Co-directed by Duquesne University alumna and former *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reporter, Jennifer Lin, the film gives a compelling, up-close look at how music can change hearts and minds – and history.

*Official Selection – Heartland and Chagrin Documentary Film Festivals*

*Winner – Best Historical Documentary – San Antonio Film Festival*

**In collaboration with Screenshot: Asia**

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22  
United States only**

# Three Rivers Film Festival 2020 FILM GUIDE



## BOY MEETS GUN

North American Premiere

**Director:** Joost van Hezik  
2019, Netherlands, 86 minutes  
Dutch & English with subtitles

Philosophy professor Maarten Moreau is so bored with his passive life that he questions his existence. But when fate puts a weapon in his hands, Moreau's life takes a dramatic turn. The relationship between a man who was suffering an existential mid-life crisis and his newfound "mistress" becomes an oddly romantic and darkly comedic tale that explores the natural allure of power and violence and their potentially devastating consequences. (Adult content: violence, sexual situations, nudity)

*Official Selection – Busan International Film Festival*

*Winner - Best Film – Lucca European Film Festival*

**Available for viewing  
November 20  
United States only**



**REELABILITIES TRACK**

## CAN YOU HEAR MY VOICE?

Pittsburgh Premiere

**Director:** Bill Brummel  
2020, USA/UK, 87 minutes  
English

*Can You Hear My Voice?* is the triumphant chronicling of the London-based, one-of-a-kind Shout at Cancer choir. Members of the singing group, who have all had their voice boxes removed, are spotlighted as they prepare for a highly ambitious concert. Award-winning producer/director Bill Brummel's film (his first since having his own voice box removed in 2016) is far from maudlin and illustrates the human capacity for resilience in the face of overwhelming adversity.

*Official Selection – Nashville and Heartland Film Festivals*

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22  
PA, WV, and OH only**



## CHILDREN OF THE STORM

Pittsburgh Premiere

**Director:** Matthys Boshoff  
2019, South Africa, 102 minutes  
Afrikaans with subtitles

Based on a best-selling novel and inspired by a cherished South African legend passed down from generation to generation, *Children of the Storm* tells the story of an 1800s family mourning the loss of a family member. Literally trying to move forward, the family traverses the treacherous countryside in search of a better life. This western-style drama is a tale of love and personal sacrifice, featuring strong performances by the cast and incredible cinematography.

*Official Selection – Rhode Island and San Diego Film Festivals*

*Winner – Best Cinematography, Sound Design and Original Score – South African Film & Television Awards*

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22  
Everywhere**

# Three Rivers Film Festival 2020 FILM GUIDE



## REELABILITIES TRACK

### CODE OF THE FREAKS

**Pittsburgh Premiere**

**Director: Salome Chasnoff**  
2020, USA, 68 minutes

English

*Code of the Freaks* debunks well-worn movie tropes while radically reframing the use of disabled characters in film. The film is a fascinating exploration of disability representation in film from 1932 to the present that includes clips of Tom Hanks, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman, Jennifer Garner, and Helen Hunt, along with disabled artists, scholars, and activists who offer a scorching critique of some of Hollywood's most beloved characters. Documenting the power of film imagery to shape the beliefs and behaviors of the general public toward people with disabilities, the filmmakers dare to imagine a cinematic landscape in which the disabled are portrayed by members of the disabilities community in a more realistic and positive light.

*Official Selection – ReelAbilities National*

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22  
United States only**

**This film is free of charge due to the generous support of our ReelAbilities Pittsburgh sponsors.**



### COLLECTIVE

**Pittsburgh Premiere**

**Director: Alexander Nanau**  
2019, Romania/Luxembourg,  
109 minutes

Romanian & English with subtitles

Feeling more like a political thriller than a documentary, *Collective* follows a crack team of investigators at a Romanian newspaper as they work to uncover a vast health-care fraud that enriched moguls and politicians — and led to the deaths of innocent citizens. With unprecedented real time access, and frightening implications for healthcare systems around the world, *Collective* is an uncompromising look at the impact of investigative journalism at its best.

*Official selection - Venice, Toronto, and Sundance Film Festivals*

*Winner – Best International Film – DocAviv Film Festival*

“A remarkable documentary about a health crisis in Romania reveals familiar patterns as the world deals with a global pandemic.” – Anne Thompson, *IndieWire*

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22  
United States only**



## JFILM TRACK

### THE CROSSING

**Pittsburgh Premiere**

**Director: Johanne Helgeland**  
2020, Norway, 96 minutes

Norwegian with subtitles

Young Gerda spends her days imagining herself to be one of The Three Musketeers, but when her parents are arrested, she is called upon to live up to her imaginary self. Charged with helping Sarah and Daniel, two Jewish children her parents were hiding, to escape across the border into neutral Sweden, Gerda is determined to succeed. Along with her brother Otto, a Nazi sympathizer who begrudgingly joins her, the four set out on a harrowing journey. As they traverse the Norwegian landscape, they need to find strength, courage, and trust. With an incredible performance by Anna Sofie Skarholt as Gerda, *The Crossing* is a triumphant film about friendship and bravery that the entire family will enjoy!

*Official Selection – Cleveland International and Toronto Jewish Film Festivals*

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22  
PA, WV, and OH only**

# Three Rivers Film Festival 2020 FILM GUIDE



## DEAR SANTA

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Dana Nachman  
2020, USA, 84 minutes

English

An elixir to our current state, *Dear Santa* takes us on the fanciful and poignant journey of a little-known program called Operation Santa. For more than 100 years, human elves have been helping Santa respond to the thousands of letters that are written and mailed to him. This magical documentary crisscrosses the country following the most emotional letters as the elves work hard to make sure each child's Christmas dreams come true.

*Official Selection – DocNYC*

Available for viewing  
**November 12-22**  
PA, WV, and OH only



ASIAN SIDEBAR

## DEFINITION PLEASE

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Sujata Day  
2020, USA, 91 minutes

English

A former Scribbs Spelling Bee champion struggles to reconcile with her estranged brother when he returns home to help care for their ailing mother in *Definition Please*. Written, directed by, and starring Greensburg, PA native, Sujata Day (*Insecure*), and shot in Greensburg, the film reflects the experience of Day and other Asian-Americans in cities like Pittsburgh. A family drama infused with comedy and heart, *Definition Please*, seeks to provide an authentic look at the Asian-American experience. (Adult content: sexual situations, casual drug use)

*Official Selection – Bentonville, San Diego Asian, and Boston Asian Film Festivals*

"A funny, reflective good time of a debut." – Beandrea July, *Hollywood Reporter*

In collaboration with Screenshot:  
Asia

Available for viewing  
**November 12-22**  
PA, WV, and OH only



## EAT WHEATIES!

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Scott Abramovitch  
2020, USA, 86 minutes

English

Lonely software exec Sid Straw swears he went to college with Elizabeth Banks but his co-workers don't believe she'll remember him. After being named co-chair of his college reunion, Sid joins Facebook so that he can reach out to Banks. *Eat Wheaties!* delivers a healthy dose of lovable loser laughs as we watch Sid's life fall apart over his efforts to prove his friendship with the well-known star. Two-time Emmy winner, Tony Hale (*Arrested Development*, *Veep*) plays Sid and is joined by Elisha Cuthbert (*24*) and Paul Walter Hauser (*Da 5 Bloods*, *Richard Jewell*) in this sweet and quirky comedy.

