

15TH ANNUAL



FORT MYERS BEACH
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 14–19, 2021

Congratulations!

Congrats on 15 years of the Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival!

Lighthouse Resort Inn & Suites are proud to be the Official Lodging Partner for the Festival.



The World Famous Tiki Bar & Grill are delighted to be the Official Filmmaker Network After Dark Sponsor



Where the fun never ends & something is ALWAYS going on poolside.

Check out filmmaker drink specials!

1051 Fifth Avenue, Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931 | (239) 463-9392



ILMS FILMS FILM CONTENTS

SPOTLIGHT

The spotlight shines on the beach this Sept. 14–19, 2021 with the Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival. The six-day festival invites movie-goers to screen quality independent films and enjoy events designed to cultivate the spirit of visual creativity and harbor the talents of filmmakers. Independent films cater to a wide range of tastes and ages and span several genres. The Beach Theater is an intimate and welcoming venue for screenings. Audiences will enjoy independent features in a setting which offers not only quality viewing, but casual dining as well.

For more information, please contact festival staff at hello@FMBIFilmFest.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome	2
Schedule of Events	3
Fun to Do	5
Film Packages	6
Screening Schedule	7
Connect	8
Student Films	9
Florida Made Films	10–11
Short Films	12–15
International & Animated Short Films	16–17
Feature & Documentary Films	18–19
Documentary Short Films	20–21
Special Events	22
Awards	23
Sponsors	24
Previous Years' Awards	Inside Back Cover

CONTRIBUTORS

Writer/Editor:

Tanya Kaish Keller

Art Director:

Pat Murphy, Pat Squared Design

Festival Logo Design:

Ryan Clark, Xerogravity Design

No part of the Fort Myers Beach Film Festival Program may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior written consent from the Fort Myers Beach Film Festival | PO Box 3056, Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33932 | www.fmbifilmfest.com

Here's to 15 years of the Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival!

New 2021 rendering!



We look forward to "watchin' the sun bake" with everyone on Fort Myers Beach in 2023.



Follow us on



margaritavilleresorts.com/margaritaville-beach-resort-fort-myers-beach

14 YEARS OF PROGRAM COVERS



DEAR FILM ENTHUSIASTS

On behalf of the FMBIFF team, it is my great pleasure to welcome you back, and in person, to the 15th annual film festival! After a long year and then some, we are excited to have you join us on our beautiful island paradise for a full week of films and events.

Our goal each year is to bring people together in an entertaining and culturally stimulating atmosphere while celebrating the universal appeal of the visual arts.

There are so many individuals who continue to make this event extraordinary, and I wanted to give a special thank you to Nick Campo, Drake Heroy, and the entire Beach Theater staff for allowing us to take over your theater for the week.

The FMBIFF is fortunate enough to have the best team in place including Tanya Kaish Keller, our external communications manager, programming director, Kyle Thompson, programming team members Joe Guice, Keith Gasa, Krystal Weaver and Bryant Hendricks. These team members from Red Flight Pictures carried us through our 14th year virtually and brought new life to our festival. Our hospitality chair, Jan Fleming, continues to introduce filmmakers and guests to our local restaurants and stores, along with her constant smile and goodwill. We must give a special thanks to our art director and program guide guru, Pat Murphy of Pat Squared Designs.

We cannot thank Producer/Actor Alyn Darnay for his invaluable experience and dedication to the festival by providing his time for our acting workshop.

To our fun and faithful volunteers—thank you for sticking with us the past 18 months! Your time and energy are infectious. The FMBIFF is run entirely of volunteers and without them, we could not continue to bring this event to Fort Myers Beach. Each one of you have had a tremendous impact in making this festival a sensation. I am so very lucky and grateful to have all of you on my CREW! A big shout out to the local businesses, their owners and staff for partnering with the Festival to ensure its success. #WeAreFMB

Finally, a special thank you to my son, Justin, who reminds me that stars are not just on the screen but in the sky. #WeGotThis

Welcome back to the movies!

Janeen Paulauskis *Executive Director*

Janeen is a founding member of the Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival and has been Executive Director since 2001. Honored in Gulfshore Business' 40 Under 40 for her work on the festival and as part of the award-winning team for Marketing and Publicity from the Florida Festival and Events Association, she was recently honored with the Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce's "Commitment to the Community" award and the Town of Fort Myers Beach "Citizen of Distinction" award. Janeen is a proud and grateful supporter of the Fort Myers Beach Community and its many events.

WELCOME FILMMAKERS

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival. Yes, 2020 was an unfortunate year for everyone and like most festivals, we were forced to go to a virtual platform. We are so excited to finally be welcoming everyone back in person for the 15th annual event.

We take pride in being one of the top 100 best reviewed film festivals on FilmFreeway and our team has continued to work diligently to make next five days memorable for the movie-goer and the independent filmmaker.

During your stay, we hope you find yourself enjoying some of the incredible story telling from around the world. This year, we have 126 films from over 11 countries screening with us. Alongside our films, we have some amazing events happening on the island brought to you by our fantastic 2021 sponsors.

We hope you enjoy your festival experience and the beautiful island of Fort Myers Beach!

See you at the movies!

