

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

PROGRAM 1 (Theater 1)

6:00 p. m. – 8:00 p. m.

SHORT FILMS

Correlated Debris

Directed by: Brittany Winderman

13 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Multiple people pass through a small cafe that each of them have an attachment to. The cafes future becomes threatened and this greatly impacts their lives as they connect with each other and end up helping the barista, Tom, move forward with his life.

Bodies In Irreversible Detriment

Directed by: Ben Lazarus

25 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Horatio has Body Integrity Identity Disorder, where people seek to amputate appendages to make themselves whole. He joins a group for dealing with the affliction, thus meeting Sarah, a quirky BIID sufferer. Both intertwine in an attempt to find themselves, while making sense of their disorder and their environment.

What Cheer?

Directed by: Michael Slavens

17 minutes

SYNOPSIS: After the sudden passing of his wife, Stan (Richard Kind) finds himself in a state of shock. He tries to ignore his pain but finds himself followed by inescapable grief, or rather, followed by the inescapable What Cheer? Brigade, a 20-piece brass and percussion band drowning out his world with boisterous, ear-numbing song.

The Story of Milo & Annie

Directed by: Harris Doran

17 minutes

SYNOPSIS: THE STORY OF MILO & ANNIE is a love story about Annie, a restless secretary, who tries to discover the mystery of Milo, a guy who hasn't spoken since he was six years old.

The film stars Harris Doran and Rachel McKeon, with Orange Is The New Black's Alysia Reiner and Academy Award Nominee Cathy Moriarty.

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Rescue

Directed by: Paul Bland

11 minutes

SYNOPSIS: RESCUE follows a girl as she struggles to come out from behind her camera and connect with the world that she has been capturing in frozen images.

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Directed by: J. R. Bellavia

9 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A young girl documents the atrocities that occur until one of them hits close to home

Narcissist

Directed by: Eric Casaccio

17 minutes

SYNOPSIS: An honest genuine writer discovers the painful truth of a handsome and charming, yet manipulative and toxic love interest.

Babies

Directed by: C. C. Webster

11 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A young pregnant woman travels home and enlists her sister to help secure her baby's future: by stealing a 'cool' pair of jeans from her high school nemesis

PROGRAM 2 (Theater 2)

6:00 p. m. – 8:00 p. m.

SHORT FILMS

The Wanted Ad

Directed by: Keith St. Lawrence, Tobi Sigona

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: What would happen if two characters from the 1920s were dropped into 2014 fast paced New York life? How would they find love in a time where social media has taken over, even when creating new relationships?

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The Master Cleanse

Directed by: Daniel Goldberg

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: When Jim falls in love with Brook, who lives in a Brooklyn commune with her 'soul friends', he knows this won't be a run-of-the-mill affair. But what he fails to realize is that her 'master cleanse' has nothing to do with cayenne, lemon, and maple syrup. (Rosemary's Baby meets Portlandia)

Skypewar

Directed by: Jarret Berenstein

7 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A couple learns the complications of a long distance relationship while testing the boundaries of their competitive spirits. Who will win

This is What We Know

Directed by: William Scurry Jr.

16 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Jen is moving to Los Angeles, so she throws herself a going away party, and all her friends are invited. During the course of the party friends reunite, strangers get introduced, and maybe what goes unsaid by people has just as much meaning as what they actually say to each other.

For Better and Worse

Directed by: Ben Feuer

8 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A Heiress and Balloon Vendor fall in love. . . but when domestic strife brings out their Evil Villains, they must fight to reclaim their happiness in this silent slapstick comedy

Escape From Garden Grove

Directed by: Mathilde Dratwa

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Life isn't all rosy for 16-year-old Sophie. Her dad moved out, her mom's never home, and nobody tells her anything. So when she makes a disturbing discovery, she turns to the one person who knows how to make things better: Grandma. The plan's simple: break out of the nursing home and escape to Belgium. If only the bus would come. If only Grandma knew where Belgium was.

