



7TH ANNUAL
DOCUMENTARY
FILM FESTIVAL



PROGRAM GUIDE
REAL LIFE. WORTH WATCHING.

NOV 27 - DEC 1, 2019 | GLOBE CINEMA

FESTIVAL INFO

VENUE

Globe Cinema - 617 8 Ave SW
CUFF Phone #: (403) 444-8315

TICKETS

General Admission	\$10
CUFF & CJSW Members, Students, & Seniors	\$8
Online Multi-Pack (5 tickets)	\$40
Available at the door & calgaryundergroundfilm.com	

MEMBERSHIPS

Purchase a lifetime membership for \$10 from the festival merchandise table, or at calgaryundergroundfilm.com. Get discounts at all CUFF screenings, the festival bar, and special offers throughout the year.

CREDITS

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR: Brenda Lieberman
OPERATIONS MANAGER: Brennan Tilley
LEAD PROGRAMMERS: Brenda Lieberman, Cameron Macgowan, Brennan Tilley
PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE: Laura Carlson, Jim Evans, Phillip Liesemer
MARKETING & PUBLICITY: Laura Carlson
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: Cole Binder
GUEST RELATIONS & MORE: Alex Lingnau
MERCH & EVENTS: Courtney Smith
BOX OFFICE: Phillip Liesemer & Katie Wackett
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Karilynn Thompson
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Jordan Schinkel
PRINT TRAFFIC COORDINATOR: Paul Stickney

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SCHEDULE



WEDNESDAY NOV 27, 2019

7:00 PM

Opening Night Film
**THE AMAZING
JOHNATHAN
DOCUMENTARY**
US, Dir. Benjamin
Berman, 91 min

THURSDAY NOV 28, 2019

7:00 PM

**SKI BUM: THE WARREN
MILLER STORY**
US, Dir. Patrick
Creadon,
93 min

9:30 PM

**WHERE IN THE HELL
IS THE LAVENDER
HOUSE: THE
LONGMONT POTION
CASTLE STORY**
Canada, Dir. David
Hall & Thomas
Rotenberg, 99 min

FRIDAY NOV 29, 2019

7:00 PM

**MR TOILET: THE
WORLD'S #2 MAN**
US, Dir. Lily Zepeda,
88 min
**Q&A following the
screening**

9:30 PM

**SCREAM, QUEEN! MY
NIGHTMARE ON ELM
STREET**
US, Dir. Roman
Chimienti & Tyler
Jensen, 99 min

SATURDAY NOV 30, 2019

11:30 AM

**SHORTS PACKAGE:
DOCUMENTARY
SHORT FILMS**
Various Countries,
95 min

1:45 PM

LOS REYES
Chile / Germany,
Dir. Bettina Perut &
Iván Osnovikoff,
78 min

4:00 PM

QT8: THE FIRST EIGHT
US, Dir. Tara Wood,
103 min
**Q&A following the
screening**

7:00 PM

**J.R. "BOB" DOBBS
AND THE CHURCH OF
THE SUBGENIUS**
US, Dir. Sandy K
Boone, 85 min
**Q&A following the
screening**

9:30 PM

**WHERE DOES
A BODY END?**
Canada, Dir. Marco
Porsia, 124 min
**Q&A following the
screening**

SUNDAY DEC 1, 2019

12:00 PM

OUR TIME MACHINE
China, Dir. S. Leo
Chiang & Yang Sun,
81 min

2:15 PM

LEFTOVER WOMEN
Israel, Dir. Hilla
Medalia & Shosh
Shlam, 85 min

4:30 PM

**MARKIE IN
MILWAUKEE**
US, Dir. Matt
Kliegman, 91 min

7:00 PM

**THE SECRET
MARATHON**
Canada, Dir. Kate
McKenzie & Scott
Townend, 77 min
**Q&A following the
screening**

After the Opening Night Film join us across the street at Common Bond for some casual drinks, snacks and happy hour specials.

📍 **Common Bond (630 8 Ave SW) / 9:00 PM til late**

FILM DETAILS

CUFF.Docs Documentary Film Festival showcases the best in non-fiction films. At CUFF.Docs, the quality of the film is what matters most; we don't book films to make political statements or advocate for particular issues. Instead, we hope to present a range of films that both confirm and challenge beliefs, promoting a sense of wonder and a healthy skepticism, and above all, that continue to advance the medium of documentary filmmaking.



