APOCALYPSE LATER

INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL





















OCTOBER 7-9. 2023

PHOENIX CENTER FOR THE ARTS 1202 N. 3RD ST, PHOENIX, AZ 85004

PHOENIX CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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FilmFreeway

SATURDAY

Set	Start	End	Length
Horror Shorts A	11:00am	12:11pm	1h 11m
What Lurks Beneath	12:30pm	2:12pm	1h 42m
Sci-Fi Shorts A	2:30pm	3:49pm	1h 19m
Blood and Snow	4:10pm	6:05pm	1h 55m
Genre-Hopping Shorts	6:25pm	7:53pm	1h 28m
Agatha	8:10pm	9:10pm	1h 0m
Edgier Shorts	9:25pm	10:42pm	1h 17m

SUNDAY

Set	Start	End	Length
Xanada Hellfire	11:00am	12:44am	1h 44m
Horror Shorts B	1:05pm	2:16pm	1h 11m
Phi 1.618	2:35pm	4:09pm	1h 34m
Sci-Fi Shorts B	4:30pm	5:38pm	1h 8m
Perfectly Good Moment	6:00pm	7:12pm	1h 12m
Other Shorts A	7:30pm	8:42pm	1h 12m
Zombie Strain	9:00pm	10:39pm	1h 39m

MONDAY

Set	Start	End	Length
The Love Song of William H. Shaw	11:00am	12:35pm	1h 35m
Sci-Fi Shorts C	12:55pm	2:13pm	1h 18m
Once Again	2:35pm	4:28pm	1h 53m
Other Shorts B	4:50pm	5:44pm	54m
The Beehive	6:05pm	7:31pm	1h 26m
Final Set and Awards	7:50pm	9:20pm	1h 8m+

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WELCOME!

Welcome one and all finally to ALIFFF 2023, the sixth annual Apocalypse Later International Fantastic Film Festival.

It's been a weird ride once COVID showed up. I had to cancel ALIFFF 2020, of course, due to the pandemic, but I was able to return with ALIFFF 2021 in person, even though I had to employ safety protocols to keep everyone safe.

I skipped ALIFFF 2022 because COVID continued to affect the flow of films and our ability to host events, but two years of submissions has led to a pristine line-up for ALIFFF 2023. Once again, I'm bringing you more sets of shorts than any other genre film festival in Arizona, but I've also got the strongest collection of features ALIFFF has seen too. It's going to be a fantastic event.

But all that said, this will also be the final ALIFFF for now. There won't be an ALIFFF 2024.

There are a lot of reasons for this, including money, time, energy and health, but the biggest one is my day job. I'm restructuring Apocalypse Later to become a more sustainable business, which means focusing on writing and publishing, including the monthly Apocalypse Later Zine. I have other irons in the fire too for next year that you'll find out about shortly.

And with that, hopefully you're enjoying the heck out of ALIFFF 2023. I'm All these films are certainly fantastic in both genre and quality and they're why we're all here. Stay fantastic, folks.

— Hal C. F. Astell, ALIFFF Festival Director



THIS YEAR'S AWARDS

Every film screening at ALIFFF 2023 is eligible for one of the utterly unique awards pictured above, which were commissioned as always from the fantastic Tom Deadstuff, an Arizona artist who has provided every award given out over our five years. You can find his work online at tomdeadstuff.com.

We'll be handing these out on Monday evening at the Awards Ceremony! The five award categories are unchanged from the past few years:

- There are three awards for short films—Best Horror Short, Best Sci-Fi Short and Best Other Short—and they're each decided by my panel of judges, which is changed every year to keep decisionmaking fresh and to benefit from new and different perspectives. You can see this year's judges opposite.
- The Best Feature award is decided by you, the audience. After each feature, we'll hand you a voting slip so you can vote on what you thought of it (from 1 to 4, with 1 being the worst and 4 being the best). I'll calculate the averages and whichever film gets the highest wins.
- And that leaves the Festival Director's Award, which is left to li'l ol' me, as I
 want to be able to reward one special film for any reason that I like, outside
 the confines of the earlier categories.

THIS YEAR'S JUDGES

My judges this year bring a scholarly approach to the local genre community. Thank you all!