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I Love My Family...Honestly

Directed by: Jeannie Sconzo

12 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Sarah is finally within reach of her goal weight, the weight she had before the births of her two children! Just as she's preparing to celebrate, her jovial friend offers a possible reason for her sudden sluggishness - could it be a pregnancy?

reConception

Directed by: Joe Petrilla

12 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A hell-bent bunch of boys break into an abandoned cargo trailer. Their conquest is interrupted by the owner of the vehicle's unexpected return

The Parker

Directed by: Brian O'Neill

8 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Greg Connors is a successful, middle-aged yuppie family man. He can do many things well. He just can't park his car on a Manhattan street.

PROGRAM 3 (Theater 1)

8:15 p. m. – 11:00 p. m.

SHORT FILM

Dr. Pegg

Directed by: Blake Zawadzki

29 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A British doctor deals with both personal and professional relationships at a medical clinic in New Jersey.

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FEATURE FILM

Bread and Butter

Directed by: Liz Manashil

89 minutes

SYNOPSIS: On the brink of turning 31, Endearing misfit AMELIA struggles with deciding which lackluster romantic partner will take her virginity, all the while dealing with her eccentric boss, her overbearing parents, and her biggest challenge yet: learning to drive.

PROGRAM 4 (Theater 2)

8:30 – 10:30

SHORT FILM

Fake

Directed by: Mark Nickelsburg

3 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Delbert must inform you what is fake.

OPENING NIGHT SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

Manhattan Romance

Directed by: Tom O'Brien

94 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Danny, a commercial editor and documentary filmmaker attempts to finish his film, a study on relationship while navigating the relationships in his own life. Will he continue to chase the unattainable Theresa a hippy new age dancer (Caitlin Fitzgerald) or will he finally admit he's in love with his best friend Carla (Katherine Waterston) who is in an unfulfilling relationship with a political strategist (Gaby Hoffman). Manhattan Romance is a funny insightful look at contemporary life in Manhattan. It explores new age ideas and open relationship as well as true friendship and connection.

Honorary “New York Emerging Talent Award” presented to **Katherine Waterston** (following the screening)

10:00 p. m.

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

THE VARICK ROOM

(INVITATION ONLY)

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

PROGRAM 5 (Theater 1)

6:00 p. m. -8:00 p. m.

SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

Chasing It

Directed by: Buck Heller

49 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Doug lost his son to a heroin overdose. His best friend, his child and his future found dead on the floor, with a needle in his arm and the shower running. The explosion of heroin and other opiate abuse has affected more than those in Hollywood. 100 Americans everyday die from overdose deaths. The documentary film, 'Chasing It' is the story of those affected and why heroin use has such a devastating reach. Dr. Marc Fishman, addiction expert shares his knowledge, Doug Greenwich shares his pain and 6 addicts in recovery share their stories.

All of the Above: Single, Clergy, Mother

Directed by: David Vinik

58 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Quick: close your eyes and imagine that you were either side of forty, without a significant other in your life, but wanted children. OK- you say, today, single moms are no longer taboo, no big deal. But now add another filter, the career is neither handling computer code, money or a forklift, but caretaking of human souls. What happens when a single rabbi or cantor wants to have children on her own?

All of the Above: Single, Clergy, Mother explores the journey that four single female rabbis/cantors take to create their families. The film is an emotionally resonant exploration of two competing needs: to create life and mother a family, even without a partner, and to serve God and community as a clergywoman.

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PROGRAM 6 (Theater 2)

6:00 p. m. – 8:30 p. m.

SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

Patient's Rites

Directed by: Issa Ibrahim

49 minutes

SYNOPSIS: I spent 18 years as an inpatient in an asylum but this did not curtail my creativity. Free since 2009 I have been focused on using the arts as a healing and transformative tool for me and others who have suffered in addition to their families and friends

Cash Mob For Avi

Directed by: Liz Morrison

10 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Avi Gandhi is more than just a store owner - he's a good friend to his loyal customers in Levittown, Long Island. But times are tough. His sales are so low he can barely pay his rent. Avi fears he may have to close his store and become another failed business in the neighborhood strip mall.