THE AMAZING JOHNATHAN DOCUMENTARY

📅 WEDNESDAY, NOV 27 // 7:00 PM
United States, 2019, 91 min

After Johnathan is diagnosed with a terminal heart condition and given one year to live, he's forced to retire. Cut to three years later: Johnathan is not dead, much to everyone's amazement, and documentarian Ben Berman films the illusionist on an epic comeback tour. But as the journey kicks off, Johnathan drops a bombshell that sends the film spiralling into uncertainty. Embracing this unforeseen obstacle, Ben delves deeper to determine what is truth and what is illusion. Built into the heart of this quick-witted and highly meta story is an indelible commentary on the process and ethics of making a documentary today. This debut feature is a wild ride that careens off the rails in highly entertaining and unexpected ways.

DIRECTOR: Benjamin Berman

PRODUCERS: Benjamin Berman, Russell Wayne Groves, Jacob Perlin

FEATURING: Penn Jillette, Eric André

"Laugh out loud funny." — Screen Daily



J.R. "BOB" DOBBS AND THE CHURCH OF THE SUBGENIUS

📅 SATURDAY, NOV 30 // 7:00 PM
United States, 2019, 85 min

The Church of the SubGenius has been called "the most aggressively preposterous theology the world has ever known!" But what is the Church? Filmmaker Sandy K. Boone explores the underground movement that has galvanized the imaginative, the artistic, the nerdy, even the deranged - to examine the simmering dystopia in their culture, and do absolutely nothing about it - except, maybe, poke fun at it all.

DIRECTOR: Sandy K. Boone

PRODUCERS: Michelle Randolph-Faires, Alyssa Spiller Sajovich, Jason Wehling, Suzanne Weinert

FEATURING: Richard Linklater, Nick Offerman, Penn Jillette, Harry S. Robins

"Boone gives us both a nostalgic account on this underground movement and how their sci-fi inspired dystopia applies to each decade of history, up till today, where the documentary earns its whole-hearted earnestness."

— Film Inquiry



📅 SUNDAY, DEC 1 // 2:15 PM
Israel, 2019, 85 min
Mandarin with English subtitles

'Leftover Women' is how the Chinese describe educated, cosmopolitan women who are not married and settled by the time they reach their mid-20s. Through marriage markets, matchmakers, and government-sponsored dating events, the film follows three hopeful singles who, under immense pressure, are determined to find love on their own terms. With extraordinary access, the film follows these remarkable women on their quest to find Mr. Right before society deems them Leftover.

DIRECTORS & PRODUCERS: Hilla Medalia, Shosh Shlam

CINEMATOGRAPHERS: Shen Mi, Fan Jian

"An emotionally complex piece of personal portraiture that intimately reveals the extent to which traditional attitudes still dominate Chinese society regardless of its globalised surface." — Screen International



📅 SATURDAY, NOV 30 // 1:45 PM
Chile / Germany, 2018, 78 min
Spanish with English subtitles

Los Reyes is the oldest skate park in Santiago and it brings together teenagers from different social and cultural backgrounds. This story is told through the eyes of Chola and Football, a couple of street dogs that live in the skatepark. The human world appears in stories of adolescents in transit to adulthood. We listen to their voices and see fragments of their bodies as part of the environment that surrounds the world of dogs. As Football grows old and Chola is left alone, the juvenile stories confront us with the rawness of a youth that does not find a place in our society.

DIRECTORS: Bettina Perut, Iván Osnovikoff

PRODUCER: Maite Alberdi

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Pablo Valdés

"The film conveys a rare, animal sense of being, feeling out their existential space without lapsing into human psychology." — Film Comment

PRECEDING SHORT: **ACADIANA**

Directed by Guillaume Fournier, Samuel Matteau, & Yannick Nolin (9 min)



📅 SUNDAY, DEC 1 // 4:30 PM
United States, 2019, 91 min

The story of seven-foot tall, fundamentalist Baptist preacher Markie, who comes out as transgender at age 46. A decade later on the eve of sexual reassignment surgery she makes the sudden decision to abandon her female identity and de-transition back to male. Guilt, self-doubt and the pull of religious devotion, creates unexpected challenges and consequences when the transition becomes public to family and community. As she continues to struggle with her identity we are left to wonder about her decisions, and how one can accept themselves when those around them refuse to accept who they are. In a fly-on-the wall style, director Matt Kliegman carries viewers through the tumultuous and oft-times isolating experience of trans life in a small community.

DIRECTOR: Matt Kliegman

PRODUCERS: Matt Kliegman, Andrew Moynehan, Zachary Stuart-Pontier, Morgan Z Whirlledge

"With its light touch, candid camera approach, this documentary gets under the skin of the issue." — Eye for Film



📅 FRIDAY, NOV 29 // 7:00 PM
United States, 2019, 88 min
English / Mandarin / Hindi with English subtitles

To a stranger, he's a quirky Singaporean obsessed with toilets, but to those who know him he's "Mr.Toilet," a crusader in global sanitation. A former entrepreneur, Jack uses humor to campaign for something no one dares talk about: shit. It's a crisis that impacts over 2 billion people. Having established UN World Toilet Day, Sim plunges into his biggest challenge yet when he is asked to help implement Prime Ministers Modi's Promise of turning India into a defecation-free zone. But with few resources and no help from the government, Mr. Toilet discovers there is a price to pay for being the world's #2 hero.

