

16TH
ANNUAL



MENDOCINO
FILM
FESTIVAL

MENDOCINO
FORT BRAGG

M E N D O C I N O
F I L M F E S T I V A L . O R G



JUNE 1-4, 2023



Welcome

I am delighted to usher in the 16th Annual Mendocino Film Festival and my second year as Director. In this time of transition the Festival continues to evolve, looking to the future while keeping our history close by our side. Back by popular demand this year are two beloved programs—Feel Good Short Films and Reel Mendo, a showcase of our talented local filmmakers. Returning for the second year is our Native Cinema program, a new annual tradition. With 60 films, in addition to the parties, live music, panel discussions, and filmmaker Q&As, there's a shoe for every foot (*Salvatore: Shoemaker of Dreams*) and music for just about every taste (five music films in total!). We're so glad you've decided to join us on the gorgeous Mendocino Coast for this spectacular weekend of film, festivities, and fun!

See you at the movies!
Angela Matano, Executive Director

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PURCHASING TICKETS IN ADVANCE

ONLINE

May 5 – June 4, 2023

MendocinoFilmFestival.org/tickets

IN PERSON & BY PHONE

Thursday - Saturday

May 5 - May 31, 12 - 4PM

Mendocino Film Festival Office

45062 Ukiah Street, Mendocino

Call us: (707) 937-0171

DURING FESTIVAL WEEK

Thursday-Sunday

June 1 - June 4, 9AM - 5PM

Festival Headquarters

Mendocino Hotel

45080 Main St, Mendocino

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Cash, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and local checks are accepted for advance sales (\$25 fee for returned checks). Cash only at the door.

PROCESSING FEE

There is a small processing fee for tickets purchased online.

PURCHASING TICKETS DAY OF SHOW

Online and festival headquarters sales close one hour before showtime. At that time, tickets must be purchased at the screening venue. (Subject to availability; **cash only** at the door.)

FILM TICKET PRICES

Regular Screenings, Advance Purchase \$13

Regular Screenings at the Door \$15

Special Ticket Pricing: See p. 18 and p. 20

SOLD OUT? TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

Even if advance tickets are no longer available, tickets will be offered at the door when open seats are determined. A rush line for waiting-list tickets may start anywhere from 20 minutes to 1 hour prior to a given screening. Subject to availability; **\$15** at the door (cash only).

THE FINE PRINT

- Ticket orders are accepted and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. All sales are final.
- No refunds, exchanges or substitutions.
- Tickets cannot be replaced if lost, stolen, forgotten, or destroyed.
- All persons, regardless of age, must have a ticket.
- **Ticket holders must arrive 20 minutes prior to showtime to be guaranteed a seat. Applies to all ticket and VIP Passholders.**
- All events subject to change. On rare occasions, for reasons beyond our control, screenings must be canceled. If a screening is canceled, tickets must be returned to the Festival Headquarters the same day to exchange for another screening or for a refund.

HOW TO FEST

NOTE SCREENING DATES AND TIMES. Our Mendocino Village venues are within easy walking distance of each other, but be sure to check the screening times and locations of the films you want to see. Coast Cinemas, our Fort Bragg venue, is a short 15 minute drive north of Mendocino.

BECOME A MEMBER. Festival Members support independent film and arts education and receive invitations to exclusive Member events during the Festival and throughout the year. Plus, at the VIP level and above, your pass will get you priority access to every screening. *Passholders must arrive 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start time in order to ensure your seat.*

BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY! We expect many sold-out shows. Be sure to check our website for updates: www.MendocinoFilmFestival.org.

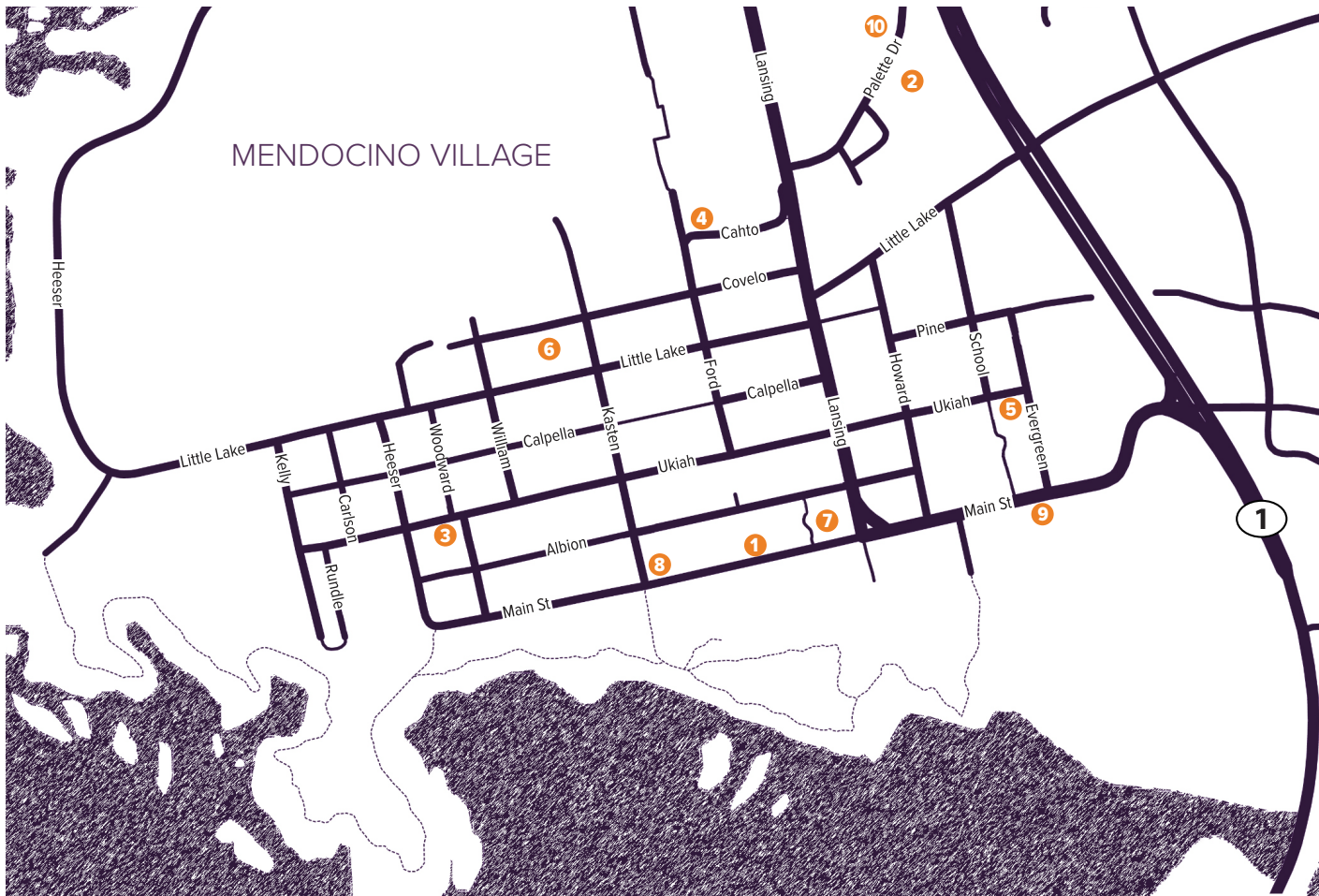
GET YOUR SEAT. Please plan to arrive 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start time in order to ensure your seat. Remember: even if a screening is out of advance tickets, rush tickets may be available at the door. Rush lines begin 20 minutes to an hour before start time.