Some of Avi's biggest fans decide to give him the surprise of his life. They rally the community and plan a flash mob to show Avi how much he's loved. Avi has no idea what's brewing outside his store, but when he starts to catch on the emotion of the day takes over. This film is a joyous celebration of a small business owner and all around great guy.

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

In The Eye of the Spiral

Directed by: Raynald Leconte

72 minutes

SYNOPSIS: In The Eye of the Spiral captures the cultural and creative resilience of Haiti through the vision of its most prominent artists. The new narrative philosophy of Spiralism, takes us on a voyage to understand the inevitability of creation when facing chaos.

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PROGRAM 7 (Theater 1)

8:15 – 10:30 p. m.

SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

Arthur Avenue - The Little Italy in the Bronx

Directed by: John Aramian

23 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Arthur Avenue is an ethnic Italian neighborhood in the North Bronx of New York City. Steeped in tradition - third, fourth and even fifth generation business owners do things the same way as their ancestors who brought their old world traditions with them to America.

This neighborhood has been through many changes, but when times have been tough these business owners, neighbors first, competitors second, have always found a way to survive and even thrive.

A Day in the Life of Lolita the Performing Orca, featuring Dr. Ingrid N. Visser

Directed by: Daniel Azarian

9 minutes

SYNOPSIS: World-renowned orca biologist Dr Ingrid N. Visser visits Lolita, a killer whale that has been captive in Miami, Florida for the past forty-three years. This short documents Dr Visser's visit as well as her thoughts and scientific observations concerning Lolita's current living conditions.

Born Warriors

Directed by: Vincent Giordano

26 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Born Warriors is a documentary that focuses on the ancient fighting sport of Lethwei. Burmese Lethwei is one of the oldest practiced combat sports in Myanmar (aka Burma). The Burmese are the last of the great bare-knuckle fighters in Southeast Asia. The bare-knuckle matches often served as a rite of passage into manhood for young boys in rural villages. Martial tradition was an important component of the spiritual and physical growth of each young man and during the lively festivals he could demonstrate his fighting prowess. This rare documentary told in two separate and distinct parts was shot entirely in Myanmar over an extensive fourteen-year period

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FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Austin to Boston

Directed by: Ty Johnston

72 minutes

SYNOPSIS: 5 old VW camper vans. 4 bands. 3 thousand miles. 2 weeks. 1 gloriously backwards tour. The adventure starts after a fire-fuelled final night at Austin's SXSW Music Festival, where the bands (Ben Howard, The Staves, Nathaniel Rateliff, Bear's Den) pile into their rides and head northeast. They play everywhere from bars to barns, rooms to rooftops, packing out tiny venues and wowing crowds with their unique sounds. But heavy rainstorms, multiple breakdowns, and cramped conditions remind them that to push through sometimes you need to pull together. Featuring Mumford & Sons' Ben Lovett and narrated by Gill Landry this documentary is about a modern tour, done the old fashioned way.

PROGRAM 8 (Theater 2)

8:45 p. m. – 11:00 p. m.

Short Documentaries

The Case of Josephine H.

Directed by: Izabella Gustowska

50 minutes

SYNOPSIS: In this documentary, international multimedia artist Izabella Gustowska tells the explosive story of Josephine, Edward Hopper's wife, as she searches for her muse, her Josephine, in the streets, bridges, and underground of contemporary New York City.

Disruptive Education

Directed by: Amanda Horvath

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: There are two modes for changing education: the reform mode - take what exists today and change it, and the disruptive mode - throw everything out the window and start from scratch. Acton Academy, a school based in Austin, TX, is diving head first into the disruptive mode and the results are quite impressive.

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Feature Documentary

Crotty's Kids

Directed by: James Crotty

82 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Told with humor and suspense, and shot in a gritty verite style reflecting its unvarnished South Bronx milieu, CROTTY'S KIDS follows five Eagle Academy debaters as they evolve from content-light amateurs to critical thinking heavyweights.