DIRECTOR: Lily Zepeda

PRODUCERS: Lily Zepeda, Tchavdar Georgiev, Eugene Efuni

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Conrad Whelan, Jason Choo

"Zepeda's film has a way of encouraging one to loosen up and recognize the real shit going on. Bathroom humor is rarely so effective." — POV Magazine

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CONTEMPORARY ART / AGING

OUR TIME MACHINE

SUNDAY, DEC 1 // 12:00 PM

China, 2019, 81 min

Mandarin with English subtitles

43-year-old Maleonn is one of China's most influential conceptual artists today. When his father is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Maleonn pours everything into an ambitious new theatre project: "Papa's Time Machine," a visually stunning time-travel adventure told with human-sized puppets. The play includes autobiographical scenes inspired by Maleonn's memories with his father, Ma Ke, also an acclaimed artist who was persecuted during the Cultural Revolution. "Papa's Time Machine," shows signs of a promising future, but as Ma Ke's condition deteriorates Maleonn is torn between the original goal to honour his father and the pressure towards commercial success. OUR TIME MACHINE is a touching story of a man using art to cope with ageing and loss.

DIRECTORS & PRODUCERS: S. Leo Chiang, Yang Sun

ORIGINAL MUSIC: Paul Brill

"Intriguingly grounds the creative process in the specificity of individual experience." — Hollywood Reporter

PRECEDING SHORT: **KEEP ME IN THE GAME**

Directed by Dominique Keller (5 min)



FILMMAKING / MOVIES

QT8: THE FIRST EIGHT

SATURDAY, NOV 30 // 4:00 PM

United States, 2019, 103 min

Quentin Tarantino is the most influential filmmaker of the past 30 years. His bloody, talky, nonlinear films pull together dozens of influences to form bracingly original cinematic events. Tarantino's films are the best kind of Hollywood tentpoles – wholly unique cinematic visions from a filmmaker at the peak of his powers. As Tarantino's newest film ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD arrives to praise and controversy, filmmaker Tara Wood takes chronicles the first eight wildly divergent films that Tarantino has helmed, narrated by the actors and collaborators who have worked with him. From RESERVOIR DOGS through THE HATEFUL EIGHT, QT8 digs deep into the story of the most important and controversial filmmaker of our time.

DIRECTOR: Tara Wood

PRODUCERS: Tara Wood, Jake Zortman

FEATURING: Robert Forster, Samuel L. Jackson, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Lucy Liu, Eli Roth, Tim Roth, Zoë Bell

PRECEDING SHORT: **LADY SAMURAI**

Directed by James Latimer (6 min)



MOVIES / LGBTQ

SCREAM, QUEEN! MY NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET

FRIDAY, NOV 29 // 9:30 PM

United States, 2019, 99 min

Campy and homoerotic, A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET 2 has often been called the gayest horror film that Hollywood's ever made. For Mark Patton, it was a true nightmare, as the homophobic backlash effectively ended his film career — and banished him into Garbo-like exile. SCREAM QUEEN! MY NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET sets the records straight about the controversial sequel, which ended Mark Patton's acting career, just as it was about to begin. This defiant documentary follows Patton as he travels to horror conventions across the U.S., and tells the triumphant tale of the "revenge of first male scream queens," while also cautioning today's LGBTQ community that the nightmare isn't over.

DIRECTORS: Roman Chimienti, Tyler Jensen

PRODUCERS: Mark Patton, Jeff Harden

FEATURING: Linnea Quigley, Robert Englund, Mark Patton, Cecil Baldwin

"A touching, poignant film about how one man took control of his narrative and used it to empower not only himself, but millions of queer horror fans around the world." — Bloody Disgusting



POLITICAL / SPORTS / HUMAN RIGHTS / LOCAL

THE SECRET MARATHON

SUNDAY, DEC 1 // 7:00 PM

Canada, 2019, 77 min

When the first Afghan woman stood up for her freedom and ran in the Marathon of Afghanistan, she started a movement that spread around the world. Zainab's story inspired legendary Edmonton-based marathon runner, Martin Parnell, to imagine what his life might be like if his gender prevented him from running. Martin vowed to run in the Marathon of Afghanistan to support Zainab, and partnered with Alberta filmmaker and first-time marathoner, Kate McKenzie, to tell the story. Martin and Kate train and travel in secret to join the Afghan women who are standing up for equality. This is the story of those risking it all for the freedom to run, and the Albertans who participate in a marathon to support them.