Michele Brittany is a writer, editor, podcaster, photographer and independent scholar. Her first edited book was *James Bond and Popular Culture*, followed by the Bram Stoker Award nominated *Horror in Space: Critical Essays on a Film Subgenre*.



Nicholas Diak is a podcaster, writer and pop culture scholar. His areas of expertise include sword and

sandal films, Italian exploitation films, industrial and synthwave music, and horror and H. P. Lovecraft studies. His first edited book was The New Peplum: Essays on Sword and Sandal Films and Television Programs Since the 1990s.

Nick and Michele are also the co-chairs of the Ann Radcliffe Academic Conference and co-hosts of the



Britt Rhuart has a Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University in American Culture Studies, where he wrote about depictions of the Hippie counterculture on film. He's an adjunct professor of film at Paradise Valley Community College.



PAST JUDGES

With this being the final ALIFFF, at least for the present, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all my judges over the years. Thank you all!

- Christopher Bradley (2021), <u>writer, director and actor</u> and <u>senior lecturer</u> at Arizona State University.
- **Michele Brittany** (2023), writer, editor, photographer, independent scholar and co-host of the <u>H. P. Lovecast</u> podcast.
- Marc Ciccarone (2019), co-owner of dark fiction publisher Bloodbound Books.
- **Nicholas Diak** (2023), podcaster, writer and pop culture scholar and co-host of the <u>H. P. Lovecast</u> podcast.
- Shari K. Green (2018), <u>writer</u>, <u>producer and director</u> and film critic for <u>The Movie Club</u> and <u>The Reel Critic</u>.
- James A. Lee (2017), an Arizona media and event producer who directed the Filmstock Film Festival from 2012-2016.
- **Jim McLennan** (2016), the co-founder of <u>Phoenix FearCon</u> who also runs the <u>Trash City</u> and <u>Girls with Guns</u> blogs.
- **Victor Moreno** (2016), the founder of <u>Cult Classics</u> and <u>Monster Market</u> and the host of the <u>Cult Following</u> podcast.
- **Kevin R. Phipps** (2019), <u>writer, producer, director and actor</u> and in-demand Meisner acting coach at <u>The Artist's Box</u>.
- Britt Rhuart (2023), adjunct professor at Paradise Valley Community College.
- **Noah Richman** (2021), critic at <u>Slice of Sci-Fi</u> and former president of the Phoenix Fantasy Film Society.
- Toni Ross (2016), the founder and director of the <u>Jerome Indie Film & Music Festival</u>.
- Christopher R. Smith (2018), <u>writer, producer and director</u> and podcaster on <u>Auteur Theory</u> and others.
- **David Stipes** (2017), a <u>VFX artist</u> with a pair of Primetime Emmys and <u>forty</u> <u>years of experience</u> in visual effects and animation.
- Sarah-Anne Stubbs (2021), a blogger and podcaster at Geeks Who Eat, Final Girls Feast and Spooky Sarah Says.
- Chris Wilembrecht (2017), a <u>writer and producer</u>, a VP at <u>Maxim Media</u> <u>Marketing</u> and a core member of the <u>Cult Film in Review</u> podcast.
- **Dineta Williams-Trigg** (2019), <u>writer</u>, <u>producer</u>, <u>director</u>, <u>actor</u> and festival director of <u>A Night of Misfit Films</u>.