However, debate is only an ongoing McGuffin to the heart of the story: young men in search of an intellectual father figure. Coach Crotty arrives in their lives with the clock running out. In two years, the young men of Eagle are likely to become grist for a staggering statistic: 50% of urban males never graduate high school.

Will they defy the statistic that brought Crotty to them in the first place?

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

PROGRAM 9 (Theater 1)

6:00p. m. – 8:00p. m.

ANIMATION

The Fog of Courage

Directed by: John R. Dilworth

8 minutes

SYNOPSIS: In this animated horror comedy, a cowardly dog named Courage must rescue his lovely owner, Muriel from a vengeful supernatural Fog. Eustace, Muriel's greedy husband, refuses to return the gold necklace belonging to the Fog's long lost love.

Papa

Directed by: Natalie Labarre

6 minutes

SYNOPSIS: An eccentric inventor realizes he's not a perfect father, so one day, he makes one.

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Sunny and Steve: Enjoy the Sweets

Directed by: Bill Dorais and Ty Coyle

3 minutes

SYNOPSIS: The short film tells a humorous tale of an office worker as he struggles with a protective, seemingly innocent bunny on a quest for sweets. In this first episode released for Easter, Sunny revels in every opportunity to keep the Easter eggs from Steve, and goes to any length to ensure there is no sharing allowed.

Galaxy Records

Directed by: Directed by: Peter Meng

5 minutes

SYNOPSIS: This is the story of Galaxy Records, their early rise to stardom, and the struggle to survive in an ever-expanding universe. This far-reaching chronicle reveals what made them a once powerful vinyl presence.

Faceless Neil - Out Of The Darkness

Directed by: Noella Bori

10 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Out of The Darkness is a short film extract from the feature screenplay of Faceless Neil's adventures. The short film aims to show what a feature length film would look like. In this film we discover the main 2 characters and are introduced to their universe.

Life in America

Directed by: Harry Stuckey

12 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A CNN broadcast of a US soldier recounting a horrendous massacre he perpetrated is interrupted by a news conference - the TSA announcing mandatory airport genital scanning! Reporters question why toddlers need to have their genitals scanned by the TSA and the spokesman's response is anything but comforting.

The Mistake

Directed by: Jason Cross

5 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Sue has a new boyfriend. Is this the start of a wonderful relationship or is it a mistake.

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"A Rabbit's Life" In 3 Parts

Directed by: Don DiNicola

11 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A Rabbit embarks on a strange journey to foreign lands where he meets a talking Ox, a Black Tortoise and ultimately, Death . . . in a coffee shop.

EXPERIMENTAL

Loin de Nous

Directed by: Rehana Esmail

4 minutes

SYNOPSIS: This video-essay is inspired by Chris Markers' 'La Jetee' and portrays the reflection of a memory-image from a moment in the past.

The Exchange

Directed by: Mark DeChiazza

20 minutes

SYNOPSIS: The Exchange is a simple story told through musical performance. This experimental documentary re-imagines the composition as a film. Set in an immigrant family's home in the Bronx, on a morning on which something transformative happens, the film documents a singular musical performance on a unique instrumental setup, blending sampling with spoken word. But it also serves an important function in terms of preserving a particular family's experiences with illness and war, with what happened in the privacy of one home and continues to happen in the privacy of homes like it.

Brave Men

Directed by: Joe Zohar

6 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Brave Men tells the story of an abusive husband and his seemingly beaten housewife. Concerned neighbors call the police to rid the neighborhood of this element. Husband is confronted by the police regarding these allegations who is hauled away for being belligerent and aggressive with his wife.

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PROGRAM 10 (Theater 2)

6:00p. m. -8:00p. m.

Attempted Burglary – A Film Noir Short

Directed by: William Watkins

17 minutes

SYNOPSIS: When a troubled teenager attempts to rob a New York apartment, he gets a dangerous lesson in choices and consequences.

Wish You Were. .

Directed by: Greg Fellows

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Two men are sitting at a bar, enjoying their free time all while one of their worlds are being torn apart. This psychological thriller will take you through a myriad of emotions and accusations and leave you guessing up until the last second.