*Official Selection – Heartland and San Diego Film Festivals*

"An awkward cringe-comedy with plenty of heart, *Eat Wheaties!* is one of the most enjoyable films of the year."  
–Gabriel Sigler, *Bad Feeling Magazine*

Available for viewing  
**November 12-22**  
PA, WV, and OH only

 LOCAL CONNECTION

# Three Rivers Film Festival 2020 FILM GUIDE



## REELABILITIES TRACK

### THE FEELING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Doug Roland  
2019, USA, 90 minutes

English

*The Feeling Through Experience* includes two short films available for screening through the run of the festival followed by a live Q&A with director Doug Roland (see details below) and others advocating for the Deafblind community. Inspired by Roland's personal experience, *Feeling Through* (18 minutes), tells the story of an unexpected encounter between a homeless teen and a DeafBlind man on a city street. *Connecting the Dots* (24 minutes), reveals the story behind the making of the film and introduces us to the first known DeafBlind actor ever to be cast in a film.

*Feeling Through* & *Connecting the Dots* are preceded by the presentation of the Meritzer Award to Oakland for All (see page 7) and the short, *Tragically Deaf*.

## TRAGICALLY DEAF

(Director: Maxx Corkindale, Australia, 3 minutes)

A film crew doesn't see their subject's life the same way he does.

## LIVE-STREAMED Q&A (45 minutes)

Please join us on **November 20, at 7pm** for a live-streamed Q&A with director Doug Roland and members of the DeafBlind community.

Available for viewing  
**November 12-22**  
United States only



## HAVEL

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Slávek Horák  
2020, Czech Republic, 104 minutes

Czech with subtitles

*Havel* is an historical drama loosely based on the dissident years of Vaclav Havel. The film follows his transformation from carefree playwright and playboy to banned and jailed human rights activist to eventual President of Czechoslovakia. Viktor Dvorák (who bears an uncanny resemblance to Havel) turns in a strong performance in the title role and award-winning director Slávek Horák delivers an effective period piece that allows us to follow Havel's phoenix-like rise from writer to political hero. Watch through the end credits to see real life images that are priceless. (Adult content: sexual situations)

Official Selection – Sao Paolo and Heartland Film Festivals

Available for viewing  
**November 12-22**  
Everywhere



## REELABILITIES TRACK

### ICARUS. THE LEGEND OF MIETEK KOSZ

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Maciej Pieprzyca  
2019, Poland, 122 minutes

Polish with subtitles

*Icarus* is an epic drama about the great heights achieved by legendary Polish jazz pianist Mieczyslaw "Mietek" Kosz. Beginning in his childhood when he lost his sight at age 12, the biopic bears witness to the birth of his gifts, which included an uncanny ear for music and a determination shared only by true virtuosos. Ultimately, Kosz struggles to deal with the consequences of his fame, but experiences a rebirth when he meets the love of his life. (Adult content: sexual situations, nudity)

Official Selection – Gdynia, Moscow, and Odesa Film Festivals

Nominated – 11 Polish Academy Awards, Winner – Best Score

In collaboration with the Polish Cultural Council of Pittsburgh

Available for viewing  
**November 14-15**  
PA, WV, and OH only

# Three Rivers Film Festival 2020 FILM GUIDE



## THE LAST OUT

Pittsburgh Premiere

Directors: Michael Gassert & Sami Khan

2020, USA, 75 minutes

English & Spanish with subtitles

Three young Cuban baseball players leave their families and risk exile to train in Central America and chase their dreams of playing in the Major Leagues. Filmed over more than four years, and including reactions to the opening of Cuba fostered by Raul Castro and Barack Obama in December 2014, *The Last Out* tells the very human story of people caught between countries who want nothing more than to play the sport they love and to make a better life for their families.

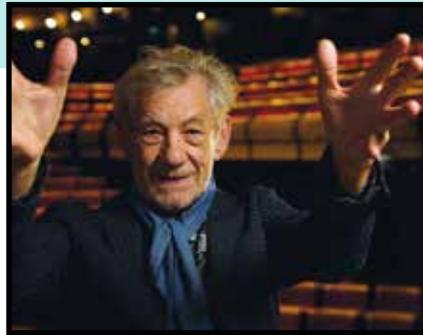
*Official Selection – Tribeca Film Festival*

*Special Jury Mention – Albert Maysles New Documentary Director Award*

Available for viewing

**November 12-22**

United States only



## ON BROADWAY

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Oren Jacoby  
2020, USA, 84 minutes

English

For those who've been missing live theater, Academy Award nominee Oren Jacoby's documentary, *On Broadway*, may be the answer for now. A wonderful reflection on the history of NYC's renowned theater district, the film features interviews with an all-star cast who reveal the inside story of how Broadway came back from the brink of bankruptcy in the 70s. Featuring legendary performers from stage and screen, including Helen Mirren, Christine Baranski, August Wilson, James Corden, Alec Baldwin, John Lithgow, Viola Davis, Hugh Jackman, and Ian McKellen, this is a film for theater lovers everywhere.

*Official Selection – Hamptons International Film Festival*

*On Broadway* is preceded by:

### HUMAN

(Director: Erin Brown Thomas, USA, 5 minutes)

A woman suffering in isolation gets a taste of the spotlight.

Available for viewing

**November 12-22**

PA, WV, and OH only



## PACIFIED

Pittsburgh Premiere

Director: Paxton Winters

2020, Brazil/USA, 120 minutes

Portuguese with subtitles

In the award-winning film *Pacified*, an introspective young girl struggles to connect with her estranged father after his release from prison in the turbulent wake of the Rio Olympics. As Brazilian "Pacification" Police battle to maintain a tenuous occupation of the surrounding Rio favelas, father and daughter must navigate the clashing forces threatening to derail their hope for the future. Embedding himself in the 'Morro dos Prazeres' community for years, director Winters creates a film that offers an honest and intimate portrait of an ever-shifting urban battlefield that some call home. (Adult Content: violence, drug use)

*Official Selection – Tribeca and Haifa International Film Festivals*

*Winner – Best Film, Actor and Cinematography – San Sebastian Film Festival*

Cinematographer "Merians captures the labyrinthine favelas in all their vibrancy, with memorable moments including... a masterful climbing camera shot... that captures his long slog up a flight of stairs that seems as though it might stretch on to the heavens." – Amber Wilkinson, *ScreenDaily*

Available for viewing

**November 12-22**

PA, WV, and OH only

# Three Rivers Film Festival 2020 FILM GUIDE



## ASIAN SIDEBAR

### PICTURE CHARACTER

Pittsburgh Premiere

**Directors:** Martha Shane & Ian Cheney  
2020, USA, 80 minutes

English

'Emoji' is a Japanese word that means 'picture character,' and knowing that will give you a good idea of what this film is all about. Having become a global phenomenon over the past two decades, some experts argue that all those smiling turds and heart-eyed faces are becoming a language of their own. But who, if anyone, is in charge of this new global digital language? After this thought-provoking and engaging documentary, you'll never look at another emoji, or think of language itself, in the same way again.

*Official Selection – Tribeca, HotDocs and AFI Docs Film Festivals*

"Everything you always wanted to know about emojis, but were afraid to ask." – Frank Scheck, *Hollywood Reporter*

*Picture Character* is preceded by:

#### PILE

**(Director: Toby Auberg, UK, 4 minutes)**

A vertical habitat captures the progression of society from bare survival to capitalism.