LET'S GET SOCIAL. Connect with us across our social media all year long. Follow us on Facebook ([@MendocinoFilmFestival](https://www.facebook.com/MendocinoFilmFestival)) and Instagram ([@MendoFilmFest](https://www.instagram.com/MendoFilmFest)) and join the conversation ([#MendoFilm](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/MendoFilm)). See the festival in action in our Facebook photo gallery.



We happily provide services for disabled guests. Please contact the Festival Office at (707) 937-0171 for information on accommodation.



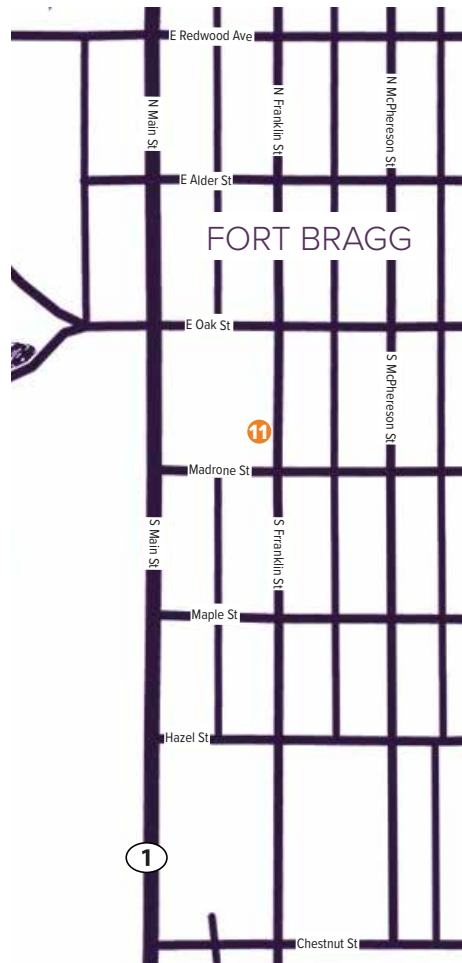


MENDOCINO VENUES

- 1 Festival Headquarters & Box Office**
Mendocino Hotel, 45080 Main St.
- 2 Festival Tent**
10701 Palette Dr.
- 3 Crown Hall**
45285 Ukiah St.
- 4 Matheson Theater**
Cahto St. & Ford St.
- 5 Cafe Beaujolais & The Waiting Room**
961 Ukiah St.
- 6 Mendocino Art Center**
45200 Little Lake St.
- 7 Kelley House Museum**
45007 Albion St.
- 8 Gallery Bookshop**
319 Katsen St.
- 9 Preston Hall**
Presbyterian Church 44867 Main St.
- 10 The Hill House Inn**
10701 Palette Dr.

FORT BRAGG VENUE

- 11 Coast Cinemas**
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- Joshua Grindle
- Little River Inn
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- Mendocino Grove
- Mendocino Hotel
- Nicholson House
- Noyo Harbor Inn
- Sea Gull Inn
- Stanford Inn
- Sweetwater Inn & Spa

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Patricia Dunbar
Kathryn & Steve Fields
Aaron Haye & Bridget Kelly
Jacquie Hoffman & Anya Maruscha
Carol Kawase & Jason Kirkman
Leigh Anne Lindsey
Teresa Raffo
Andrea Shepard
Barry & Gayle Tyerman
Maria Vargas & Tony diTirro
Sylvia M. Walker
Katie Wheeler

VIP

Luna Armstrong
Barbara R. Barkovich
Donna Bayles
Steve Beasley
Janet "Belle" Bell
Karen & Leonardo Bowers
James Brown
Lisa & Peter Burtis
Pia Chamberlain

Lynn & Peter Chevalier
Meli Cook & James McCullough
Sallie & Tom Costello
Paula Day
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Maureen Gamma
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Claire & Charles Greenberg
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Kaye Handley
Adron Harris & Diane Snell
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ALL THAT JAZZ

JAZZ NIGHT AT THE HILL HOUSE INN

Friday, June 2nd, 5:00 - 7:00PM
Exclusive Mendocino Film Festival
Member and Sponsor Event

Celebrate the opening night of the Festival with jazz, libations and small bites at the Hill House Inn. Dress up in your finest threads and raise a glass of Roederer Estate sparkling wine to 16 years of the Mendocino Film Festival.

Enjoy specialties from 10 local chefs—Trillium's Roberto Tamayo, Stanford Inn's Jeff Stanford and Sid Garza-Hillman, Little River Inn's Joe Perez, Noyo Harbor Inn's Jason Johnson, A Sweet Affair's Brittany Harris, Ledford House's Lisa & Tony Geer, Cultivo's Fernando Plazola, KW Saltwater Grill's Kristy Wilson, The Bewildered Pig's Janelle Weaver, Mendocino Jams' Andrew Wells, and Cucina Verona's Joe Harris. Sip and savor local wines, beer, and craft cocktails in tandem with a smooth night of cool jazz, performed by the jazz quintet Magnolia.

This year's Jazz Night Opening Gala will be followed by the film **SANTOS: SKIN TO SKIN** about the Afro-Latin jazz musician John Santos. A live performance by the John Santos Quartet will top off the evening. See p. 18.

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MUSIC
Magnolia featuring:
Sharon Garner (vocals)
Danny Barca (guitar & vocals)
Pete Gealey (bass)
Steve Paul (trumpet & vocals)
Tom Rickard (drums)

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JOHN SANTOS QUARTET

Friday, June 2, 7:30PM, Festival Tent, \$25

Following the film SANTOS: SKIN TO SKIN, stay for a special performance by the John Santos Quartet. See p. 40.

Far more than a master percussionist, internationally renowned, multi-Grammy-nominated San Francisco native John Santos is a prolific Afro-Latin bandleader, composer, teacher, writer, producer, and cultural activist. A 2012 San Francisco Latino Heritage Arts Awardee, he's been at the center of the Bay Area's music scene for 50 years. He has worked with acknowledged masters including Cachao, Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente, Bebo Valdés, Max Roach, Eddie Palmieri, Dee Dee Bridgewater and Omar Sosa.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

RACE FOR YOUR LIFE, CHARLIE BROWN



Saturday, June 3, 10AM, Coast Cinemas

Join the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Mendocino Film Festival for a FREE screening of RACE FOR YOUR LIFE, CHARLIE BROWN followed by a how-to-draw Snoopy lesson and hands-on crafts for kids at Coast Cinemas in Fort Bragg. Sponsored by Sean Leland, State Farm. See p. 32.