On A Country Road

Directed by: Adam Engel

71 minutes

SYNOPSIS: The Wounded Bird, a turn of the century painting, steeped in blood and misfortune, has turned up somewhere in Maine. Its presence alone, unknowingly brings four people to meet their inescapable fate.

PROGRAM 11 (Theater 1)

8:15 p. m. – 10 p. m.

In The Blind

Directed by: Davis Hall

17 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A duck blind is a place of concealment, but for two estranged brothers brought together by their father's suicide, too much is revealed.

Chance

Directed by: Ryan Wick

6 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A dark and atmospheric thriller about a young woman who spends her nights picking up men at random bars. Is she looking for love or something much more sinister?

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This is Business

Directed by: Rob Levy

20 minutes

SYNOPSIS: This Is Business is a story that questions the public's initial instincts to judge someone based on what they do, rather than WHY they do it. Shayne Winters, a Junior at NYU Stern, loses his scholarship and has to raise enough money in 3 months to be able to graduate. His girlfriend, Taylor, invites him to a party where he inadvertently gets introduced to the first business opportunity of his life and, at the same time, potentially get him out of his sticky situation. With help from his friends, the business becomes more successful than they ever could have imagine. The problem isn't getting enough money anymore, it's finding a reason to stop.

Hunters Gatherers

Directed by: Robert Bruzio

16 minutes

SYNOPSIS: When three cousins go into the woods for a hunting weekend, hurtful memories are stirred up and all hell breaks loose.

Kreshnik

Directed by: Roland Uruci

20 minutes

SYNOPSIS: When you let the camera in something always comes out Kreshnik comes undone suddenly when his family learns about about a different side of him.

Diana

Directed by: Daryl Denner

20 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Tony struggles to manage both his job as a commercial director and taking care of his wife Diana who is a chronic alcoholic. But when a forbidden love affair occurs close to home. . . what consequences will follow? . . .

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PROGRAM 12 (Theater 2)

8:15 p. m. – 10:15 p. m.

SHORT FILMS

Can't Get Enough

Directed by: Alyssa Rallo Bennett

19 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Can't Get Enough - a short film directed by Alyssa Rallo Bennett, and written by Gary O. Bennett, is about a husband who is obsessed with his wife to the point of no return. Problem is her best friend who introduced them was his former obsession and now she is embroiled in the couple's psych. Consciously or unconsciously, the two women, surprisingly act together to a dramatic end or ... beginning.

Skiagraphia

Directed by: Theresa Ciccone

19 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A chance meeting in a local Laundromat reveals that simple acts of kindness can have far deeper impact for the recipient and the giver. When a young woman enters a lonely Laundromat late at night, an old man's intrusiveness not only helps her get her wash done, it also helps heal a broken heart.

Emilia

Directed by: Jonathan Whittaker

13 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Emilia is single. Scratch that: Emilia is dating Pinot Noir. Like most romantics, she wants to be swept off her feet while wearing a skirt that delicately disguises her cellulite. When she receives a call from THE guy, surprise quickly turns to panic as insecurities threaten to ruin her 'happy' before the ending. Emilia's story prefaces a larger tale of life, love, friendship, and the events that could break us all apart.

Warm Blooded Killer

Directed by: Joshua Nelson

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: During an investigation of a murder, 2 detectives find a woman who has had been suffering from abuse and depression her entire life. ... While questioning different suspects, they soon find out the truth behind this tragic event.

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Compromised

Directed by: Christopher Stadulis, Tom Wardach

11 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Shortly after the government mandated human chip implantation, an unexpected act of terrorism, by an unsuspecting citizen, suggests a breach in the system

Max and Marco

Directed by: Gibrey Allen

13 minutes

SYNOPSIS: As Max approaches his 10th birthday, he must fight against the monster who seeks him in his dreams in order to save his imaginary friend, Marco, from succumbing to the reality that comes with growing up.

Beauty in the Breakdown

Directed by: Ryan Lensman

18 minutes

SYNOPSIS: After a recent tragedy, a young woman must find the strength and courage that left her long ago.