Available for viewing

**November 12-22**

United States only



## JFILM TRACK

### PROSECUTING EVIL: THE EXTRAORDINARY WORLD OF BEN FERENCZ

Pittsburgh Premiere

**Director:** Barry Avrich  
2018, Canada, 83 minutes

English

Born in Transylvania, Ben Ferencz and his family fled to the U.S. to avoid the persecution of Hungarian Jews by the Romanians. He grew up in New York City, became a gifted law student, and eventually enlisted in the Army during WWII. At the youthful age of 27, the diminutive Ferencz was thrust on to the world stage as Chief Prosecutor of the historic Nuremberg Trials. *Prosecuting Evil* documents the story of this unsung hero who, in his first case, put mass-murdering Nazis on trial. At age 100, he continues to be an outspoken activist, consistently underscoring the need for vigilance in the fight for justice and peace. (Adult content: graphic images)

*Official Selection – Toronto International Film Festival*

Sponsored by Classrooms Without Borders

Available for viewing

**November 12-22**

Everywhere

Live Q&A – Thursday, November 19, 4pm

**This film/Q&A is free of charge due to the generosity of Classrooms Without Borders.**



### THE SHIP

Pittsburgh Premiere

**Director:** Batan Silva  
2020, Mexico, 99 minutes

Spanish with subtitles

The cynical radio host of a show called 'The Ship' meets his match when he receives a call from a young cancer patient who is hoping the ship can take him away to a deserted island in the heartfelt film *The Ship*. Facing pressure from his employer, radio host Miguel begrudgingly agrees to visit the boy in his hospital ward and soon thereafter finds his life turned upside down. Their newfound relationship will change the course of both their lives in a story that's sure to bring both a smile to your face and a tear to your eye.

*Official Selection – Cleveland International Film Festival*

*The Ship* is preceded by:

#### FREERIDE SKIING AT HOME

**(Director: Philipp Klein Herrero, Spain/Germany, 1 minute)**

During the COVID-lockdown, this skier decides to go skiing in his livingroom.

Available for viewing

**November 12-22**

United States only

# Three Rivers Film Festival 2020 FILM GUIDE



PHOTO: LENKE SZILÁGYI

## JFILM TRACK

### THOSE WHO REMAINED

#### Pittsburgh Premiere

**Director:** Barnabás Tóth  
2019, Hungary, 88 minutes

Hungarian with subtitles

*Those Who Remained*, Hungary's official entry for this year's Academy Award for Best International Film, is a haunting and tender tale set in Budapest after the end of World War II. Dr. Aládar "Aldó" Körner, returns to his hospital practice where he meets a vulnerable 16-year-old girl, Klára, who is in denial about her parents' fate. Aldó finds himself becoming a surrogate father to Klára and together they discover a way to move forward. *Those Who Remained* is a beautiful, exquisitely performed film that shows how human connection and love can help to repair the heartbreak of devastating loss. (Adult content: nudity)

*Official Selection – Telluride, Miami Jewish, Atlanta Jewish, and New York Jewish Film Festivals*

*Winner – Four Hungarian Academy Awards including Best Film*

"In her first leading film role, Abigél Szóke (Klára) is a revelation." – Alissa Simon, *Variety*

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22  
PA, WV, and OH only**



## ASIAN SIDEBAR

### TWILIGHT'S KISS

#### Pittsburgh Premiere

**Director:** Ray Yeung  
2019, Hong Kong, 99 minutes

Cantonese with subtitles

*Twilight's Kiss* captures the love story that develops between two older men both of whom are married to women and proud of and devoted to their families. Exploring the difficult yet truthful portrayal of the divide between the private and public experience of being gay, the film features nuanced performances by its award-winning lead actors. (Adult content: sexual situations, nudity)

*Official Selection – Busan and San Francisco International Film Festivals*

*Winner of two Hong Kong Film Awards including Best Actor*

Director "Yeung... finds space to bask in the simple pleasures, basic generosity and the safety net that is family while simultaneously dealing with homophobia, ageism and faith." –Elizabeth Kerr, *Hollywood Reporter*

**In collaboration with Screenshot:  
Asia and ReelQ Film Festival**

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22  
United States only**



### UNDINE

#### Pittsburgh Premiere

**Director:** Christian Petzold  
2020, Germany/France, 90 minutes

German with subtitles

*Undine* puts a new, mature spin on the classic mermaid myth. Working as an historian lecturing on Berlin's urban development, Undine is distraught when the man she loves announces he's leaving her. As she wrestles with the terms of the ancient myth, which call on her to kill the man who betrays her and return to the water, she meets someone new. But will she be able to overcome her fate and be with him? Award-winning director Christian Petzold delivers a love story that's heartfelt and profound in its simplicity. (Adult content: sexual situations)

*Official Selection – Berlin and New York Film Festivals*

*Winner – Silver Bear for Best Actress – Berlin International Film Festival*

"An odd new beauty from one of Germany's best directors." – Boyd van Hoeij, *The Hollywood Reporter*

**Available for viewing  
November 12-22  
PA, WV, and OH only**

# Pittsburgh Shorts 2020 FILM GUIDE



## BLOCK 1

99 minutes

### 1, 2, 3, ALL EYES ON ME

(Director: Emil Gallardo, USA, 15 minutes)

A passionate teacher becomes trapped in a crisis that engulfs her elementary school.

### WAFFLES

(Director: Foster Wilson, USA, 5 minutes)

A gay millennial must choose between swallowing her pride and standing by her principles.

### IMAGINING THE INDIAN: THE FIGHT AGAINST NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTING

(Directors: Aviva Kempner & Ben West, USA, 21 minutes)

This work-in-progress examines the movement fighting to end the use of Native American names, logos, and mascots.

### PANGU

(Director: Shaofu Zhang 张少甫, USA/China, 6 minutes)

A modern tale about parenthood and the differences between generations.

### THE VISIT (DER BESUCH)

(Director: Christian Werner, Germany, 15 minutes)

An exhausted volunteer Santa Claus gets a special call.

### THE SPEECH

(Director: Haohao Yan, USA, 25 minutes)

Three eight-year-old girls uncover personal truths during a school lockdown.

### A PIECE OF CAKE

(Directors: The Bragg Brothers, USA, 12 minutes)

A desperate father discovers his daughter's favorite cake decoration is illegal.



## BLOCK 2

101 minutes

### AIDA

(Director: Christopher W. Graham, USA, 10 minutes)

A young mother is stuck between development and decay.

### REDEMPTION

(Director: Seora Hong, USA, 4 minutes)

A man faces an unexpected situation that may just save his life.

### FREED

(Director: Josza Anjembe, France, 20 minutes)

Upon his release from jail, a prisoner meets someone new.

### GRATITUDE JAR TIME CAPSULE

(Directors: Deb Hiatt & Stephanie Erb, USA, 3 minutes)

Two women from different eras find that some things never change.

### THE MANCHADOR

(Director: Kaveh Tehrani, Norway/ Iran, 20 minutes)

A satire about seeing, our senses, and spirituality in modern day Tehran.

### BLACK BOYS CAN'T CRY

(Director: Victor Gabriel, USA, 5 minutes)

Overtaken by an inexplicable force, a man comes face-to-face with his past.

### LIV

(Director: Alan Hicks, USA, 39 minutes)

As Liv rides the waves of hope and despair, older sister Tess desperately fights to save her.

# Pittsburgh Shorts 2020 FILM GUIDE



## BLOCK 3

98 minutes

### RED WATCH

(Director: David Kennedy, USA, 4 minutes)

A woman recites an unrequited goodbye to her ex-boyfriend's red watch.

### MOON DROPS

(Director: Yoram Ever-Hadani, Israel, 16 minutes)

A factory worker assembles an enigmatic machine.

### MATRIOCHKAS

(Director: Bérangère Mc Neese, Belgium, 24 minutes)

Mother and daughter learn a lot about each other one summer.

### NOTHING TO SAY

(Director: Aubry Mintz, USA/Canada, 10 minutes)

A turtle challenges the zookeeper by not speaking on command.

### A WOMAN

(Director: Tahmina Rafaella, Azerbaijan, 13 minutes)

A young, modern mother struggles to find her place.