Kyle B. Thompson *Programming Director* @kylebthompson

2021 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Sept. 14	7:00–9:00 p.m.	Registration and Opening Ceremony Beach Theater 6425 Estero Boulevard
Wednesday, Sept. 15	11:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m.	Filmmaker Meet and Greet—filmmakers only Festival Ribbon Cutting Beach Theater 6425 Estero Boulevard
	3:00–11:00 p.m.	Independent Film Screenings Beach Theater 6425 Estero Boulevard
	9:30–1:00 a.m.	Filmmaker Network After Dark —filmmaker specials at the World Famous Tiki Bar at the Lighthouse Resort Inn & Suites. 1051 Fifth Avenue, Fort Myers Beach
Thursday, Sept. 16	11:00 a.m. 3:00–11:00 p.m.	Filmmaker Meet and Greet—filmmakers only Independent Film Screenings Beach Theater 6425 Estero Boulevard
	9:30–1:00 a.m.	Filmmaker Network After Dark —filmmaker specials at the World Famous Tiki Bar at the Lighthouse Resort Inn & Suites.
Friday, Sept. 17	11:00 a.m. 3:00–11:00 p.m.	Filmmaker Meet and Greet—filmmakers only Independent Film Screenings Beach Theater 6425 Estero Boulevard
	8:00 p.m. (gates open at 7:00)	Movie on the Mound—FREE Outdoor Screening of Raya and the Last Dragon The Mound House 451 Connecticut St
	9:30–1:00 a.m.	Filmmaker Network After Dark —filmmaker specials at the World Famous Tiki Bar at the Lighthouse Resort Inn & Suites.
Saturday, Sept. 18	10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	Alyn on Acting—with Alyn Darnay Intimate, hands on acting workshop Tickets Required. 20 spaces available. Beach Theater 6425 Estero Boulevard
	11:00 a.m. 3:00–11:00 p.m.	Filmmaker Meet and Greet—filmmakers only Independent Film Screenings Beach Theater 6425 Estero Boulevard
	9:30–1:00 a.m.	Filmmaker Network After Dark —filmmaker specials at the World Famous Tiki Bar at the Lighthouse Resort Inn & Suites.
Sunday, Sept. 19	11:00 a.m. 3:00–6:00 p.m.	Filmmaker Meet and Greet—filmmakers only Independent Film Screenings Beach Theater 6425 Estero Boulevard
	7:00 p.m.	FMBI Film Festival Closing Awards Ceremony Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Griller 708 Fisherman's Wharf Emcee: The Honorable Ray Murphy, Mayor, Fort Myers Beach



Scan for
ticket
sales

*Masks are strongly recommended at all
Film Festival events unless actively eating or drinking.*

PROUD TO SPONSOR ONE OF FLORIDA'S TOP RATED FILM FESTIVALS



VISIT US AT EPICOUTDOORCINEMA.COM

Congrats to the Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival on celebrating 15 years of movie magic!

While here, we invite filmmakers and patrons to stop by our boutiques on beautiful Fort Myers Beach!



thebestoffortmyersbeach.com

FILMS FILMS FILMS FUN TO DO

FMB FILMMAKER NETWORK AFTER DARK

Wednesday to Saturday, Sept. 15-18 | 9:30 p.m.- 1:00 a.m.

Tiki Bar & Grille | 1051 5th Ave.

Enjoy filmmaker drink specials and grab some photos at the Festival step and repeat at the Official Networking Sponsor World Famous Tiki Bar at the Lighthouse Resort Inn & Suites., Official Lodging Sponsor



MOVIE on the MOUND, RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON

Saturday, September 18 | 8:00 p.m.

The Mound House | 451 Connecticut St. | Free Admission

Bring your beach chairs or blankets as we screen this Golden Globes and Academy Award-winning animated film. Refreshments available for purchase. Gate opens at 7:00 p.m. No coolers, please.

Raya and the Last Dragon

Long ago, in the fantasy world of Kumandra, humans and dragons lived together in harmony. However, when sinister monsters known as the Druun threatened the land, the dragons sacrificed themselves to save humanity. Now, 500 years later, those same monsters have returned, and it's up to a lone warrior to track down the last dragon and stop the Druun for good.



Masks are strongly recommended at all Film Festival events unless actively eating or drinking.

DOC FORD'S RUM BAR & GRILLE
"FOR THE SUN-KISSED & SUN-DESIROUS ALIKE, A VACATION ON A PLATE."

The New York Times Magazine



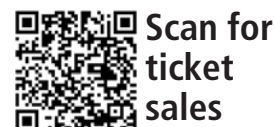
www.DocFords.com

BAREFOOT EVENT GROUP congratulates Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival on 15 years of seeing us at the movies!

Please contact Janeen Paulauskis with Barefoot Event Group for all your SW Florida private event needs, strategy and logistics.

We create memorable.

Find Us on Facebook @barefooteventgroup (239) 980-4381



Scan for ticket sales

SCREENING SCHEDULE

FILM PACKAGES

Local Short Film Package #1	FLOTSAM Her & Him Bloom 8 3/4 When She Flies Miss Florida Bodyhackers Woke
Local Short Film Package #2	Love Reaches Everywhere Standing Ovation Every Body Dances Ticket to Ride Red Light Losing Yourself
Short Film Package #1	Matched Shadow At The Door Totsu (Redbird) Preservation The Internet Kills Hit on Me Kill Them With Kindness Polybius Quitting
Short Film Package #2	MINOR CHORDS At Last, In The Meantime With You Undo Hungry Ghosts Letters from a Father Always Pinky String
Short Film Package #3	Hell in a Handbasket Kill Cat Oakland Beach Boy When This All Ends Extra RED Bodyhackers Quiet on Set Losing Yourself
Short Film Package #4	The Audition RAW Superstar He's a Good Kid Boxed The Sound of Waves Method Hit on Me Strip Clara
Short Film Package #5	A Grievance With Gravity Awakening Rose & Raven All Alone in April The Waiting Room Greetings From Sarajevo #PrincessProblems The Catch
Student Film Package #1	All the Young Dudes Promise Me The Rope Warrio Prey Cyan Speak Only Good of the Dead Vacation
Student Film Package #2	Red Bean Soup Food Time C Jailbait Big Touch Undercut Delayed Package
International Short Film Package #1	Strip Clara The Sands of Time Little Games Undo Over The Sky Chorus Girl Fallen
International Short Film Package #2	Receiver The Punishment Glitches Row A Stranger Comes Home Exist!
International Short Film Package #3	The Kicksled Choir Dissolution ECCE MATER Manasanamaha Unconfessed True
Short Documentary Package #1	The Khe Sanh Peace Garden RISE One All The Way Barrier Free: The Art of Adam Cohoon
Short Documentary Package #2	CHEN Eli Quarantined Bryan Zanisnik's Big Pivot A Long Walk to the Moon
Short Documentary Package #3	Roots of Lacrosse Jayro Life in Kensington The Family Farm Eli
Animation Shorts	Anacronte Two Little People The Winter Home of my memories Lampedusa-Christophe Ma Duinomy dear quarantine Would Have Wing It Shaking a Singapore Spear