PAST WINNERS

Year	Award	Film
2016	Best Horror Short	Yotlungerdal (USA, Wesley Gunn)
	Best Sci-Fi Short	Roadside Assistance (USA, Bears Fonté)
	Audience Favourite	They Will All Die in Space (Spain, Javier Chillon)
	Festival Director's Award	María Fernanda in Time (Spain, Xavier Pijuan)
2017	Best Horror Short	Creatures of Whitechapel (UK, Jonathan Martin)
	Best Sci-Fi Short	Fugazi (Belgium, Laurent Michelet)
	Best Other Short	Please Love Me Forever (France, Holy Fatma)
	Best Feature	Patient 62 (Canada, Bryce Schlamp & Rick Anthony)
	Festival Director's Award	The Ningyo (USA, Miguel Ortega)
2018	Best Horror Short	Just After Midnight (France, Jean-Raymond Garcia & Anne-Marie Puga)
	Best Sci-Fi Short	Sound from the Deep (Finland, Antti Laakso & Joonas Allonen)
	Best Other Short	Addict (Israel, Nir Yaniv)
	Best Feature	Echoes of Fear (USA, Brian & Laurence Avenet-Bradley)
	Festival Director's Award	<i>Invisible Cages</i> (Puerto Rico, Gilberto David Vázquez-Gómez)
	Best Horror Short	Competitive Mourning (USA, Kevin Beauchamp & Mando Lopez)
2010	Best Sci-Fi Short	Deliver (Mexico, Ricardo Farias)
2019	Best Other Short	Wanderboy (Thomas Bernos)
	Best Feature	Grand View Blvd (USA, Spencer McCall)
	Festival Director's Award	Pinki (South Korea, Spike Hyunsuk Kim)
2021	Best Horror Short	Finally, You (USA, J. R. Rivera)
	Best Sci-Fi Short	Uprising! (USA, Ben Hansford)
	Best Other Short	The Other One (Germany, Lukas Baier)
	Best Feature	A Feral World (USA, David Liban)
	Festival Director's Award	<i>Sylvio</i> (Spain, Léonard Kahn)

FEATURES

ALIFFF 2021 will screen 10 features from 4 countries.



WHAT LURKS BENEATH

1h 42m, Canada dir: Simon McPhillips **Saturday, 12:30pm** Arizona première

The crew of USS Titan find themselves on the brink of World War 3 with Russia when a naked stowaway appears in one of their torpedo tubes. Captain Banks fears she may be Russian, but she's something far more dangerous.



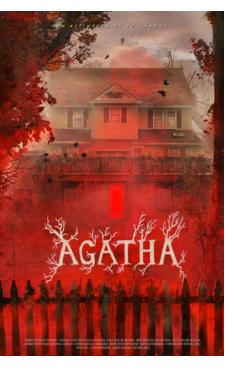


1h 45m, Canada dir: Jesse Palangio **Saturday, 4:15pm** Arizona première

Two scientists uncover a meteorite impact site in the Arctic tundra, but it kills one scientist and infects the other. A nearby base takes in the lone survivor whilst trying to understand what happened. The lone survivor may not be the person they think she is.







AGATHA

1h 0m, USA dirs: Roland Becerra & Kelly Bigelow **Saturday, 8:05pm**

The film follows "The Professor", a man suffering from a terminal disease, who by a twist of fate, witnesses an incredible event involving his mysterious neighbor Agatha. Hoping to find a cure to his sickness, he agrees to follow her on a strange and risky journey into a forgotten but not entirely deserted urban wasteland.









XANADU HELLFIRE

1h 44m, USA dir: Justin Armao **Sunday, 11:00am** Arizona première

A young girl brings her comic book hero from the future to the present just to hang out. An evil soon follows and all hell breaks loose.







PHI 1.618

1h 34m, Bulgaria dir: Theodore Ushev Sunday, 2:35pm

A micronation of bio-titans is created—a new breed of loveless asexual immortal men built to fit the golden ratio Phi 1.618. They prepare to leave behind toxic planet Earth and colonize the Cosmos on board a colossal spaceship. Immortal calligrapher Krypton is tasked to create an indestructible copy of the entire bio-titanic written heritage. He must copy all existing books but one. If copied, that book will be devil the universe.









PERFECTLY GOOD MOMENT

1h 12m, USA dir: Lauren Greenhall Sunday, 6:00pm Arizona première

Ruby and David have been together onand-off for 8 years, since she was 19 and he 34. Six months after Ruby last ran out on him, she has returned. Once the initial bliss of the reunion wears off, old toxic patterns re-emerge. Why did Ruby really come back?

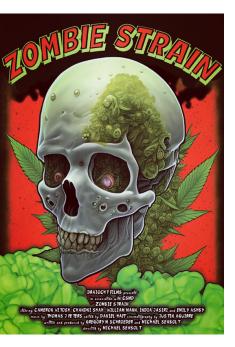


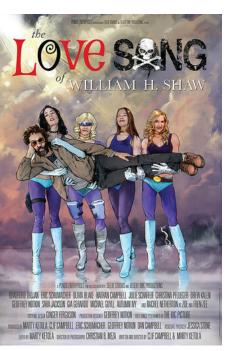












ZOMBIE STRAIN

1h 40m, USA dir: Michael Seabolt Sunday, 9:00pm

During the zombie apocalypse, a group of survivors trapped in a sound stage makes an amazing discovery about a potent strain of marijuana. But tensions rise, mistakes are made, and they start to wonder-who's more dangerous, the undead or each other?