SIX CALIFORNIA KITCHENS

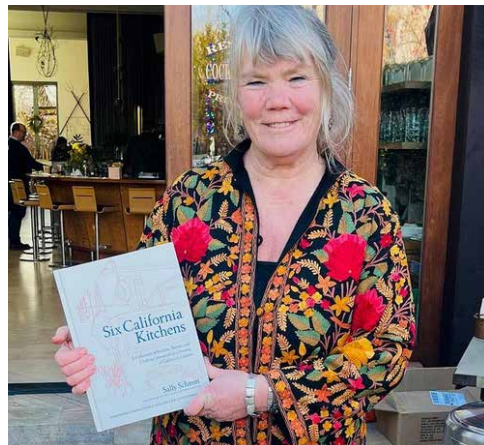
BOOK SIGNING WITH KAREN BATES, DAUGHTER OF SALLY SCHMITT

Friday, June 2, 12PM, Gallery Bookshop, Mendocino

Stop by Gallery Bookshop and meet Karen Bates, daughter of Sally Schmitt, featured in THE BEST CHEF IN THE WORLD, part of our Short Films: Fascinating Women program. Karen will be on hand to sign Sally's memoir and cookbook, "Six California Kitchens." See p. 24.

ANGELA LANSBURY IN MENDOCINO

Check out the Angela Lansbury exhibit at the Kelley House Museum. She filmed Murder She Wrote in Mendo!






Proud supporter of the Mendocino Film Festival

Come in and experience the difference.

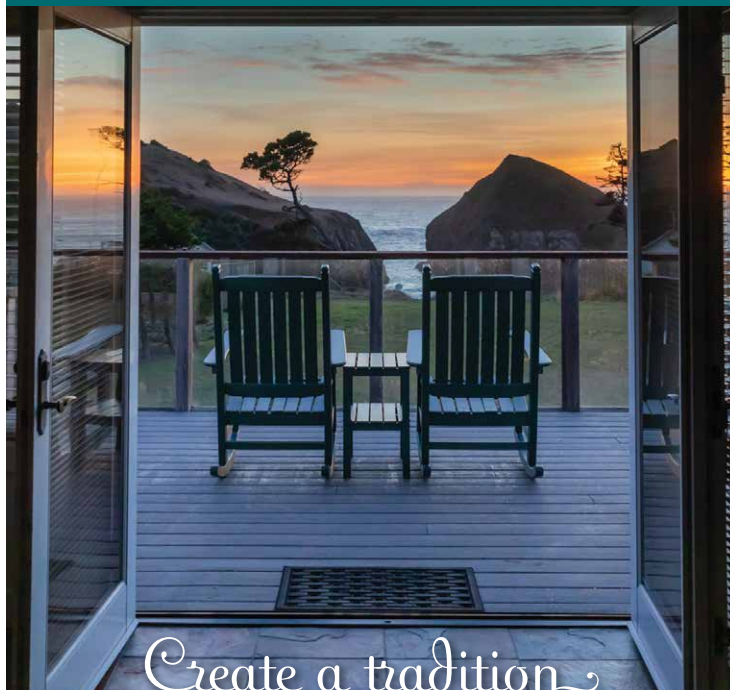
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TAIKO PERFORMANCE

Saturday, June 3, 1PM, Festival Tent

Following the film FINDING HER BEAT (see p. 34), stay for a Taiko performance by Sonoma County Taiko. Sonoma County Taiko has been teaching and performing Taiko locally since it was established in 1995. Their mission “to build a community of acceptance, harmony and respect through their love of taiko” displays their community focus. Local schools, community events and festivals are regular beneficiaries of their performances. They also offer workshops and classes to adults and children at their dojo. sonomacountytaiko.org

TAIKO DRUMMING WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 3, 3:30PM, Preston Hall, \$30

An introduction to the art and culture that is taiko. The one-hour workshop will take you through the basics and guide you through an exploration of the many aspects of taiko playing and performing. Hosted by Sonoma County Taiko. Space is limited to 20 participants.

NATIVE CINEMA

Made possible by the generosity of Xa Kako Dile: and Thanksgiving Coffee Company; Co-Produced by Lavender Grace and U'ilani Wesley

Sunday, June 4, 3PM, Festival Tent

In its second season, Native Cinema uplifts Native Cultural Leaders and brings visibility, acknowledgement, responsibility, and accountability to the 16th Annual Mendocino Film Festival.

The program opens with Coastal Pomo Dancers in song and dance offerings to acknowledge the land. Featuring: Bernadette Smith, Pricilla Hunter, Ras K'dee, L. Frank, Kanyon Sayers-Roods, Clarence Carrillo, Natalie Smith, Shayne McCloud and Rulan Tangen. A screening of the GROUNDWORKS documentary film follows (see p. 38). After the film, stay for a panel discussion.

NATIVE CINEMA ART EXHIBIT

A special art show in conjunction with our Native Cinema Program will be featured all weekend in the Nicholson Gallery at the Mendocino Art Center.



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A TRIBUTE TO OUR MEMBERS

**Thursday, June 1, 7PM | Festival Tent
For Members, Sponsors, & Invited Guests**

The triumphant return of the Feel Good Shorts Program will be the star of this year's special Members' Event. Scharffenberger Cellars will fill your glass and small bites and cocktails will be dished up by Noyo Harbor Inn. We could all use a good laugh!

Proudly sponsored by Noyo Harbor Inn. Wine concession sponsor is Scharffenberger Cellars.

GALA JAZZ NIGHT & CHEF SHOWCASE AT THE HILL HOUSE INN

**Friday, June 2, 5PM | Hill House Inn
For Members, Sponsors, & Invited Guests**

Celebrate the opening night of the Festival with jazz, libations and small bites at the Hill House Inn. Enjoy specialties from 10 local chefs as you sip and savor local wines, beer, and craft cocktails in tandem with a smooth night of cool jazz, performed by the jazz quintet, Magnolia. See page 14.

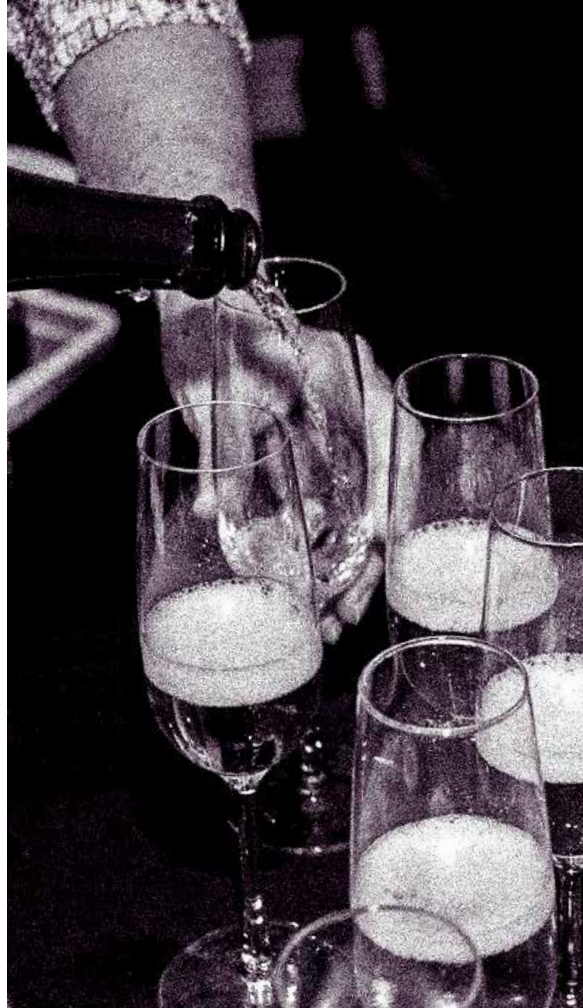
Sponsored by Pamela Hudson Real Estate.