2021 SCREENING SCHEDULE

As of press time. Please check FMBIFilmFest.com for updates.

Day	2:30 pm	3:00 pm	3:30 pm	4:00 pm	4:30 pm	5:00 pm	5:30 pm	6:00 pm	6:30 pm	7:00 pm	7:30 pm	8:00 pm	8:30 pm	9:00 pm	9:30 pm	10:00 pm	10:30 pm	11:00 pm	Category
Wednesday, Sept. 15	Ribbon Cutting					Short Documentary Package #1				Animated Shorts					International Short Film Package #1				Local Films
			Last Night in Rozzie				Local Film Package #1				Short Film Package #1				Fred Penner: This is My World				Feature Films
Thursday, Sept. 16				Filmmaker Round-table			The 8th				Local Film Package #2				International Short Film Package #2				International Short Films
			Shellfish			Short Film Package #2				Student Film Package #1 100 min (USA)					Vagrant				Local Films
Friday, Sept. 17				Women in Film Panel		Boxed					Dim-Land				Missing in Brooks County				Documentary
			Short Documentary Package #2				When All That's Left is Love (USA)				Short Film Package #3 90 min (Worldwide)				Vagrant (USA)				Short Films
Saturday, Sept. 18					International Short Film Package #3														Student Films
			Everything in the End				Short Film Package #4				Anchor Point								Short Documentary
																			Animated Shorts
Sunday, Sept. 19																			Short Documentary
																			Animated Shorts
																			Animated Shorts

Filmmakers—Please visit page 3 for times and locations of filmmaker events. This complete program guide is also available at FMBIFilmFest.com

FILMMAKER WEEKDAY MEET & GREET

Sept. 15–18 | 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Beach Theater | 6425 Estero Boulevard
Casual, light Lunch Provided
Space is limited, please visit fmbifilmfest.com/ to reserve a ticket.
This event is for filmmakers only.



ALYN ON ACTING Hosted by Alyn Darnay

Saturday, Sept. 18th | 10:30 a.m.
\$25 Per Person – \$10 for Filmmakers

Beach Theater | 6425 Estero Boulevard | Coffee and pastry Included

Award-winning director, actor and screenwriter Alyn Darney conducts an intimate, limited capacity hands-on acting workout, not a lecture and covers several distinct techniques.

20 spaces available, please visit <https://fmbifilmfest.com/> to reserve a ticket. This event is open to the public.

FORT MYERS BEACH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS

September 18—10:30am til Noon

LIMITED TO 20 ACTORS
AN EXCEPTIONAL ACTING EXPERIENCE

"Alyn On Acting"

An intense Acting workshop
WITH DIRECTOR ALYN DARNAY

There are a lot of teachers around, but not many can boast the depth of experience and knowledge that Alyn Darnay brings to this Workshop.

As a multi-award winning Director, Actor, Screenwriter, Author, he has an enviable background in Film, Television, Theater, and Radio. He is recognized as an "Actor's Director" for his character-driven style and his decidedly organic approach to directing which produces truthful, challenging, and exciting performances.

Keep up to date on all things Film Festival related by following us on



Scan for ticket sales

Red Bean Soup

The 2020 Wasserman Award recipient Red Bean Soup, shares the struggle of a wife grappling to reconnect with her dementia-ridden husband who can only remember his first love.



Food Time

This is a story about the beauty of the everyday. We follow Pete, a movie theatre clerk, over the course of one morning on his way to work. He desires nothing more than a nice, juicy coney for breakfast from his corner liquor store. However, a couple of old pals to whom he owes a debt, and a jilted former lover, may just prevent him from that glorious first bite.



C A woman prepares dinner until a dripping faucet interrupts her focus. She approaches the faucet and sees a jarring glimpse of a medical scalpel with blood on the blade. Thrown off, she returns to prepare her dinner despite her strange vision. Upon returning to cutting a chicken, the woman suddenly finds herself holding a medical scalpel. Disturbed, the woman retreats into another room where a hallucination of a squeaking gurney wheel startles her. Unable to discern her visions from reality.



Undercut

High school female athletes become unlikely teammates in the wake of unspoken trauma.

Delayed Package

After a video of a dancing mailman goes viral, he learns it's never too late to go after your dream.

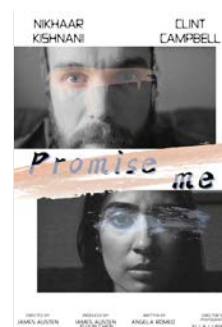


Prey

A man steals the A backwoods hunter realizes she may be the prey of another hunter when she stumbles upon a recent murder scene in the forest. Escaping the forest is the key to her survival.