THE LOVE SONG OF WILLIAM H. SHAW

1h 35m, USA dirs: Marty Ketola & Clif Campbell Monday, 11:00am

Comic bookstore owners Pete Reynoso and John Burns once helped their screenwriter friend William H. "Billy" Shaw complete the screenplay for the sequel to the hottest comic book movie of the moment, Fren-Zee 2. Now, Billy is haunted by superhero Fren-Zee again and the only two people who could help him have been feuding for years and now run rival comic book stores. Can Billy save himself and his friends, too? Or is this the time when it all falls apart?









ONCE AGAIN

1h 53m, South Korea dir: Shin Seung Hoon **Monday, 2:35pm** North American première

Stuntman Wooseok who wanted to become an actor. When you die at some point, you go back to the past. So, after several deaths, Wooseok goes back to his high school days in 1997. And Wooseok tries to change his fate.

THE BEEHIVE

1h 26m, Canada dir: Alexander Lasheras **Monday, 6:10pm**

The Piers family—a widowed single father, Frank, and his two children, Arron and Rosemary—face an unexplainable cosmic event at their family farm. The next day, Rosemary finds a large bees nest growing on the branch of a big Leaf Maple tree and visits it each day to document its unusual growth. However, when her father and brother discover it, it has grown into a disturbingly large cocoon-like object. Frank attempts to inspect the nest but is stung by a camouflaged stinger, becoming infected with an alien virus.



HORROR SHORTS A

Horror Shorts A will be screened on **Saturday at 11:00am** and will include 8 films from 5 countries.

#NOFILTER

13:26, USA, dir: Nathan Crooker

#nofilter addresses the ever-growing issue surrounding Body Dysmorphic Disorder through the eyes of Beth, an insecure twenty-something, who becomes obsessed with an insidious filter, leaving her to question true beauty. It is a cautionary tale for all those obsessed by "likes", being flawless, and thinking that somehow social media is the magical cure-all for happiness.





GOLEM

4:17, Australia, Ryan Cauchi

Nazi-occupied Prague, 1939. A group of German soldiers search for a fugitive Rabbi in the basement of an abandoned synagogue - unaware of the horror awaiting them.

EVERY 75 MINUTES

7:21, Spain, Borja A. Ortiz Arizona première

While Rachel is waiting for the bus on her way into town, she meets a very special visitor...





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CART RETURN

3:42, USA, Matt Webb Arizona première

Melanie is just too busy and self-absorbed and refuses to return her shopping cart, leading to an unfortunate turn of events when shes transported directly into a 1960s Hitchcock-like thriller.





MERGER

7:21, UK, Daniel Negret Arizona première

A man's commitment to his job takes a dark and surreal turn for the worst.

MIDNIGHT SCREAMS

10:12, USA, Sean Menendez Arizona première

Embroiled in an argument on their drive home, Derek and Jess slam into a living nightmare. What they hit isn't dead... and very angry.



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SCRIPT

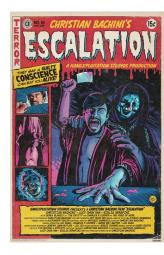
8:06, Italy, Piero Cannata

Two screenwriters, a ghost story, the night that goes on. Who will put an end to this?

ESCALATION

15:59, Christian Bachini, Italy Arizona première

Chris, a paranoid and self-centered man, is happily avoiding all human contact, preferring to escape from reality in whatever's on TV. When a friend reaches out to him to confront him about his past promises, Chris has to decide what kind of person he is inside, or it may just eat him... alive.





SCI-FI SHORTS A

Horror Shorts A will be screened on **Saturday at 2:30pm** and will include 4 films from 3 countries.

BLUE FIRE

20:43, USA, Nick Ronan Arizona première

Deep in the snowy Blue Mountains, two damaged lives come crashing back together when they discover something in the forest not of this world.





GO WITH HER

15:41, China, Yushi Che Arizona première

In a lonely and distant space station, BAI, a female scientist and other partners spent five years inventing a chip that can convert human emotions into extraordinary physical performances.