21st Century Shuffle

Directed by: Anthony Perrotta

14 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A group of friends come together for a friendly game of poker and a few drinks, but as the night goes on their different political and social views begin to clash, and therefore, they are forced to confront not just each other, but themselves as well.

PROGRAM 13 (Theater 1)

10:15 p. m. -midnight

SHORT FILMS

Devil in Jersey

Directed by: Matt Sundell

37 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Elizabeth accompanies her parents to a creepy New Jersey hamlet and soon learns that small towns aren't always that friendly

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Witnesses

Directed by: David Eisenberg

16 minutes

SYNOPSIS: While spreading 'The Truth' in rural Wisconsin, Jehovah's Witnesses Jakob and Abraham come across a disturbing discovery that puts multiple lives at risk.

Sobrevivo

Directed by: Matt Sullivan

33 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Sobrevivo chronicles the struggles of a woman in a post-apocalyptic world. When April and her boyfriend's safe-haven is compromised, the two must flee and search for a new place to call 'home.' After nearly losing her fight for survival, April is taken in by a trio of strangers. While the world outside of her new home is perilous, she begins to recognize that the dangers existing inside may prove to be deadlier and even more sinister.

PROGRAM 14 (Theater 2)

10:30 p. m. -midnight

SHORT FILM

Blonde

Directed by: Joanna Strange

21 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A young woman is on the verge of discovering who she truly is, but then she finds love. Will this derail all her plans - or was he a part of the plan all along.

FEATURE FILM

Downshift

Directed by: Ryan Schmitz

76 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Three races, two drivers, one past. Downshift tells the story of two estranged brothers who reconnect at a roadside diner and set off on a best-of-three series of races across the country. From the mountains of upstate New York, through the ports of Baltimore, down to the marshlands of Louisiana and out through the desert onward to Los Angeles - the history that drove them apart resurfaces and the future that awaits is at a finish line 3000 miles away.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

PROGRAM 15 (Theater 1)

12:00 p. m. -2:00 p. m.

STUDENT FILMS

Snowflakes

Directed by: Laura Valladao

10 minutes

SYNOPSIS: When a female rapper doesn't get the credit that she deserves in the recording studio, a 10 year old ballerina reminds her that her unique voice is important.

When the Moon Shines

Directed by: Mayid Guerrero

13 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A poignant coming of age story that presents an unromantic portrait of the contemporary American family.

Across the Bridge

Directed by: Matvey Fiks

10 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A series of four vignettes in which four people have monologue through phone calls.

Sal and the Goon

Directed by: Magnus Diehl

33 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A young nomad witnesses a murder in New Mexico and is spared by the small-time criminal who is supposed to kill him. It may be a noble decision but it has sinister consequences for the unlikely traveling companions.

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Demon Toast

Directed by: Scott Riehs

12 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Rosie can't wait to celebrate her husband Ralph's retirement by going on a cruise. But their vacation plans go awry when their brand new toaster becomes possessed by the devil in this outrageous horror comedy

Traces

Directed by: Kevin Yeboah

39 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Michael wakes up in a park with no memory of the last two years. In his pocket he finds a paper with the name 'Sasha King' written on it. Michael discovers that Sasha was brutally murdered. Wishing to know his involvement in the crime, Michael retraces his steps in order to find the truth

PROGRAM 16 (Theater 2)

12:00 p. m. – 2:00 p. m.

STUDENT FILMS

Knick-Knacks

Directed by: Victoria DeMartin

23 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Upon inheriting her grandmother's dream interpreting business, Alice must decide between the client's expectations of her versus her family's plans in order to find her own path.

Missing Grandma

Directed by: Adel L. Morales

12 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A 60-year-old grandmother, Mita, who doesn't hesitate to throw a slipper at you, is in the early stages of dementia, as she tries to impress upon her 16-year-old granddaughter, Tammi, the need to act like a lady. The generational gap widens and bonds are nearly broken after Mita finds an open box of condoms in Tammi's room. Harsh words are spoken and feelings are hurt. Later as the smell of sofrito hangs in the air, Mita puts away her Rosary and gives Tammi awkward but valuable advice on sex.