Promise Me

A man is haunted by the loss of his fiancée and struggles to find a way to move forward.

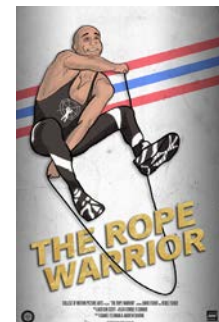


Cyan

Cyan is about a teenager who is half martian, half-human who struggles with his identity, trying to survive a day in high school.

Vacation

A mother grows confused by the whereabouts of her husband when her young daughter insists, "Daddy's on vacation."



The Rope Warrior

Born into a conservative Jewish community, David Fisher decided to make the unorthodox choice to jump rope for a living, finding his fifteen seconds of

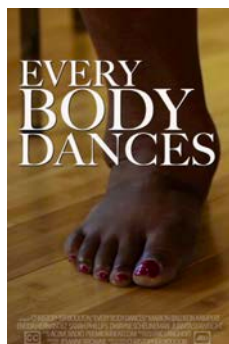
fame in the '90s. 25 years later, David performs for school assemblies as physical injuries intensify. His family begins to wonder... is it time to hang up the rope? Created by students of Florida State University's College of Motion Picture Arts.

Big Touch

An Afro-surrealist story about a giant woman and a tiny man who through the power of touch, experience an unexpected transformation.



Every Body Dances



This intimate portrait of a weeklong integrated dance workshop for older adults explores how mixed abilities can create new forms. Echoing the central theme of expanding access to the arts, the film uses universal

design standards to reach diverse audiences by including audio description for the visually impaired along with the option of English captions or Spanish subtitles.

All the Young Dudes

Georgia, USA, 1973. Glam rocker Billy rebels against his conservative high school, inspiring admiration from an unlikely ally with a desire to walk on the wild side



Sound of Waves

A life-long musician, John Avarese, currently an Associate Teaching Professor at Drexel University, teaching Production Sound, Audio Post-Production, and Scoring to Picture. began studying classical piano at the age of four and by the age of seven he was performing recitals with classical music ensembles. In 2020 John won a National Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Sound Mixing. To this date, Avarese has composed over 4000 commissioned scores and recorded an elegant collection of film music, as well as mixing and sound design on hundreds of projects.

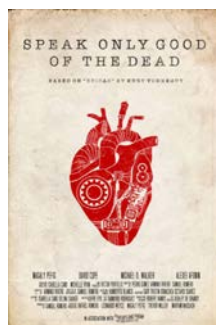


Losing Yourself

A daughter has to come to terms with the shift in her relationship with her father as he ages and needs help she doesn't know how to give.

Speak Only Good of the Dead

Speak Only Good of the Dead is a science fiction/drama short film in which a lovesick mathematician discovers that EPICAC, the military supercomputer he works with, is actually sentient. After teaching EPICAC about love & poetry, he attempts to use the machine to win the heart of his beautiful co-worker, Pat Kilgallen, by claiming EPICAC's poetry as his own



The Mechanical Dancer

In a run-down part of town there stands a small theater, owned by an eccentric old man. His spectacle "The Mechanical Dancer" is a sight to behold, although perhaps it has seen better days. We follow him and the strange cast of characters he encounters in the running of his show, and as a series of crimes unravel over three acts, we see how each character's fate will change after one perilous night.



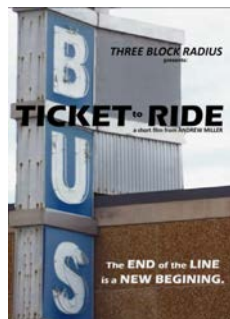
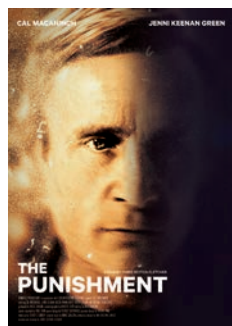
Bodyhackers

A daddy/ daughter camping trip turns to terror, hilarity ensues!



The Punishment

A grief-stricken father hunts down the boy responsible for the events which led to his son's murder but finds himself unable to escape the consequences of his own violent actions.



Ticket to Ride

The End of the Line is a New Beginning.

Miss Florida

On a stormy afternoon in Sarasota County, a pregnant woman discovers her husband has dark secrets that will come back to haunt both of them.

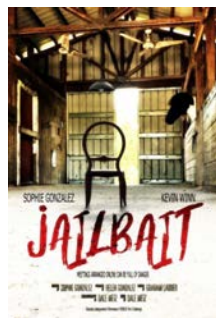


8 3/4

Armed with a formidable knowledge of Italian cinema, an irrepressible eight-year-old boy helps his grandfather recover from a catastrophic loss

Jailbait

A young girl arranges to meet a stranger. Things don't go according to plan.



Bloom

An impoverished young woman yearning for a better life becomes a participant in the first human trials of chloroplast therapy, an experimental new medical treatment enabling human photosynthesis, forcing her to choose between her past and her future.



Kill Them With Kindness



Aubrey is finished being bullied. With encouragement from Karen, the love of her life, she intends to set herself on a new path. She resolves to kill her enemies with kindness.

Masks are strongly recommended at all Film Festival events unless actively eating or drinking.



Glitches

A down-on-his-luck lawyer meets a mysterious woman while waiting for his delayed flight. After she admits to causing a fatal house fire, the young lawyer becomes torn in doing the right thing while learning the reasons behind her heinous crime, and becoming sympathetic to her.



Row

In 1986, small town Tasmania, Tony Dicker sets his sights on a daring expedition: a never before accomplished solo row around the world.