CRACKPOT

17:29, Australia, Nicola Sercombe Arizona première

With the end of the world only hours away, a dippy doomsday prepper kidnaps her lonely neighbour to "save him" from the impending apocalypse.





LIFEQUEST

27:36, USA, Richard Lounello Arizona première

A young physicist lives out his life in search of his greatest scientific discovery and finds one extraordinary truth.



GENRE-HOPPING SHORTS

Genre-Hopping Shorts will be screened on Saturday at 6:25pm and will include 3 films from 3 countries.

SIGHTS UNSEEN

29:53, USA, Jesse Terrell Arizona première

A student's fascination with extra dimensions will lead to an obsession with the mysteries of what is beyond our comprehension. Is it math or is it magic?



ROSE HOTEL

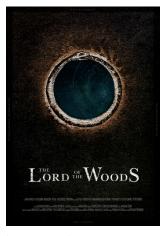
28:16, France, Nicolas Engel Arizona première

A hotel at night. Coded messages. Tea.



29:59, Poland, Julia Bui Arizona première

Warrior Kriss meets a young girl in the forest, Mojmira, who escaped captivity. In the ruins of a hut, where they stop overnight, Kriss finds the Urobors, a magical object of time travel properties.



Kriss is entangled in a tragic love story of Mojmira-Valdemena and Derwan. The characters, constantly travel through time dimensions, trying to escape the vicious cycle and, in their own little ways, reverse the course of the tragedy.



EDGIER SHORTS

Horror Shorts A will be screened on **Saturday at 9:25pm** and will include 5 films from 4 countries.



ENTROPIC

3:42, USA, Bradford Uyeda

A man camping in the wild of Arizona has a close encounter that has terrifying results!

SQUISH

20:45, Belgium, Xavier Seron

Flo has to go to Marrakech for

work. So, it's Tom who takes care of Sam, their 5-year-old son. Flo left him a list of tasks to complete during his absence. Despite this, Tom forgot Sam's guitar course. From his ryad, Flo calls to blame him. Tom hates being caught. He picks up Sam. The car comes out of the garage at full speed. SPROTCH. Tom just crushed something...





CHARLIE THE CANCELLED SKELETON

8:59, USA, Joe Reilly Arizona première

Beware who you cancel. Bitter about a film firing him as an actor for not allowing him to work from home, one man plots out for revenge on a horror film, successfully running a successful cancellation campaign against the film. Unbeknownst to him, however, is the film he cancelled might just be out to cancel him in return...

EXHAUST

8:43, Australia, Lucy & Jesse Velik Arizona première

Four friends play an old board game made by the famous magician and movie director Georges Méliès. Step by step, the four friends will understand that there is no game to play,

but only a threat for their lives. They must run to not die.





THE TASK

8:54, USA, Trevor Alpert Arizona première

In a creative work environment in a corporate setting a low level employee must figure out what her boss wants her to do because he refuses to say what he actually means.

MANICURE

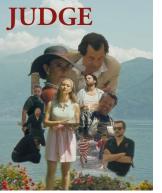
9:25, USA, Carluccio Arizona première

Before her 30th birthday party, Elanor's anxiety and demand for perfection turn a pleasant manicure into a bloody mess.



JUDGE

16:22, Italy, Nicolo Pozzali Arizona première



Gianni, an eccentric Italian-American, is forced to hide out in a luxurious villa on Lake Como, Italy. He hosts a card game in the villa with a group of suspicious personalities and his old apprentice, Tim. The game turns sour when it is interrupted by an Interpol raid. However, neither the officers nor Gianni and his friends are what they seem.



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HORROR SHORTS B

Horror Shorts B will be screened on **Sunday at 1:05pm** and will include 5 films from 4 countries.



BEFORE WE LEAVE

9:23, Russia, Natalia Gurkina Arizona première

A story about the memory of the dead, about life after death and about love after leaving forever.

The family packs for the moving. Mom gets nostalgic sorting stuff out. Son indifferently throws books and toys in his backpack. Dad tries to slip away to say goodbye to his friends. And only the Youngest Daughter can not find her deal. She stares at others and mess with them. At the same time a strange Old Lady in black stares at the Girl

attentively. But no one notices the Old Lady except Girl and it scares her. The Girl becomes frightened even more when she realizes that the whole family will leave her alone with the Old Lady in an empty apartment. And no one can help her, because her family is no longer alive.