FILMMAKER PARTY

**Saturday, June 3, 5-7PM | Cafe Beaujolais Garden
For Filmmakers & Special Guests**

Our most exclusive party takes place in the stunning gardens of Cafe Beaujolais. Whimsical bites from Assaggiare's Chef Julia A. Kendrick are inspired by this year's films. Goldeneye will pour wine, and Ukiah Brewing Company will bring the beer. Additionally Cafe Beaujolais' Brickery will serve up pizza topped with grass-fed lamb from Magruder Ranch.

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SHORT FILMS: FASCINATING WOMEN

Made possible by the generosity of Village Veterinary

Friday, June 2, 10AM, Crown Hall

Saturday, June 3, 10AM, Crown Hall

Three character portraits of passionate and compelling women are highlighted in this program: a chef, an artist, and an entrepreneur. 76 min.

SHERI

Directed by James 'Q' Martin

Sheri Tingey defied the odds and expectations of those around her by starting a company at age 50 that revolutionized the outdoor industry and changed the way paddle sports in the backcountry are viewed around the world. 29 min.

CARA ROMERO: FOLLOWING THE LIGHT

Directed by Kaela Waldstein

This exploration of Cara Romero's development as a fine art photographer delves into the Chemehuevi and California Indigenous history that informs her work. Includes behind-the-scenes footage of Cara's shoots and features interviews with leading Indigenous artists. 27 min.

THE BEST CHEF IN THE WORLD

Directed by Ben Proudfoot

The true origins of The French Laundry, which Sally Schmitt shaped into one of the world's great restaurants before selling it to the now-legendary Thomas Keller. 20 min.

Sally Schmitt's daughter, Karen Bates, will join us at the Friday screening.

Join the Conversation

FREE FILMMAKER PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Stop in on Saturday and Sunday at 9AM at the Cafe Beaujolais Waiting Room for free independent film panel discussions.



SHORT FILMS: FEEL GOOD

Made possible by the generosity of Noyo Harbor Inn

Thursday, June 1, 7PM, Festival Tent (For Members)

Saturday, June 3, 4PM, Festival Tent

Our Feel Good Shorts bring you heartwarming and humorous stories from around the world. Come lift your spirits and enjoy a good laugh. 65 min.

IT'S A DOG

Directed by Eli Shapiro

He's bald. Well, no, he's *going* bald. He still has hair. On like, the sides. Does that count? 8 min.

BABEL

Directed by Alejandro San Martín

Suddenly people begin speaking nonsense. 9 min.

AARON WITH TWO A'S

Directed by Michael Goldberg

Meet Aaron. He's starting his second career at age 65...As an actor. What could go wrong? With Steve Lichtenstein. 17 min.

PHOTO OP

Directed by Dava Whisenant

A humorous cautionary tale about the perils of trusting a stranger with your phone. Protect your selfie. 4 min.

TABLE FOR 3

Directed by Álvaro G. Company & Meka Ribera

Five friends go to dinner at a high-end restaurant but the reserved table is now a table for three. 13 min.

THEY GROW UP SO FAST

Directed by John Beach

When Brian meets Amy after a night out on the town, things move a lot faster than he'd anticipated. 10 min.

MOSES SUPPOSES

Directed by Nic Petry and Caleb Teicher

The tune "Moses Supposes" from the movie SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, performed by eight tap dancers around New York City. 4 min.



SHORT FILMS: REEL MENDO

Made possible by the generosity of Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens and Digging Dog Nursery / Integrated Design

Sunday, June 4, 5:30PM, Festival Tent

A festival favorite! A collection of shorts by Mendocino County filmmakers. 84 min.

Q&A with filmmakers after screening.

SHEEPDOG

Directed by Mark Weaver

"There's no good shepherd without a good dog." 21 min.

THE MAGIC GAS

Directed by Terilynn Latrese Epperson

A humorous story about a mythical creature solving one home's energy crisis. 2 min.

DUST ANGEL

Directed by Peter Dorn-Ravlin

A lone explorer on a mysterious planet discovers that he is not alone. 10 min.

THE ALBION BRIDGE SONG

Directed by Laurie York

Will the Albion Community be able to save the historic Albion River Bridge? With music written and performed by Andy Mackey. 4 min.

THE OUTLAWS OF MENDOCINO

Directed by Ryan Adams & Ryan McGrady

A preacher turns to crime to protect his family from a powerful railroad company. A teaser for an upcoming feature film. 3 min.

FLORA OF THE FIELDS

Directed by Laurie York

The life-affirming work of organic horticulturalists, Winnie Pitrone and Andy Mackey, whose passion for garden and floral design has paved their life's path. 30 min.

ORACLE: THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF MICHAEL HEDGES

Directed by Mischa & Brendan Hedges

A teaser for an upcoming documentary about Grammy Award-winning guitarist Michael Hedges directed by his son and his brother. 7 min.

MORNING PRAYER

Directed by Linda Shear

A song by Linda Shear for the people of Ukraine. Animation by Anik Mhamud from Bangladesh. 5 min.



SHORT FILMS: A TRIP TO ITALY

Made possible by the generosity of Applewood Property Management

Saturday, June 3, 1PM, Crown Hall

Sunday, June 4, 10AM, Matheson

Journey to Italy and immerse yourself in charm, beauty, nature, and cinema. If you can't get there in person, film provides a virtual passport. 77 min.

BUON FERRAGOSTO

Directed by Claudia Miatello

A boy has the adventure of his lifetime in the city of Florence with an unexpected friend. A catastrophic day turned purr-fect. 7 min.

CINEMARI

Directed by Julian Civiero

During the 1940s and 50s in Abruzzo, long before television arrived in small villages, the Cinemari were the men who brought outdoor cinema, 'il cinema in piazza', to the village festivals. 46 min.