His older brother Mike begins to film Tony prepare for the trip. Within 24 hours of Tony's departure an unforeseen storm strikes. a desperate Mike attempts to save his brother, but the storm has strayed from the coast and taken Tony with it.

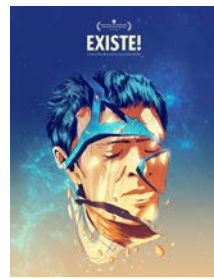
A Stranger Comes Home

It's the night before Christmas eve and a little boy discovers a burglar in his home. The burglar claims to be his estranged grandmother, wanting the boy to help her look for valuables. The boy however, is looking for something completely different.



The Sands of Time

A time portal in the sands brings a young couple together.



Exist!

An old theater is about to be demolished. A construction worker enters the crumbling building to check if there is anyone left inside. In his search, he strays into a mystical, fragile world until he finds himself in the face of the theater's core.

Strip Clara

In 19th century England, a suppressed woman struggles silently from the likes of her husband, the patriarchy, and corrupt institutions. When thrust into a life-threatening situation, she must choose to endure the pain or claim her freedom.



Over The Sky

Alice, a nine-year-old girl who lives in the countryside, faces the breakdown of her parents when the father leaves home. The brutality of the grownup world destabilizes Alice's poetic imagination and her carelessness made up of playing in nature with her friend, Leo. In reaction, she decides to become independent and to live by herself far away, in the sky, aboard a glider.

Chorus Girl

Romantic songs say that impossible love is love at its best. At last, all the truth about the assassination of the famous french Singer Claude François.



Little Games



Escaping from a violent lover, Natasha is drawn into a child's sinister plot. But is it true, or a cruel game with Natasha the plaything?

Receiver

Sriyani, an idealistic and overtaxed social worker of Sri Lankan descent, is a telephone help line counselor who builds her life around helping others, but always at the expense of those closest to her. So who is going to defend Sriyani when she is hypnotized by a caller on her phone tonight? RECEIVER is a chamber horror film about toxic masculinity, isolation, and the commodification of empathy.



Undo

Young and career-focused theatre actress finds herself facing a life-changing decision, while pressured by time after falling in love with an introverted writer, whose dark side is about to come to light.

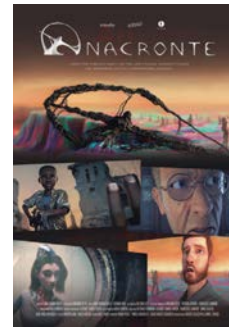
Fallen

Fallen is a period drama set in Mont St. Quentin, France during WWI. When a Captain tumbles into a trench with a serious bullet wound, a private tends to the wound and distracts the Captain with conversation. As the two men reveal intimate details of their life back home in Australia they make a chance revelation that will change the course of their war.



Anacronte

Anacronte and the Sorcerers of Evil, without any emotion and fulfilling their destiny, they put to test humanity's happiness in a struggle that, in short, has each of us as winners and losers.



Two Little People

Two little people live in a wheat field. They grow together until the day when the man left. It is the time all the wheat has been mowed. The relationship between two little people keeps growing in the woman's heart.



The Winter

Walking in a snowy forest, a peasant sees an unusual deer and goes to follow it. The deer allures him and the peasant even wants to catch it.

Would Have

A soldier, in a dire situation, receives help from an unexpected source.

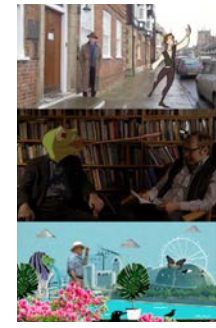


Home of my memories

Seven years in the making, a kid finds his passion in all teachings coming alive in a truly wonderful way through the experience of his grandfather.

my dear quarantine

During the complete lockdown, something extraordinary happened --wild animals all over the world, intrigued by the sudden silence and peace, visited city centers and had a lot of fun, contrasting our loneliness and fears. Ewa Maria Wolska, puppeteer and theatre director's animation debut created this film in her converted home animation studio.



Shaking a Singapore Spear

An animated documentary about the relevance of Shakespeare's classical works for digital natives in Singapore: Live action and animation combined. The film was created in close collaboration with the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon.

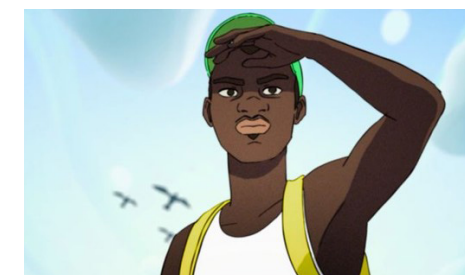
Wing It

A flightless dragon's dream of soaring in the sky is reignited when she discovers the hidden potential of her fire.



Duino

Duino is a story about a young boy named Pete who manages to bring a little robot to life. Little does he know, it will come with a few surprises.



Last Night in Rozzie

When a New York lawyer returns to his Boston hometown to reunite his dying friend with his young son, he is forced to finally confront a childhood trauma.



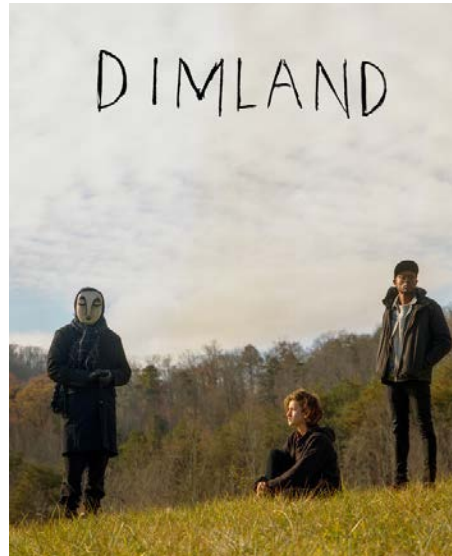
Shellfish

Instead of finding a 'real' job, as his parents lovingly put it, stop motion animator Keller attempts to produce a film in a week with his dumbstruck brother and longtime crush. When their shoot goes wrong, Keller must face his own selfishness and decide which is more important, his filmmaking or close relationships, in this coming-of-age comedy with a twist of stop motion animation.