TISTLEBU

18:00, Norway, Simon Matthew Valentine

As a young urban couple on a working holiday hopes to connect with nature at Tistlebu farm, a primordial power comes into play, changing them both forever.



WATCH OVER ME

6:08, USA, Angel Ruiz

A young woman goes up to her house in the woods for the weekend only to be terrorized by an escaped convict.





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A podcast focused on H.P. Lovecraft derivative narratives and the horror genre.

New episodes post on the 2nd Sunday, 4th Sunday, and last day of the month on all major streaming services.

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GREED & GORE

15:15, Canada, Adam Kirkey Arizona première

After a bank robbery doesn't go exactly as planned, a crew of five pick a last minute safehouse to lay low with their take and a hostage. But the safehouse isn't so safe...

THE NEGATIVE

21:57, USA, Tommy Bentz

A struggling writer finds a fabled "Cabin of Success" in the woods, where anyone who stays there becomes everything they've ever wanted. But before his dream is realized, he comes face to face with the answer to the question: What would you sacrifice to be successful?



SCI-FI SHORTS B

Genre-Hopping Shorts A will be screened on **Friday at 9:05pm** and will include 3 films from 3 countries.

ENTANGLEMENT

31:38, India, Yashaswini Nath Arizona première

A couple struggles to make sense of the past, and their vastly different versions of the bizarre event that made their relationship spin out of control.





DESDE EL COSMOS

17:04, USA, dir: James Roe Arizona première

David, a boy obsessed with space, receives an alien egg for his birthday. David does everything in his power to protect the egg. What he did not know is that his biggest wish would become his worst nightmare. David needs to be brave to defend the planet against the alien.

STARSHIP IMPOSSIBLE

29:34, UK, Greg McLeod Arizona première

Captain Quitter and his crew of misfits may have found the secret to eternal life. But only if you're prepared to live it out as a moose. A lo-fi sci-fi from the Brothers McLeod and Misfit.



OTHER SHORTS A

Other Shorts A will be screened on **Sunday at 7:30pm** and will include 5 films from 3 countries.



AWW, SHIT!

6:27, USA, Gibbs Ryals Arizona première

The Hitman is the best contract killer in the city; not a single blemish on his resume. He faces his biggest challenge yet when a woman named Jessica Leary hires him to murder her wife Tabitha and stage it as a suicide. In response, the Hitman devises an elaborate and intricate plan. One fatal mistake, however, compromises the entire mission and possibly his life.

EVENFALL: PROLOGUE

20:23, USA, Dustin Lee Arizona première

A woman struggles to protect her son from the everincreasing dangers of the world around them.





RETRIBUTION

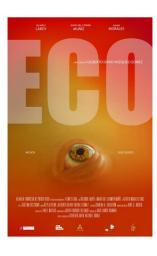
14:16, USA, Julia Grace Jones

A man awakens to find himself restrained and recovering from an unknown procedure at the mercy of two mysterious women.

EC0

14:38, Puerto Rico, Gilberto David Vázquez Gómez Arizona première

Ariel will try to hold the reins of his life as he faces the instability of his emotions, accompanied by a strange Eye that has come out on his back.





THE FAUN OF HEALWOOD: THE EDGE

15:50, France, Stephane Arbus United States première

During a walk in the forest, a young woman, Jane, meets a wounded stranger pursued by strange hunters. She asks her to help her reach a dolmen in order to bring a magical object. Jane is reluctant to accept the adventure for which she seems destined.



SCI-FI SHORTS C

Sci-Fi Shorts B will be screened on **Monday at 12:55pm** and will include 4 films from 2 countries.



DENALI

12:51, Spain, Alberto Ortega Arizona première

Marina hires the services of Soul Data, a company that creates digital consciousness through data generated in life, to claim her deceased father for his part of the inheritance until she comes across new secrets.

BAD DRONES

25:50, USA, Sam Coale Arizona première

A young man is unintentionally set on an adventure to save mankind when he falls through a wormhole to another world only to discover an army of evil drones on the other side poised to invade Earth.





MÖBIUS' TRIP

19:45, The Netherlands, Matt Jaems Arizona première

Jeremy Brandt is an agent on a mission to stop a man with a device containing a button that must not be pushed—but has been—resulting in an extensive chase. This leads to an electric struggle, against each other and ultimately for a solution to the greatest challenge anyone can face.