### FACE TO FACE TIME

(Director: Izzy Shill, USA, 6 minutes)

Claire takes the bold step of initiating a FaceTime call, only to discover a flaccid response.

### ASHES TO ASHES

(Director: Taylor Rees, USA, 25 minutes)

A memorial to the 4,000 African Americans lynched during the Jim Crow era.



## BLOCK 4

98 minutes

### RUNNING OUT

(Director: Avi Kaye, USA, 9 minutes)

Jake needs to leave now, or he'll miss his flight—but his laptop is missing, his girlfriend's still packing, and his mom won't stop calling.

### HOME STREAM

(Directors: Giulia Gandini & Lily Blackham, UK, 11 minutes)

Lily has been homeless for a year and a half. We gave her a phone to tell us her story.

### LONG RIDE HOME

(Director: Dame Pierre, USA, 7 minutes)

A young black professional takes a ride to his childhood home.

### UMBRELLA

(Directors: Helena Hilario & Mario Pece, Brazil, 8 minutes)

A little boy's dream is to have a yellow umbrella.

### BRØTHERS

(Director: Kris Sundberg, USA, 9 minutes)

Andrew can't live without his best friend and brother.

### END-O

(Director: Alice Seabright, UK, 15 minutes)

Jaq's body is out to sabotage her coitus in the worst way... endometriosis.

### ALA KACHUU - TAKE AND RUN

(Director: Maria Brendle, Switzerland, 39 minutes)

A young woman yearns for freedom but is trapped in the clutches of tradition.

Short films are not rated and may contain disturbing language or images. All Ages blocks are suitable for all ages.

All short film blocks are available to be viewed in the United States for the duration of the festival, November 12-22.

# Pittsburgh Shorts 2020 FILM GUIDE



## BLOCK 5

95 minutes

### FEELING FLUSH

(Director: Erin Brown Thomas, USA, 10 minutes)

Vicki idolizes her new girlfriend Samantha, but draws the line when it comes to her time on the porcelain throne.

### 50 LITTLE BIRDS

(Director: Hannah Lindgren, USA, 9 minutes)

Indiana-based folk artist Geoff Davis translates his experiences in nature into art.

### DAY RELEASE

(Director: Martin Winter, Austria, 36 minutes)

Kathi receives day release from prison and finds her three-year-old son in bad circumstances.

### COLORS - BLACK PUMAS

(Director: Kristian Mercado, USA, 5 minutes)

*Colors* explores the bonds of a young family living in the Bronx.

### WRITE ME

(Director: Pearl Gluck, USA, 7 minutes)

An older woman joins other survivors in reclaiming the histories tattooed on their bodies.

### TIGER AND OX

(Director: Seunghye Kim, South Korea, 9 minutes)

What does divorce mean to women in a patriarchal Korean society?

### STICKER

(Director: Georgi M. Unkovski, Macedonia, 19 minutes)

Dejan falls into a bureaucratic trap that tests his determination to be a responsible father.



## BLOCK 6

100 minutes

### JACK AND JO DON'T WANT TO DIE

(Director: Kantú Lentz, USA, 20 minutes)

Jack, a disillusioned man, meets Jo, a terminally ill girl, and their lives become intertwined.

### BEYOND NOH

(Director: Patrick Smith, USA/Japan, 4 minutes)

Masks from all over the world take us on a cultural journey through ritual, utility, deviance, and politics.

### BLACK BOY JOY

(Director: Martina Lee, USA, 18 minutes)

Selim's favorite doll goes missing, sending him into a meltdown.

### FANTASTIC CARS

(Director: Barney Elliott, Peru, 8 minutes)

When a dad accompanies his son to buy a used automobile, he is seduced by Rosa, a pink limousine.

### PIZZA PARTY

(Director: Tessa Hope Slovis, USA, 13 minutes)

An unlikely pair come together at a dystopian pizza party for sexual assault survivors.

### HAND IN HAND

(Director: Ennio Ruschetti, Switzerland, 4 minutes)

Only a formal handshake separates two politicians from a sealed contract.

### UNADOPTED

(Directors: Paula Neudorf & Arianna LaPenne, USA, 34 minutes)

A young man investigates why the foster care system never found him a forever family.

 LOCAL CONNECTION

# Pittsburgh Shorts 2020 FILM GUIDE



## BLOCK 7

101 minutes

### WELCOME STRANGERS

(Director: Dia Sokol Savage, USA, 21 minutes)

When asylum-seeking immigrants are released from ICE detention, Sarah Jackson and her team of volunteers welcome them.

### SUBMIT IT TO FESTIVALS

(Director: Patrick Cannon, USA, 4 minutes)

Michael and Patrick can't quit their day jobs.

### WANTED: STRONG WOMAN

(Director: Marilyn Cooke, Canada, 15 minutes)

A woman discovers a new passion that awakens the beast inside her.

### IKTAMULI

(Director: Anne-Christin Plate, Germany, 6 minutes)

A mother has conflicted feelings for her disabled son.

### SUNDAY DINNER

(Director: Kevin Mead, USA, 14 minutes)

A passionate Italian-American family tries to enjoy their customary Sunday dinner.

### THE BEST ORCHESTRA IN THE WORLD

(Directors: Henning Backhaus, Austria, 14 minutes)

Ingbert, the sock, auditions to be the double bass player.

### TILL THE END OF THE WORLD

(Director: Florence Bouvy, Netherlands, 27 minutes)

A young girl fights for the unconditional love of her father.



## BLOCK 8

98 minutes

### SIN CIELO

(Director: Jianna Maarten, USA, 25 minutes)

A teenage boy learns some cruel realities when the girl he likes goes missing.

### CHATTER

(Director: Natasha Lewin, USA, 2 minutes)

A woman battles her inner voices of self-doubt.

### MY GENERATION

(Director: Ludovic Houplain, France, 8 minutes)

An animated exploration of the ever-growing impact of capitalism.

### WHAT DID YOU DREAM?

(Director: Karabo Lediga, South Africa, 20 minutes)

It's the summer holidays in 1990 South Africa and 11-year-old Boipelo can't remember her dreams.

### HOT CHOCOLATE

(Director: David Hay, New Zealand, 17 minutes)

A young woman must protect her little sister at all costs.

### QUIET CARRIAGE

(Director: Ben S. Hyland, UK, 5 minutes)

A comedy about a passive man with an overactive imagination.

### STU

(Director: Jonathan Gruber, USA, 21 minutes)

A profile of Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat's remarkable life and career.

# Pittsburgh Shorts 2020 FILM GUIDE



## BLOCK 9

99 minutes

### ON THE RIDE

(Director: Jen McGowan, USA, 14 minutes)

While on his morning bike ride, Scott grapples with memories of a trauma he experienced with his husband.

### MOTHER AND MILK

(Director: Ami Lindholm, Finland, 10 minutes)

The mental process of becoming a parent - imagined as a catastrophe film.

### BUSY TUESDAY

(Director: Roger Gariépy, Canada, 3 minutes)

A little poem that celebrates the evanescence of things.

### THUMB RUNNER

(Director: Dylan Bruno, USA/Denmark, 8 minutes)

Johnny wakes up one morning to find his wife missing in this dark comedy.

### ALINA

(Director: Rami Kodeih, USA, 25 minutes)

A group of women risk everything to smuggle a baby to safety.

### THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

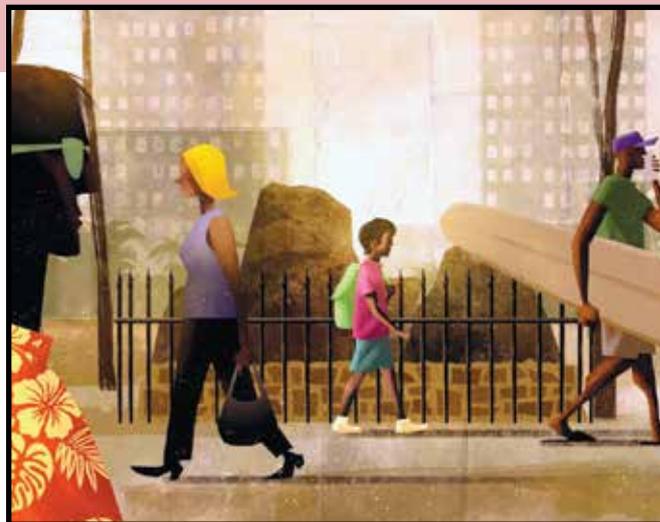
(Directors: Pablo Alen & Breixo Corral, Spain, 15 minutes)

Most children's birthday parties are parents' worst nightmare. Not this one.

### MATEO'S STORY

(Director: Malona P. Badelt, USA, 24 minutes)

A family's journey to safety turns into a journey of trauma, fear and irreparable damage.



## BLOCK 10

101 minutes

### THE LOST ASTRONAUT

(Director: Ben Proudfoot, USA, 13 minutes)

Ed Dwight Jr. was poised to be NASA's first African-American astronaut. Until suddenly he wasn't.

### KINDLING

(Director: Xinyi Zhu, USA, 14 minutes)

A young woman confronts her estranged childhood friend about their relationship.

### KAPAEMAHU

(Directors: Hinalaimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer & Joe Wilson, USA, 9 minutes)

Long ago, four extraordinary beings of dual male and female spirit brought the healing arts to Hawaii.

### POSTCARDS FROM THE END OF THE WORLD

(Director: Konstantinos Antonopoulos, Greece, 24 minutes)

During their boring family vacation, a family is confronted with the end of the world.

### SON OF MEMORY

(Director: Hayato Ando, Japan, 19 minutes)

What if you could bring back your loved one for 49 days?

### A STREETCAR NAMED...

(Director: Abby Fudor, USA, 2 minutes)

Tennessee Williams in the time of Tinder.

### MUM'S HAIRPINS

(Director: Tatiana Fedorovskaya, Russia, 20 minutes)

A box of hairpins is Yasha's last chance to escape German invaders.

# Pittsburgh Shorts 2020 FILM GUIDE



## BLOCK 11

99 minutes

### MY HERO

(Director: Logan Jackson, USA, 13 minutes)

Eight-year-old Brandon is left alone to oversee his younger brother Mason.

### THE KITE

(Director: Martin Smatana, Czech Republic/Slovakia/Poland, 13 minutes)

None of us are here forever, but death doesn't mean the end of our journey.

### A LINE BIRDS CANNOT SEE

(Director: Amy Bench, USA, 10 minutes)

A determined 12-year-old sets out across a desert to find her mother.

### SLOAN HEARTS NECKFACE

(Director: Justin Fair, USA, 15 minutes)

An anonymous, anarchic graffiti artist falls in love with a fan.

### THE VISIT

(Director: Azadeh Moussavi, Iran, 14 minutes)

After six months, Elaheh is finally allowed to visit her husband, who is a political prisoner.

### FINE, I'LL WRITE MY OWN DAMN SONG

(Director: Allyson Rice, USA, 4 minutes)

A middle-age mom sends a rap music video message to her musician son.

### FABIU

(Director: Stefan Langthaler, Austria, 30 minutes)

Arthur has been lovingly caring for his ill wife Martha when suppressed feelings develop for the new aide.



## BLOCK 12

96 minutes

### REBEL

(Director: Pier-Philippe Chevigny, Canada, 15 minutes)

A young boy takes a stand against his father's politics.

### BLACKFEET BOXING: NOT INVISIBLE

(Director: Kristen Lappas, USA, 29 minutes)

A boxing gym on an Indian Reservation teaches young girls how to defend themselves.

### LOOPY

(Directors: Max Cianci & Anthony Peduzzi, USA, 5 minutes)

Drawn to a mysterious window, a man investigates a seemingly abandoned building.

### DEMAND CURVE

(Directors: The Bragg Brothers, USA, 11 minutes)

A university professor uses basic economics to up his ransom and get in on the action.

### MISFITS

(Director: Ciani Rey Walker, USA, 18 minutes)

Leaders of the Black Panther Party must set aside their differences on the night of MLK Jr.'s assassination.

### ACCENTS

(Director: Robertino Zambrano, USA/Australia, 3 minutes)

A performer's ode to her mother's Puerto Rican accent.

### MALOU

(Director: Adi Wojaczek, Germany, 15 minutes)

After many rejections, a dancer fights for her dream of a career on the big stage.

# Pittsburgh Shorts 2020 FILM GUIDE



## BLOCK 13

101 minutes

### IF ANYTHING HAPPENS I LOVE YOU

(Directors: Will McCormack & Michael Govier, USA, 13 minutes)

A man and woman struggle to come to terms with a devastating loss.

### NO MORE WINGS

(Director: Abraham Adeyemi, UK, 11 minutes)

Two childhood friends meet at a divergent point in their lives.

### THE HEALING HANDS OF GENE GRESHEKY

(Director: Alec Silberblatt, USA, 9 minutes)

An intimate conversation with the man said to be a modern-day saint.

### TOUCHSCREEN

(Director: Arthur Halpern, USA, 15 minutes)

A lonely man is challenged to step out from behind his computer screen to claim the touch of another human being.

### SUSANA

(Director: Laura Gamse, USA, 5 minutes)

Despite the threat of deportation, a former slaughterhouse worker returns at night to care for the animals.

### A MENTOR

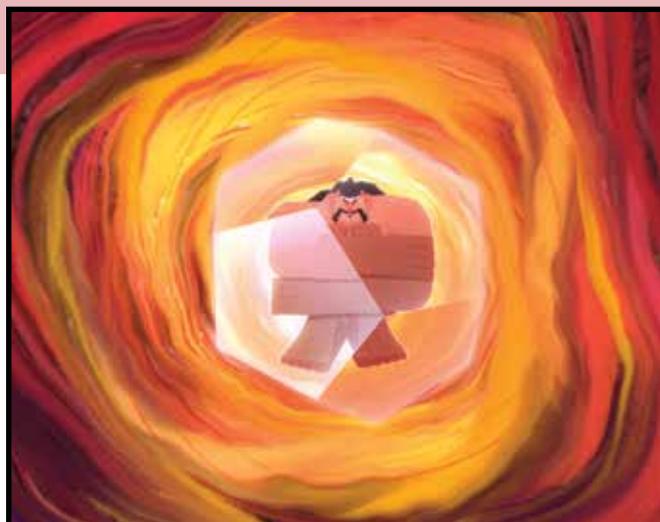
(Director: Szonja Szabó, Hungary, 30 minutes)

Sarah, a lonely teenager, joins an internet group in search of support.

### AMERICAN TYPECAST

(Director: Dane Cook, USA, 18 minutes)

A struggling actor embraces his stereotype in order to save lives on and off the screen.



## ALL AGES BLOCK 1

105 minutes

### HIPPOSTEROUS

(Director: John Hill, USA, 4 minutes)

Jack and Lovey go on a wild adventure after a flying pygmy hippo steals their pacifier!

### ALIVE DAY

(Director: Lindsay O'Keefe, USA, 10 minutes)

A Paralympic swimmer tells her inspiring story.

### SAVING AMELIA

(Director: Matthew Fridg, USA, 27 minutes)

Sisters stumble upon an old two-way radio and realize it can communicate with the past.