Dim-Land

In an attempt to shake off her melancholy, a young woman escapes the city to her family's country cottage only to rediscover a world she'd long forgotten and the old friend who may convince her to leave reality behind.



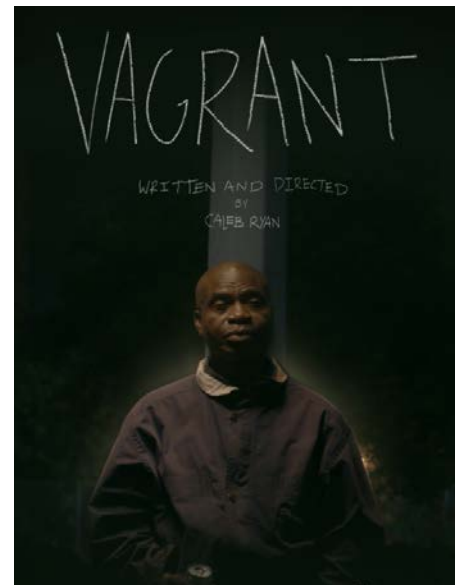
Everything In the End

With her first feature film, Mylissa Fitzsimmons, recently nominated for the Lynn Shelton "Of a Certain Age" grant, presents Everything in the End. A story of a lonely traveler who finds human connections during the final days of Earth's existence.



Vagrant

Frank—a homeless alcoholic—lives a fruitless existence. All that begins to change when he finds a puppy that was left to die in a garbage bin.



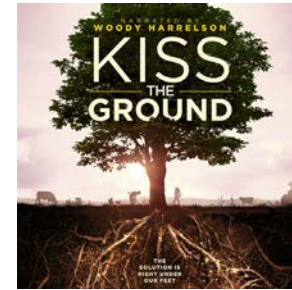
A Room Full of Nothing

A compassionate artist and an embittered actor contemplate the meaning of life when they wake up as the last two people on Earth and their reality and relationship begins to fracture



Kiss the Ground

Kiss the Ground reveals that, by regenerating the world's soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems and create abundant food supplies. Using compelling graphics and visuals, along with striking NASA and NOAA footage, the film artfully illustrates how, by drawing down atmospheric carbon, soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle. This movie is positioned to catalyze a movement to accomplish the impossible – to solve humanity's greatest challenge, to balance the climate and secure our species future.

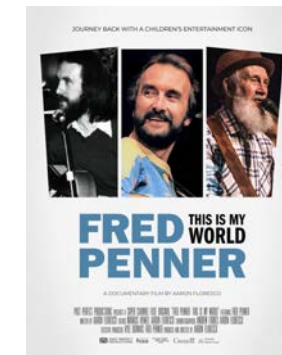


Anchor Point

Women have been a force in wildland firefighting since 1942. Still, they remain outnumbered 10-to-1 on the fire lines and do double-duty battling both the infernos that scorch public lands and the smoldering embers of discrimination, misogyny and sexual harrassment that continue to suppress their voices. Told in cinema verite, ANCHOR POINT chronicles the 2019 fire season through the eyes of two women, generations apart, as they push to change the culture of wildland fire.



Fred Penner: This Is My World



Best known for his long running television series "Fred Penner's Place" (CBC, Nickelodeon) and hit songs "The Cat Came Back" and "Sandwiches", for decades musical icon Fred Penner has been using his engaging personality and public speaking skills to excite audiences like no other. He is a constant inspiration for his fans of all ages, but what is it that Fred really does for people? Why is Fred's message and music more important than ever? How did Fred go from a struggling musician to the North American sensation dubbed the "Canadian Minister of Positivity"? How did difficult moments from Fred's youth shape his life as a performer? Take this highly engaging journey to discover how Fred Penner connects with audiences and makes sense of the world.

When All That's Left Is Love



When All That's Left is Love is the emotionally gripping story of a wife's determination to care for her Alzheimer's stricken husband in their home. With unprecedented, behind-the-scenes access, the film reveals the toll that the disease takes on families coping with Alzheimer's, while also showcasing the power of love that sustains both patients and caregivers.

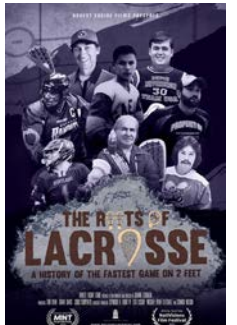
A Long Walk to the Moon

Former Grumman engineers narrate the challenges and successes of being part of the historic construction of the Lunar Module for the Apollo program.



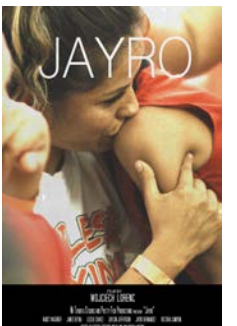
Roots of Lacrosse

Many lacrosse players and coaches often don't know that the origins of the game of lacrosse has its roots in North American Indigenous nations. This short documentary provides a brief history of the sacred and cultural aspects of this sport, originally played for the Creator, as well as for the health and welfare of the people. The movie also defines the three types of North American, Indigenous lacrosse: Iroquois, Great Lakes, and Southeastern.