MY NEIGHBOR IS A BEAR

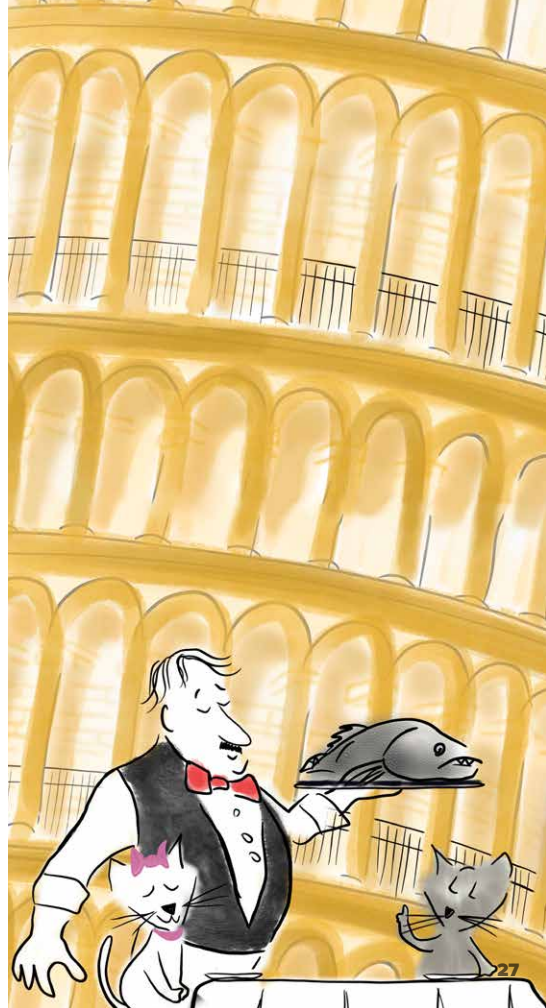
Directed by Mattia Cialoni

A rare Marsican bear family wanders down from the Italian Apennines to the charming village of Villalago. 16 min.

CASTELLO CAVALCANTI

Directed by Wes Anderson

Italy, September 1955. A Formula One driver crashes his car during a race, leaving him stuck in a small village—but good surprises will come his way. With Jason Schwartzman. 2013. 8 min.

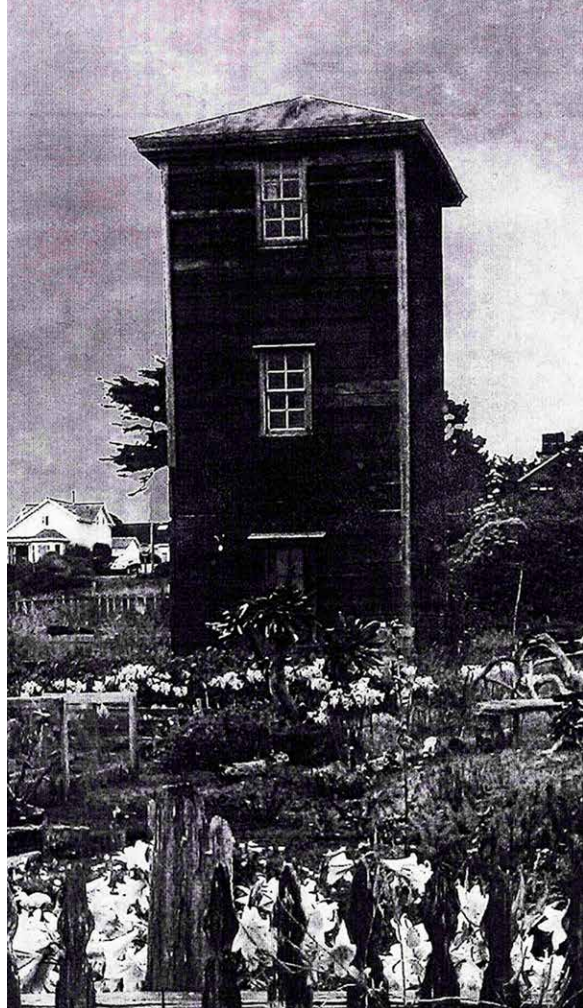


Good movies aren't just during the festival . . .

The Mendocino Film Festival hosts film events throughout the year, from our Classic Film Series that shares cinematic gems from years past to the Indie Series that takes viewers well off the beaten path into the odd and experimental realms of movie making. We're so grateful to the supporters that make this possible. Check our website for screening details.

THE STUDY CLUB

[SPLEND! FEROUS]



Artwork by Debra Lennox



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Craft Cannabis Experience

Weed & Wine film

Sunday, June 4 @ 1PM at the Festival Tent
Followed by a panel discussion on
cannabis and viticulture in Mendocino.

Short doc: The Cannabis Trail

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ROGUE WAVE AWARD WINNER Congratulations to Nicole Holofcener

We are proud to honor writer and director Nicole Holofcener at this year's festival and screen her latest film, *YOU HURT MY FEELINGS*, and an earlier film, *ENOUGH SAID*.

Nicole's seven films speak to relationships in our modern world with clear eyes — as well as a jagged side eye. Whether her gaze is focused on family (*LOVELY AND AMAZING*, *PLEASE GIVE*, *THE LAND OF STEADY HABITS*), friendship (*WALKING AND TALKING*, *FRIENDS WITH MONEY*), or romantic relationships (*ENOUGH SAID*, *YOU HURT MY FEELINGS*), the devil is in the details, revealing deep wells of feeling in the tiniest of moments. Nicole's insight and humor, combined with an affection for all of her characters, make each of her films a jewel box of a movie, waiting to be discovered. She is an Academy Award-nominated writer and the recipient of this year's Mendocino Film Festival's Rogue Wave Award. *Thank you to A24 for allowing us to screen Nicole's work.*



Film Listings

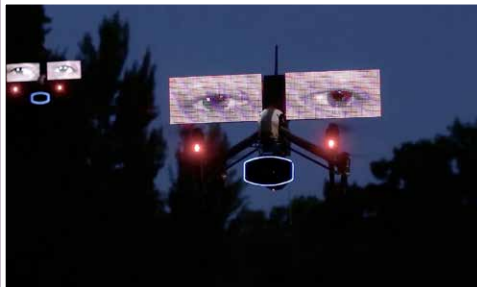
THE ART OF UN-WAR: KRZYSZTOF WODICZAKO

DOCUMENTARY: PAT'S PICK – *Made possible by the generosity of The Khosla Foundation*

Friday, June 2, 4PM, Matheson

Directed by Maria Niro

An instigator for social change, Krzysztof Wodiczko's powerful public artistic interventions create healing for PTSD sufferers while challenging the public's complacency towards war, xenophobia, and displacement. 64 min.





BODY PARTS

DOCUMENTARY: PAT'S PICK – *Made possible by the generosity of The Khosla Foundation*

Sunday, June 4, 1PM, Crown Hall

Directed by Kristy Guevara Flanagan and produced by Helen Hood Scheer

BODY PARTS traces the evolution of “sex” on-screen from a woman’s perspective, uncovering the uncomfortable realities behind some of the most iconic scenes in cinema history and celebrating the bold creators leading the way for change. Candid interviews with Jane Fonda, Rosanna Arquette, Joey Soloway, Rose McGowan and many others. 86 min. *Q&A with filmmakers after screening.*



A BUNCH OF AMATEURS

DOCUMENTARY – *Made possible by the generosity of Braggadoon*

Saturday, June 3, 7:30PM, Crown Hall | Sunday, June 4, 1PM, Matheson

Directed by Kim Hopkins

In the northern industrial town of Bradford, England, a handful of diehard amateur filmmakers desperately cling to their dreams, and to each other, in this warm and funny look at shared artistic folly that speaks to the delusional dreamer in us all. 94 min.