### PANGU

(Director: Shaofu Zhang 张少甫, USA/China, 6 minutes)

A modern tale about parenthood and the differences between generations.

### LOST KINGS

(Director: Brian Lawes, USA, 16 minutes)

Searching for food, a teenage boy breaks into a neighbor's home.

### FOR KEEPS

(Director: Vicky Wight, USA, 15 minutes)

A wanna-be mibster loses his most prized marble to the school bully.

### ZOG

(Directors: Max Lang & Daniel Snaddon, UK, 27 minutes)

A keen young dragon wants to learn how to fly, roar, and breathe fire in his first years at Dragon School.

This block is free of charge on November 14 and 15 as part of the Allegheny Regional Asset District's RADical days.

 LOCAL CONNECTION

# Pittsburgh Shorts 2020 FILM GUIDE



## ALL AGES BLOCK 2

102 minutes

### THE TRAIN TO QINLING

(Director: Shir Baron, USA, 3 minutes)

A traveler gets lost on a train in China with no one to help her but a panda!

### THE MISSFITS

(Director: Ellie Wen, USA, 21 minutes)

An all-girls robotics team competes to smash stereotypes and prove themselves in a male-dominated field.

### iCOME! (EAT!)

(Director: Lizette Barrera, USA, 11 minutes)

A Puerto Rican girl's perspective changes when she brings a popular dessert to school and no one eats it.

### UMBRELLA

(Directors: Helena Hilario & Mario Pece, Brazil, 8 minutes)

A little boy's dream is to have a yellow umbrella.

### TREE #3

(Director: Omer Ben Shachar, USA, 20 minutes)

After he's been cast (again!) as a background tree in his school play, an ambitious and imaginative boy leads a revolution.

### AFRO

(Director: Jenn Shaw, USA, 12 minutes)

An African-American teen stands up for herself against classmates that question her cultural identity.

### THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE

(Directors: Max Lang & Daniel Snaddon, UK, 27 minutes)

A beautiful tale of an unlikely friendship, a tour of the world and a heroic rescue.



## COMEDY BLOCK

101 minutes

### A PIECE OF CAKE

(Directors: The Bragg Brothers, USA, 12 minutes)

A father is desperate to please his daughter.

### QUIET CARRIAGE

(Director: Ben S. Hyland, UK, 5 minutes)

A comedy about a passive man with an overactive imagination.

### THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

(Directors: Pablo Alen & Breixo Corral, Spain, 15 minutes)

Most children's birthday parties are parents' worst nightmare.

### SLOAN HEARTS NECKFACE

(Director: Justin Fair, USA, 15 minutes)

An anonymous, anarchic graffiti artist falls in love with a fan.

### GRATITUDE JAR TIME CAPSULE

(Directors: Deb Hiatt & Stephanie Erb, USA, 3 minutes)

Some things never change.

### FANTASTIC CARS

(Director: Barney Elliott, Peru, 8 minutes)

A car buyer is seduced by Rosa, a pink limousine.

### SUNDAY DINNER

(Director: Kevin Mead, USA, 14 minutes)

An Italian-American family tries to enjoy Sunday dinner.

### DEMAND CURVE

(Directors: The Bragg Brothers, USA, 11 minutes)

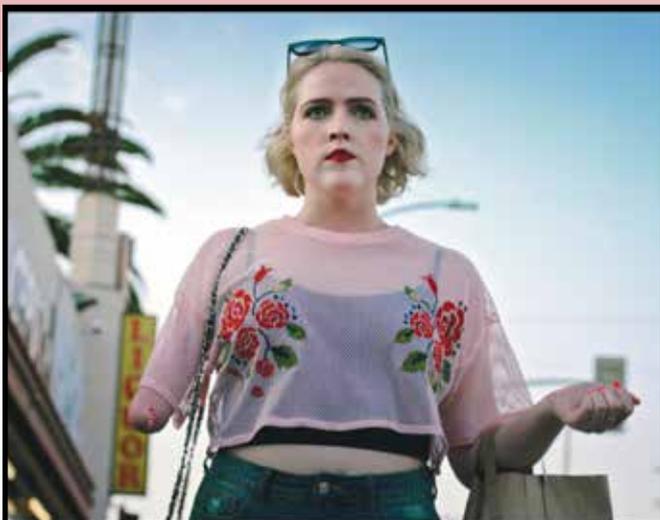
A university professor uses basic economics to up his ransom and get in on the action.

### AMERICAN TYPECAST

(Director: Dane Cook, USA, 18 minutes)

A struggling actor embraces his stereotype.

# Pittsburgh Shorts 2020 FILM GUIDE



## REELABILITIES BLOCK 1

96 minutes

### SOCK GUYS

(Director: Katie Turinski, USA, 10 minutes)

A young man with Down syndrome runs a successful online sock store.

### SINGLE

(Director: Ashley Eakin, USA, 15 minutes)

Dating with a disability is not what you might think.

### THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IN MY SUITCASE

(Director: Mads Johan Øgaard, Norway, 6 minutes)

Individuals with ADHD may experience their everyday life a little differently.

### PLANET EARTH CALLING ANA

(Director: Fernando Bonelli, Spain, 20 minutes)

Without warning, Ana can feel detached from the world and her life of music and performance.

### SWEET SOLACE

(Director: Nicolas Durand, France, 10 minutes)

One whimsical street musician, two blind passersby, three imaginary worlds.

### BREAKING THE BIZ

(Director: Javed Sterritt, Australia, 35 minutes)

The story of Australia's Bus Stop Films and its mission to make the film industry inclusive of all people.



## REELABILITIES BLOCK 2

84 minutes

### MOMENT TO MOMENT

(Director: Mike Attie, USA, 13 minutes)

A story about the power of love, resilience and creativity in the face of a debilitating disease.

### ALIVE

(Director: Jimmy Olsson, Sweden, 24 minutes)

Victoria makes a Tinder profile after meeting her aide's boyfriend.

### ANGEL'S MIRROR

(Director: Cheng Chao, China, 14 minutes)

A group of young boys are fascinated by a girl who spends her days looking out the window.

### I AM DYSLEXIC

(Directors: Mads Johan Øgaard & Katie Noel Wyman, England, 7 minutes)

A young child who is dyslexic falls into a world made entirely out of books.

### FORT IRWIN

(Director: Quinn Else, USA, 11 minutes)

To confront his past trauma, an amputee veteran acts in a hyperrealistic military simulation.

### DEAF LOVE

(Director: Michele Bertini Malgarini, Italy, 15 minutes)

Paolo is totally in love with Claudia, a woman he has never met but with whom he texts a lot.

# Pittsburgh Shorts 2020 FILM GUIDE



## THRILLS & CHILLS BLOCK 1

99 minutes

### SLEEP TIGHT

(Director: Lewis Taylor, UK, 8 minutes)

A wheelchair bound teen finds out it's not just the bed bugs that bite.

### RING

(Director: India Dupré, Australia/USA, 11 minutes)

A video doorbell spies on a new couple across the hall.

### SHHHH

(Director: Jonathan Mordechay, Israel, 13 minutes)

Mom and Dad have had a long day. They are determined not to wake the baby at all costs!

### TICS

(Director: Ted E. Haynes, USA, 13 minutes)

For Bobby making friends has been murder.

### WADE

(Directors: Kalp Sanghvi & Upamanyu Bhattacharyya, India, 11 minutes)

Climate change survivors face a ferocious attack.

### BABY BIRD

(Director: Barret Bowman, USA, 8 minutes)

When Jen and Paul are invited to a dinner party, they get roped in to playing the group's favorite game.