Jayro

When a seven-year-old Texas boxer steps into the ring to face his next opponent, the pressure of the fight is not the only thing on his mind. The film is constructed as an allegory for the challenges faced by people of color and immigrants in the US.



Masks are strongly recommended at all Film Festival events unless actively eating or drinking.

The Khe Sanh Peace Garden

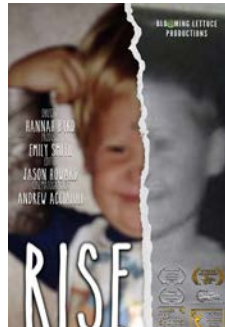


In one of the most physical and demanding sports there is, a high school wrestling team finds their biggest hardship is not on the mat. An insider's look at the nature of

the sport of wrestling as told through the eyes of one team and their season-long quest to make it to the state tournament. Wrestlers are lost to injury, competition, and attrition, but their toughest loss is the death of a teammate.

RISE

A previously homeless man takes a ride through his past in order to understand the present and how it affects his future.



One All The Way



Alice, a nine-year-old girl who lives in the countryside, faces the breakdown of her parents when the father leaves home. The brutality of the grownups world destabilizes Alice's poetic imagination

and her carelessness made up of playing in nature with her friend Leo. In reaction, she decides to become independent and to live by herself far away, in the sky, aboard a glider. But this loneliness cut her off from her friend Leo.

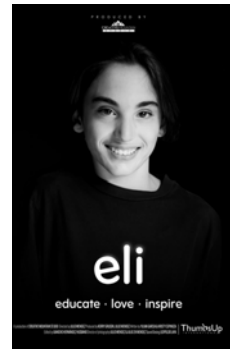
Barrier Free: The Art of Adam Cohoon



Adam Roy Cohoon (ARC23) is a photographer, filmmaker, artist, and accessibility advocate living in Toronto, Canada. He uses a power wheelchair, creativity and art to address the barriers he faces. His work includes blogging, photography, filmmaking, and public speaking. Recent years have provided technological advances in computing and audio/visual equipment that have helped to reduce the barriers he has faced, resulting in a novel pioneering form of filmmaking and artistic expression from an artist of the disabled community who up until recently, did not have such an option.

CHEN

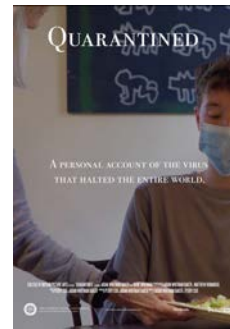
J'CHEN' tells the story of Chinese Australian dancer Chengwu Guo. Who at the age of 10 was thrown into the strict and rigorous training world of the Beijing Dance Academy. Whilst enduring long periods of time away from his family and being subjected to harsh training methods, Chen was moulded into a highly talented and daring artist. After winning a prestigious competition he migrated to Australia at the age of 16, quickly rising through the ranks to become one of Australia's most highly acclaimed principal dancers. Now after meeting his partner Ako (also principal dancer of the Australian Ballet) and riding a continual wave of success he must face one of his greatest challenges yet; A career threatening injury that could force him to quit performing forever. Will this injury stop Chen, one of Australia's best dancers, from reaching his physical and artistic peak?



Eli

This is Eli's story, a story about the power of a young person to educate, evoke love and inspire us all and thus bring hope that together we can change our world

Quarantined



A student falls ill during the COVID-19 outbreak. His parents then have to live with someone who may have the virus they've been sheltering from.

Bryan Zanisnik's Big Pivot



Recently returning to New York City after several years of living in Sweden, artist and storyteller Bryan Zanisnik comically chronicles the highs and lows of life as a contemporary artist, discovering a love for mushroom foraging and the pleasures of inner stillness along the way. Mirroring Zanisnik's own tragic-comic style with a playful use of sound effects and archival footage, this documentary portrait is a universal story of one person's quest for financial stability, creative joy, and the best in Swedish pastry.

The Family Farm

A daughter moves from the family farm as a nineteen year old. Twenty years later her aging parents still live and work on the farm. The daughter/ director tells a story about choices in life, mortality and the ambivalence of leaving a place that symbolises both security and stagnation.



Life in Kensington

"It's almost like I went from photographing abandoned houses to abandoned people." For over a decade Jeffrey Stockbridge has been documenting and photographing people in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia, often referred to as the "badlands" for its notorious open air drug market.



Scan for ticket sales



SPECIAL EVENTS

Opening Ceremony

Tuesday, September 14 from 7–9:00 p.m.
Beach Theater | 6425 Estero Blvd.

Ribbon Cutting 15th Annual Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival

Wednesday, September 15 at 2:30 p.m.
Beach Theater | 6425 Estero Blvd.

Closing Ceremony

Sunday, September 19 at 3:30 p.m.
Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille
708 Fisherman's Wharf
Emcee—Ray Murphy, Mayor, Fort Myers Beach



Masks are strongly recommended at all Film Festival events unless actively eating or drinking.

Shining Star Award vol-un-teer

Definition - A person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service. This is Jan Fleming. Honored as the 2020 recipient of the Shining Star Award in memory of stellar volunteer, Darryl Paulauskis, Jan is someone who shares her positivity and her can do Mid-Western mindset to help make this Festival a success on so many levels. Thank you, Jan. #WeHeartJan #WeAreFMB

The 2021 Shining Star Award winner will be announced at our Festival Closing Awards Ceremony on Sunday, Sept. 19 at Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille



"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."
Sherry Anderson

STAR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Zack Gottsagen



This year's Star Achievement Award is bestowed upon Zack Gottsagen. Zack was the first child with Down syndrome to be fully included in the Palm Beach County school district and graduated from Dreyfoos School of the Arts, as a theatre major in 2004.