CHILDREN’S PROGRAM: RACE FOR YOUR LIFE, CHARLIE BROWN

FREE FAMILY FILM – *Made possible by the generosity of Sean Leland, State Farm*

Saturday, June 3, 10AM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Phil Roman, Bill Melendez

The Peanuts gang, including Snoopy and Woodstock, go to summer camp! Join them on their adventure as they compete in a rafting race, battling treacherous rapids, wild animals, and a tricky rival team. 1977. 76 min. *Followed by an activity for kids hosted by the Schulz Museum. See p. 18.*



CLOSE

NARRATIVE – Made possible by the generosity of Kemgas

Friday, June 2, 4PM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Lukas Dhont

Leo and Remi are two thirteen-year-old best friends, whose seemingly unbreakable bond is suddenly, tragically torn apart. Academy Award nominee for Best International Feature Film and Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. 104 min.



ENOUGH SAID

NARRATIVE – Made possible by the generosity of Paulson Excavating

Friday, June 2, 1PM, Crown Hall

Directed by Nicole Holofcener

Eva is a divorced soon-to-be empty-nester wondering about her next act. Then she meets Marianne, the embodiment of her perfect self. Armed with a restored outlook on being middle-aged and single, Eva decides to take a chance on her new love interest Albert—a sweet, funny and like-minded man. But things get complicated when Eva discovers that Albert is in fact the dreaded ex-husband of Marianne. Academy Award Nominee 2023. 2013. 93 min. *Q&A with the filmmaker after screening.*



FARGO

NARRATIVE – Made possible by the generosity of Frankie's Pizza & Ice Cream

Sunday, June 4, 10AM, Festival Tent

Directed by Joel Coen & written by Ethan Coen

Jerry, a small-town Minnesota car salesman is bursting at the seams with debt... but he's got a plan. He's going to hire two thugs to kidnap his wife in a scheme to collect a hefty ransom from his wealthy father-in-law. It's going to be a snap and nobody's going to get hurt... until people start dying. Enter Police Chief Marge, a coffee-drinking, parka-wearing—and extremely pregnant—investigator who'll stop at nothing to get her man. And if you think her small-time investigative skills will give the crooks a run for their ransom... you betcha! 1996. 98 min.



FINDING HER BEAT

DOCUMENTARY: PAT'S PICK – Made possible by the generosity of The Khosla Foundation

Saturday, June 3, 1PM, Festival Tent

Directed by Keri Pickett and Dawn Mikkelson

For thousands of years women have been locked out of Taiko drumming. Not anymore. In the dead of a Minnesota winter, Asian drumming divas smash gender roles and redefine power on their own terms. FINDING HER BEAT dives into the rhythms and struggles that lead to an electrifying historic performance that changes everything. 89 min. *Following the film, stay for a Taiko drumming performance by Sonoma County Taiko. See p. 20.*



THE FORGER

NARRATIVE – Made possible by the generosity of Wagner Photo Arts

Saturday, June 3, 4PM, Crown Hall

Directed by Maggie Peren

Based on a true story of bravery in the face of evil, Louis Hofmann (Netflix's DARK) stars as an audacious young man who poses as a marine officer and forges documents to help fellow Jews escape Nazi Germany. 116 min.



FRANKLIN

DOCUMENTARY – Made possible by the generosity of Bonterra

Friday, June 2, 7:30 PM, Crown Hall

Directed by Kasimir Burgess

An epic, life-changing solo rafting trip down the beautiful yet remote Franklin River to retrace the story of Australia's most significant environmental battle: the saving of the World Heritage-listed national park from being destroyed by a huge hydroelectric dam project in the early 1980s. 91 min. *Preceded by: WILD SWIMMERS. Directed by Marijn Wouters. 3 min.*



GOD'S CREATURES

NARRATIVE – Made possible by the generosity of Stanford Inn

Friday, June 2, 1:20PM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Anna Rose Holmer and Saela Davis

In a windswept fishing village, a mother is torn between protecting her beloved son and her own sense of right and wrong. A lie she tells for him rips apart their family and close-knit community in this tense, sweepingly emotional epic. 101 min.



GODS OF MEXICO

DOCUMENTARY – Made possible by the generosity of Mendocino Cafe / Flow Restaurant & Lounge

Sunday, June 4, 10AM, Crown Hall

Directed by Helmut Dosantos

With visually stunning landscapes and immersive sound, GODS OF MEXICO is a poetic and meditative survey of the vast landscapes and rich diversity of several communities of rural Mexico. Using richly saturated color and hypnotic black-and-white interludes, filmmaker Helmut Dosantos takes viewers through salt pans, deserts, highlands, jungle, and underground mines—paying tribute to those who fight to preserve their cultural identity amidst the shadows of modernization. 97 min.



HOLD ME TIGHT

NARRATIVE – Made possible by the generosity of Tito's Vodka

Friday, June 2, 4PM, Crown Hall

Directed by Mathieu Amalric

At dawn, Clarisse (Vicky Krieps) takes a last look at her husband and two sleeping children, hesitates to leave a note, and hits the road. A desperate escape that gradually reveals its layers as Clarisse—who seems to have an extra-sensory connection to the family she has left behind—loses herself in the world. 95 min. *Preceded by: ICE MERCHANTS. Directed by Joao Gonzalez. Academy Award Nominee 2023. 14 min.*



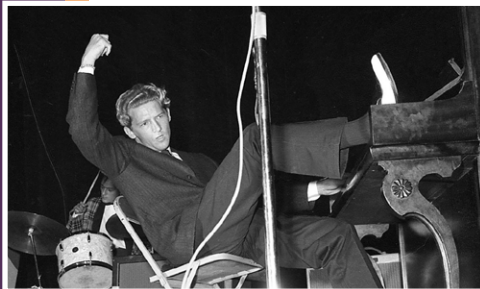
I LIKE IT HERE

DOCUMENTARY: PAT'S PICK – *Made possible by the generosity of Adventist Health*

Saturday, June 3, 4PM, Matheson

Directed by Ralph Arlyck

A clear-eyed meditation on the reality and surprising beauties of aging from Ralph Arlyck, a documentarian for over 50 years, living in the natural beauty of his upstate NY farm. Threaded through with wistfulness, this is an eloquent cinematic statement about finding inner peace and accepting life in all its joys and challenges. 88 min. *Preceded by: DON'T YOU GO NOWHERE. Directed by Bryan Poyser. 8 min. Followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker and panel discussion with Adventist Health.*



JERRY LEE LEWIS: TROUBLE IN MIND

DOCUMENTARY – *Made possible by the generosity of New Museum / Sea Rock Inn*

Saturday, June 3, 10:10AM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Ethan Coen

An electrifying glimpse into the complex life and thrilling, unparalleled performances of rock and roll's first and wildest practitioner: Jerry Lee Lewis. Ethan Coen's solo directorial debut and first documentary. *Thank you to A24 for allowing us to screen this film.* 73 min.



LINOLEUM

NARRATIVE – *Made possible by the generosity of Franklin Street Management*

Saturday, June 3, 7:30PM, Matheson

Directed by Colin West

When the host of a failing children's science show (Jim Gaffigan) tries to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming an astronaut by building a rocket ship in his garage, a series of bizarre events occur that cause him to question his own reality. With Rhea Seehorn. 101 min.



LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING

DOCUMENTARY – *Made possible by the generosity of KZYX*

Saturday, June 3, 7:30PM, Festival Tent

Directed by Lisa Cortés

The story of the Black queer origins of rock n' roll that explodes the whitewashed canon of American pop music to reveal the innovator—the originator—Richard Penniman. Through a wealth of archive and performance that brings us into Richard's complicated inner world, the film unspools the icon's life story with all its switchbacks and contradictions. 98 min.



LIVING

NARRATIVE – *Made possible by the generosity of John & Kathryn Hughes*

Friday, June 2, 10AM, Coast Cinemas | Sunday, June 4, 1PM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Oliver Hermanus

A 1953 London shattered by WWII is still recovering. Williams (Bill Nighy), a veteran civil servant, is an impotent cog within the city's bureaucracy as it struggles to rebuild. Buried under paperwork at the office, lonely at home, his life has long felt empty and meaningless. Then a shattering medical diagnosis forces him to take stock—and try to grasp fulfillment before it is beyond reach. Nominated for two Academy Awards 2023. 102 min.



THE LOST KING

NARRATIVE – *Made possible by the generosity of the Inn at Newport Ranch*

Saturday, June 3, 10:20AM, Coast Cinemas | Sunday, June 4, 3PM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Stephen Frears

An amateur historian (Sally Hawkins) defies the academic establishment in her efforts to find King Richard III's remains, which were lost for over 500 years. Based on a true story. 108 min.



NATIVE CINEMA: GROUNDWORKS

DOCUMENTARY – Made possible by the generosity of Thanksgiving Coffee and Xa Kako Dile:

Sunday, June 4, 3PM, Festival Tent

Directed by Ian Garrett

On San Francisco's first official Indigenous People's Day, a group of Native artists contributed a dance performance, Groundworks, to the annual Sunrise Ceremony on Alcatraz—nearly 50 years after the Indians of All Tribes occupied the island and brought attention to Native American rights. These artists are working towards reclamation of Native lands while restoring traditional ways of knowing and making. 56 min. *A special program with Coastal Pomo dancers will open the program and a panel discussion will follow. See p. 20.*



PATH OF THE PANTHER

DOCUMENTARY – Made possible by the generosity of Bonterra

Friday, June 2, 10:10AM, Coast Cinemas | Saturday, June 3, 4PM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Eric Bendick

Drawn in by the haunting specter of the Florida panther, photographer Carlton Ward and a coalition of biologists, ranchers, conservationists, and Indigenous Peoples find themselves on the front lines of an accelerating battle between forces of renewal and destruction that have pushed the Everglades to the brink of ecological collapse. Against all odds, wild panthers are stunningly captured in their native ecosystem as they've never been filmed before. 90 min. *Q&A with the filmmaker after screening.*



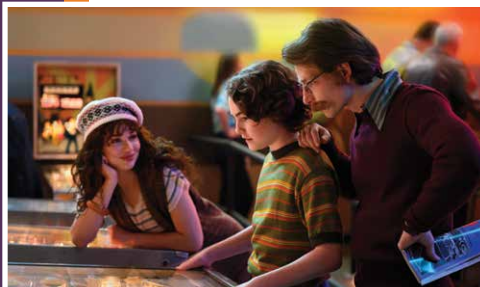
PATRICK AND THE WHALE

DOCUMENTARY – Made possible by the generosity of Noyo Center for Marine Science

Saturday, June 3, 10AM, Festival Tent

Directed by Mark Fletcher

Using stunning underwater footage, Patrick explores the fascinating nature of the sperm whale, attempting to shine a light on its intelligence and complexity, as well as highlighting its current and past relationship with humankind. 72 min. *Preceded by: WASHED ASHORE. Directed by Ley Heimgartner and Cameron Nielsen. 16 min. Followed by a panel discussion with Noyo Center for Marine Science.*



PINBALL: THE MAN WHO SAVED THE GAME

NARRATIVE – Made possible by the generosity of Ukiah Brewing Company

Friday, June 2, 7:30PM, Matheson | Saturday, June 3, 1PM, Matheson

Directed by Austin Bragg and Meredith Bragg

An unsettled writer with a fantastic mustache finds solace and confidence in one thing he has mastered: pinball. Based on the true story of writer and pinball wizard Roger Sharpe, this dramatic comedy chronicles his journey to overturn New York City's 35-year ban on pinball. 92 min.



RACHEL'S FARM

DOCUMENTARY – Made possible by the generosity of Bonterra

Friday, June 2, 1PM, Festival Tent

Directed by Rachel Ward

Director and actress Rachel Ward is the last person you'd expect to join a farming revolution. Having bought a farm as a home for her family in Australia, Ward gets drawn in by the harsh realities of drought and bushfires. Working with neighbors, she discovers regenerative farming, and the possibility of restoring her land and, in the process, herself. 84 min. *Followed by Q&A with the filmmaker and a panel discussion on regenerative farming.*



SALVATORE: SHOEMAKER OF DREAMS

DOCUMENTARY – Made possible by the generosity of Rainsong

Friday, June 2, 1PM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Luca Guadagnino

In the early 20th century, impoverished teenage Italian cobbler Salvatore Ferragamo sailed from Naples to America to seek a better life. He settled in Southern California, and became Hollywood's go-to shoemaker during the silent era. In 1927, he returned to Italy and founded his namesake luxury brand. 109 min.



SANTOS: SKIN TO SKIN

DOCUMENTARY – *Made possible by the generosity of Mendocino Grove*

Friday, June 2, 7:30PM, Festival Tent

Directed by Kathryn Golden

A film portrait of community activist and seven-time Grammy nominee John Santos, a “keeper of the Afro-Caribbean flame.” Rich in musical performances, the film links the rhythms of Santos’s ancestors to contemporary struggles of identity and social justice. 75 min. *Q&A with the filmmaker after screening, then stay for a live performance by the John Santos Quartet. See p. 18.*



SHORT FILMS: FASCINATING WOMEN

Made possible by the generosity of Village Veterinary

Friday, June 2, 10AM, Crown Hall | Saturday, June 3, 10AM, Crown Hall

Three character portraits of passionate and compelling women are highlighted in this program: a chef, an artist, and an entrepreneur. Shorts include: SHERI, CARA ROMERO: FOLLOWING THE LIGHT, BEST CHEF IN THE WORLD. 76 min. *See p. 24.*



SHORT FILMS: FEEL GOOD

Made possible by the generosity of Noyo Harbor Inn

Thursday, June 1, 7PM, Festival Tent (For Members) | Saturday, June 3, 4PM, Festival Tent

Our Feel Good Shorts bring you heartwarming and humorous stories from around the world. Come lift your spirits and enjoy a good laugh. Shorts include: IT’S A DOG, BABEL, TABLE FOR 3, PHOTO OP, AARON WITH TWO A’S, MOSES SUPPOSES, THEY GROW UP SO FAST. 65 min. *See p. 25.*



SHORT FILMS: REEL MENDO

Made possible by the generosity of Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden and Digging Dog Nursery / Integrated Design

Sunday, June 4, 5:30PM, Festival Tent

A festival favorite! A collection of shorts by Mendocino County filmmakers. Shorts include: SHEEPDOG, MAGIC GAS, DUST ANGEL, ALBION BRIDGE SONG, OUTLAWS OF MENDOCINO, FLORA OF THE FIELDS, ORACLE: THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF MICHAEL HEDGES, MORNING PRAYER. 84 min. See p. 26. Q&A with the filmmakers after screening.