ARTIFICIAL EXISTENCE

19:31, USA, John D. Marshall

A mother desperately yearns to escape an oppressive dystopian society where humans have merged with machines and life is automated by artificial intelligence, but her family would rather live in technological comfort than escape with her into the unforgiving wilderness.



OTHER SHORTS B

Other Shorts B will be screened on **Monday at 4:50pm** and will include 4 films from 2 countries.



OVERKILL

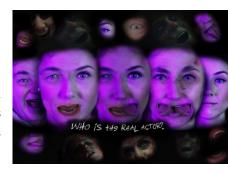
14:46, USA, Alex Montilla

OverKill is a film with a comedic take on a familiar setup: when too-woke-for-their-own-good college kids are terrorized by an unstoppable masked killer, the final girl must outsmart him to survive. Only in this movie, the killer literally cannot be stopped (or killed).

EVEN MONSTERS SLEEP

9:58, USA, Cooper J Arizona première

Inspired by the victims of Harvey Weinstein and the #metoo movement. An actress chases her dream role down a rabbit hole in this surreal and interpretive tale of terror.





MONSTER IN A BOX

9:16, USA, Noah Weisel Arizona première

He did it for the role.

When carnival hucksters pull their act in the wrong town they get help from the most unlikely of performers.

THE OPERATOR

20:00, UK, Matt Riley Arizona première

The Operator follows Michael, a client contact associate as he starts another dull day of business as usual. Connecting long distance intergalactic calls from a remote satellite (not as exciting as it sounds); a bleary eyed and coffee fuelled Michael receives a distress call. No one ever receives a distress call. They barely touch on distress calls during the induction day.





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Ben and Keith

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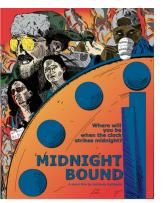
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FINAL SHORTS

Final Shorts will be screened on **Monday at 7:50pm** and will include 6 films from 3 countries.



MIDNIGHT BOUND

7:24, USA, Anthony Battaglia Arizona première

As nuclear missiles are flying towards Paul's home town, he casually explains why he doesn't want to find shelter or survive the apocalypse while chaos erupts around him.

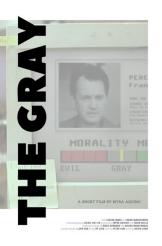
YO-YO DOMINANCE

2:43, USA, Lucky Meisenheimer, M.D. Arizona première

An experimental film done by artificial intelligence. Only the editing and prompts were done by a human.

Artwork, voiceovers, animations, music and story was all created by AI.





THE GRAY

9:35, USA, Myra Aquino Arizona première

A former cop works in purgatory and processes people going to heaven or hell. One day, his 20-year-old son appears.

INNERMOST

15:00, China, Maing Caochong Arizona première

The background of the stop-motion animation short film *Innermost* is set in the future featured by highly advanced technologies but collapsed society and civilization system. The cyberpunk-style science fiction world coexists fantastically with the traditional oriental martial arts world. The story follows the emotional entanglement between a long-lost chivalrous couple and a



person with regenerated organs starting from a fight for a mystic magic lyre. From the perspective of what regeneration technologies are able of, the short film will arouse the audience to think of how the value of emotions can be magnified or dissolved.



ON/OFF

17:54, South Africa, Jurg Slabbert Arizona première

An Afrikaans-speaking man helps his elderly German neighbour in a time of need, despite a language barrier. In the process, he learns volumes about himself.

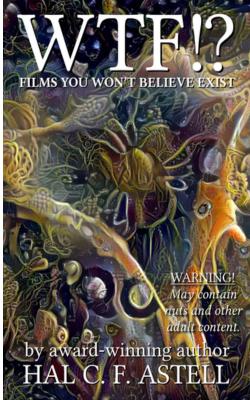
HOUSE OF THE UNHOLY

15:15, Spain, USA, Daniel Merlot Arizona première

A bloodthirsty Princess puts out a bounty to hunt down the last of the Indigo Elf tribe. She is on a quest to attain a magical elixir that's hidden in his heart. The elixir will grant her the powers to reign over the Kingdom for an Eternity.









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