He is no stranger to being recognized for his talents. In 2015, the Smithsonian Museum invited Zack to be the keynote speaker for the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A few short years later, he received the 2018 Quincy Jones Exceptional Advocacy Award.

Zack began his theatrical journey in live theater at the Royal Palm Playhouse in 2005. He then became involved with Zeno Mountain Farms nonprofit film productions for over a decade, performing in many films including "Burning Like a Fire" and "Life of a Dollar Bill." In 2012, Zack played the villain role in "Bulletproof." During the filming of the movie, a documentary was made titled, "Becoming Bulletproof," (2014) which went behind the scenes to follow Zack and other actors through their daily lives.

While filming with Zeno in Los Angeles, Zack met Tyler Nilson and Michael Schwartz. They were so taken with Zack that they decided to create a script for him to be the lead. "The Peanut Butter Falcon" integrated Zack's love of wrestling and his intelligence, humor and enthusiasm, and love of life into the lead character role. He starred along co-stars, Shia LaBeouf and Dakota Johnson.

This native Floridian's talent, passion, motivation, and tenacity have served as the forces to build and nurture his expanding performing arts career. In Zack's words, "Talent... that's all I've got!"

The film short, "At Last" starring Zack Gottsagen and George Lopez will be screened Sept. 15 Opening Day at 3 p.m. and Thursday, Sept. 16 at 5 p.m.

RISING STAR AWARD

Laurel K. Levey

This year's Rising Star Award is bestowed upon Laurel Levey. Laurel is a first generation American, born to European parents. Laurel exudes a Golden State persona, having been born and raised in Southern California. She grew up excelling in gymnastics, free-style dancing, and is a whiz at trivia. She is currently serves as a proud member, board member, and convention delegate of SAG-AFTRA.

Although Laurel has appeared in several films, "Boxed" is her first starring role, and marks the beginning of her career as a full-time filmmaker, having written and produced the film, with plans already in the works for two more films to follow.

Additionally, having lived in Israel for 12 years, she is quite a polyglot, speaking English, Hebrew, Spanish, and a smattering of Arabic, Farsi, and Japanese. Laurel is a devoted animal advocate, loves nature, traveling, practices yoga and pilates, delights in playing her ukulele, and has a vivacious passion for life, especially acting and filmmaking.

The film short, "Boxed" starring Laurel Levey will be making its film festival premiere on Thursday, Sept. 17 and will also be screened Sept. 18 on Saturday, Sept. 18 at 5 p.m.



THANK YOU!

The Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival extends a special thank you to the following 20121 sponsors to date who continue to support bringing independent films to our beach community.

Presenting Sponsors

Beach Theater • Barefoot Event Group
Red Flight Pictures • me jane pr

Movie on the Mound Sponsor

Mound House – Town of Fort Myers Beach
Twilight Features and Epic Outdoor Cinema

Official Host Hotel Sponsor

Lighthouse Resort Inn and Suites

Official Networking Sponsors

World Famous Tiki Bar
at the Lighthouse Resort Inn & Suites

Closing Ceremony Sponsors

Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille
Special thanks to our emcee,
Ft. Myers Beach Mayor Ray Murphy

Executive Producer Sponsor

TPI Hospitality/Margaritaville Beach Resort

Producer Sponsor

Best of Fort Myers Beach – Local Color, The Islander,
Pier Peddler

Official Host Hotel Sponsor

Lighthouse Resort Inn and Suites

Educational Programming Sponsor

TPI Hospitality/Margaritaville Beach Resort

Silver Screen Sponsors

Pete's Time Out • LaCroix • Gulf View Manor

Usher Sponsors

Krusty Pete's on the Beach • Suncoast Beverage
JJ Taylor–Fort Myers Brewing Co. • The Print Shop Ink
Matanzas Inn Bayside Resort and Marina
Tuckaway Café • Yucatan Beach Stand • Hooter's of FMB
Skye's Restaurant

Festival Friend

Anita Cereceda • Captain Justin Paulauskis



PREVIOUS YEAR'S AWARDS

2020

Star Achievement
Brenden Hubbard
Rising Star
Rylie Behr

2015

Star Achievement
Christopher Atkins
Rising Star
Ryan Potter

2004

Star Achievement
Maxwell Caulfield
Rising Star
Josh Blake

2019

Star Achievement
Karen Black
Rising Star
Annalaura di Luggo

2014

Star Achievement
Stanley Isaacs
Rising Star
Tara Cardinal

2003

Star Achievement
Tim Curry
Rising Star
Hilary Duff

2018

Star Achievement
Kyle Thompson
Rising Star
Jeffrey A. Johns

2013

Star Achievement
Danielle White
Rising Star
Billy DaMota

2002

Star Achievement
Harry Groener
Rising Star
Leighanne Littrell

2017

Star Achievement
Alyn Darnay
Rising Star
Tessa Thompson

2012

Star Achievement
Sal Richards
Rising Star
Kimberly McCullough

2016

Star Achievement
Rena Sofer
Rising Star
Peter Pardini

2005

Star Achievement
Steven Bauer
Rising Star
Erin Smith





*Proud Venue Sponsor of the 15th Annual Fort Myers
Beach International Film Festival*



Beach Theater
GREAT MOVIES ▲ GREAT FOOD

6425 Estero Blvd. Fort Myers Beach, FL 239-765-3333 

Full Service Menu!

Including Appetizers, Sandwiches, Tacos, Pasta, Salads,
Fresh Cut French Fries, and Ice Cream.

Fresh hot popcorn, now made with delicious and healthy coconut oil.
Beer, wine, liquor, and soft drinks available.

Comfortable leather chairs and great service.

America's Original First-Run Dine-In Theater!