### BECKONED

(Director: Richard Zelniker, USA, 19 minutes)

A young couple's anniversary trip takes a terrifying turn.

### YOUR MONSTER

(Director: Caroline Lindy, USA, 16 minutes)

Laura's about to find out the monster in her closet is alive and well and wants to talk about life.



## THRILLS & CHILLS BLOCK 2

98 minutes

### BOY EATS GIRL: A ZOMBIE LOVE STORY

(Director: Sarah Gurfield, USA, 7 minutes)

Two zombies meet cute while fighting over a dead woman.

### DIABLA

(Director: Ashley George, Mexico/USA, 15 minutes)

A young woman finds revenge through her untapped powers.

### THE LAST TOUCH

(Director: Melissa Mars, USA, 5 minutes)

A couple struggles to keep their love alive.

### GREEN HAT DINER

(Director: Zoe Alexandra & Olivia M. Busby, USA, 12 minutes)

A woman begins to piece together her past grief with the help of a sinister waitress.

### SPRING CLEANING

(Director: Joe Boothe, USA, 9 minutes)

Caught cheating by his wife, a man is forced to confront the skeleton in his closet.

### ATTACHMENT

(Director: Kasia Babicz, Poland, 17 minutes)

A man's life becomes an unexpected nightmare after leaving his wife for a younger woman.

### MEATS

(Director: Ashley Williams, USA, 11 minutes)

A pregnant vegan struggles with her newfound craving for meat.

### ZORG II

(Director: Auden Lincoln-Vogel, Estonia, 22 minutes)

An alien comes to earth in hopes of starring in a sci-fi blockbuster.

 LOCAL CONNECTION

**INSTITUTE ON DISABILITIES  
at Temple University**

[disabilities.temple.edu](http://disabilities.temple.edu)

WESTERN OFFICE:  
Baden, Pa  
Tel: 724-272-6162  
Email: [guy@temple.edu](mailto:guy@temple.edu)



**Kimicata Brothers**  
*Landscape & Irrigation Experts*

4640 Georgekay Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
(Phone) 412-421-6323 (Fax) 412-421-5268  
[www.KimicataBrothers.com](http://www.KimicataBrothers.com) • Email: [kimicatabrothersinc@gmail.com](mailto:kimicatabrothersinc@gmail.com)

**COMPLETE LANDSCAPE SERVICE**  
Design & Planting • Residential & Commercial  
Certified Spray Applicators  
Irrigation Systems - Installed & Serviced  
PA Contractor #058585



**DISCOVER  
ST. EDMUND'S  
ACADEMY**

PRESCHOOL THROUGH 8TH GRADE  
COEDUCATIONAL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Proudly in the heart of Squirrel Hill  
412.521.1907 | [www.stedmunds.net](http://www.stedmunds.net)

**SAVE THE DATE**



**2021 JFilm Festival  
APRIL 22 - May 2**

FESTIVAL



“It’s not our disabilities,  
it’s our abilities that count.”

- Chris Burke

UPMC Health Plan is proud to support  
**ReelAbilities Pittsburgh.**

[www.upmchealthplan.com](http://www.upmchealthplan.com) | UPMC HEALTH PLAN



We're proud to support  
**Film Pittsburgh**



**Insuring Our Neighborhood Since 1941**

5020 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
(412) 681-2700  
wagneragency.com

Business ❖ Home ❖ Auto ❖ Motorcycles



Susan Merenstein, Pharmacist/Owner



**Buy Pharmacist-Approved  
CBD for People and Pets**

- **Third-Party Tested**
- **Pharmacist Expertise**
- **0.0% THC**
- **Lower Prices!**

**Shop Online 24/7!**  
**www.LabNaturalsCBD.com**  
**Discount Code: FREESHIP**

**Questions? Call us for expert  
answers! (412) 586-4678**

Start over.  
**START HERE.**

We thank Film Pittsburgh for its dedication to independent films, inspiring change and pouring creative energy into our communities.



**pollock | begg**

Dedicated to Family Law

412.471.9000 | pollockbegg.com

**Silberblatt Mermelstein**

Attorneys Professional Corporation

Jay N. Silberblatt  
Merle Kramer Mermelstein

*New office location:*

1501 Ardmore Blvd., Suite 101  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221  
412.232.0580  
412-232-0581 Fax  
www.smlawpa.com

*Proud to support the art of filmmaking in  
Pittsburgh.*

# FILM PITTSBURGH STARS

**We are so grateful to the donors, community partners and advertisers who have supported us or committed to supporting us this season. We greatly appreciate it during these challenging times.**

## **DONORS** (as of 10/11)

Barbara Abraham  
Anonymous  
Len & Marilyn Asimow  
Dan & Ronna Askin  
Joel Babkes  
Marcia & Philip Baumfeld  
Shelley Beck  
Neila & Danny Bendas  
Patti & Sandy Berman  
Barbara Blazick  
Gloria Silberblatt Bodek  
Alex & Mimi Botkin  
Chana & Mel Brody  
Jane & Bob Bukk  
Tina Calabro  
Caroline Collins & Ken Zenkevich  
Eric Cooper & Naomi Siegel  
Rabbi Sion & Helanie David  
Susan Davis & John Pierce  
Jim Denova  
Stacy & Snehal Desai  
Neil Diamant & Debbey Altman-Diamant  
Helen Eaton  
Judith & David Ehrenwerth  
Sarita Eisner  
Ivan Lee Engel  
Helen & Richard Feder  
Martin & Bracha Leora Fenster  
Marian Finegold  
Stephen & Maxine Fisher  
Lucine Folgueras  
Representative Dan Frankel  
Eva & Gary Friedman  
Ronald Friedman  
Marci Gaither

Karen Gallimore  
H. Arnold & Adrien B. Gefsky  
Elaine Gelb  
Karen & David Gifford  
The Grail Law Firm  
Norton & Judy Gusky  
Ann Harris  
Marlene Haus  
Marshall & Eleanor Hershberg  
Sandy Hirsch  
Vicky & Steve Hoffman  
Steve & Adora Holstein  
Rhonda & Mark Horvitz  
Daryl Hutson & Pat Navarro  
Ian James & Carol Stewart James  
Lonnie Jantsch  
Drs. Jann Johnston & Frank Bontempo  
Isadore & Yetta Joshowitz Charitable Foundation  
Richard & Alice Kalla  
Bobbi & Richard Kann  
Sandy & Esther Katz  
Bruce Kestner  
Christine A. Klein  
Anne Kolesar  
Carl Krasik  
Alan & Margie Leisawitz  
Myron & Phyllis Letwin  
Marcia Levaur  
Robert Levin & Kerry Bron  
Ellie & Shelly Levine  
Patty & Stan Levine  
Mimsie Leyton  
Sissy & Bill Lieberman  
Richard & Susan Loether  
Tim Long  
Paul Lyons & Betty Rothbart Lyons  
Louise & Michael Malakoff  
Nancy Merenstein  
Todd & Elaine Miller  
Karen & Chuck Moellenberg  
James Duesing & Ed Motznik  
Martin & Patricia Neidig  
Teddy & Rhonda Nisenbaum  
Sharon Reinherz

Jim & Louisa Rudolph  
Arlene & Steve Sablowsky  
Elena & Yoel Sadovsky  
Nadene Sales  
Lisa Scales  
Marla & Harold Scheinman  
Laura & Henry Schneiderman  
Tom & Deb Schuetz  
Lynda Schuster & Dennis Jett  
Jon & Barbara Schwartz  
Minette Seate  
Rebecca Shapiro  
Roz Sherman  
Lee & Myrna Silverman  
Tom & Mary Ann Slater  
Paul & Sarah Sloop  
Peter & Sue Smerd  
Marcia & Mel Solomon  
Amy R. Spear  
John Spiegel & Adi Rapport  
Jeff & Kathryn Spitz Cohan  
Marilyn & Robert Swedarsky  
Marc & Lisa Tannenbaum  
Nancy & Gary Tuckfelt  
Ralph Vituccio  
Iris Amper Walker  
Deborah & Thomas Wein  
Rosalyne Wein  
Tedd Wein & Ellen Goldhagen  
Lou & Amy Weiss  
James & Laura Wick  
Susie & Dan Zeidner  
Susan Zelicoff  
Ella Zeilinger Ziff

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

(as of 10/11)

21 and Able-United Way of Southwestern PA  
AAC Institute  
Achieva  
Allegheny County Department of Human Services  
The Arc of Washington County  
Carnegie Screenwriters  
The Documentary Salon  
Downtown CDC  
Every Child, Inc.