SHORT FILMS: A TRIP TO ITALY

Made possible by the generosity of Applewood Property Management

Saturday, June 3, 1PM, Crown Hall | Sunday, June 4, 10AM, Matheson

Journey to Italy and immerse yourself in charm, beauty, nature, and cinema. If you can't get there in person, film provides a virtual passport. Shorts include: CINEMARI, BUON FERROGOSTO, MY NEIGHBOR IS A BEAR, CASTELLO CAVALCANTI. 77 min. See p. 27.



SQUARING THE CIRCLE (THE STORY OF HIPGNOSIS)

DOCUMENTARY – Made possible by the generosity of West Business Development Center

Friday, June 2, 1:10PM, Coast Cinemas | Sunday, June 4, 10AM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Anton Corbijn

Hipgnosis (Storm Thorgerson and Aubrey Pwell) produced some of the most iconic album covers in the history of music. For 25 years, the British design duo produced work for Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Paul McCartney, Genesis, Def Leppard, Peter Gabriel, and many more. 100 min.



STEPHEN CURRY: UNDERRATED

DOCUMENTARY – *Made possible by the generosity of The Skunk Train*

Sunday, June 4, 10:10AM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Peter Nicks

The remarkable coming-of-age story of Stephen Curry—one of the most influential, dynamic, and unexpected players in basketball history—and his rise from an undersized college player to a four-time NBA champion. 110 min. *A special thank you to Apple TV+ for letting us screen the film in advance of its release.*



THREE MINUTES: A LENGTHENING

DOCUMENTARY – *Made possible by the generosity of Kelley House Museum / Cliff & Kimberly Ziegler*

Saturday, June 3, 10AM, Matheson

Directed by Bianca Stigter

Just a few minutes of footage are the only moving images left of the Jewish inhabitants of Nasielsk, Poland, before the Holocaust. An exhaustive study of what can be discovered from closely examining frames of a 1938 home movie, a tiny record of a lost moment in time. 69 min.



TOWN DESTROYER

DOCUMENTARY – *Made possible by the generosity of Kaye Handley*

Friday, June 2, 1PM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Deborah Kaufman and Alan Snitow

A well-intentioned 13-panel WPA mural depicting early America becomes the center of controversy at a San Francisco High School. A lively and sometimes emotional debate ensues spotlighting complex issues of art, history, and identity politics. 55 min. *Q&A with the filmmakers after screening.*



WEED & WINE

DOCUMENTARY – *Made possible by the generosity of Sol de Mendocino*

Sunday, June 4, 1PM, Festival Tent

Directed by Rebecca Richman Cohen

Continents apart from one another, two farming families aim to reinvent themselves on their land. One family—a poised French matriarch and the son she raised among her vines—tends a centuries-old, biodynamic vineyard in the Southern Rhône. Across the ocean in Humboldt, California, another family—a brash father and his more reserved son—carefully manage a state-recognized, organic cannabis farm. 89 min. *Followed by a panel discussion on cannabis and viticulture in Mendocino.*



WILD LIFE

DOCUMENTARY – *Made possible by the generosity of Mendocino Land Trust*

Friday, June 2, 10AM, Festival Tent | Sunday, June 4, 10:20AM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin

Kris and Doug Tompkins left behind the world of the massively successful outdoor brands they'd helped pioneer—Patagonia, The North Face and Esprit—and turned their attention to a visionary effort to create national parks throughout Chile and Argentina via their nonprofit Tompkins Conservation. WILD LIFE chronicles the highs and lows of their journey to affect the largest private land donation in history. 93 min. *Followed by a panel discussion with the Mendocino Land Trust.*



YOU HURT MY FEELINGS

NARRATIVE – *Made possible by the generosity of The Study Club*

Saturday, June 3, 1PM, Coast Cinemas

Directed by Nicole Holofcener

From acclaimed filmmaker Nicole Holofcener (ENOUGH SAID) comes a sharply observed comedy about a novelist whose longstanding marriage is suddenly upended when she overhears her husband give his honest reaction to her latest book. A film about trust, lies, and the things we say to the people we love most. Starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus. 93 min. *Q&A with the filmmaker after screening.*



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 Sydney Pollack (1934 – 2008)
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Screening Schedule

Thursday June 1	7:00PM	Members' Event + Short Films: Feel Good
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 Festival Tent: Mendo Sotheby's; Crown Hall: Little River Inn; Matheson: Savings Bank of Mendocino County;
 Coast Cinemas: Visit Fort Bragg; and Festival Headquarters: Harvest Market.

		TENT	CROWN HALL	MATHESON	COAST CINEMAS		
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Friday June 2	10:00AM	Wild Life	SHORT FILMS: Fascinating Women	High School Event: Town Destroyer	10:00AM Living	10:10AM Path of the Panther	
	1:00PM	Rachel's Farm	Enough Said		1:00PM Salvatore Town Destroyer	1:10PM Squaring the Circle	1:20PM God's Creatures
	4:00PM		Hold Me Tight	Art of Un-War	Close		
	7:30PM	Santos: Skin to Skin	Franklin	Pinball			

Saturday June 3	10:00AM	Patrick and the Whale	SHORT FILMS: Fascinating Women	Three Minutes: A Lengthening	10:00AM CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: Race for Your Life, Charlie Brown	10:10AM Jerry Lee Lewis	10:20AM The Lost King
	1:00PM	Finding Her Beat	SHORT FILMS: A Trip to Italy	Pinball	You Hurt My Feelings		
	4:00PM	SHORT FILMS: Feel Good	The Forger	I Like it Here	Path of the Panther		
	7:30PM	Little Richard: I am Everything	A Bunch of Amateurs	Linoleum			

Sunday June 4	10:00AM	Fargo	Gods of Mexico	SHORT FILMS: A Trip to Italy	10:00AM Squaring the Circle	10:10AM Stephen Curry: Underrated	10:20AM Wild Life
	1:00PM	Weed & Wine	Body Parts	A Bunch of Amateurs	Living		
	3:00PM	Native Cinema			The Lost King		
	5:30PM	SHORT FILMS: Reel Mendo					

KEY	DOCUMENTARY	NARRATIVE
	SHORTS	SPECIAL EVENT

Special Events

Friday, June 2

- 12PM Book Signing
at Gallery Bookshop
- 5-7PM Opening Night Celebration
at The Hill House Inn
- 7:30PM Screening of SANTOS: SKIN
TO SKIN followed by
Live Music Performance

Saturday, June 3

- 9AM Filmmaker Panel Discussion
at Cafe Beaujolais
- 3:30PM Taiko Workshop
at Preston Hall
- 5-7PM Filmmaker Party
at Cafe Beaujolais

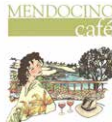
Sunday, June 4

- 9AM Filmmaker Panel Discussion
at Cafe Beaujolais

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