DIRECTORS: Kate McKenzie, Scott Townend

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: Martin Parnell, Kate McKenzie, Scott Townend

EDITOR: Scott Townend

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SHORT DOCS

SHORTS PACKAGE: DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILMS

📅 SATURDAY, NOV 30 // 11:30 AM
Various countries, 2018-19, 95 min

ALL ON A MARDI GRAS DAY United States, Dir. Michal Pietrzyk

An intimate portrait of one man's obsessive journey through the secret 200-year culture known as Mardi Gras Indians.

BEYOND THE BLACK LODGE United States, Dir. Matt Ralston

A portrait of two artists whose shared love of folklore led them to write a book about the bizarre and quirky history of the region that inspired David Lynch's TWIN PEAKS.

NO CRYING AT THE DINNER TABLE Canada, Dir. Carol Nguyen

Filmmaker Carol Nguyen interviews her own family to reveal a collection of family secrets, confessions and confrontation.

ROSEBUD, ALBERTA Canada, Dir. Eric Pauls

A short documentary about the day in the life of Rosebud, Alberta. A town of 86, that attracts 40,000 theatre-goers each year.

SWATTED France, Dir. Ismaël Joffroy Chandoutis

Online players describe their struggles with "swatting", a life-threatening cyber-harassment phenomenon that looms over them whenever they play.



SPORTS / BIOGRAPHY

SKI BUM: THE WARREN MILLER STORY

📅 THURSDAY, NOV 28 // 7:00 PM
United States, 2019, 93 min

SKI BUM: THE WARREN MILLER STORY chronicles the life and times of the legendary filmmaker who, through his annual ski films and national tours which began in the early 1950s, was a driving force in the development and promotion of the ski industry in America and throughout the world. Miller, who died last year at 93, sat months before his passing for his final interview. He reminisced about living off rabbit stew and sleeping in a teardrop trailer in his endless pursuit of the perfect ski run and he explained in great detail the challenges – both personal and professional – he faced over the course of his career. From the Award-winning team behind the documentaries WORDPLAY and IF YOU BUILD IT.

DIRECTOR: Patrick Creadon

PRODUCERS: Joe Berry Jr., Jeff Conroy, Christine O'Malley

FEATURING: Warren Miller, Dan Egan, John Egan

"A stirring tribute to one of the pioneers of extreme sports filmmaking."

— The Hollywood Reporter

SPONSOR:



MUSIC / BIOGRAPHY

WHERE DOES A BODY END?

📅 SATURDAY, NOV 30 // 9:30 PM
Canada, 2019, 124 min

An intimate portrait of the band SWANS, told with unprecedented access to the band as well as never before seen archive material and interviews documenting their 35-year career. From their roots as a brutal, confrontational post-punk band that emerged from the 1980s era NYC through their ill-fated bid at mainstream success in the '90s indie-rock goldrush, through breakups and chaos (on and offstage) to their odds-defying current status as one of the most accomplished and ambitious bands in the world. Director Marco Porsia embedded himself in the band's tight inner circle for five years, filming rehearsals, songwriting sessions, the grind of life on the road, petty arguments and transcendent performances including their farewell tour.

DIRECTOR: Marco Porsia

PRODUCERS: Marco Porsia, Rodney Ascher, Nick Rosendorf, Michael Wabro, Simon Mattock

"Marco has created a vision... physically incarnate – that has told a story that must be told and never allowed to be forgotten." — Joey Pan, SWANS fan



MUSIC / COMEDY

WHERE IN THE HELL IS THE LAVENDER HOUSE: THE LONGMONT POTION CASTLE STORY

📅 THURSDAY, NOV 28 // 9:30 PM
Canada, 2019, 99 min

Two filmmakers attempt to make a documentary about an anonymous phone-work artist called Longmont Potion Castle who's been releasing albums of surreal and hilarious pranks for over 30 years. In spite of a semi-successful crowdfunding campaign and the involvement of celebrity fans, the filmmakers succumb to their own infighting and bad luck leaving an unpaid camera operator to finish the film. This is the fully authorized and official story of the legendary anonymous prank-caller; a dude from Denver, Colorado who picked up the telephone in the '80s, hit record on his parents' answering machine and dialed a number, which unknowingly launched the career of comedic persona non grata and touch-tone folk hero Longmont Potion Castle aka LPC.

DIRECTORS: David Hall, Thomas Rotenberg

PRODUCERS: Longmont Potion Castle, Thomas Rotenberg, Mike Hickey, David Hall, Vivek Venkatesh

"A delightful refresher and breakdown of LPC's 30 years of work."

— Portland Mercury