The Friendship Circle of Pittsburgh  
Handmade Arcade  
Jewish Residential Services  
Just Films  
LaRoche University  
NAMI Keystone Pennsylvania  
Partners for Quality  
Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre  
Pittsburgh Center for Arts and Media  
Pittsburgh Cultural Trust  
Pittsburgh Film Office  
Pittsburgh Playhouse  
Pittsburgh Public Theater  
Point Park University Cinema Arts  
Point Park University Conservatory of Performing Arts  
Screenshot: Asia  
Steeltown Entertainment Project  
Reel Q: Pittsburgh LGBTQ+ Film Festival  
Robert Morris University Arts and Humanities Department  
Voices for Independence | TRPIL  
Women in Film and Media

## **JFILM 2021 COMMITTED ADVERTISERS** (as of 10/11)

Cognitive Dynamic Therapy Associates  
Five Points Artisan Bakeshop  
Fort Pitt Capital  
Jewish Association on Aging  
Jewish Community Foundation Life & Legacy  
Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh  
Jewish Residential Services  
Kimicata Brothers  
LabNaturals (Murray Ave Apothecary)  
Lange Financial  
Pollock Begg  
St Edmunds Academy  
Temple Sinai  
Wagner Agency  
ZOA

# BOARD/STAFF/PREVIEWERS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alison Shapiro, Chair	Norton Gusky	Rebecca Shapiro	Drew Checkelsky	Ella Rosenblum
Jim Denova	Daryl Hutson	Marc L. Tannenbaum	Caroline Collins	Lori Sisson
Elaine Gelb	Carol Stewart James	Ralph Vituccio	Judy Kaplan	Paul Sloop
David Glickman	Minette Seate		Jenna Potts	Kathryn Spitz Cohan

## FILM PREVIEWERS

Hope Anthony	Elaine Gelb	T.J. Murphy
Marilyn Asimow	<a href="#">Norton Gusky*</a>	Ben Ogradnik
Carolyn Berg	<a href="#">Robert Halden*</a>	Steve Parys
<a href="#">Francis Bertonaschi*</a>	<a href="#">Shoshana Halden*</a>	Karla Perelstine
Mimi Botkin	Jeff Heinzl	Libby Powers
Minda Briley	Mara Hellman	Batia Rascoe
Jim Brumbaugh	Tanisha Jackson	<a href="#">Iris Samson*</a>
Tina Calabro	<a href="#">Amy Jacobson*</a>	Ed Scheid
<a href="#">Drew Checkelsky*</a>	Trudi Kennedy	<a href="#">Minette Seate*</a>
Mark Fallone	Sam Laffey	Kristin Seibert
Marian Finegold	Jose Muniain	<a href="#">Chad Shannon*</a>

## STAFF

Drew Checkelsky	Ella Rosenblum
Caroline Collins	Lori Sisson
Judy Kaplan	Paul Sloop
Jenna Potts	Kathryn Spitz Cohan

## SCRIPT READERS

Rebecca Shapiro	Minda Briley
Faith Sloop	Wendy Grube Eiben
Grace Sloop	James Helfrich
Kamari Somers	Trudi Kennedy
Dan Spitz	Randy Laxton
Maria Staszkiwicz	Bob Scott
Kirsten Strayer	
Ralph Vituccio	

\* CORE PREVIEWER



As a school that **celebrates the unique abilities** of individuals with blindness and visual impairment, we are proud to support ReelAbilities Film Festival.

[www.wpsbc.org](http://www.wpsbc.org)



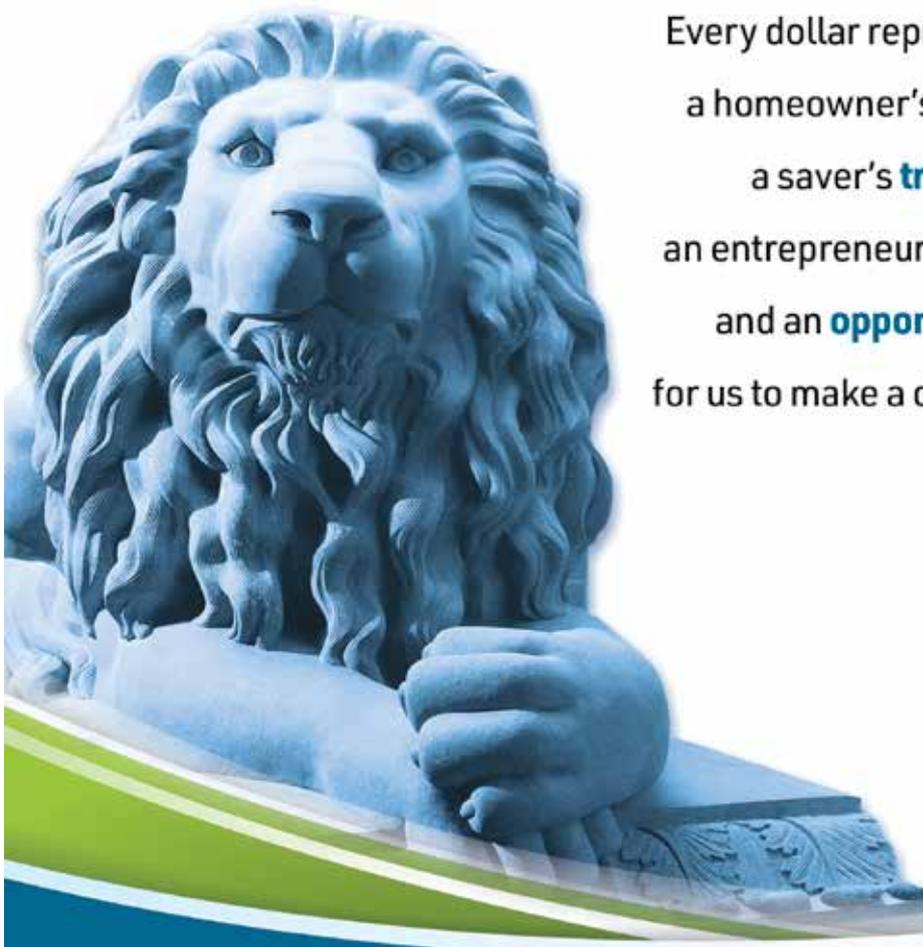


1789 S. Braddock Ave. #565  
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

# Dollar Bank<sup>®</sup>

Since 1855

dollar.bank



Every dollar represents...  
a homeowner's **hopes**,  
a saver's **trust**,  
an entrepreneur's **dream**,  
and an **opportunity**  
for us to make a difference.

We are pleased to support the Film Pittsburgh Fall Festival.

 Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC. Copyright © 2020, Dollar Bank, Federal Savings Bank.

BRD420\_20