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Jupiter's Legacy

Directed by: Carl Kotheimer

12 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A tale of buried treasure in old Savannah

Clues unlocked by rival sisters

The Cancer Mirror

Directed by: Sophie Tuttleman

19 minutes

SYNOPSIS: After losing her father to Hodgkin's lymphoma, filmmaker Sophie Tuttleman reflects on her mother's battle with terminal brain cancer. The Cancer Mirror explores one daughter's experience navigating her mother's illness while coming to terms with the possibility of losing a second parent to cancer.

Wishful Thinking

Directed by: Raphael Hamzah

5 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Jasmyn discovers a magical handbag that improves anything she puts inside and her greed gets the better of her and she gets more than she bargained for

The Doorman

Directed by: Serena Dykman

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Joe is a doorman in an upscale residential building in Manhattan. Having lost all hope in love, and in need for extra money, Joe secretly fulfills the sexual fantasies of the old ladies in the building. This all changes when Rebeca, the young, sexy tenant he falls in love with, moves into the building and discovers his secret. . .

Broken Jam

Directed by: Emanuele Michetti

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: An estimated 26.2 percent of Americans ages 18 and older suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder.

Through a day, this story shows the difficulty maintaining a romantic, cohabiting relationship, suffering with mental disease.

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PROGRAM 17 (Theater 1)

2:15 p. m. – 4:15 p. m.

SHORT FILMS

Cantonese Style!

Directed by: Bea Soong

9 minutes

SYNOPSIS: At their weekly lunch date, Flora and Bessie test the boundaries of their relationship, Cantonese Style! This comedy short explores friendship, fashion, food and what it means to be real.

The Caddywhompus Years

Directed by: Adam Bertocci

12 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Melody and Chase are dancers. They're young and beautiful. They're broke and starving. They're absolutely terrified.

The Re-Gift

Directed by: Debbie DeLisi, Joe Bandelli

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: THE RE-GIFT is a hard-hitting, bombastic comedy romp with deeper undertones. 'What goes around comes around' has long been at play in the world. Admitted or denied, we 're-gift' all the time - one man's trash is another man's treasure!

Lines & Asides

Directed by: Mary McGloin

12 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A quirky, young-ish, indomitable actress struggles through cattle calls, kooky actors, nosy tourists and a world fraught with disappointment hoping to make her mark in the Big Apple

Donor

Directed by: Randy Spence

7 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A desperate New York couple would do anything to have a family - with no strings attached.

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Blood from a Stoner

Directed by: Jeanne Dorsey

26 minutes

SYNOPSIS: 'Law & Order' star Kathryn Erbe joins veteran actor Larry Bryggman ('As the World Turns', 'Die Hard With a Vengeance') in this story of a tumultuous father-daughter lunch which evolves into a defining moment in both of their lives.

Bunion

Directed by: Jessica Sanders

8 minutes

SYNOPSIS: The story of a man, his foot and finding happiness.

Get Out of The House

Directed by: Oliver Salk

17 minutes

SYNOPSIS: At sixteen, all Gene Marshall wants to do is go meet the girl of his dreams who is unexpectedly waiting for him on a Central Park bench. But such a seemingly simple task takes an unexpected twist through time, when he realizes that recent construction has turned the Manhattan apartment he shares with his parents, into a wormhole.

PROGRAM 18 (Theater 2)

2:15 p. m. – 4:15 p. m.

SHORT FILMS

Ladies Night

Directed by: Corey Scott Rutledge

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Sadie is left reeling after her boyfriend's mother breaks up with her. When she goes to a karaoke bar to commiserate with her two best friends, she finds herself entering familiar territory. They say the definition of insanity is doing the same thing more than once expecting different results, but her best friends wonder: will Sadie ever learn?

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

Floating Sunflowers

Directed by: Francisco Solorzano

11 minutes

SYNOPSIS: FLOATING SUNFLOWERS tells the story of June (Anna Chlumsky), a still-life painter, and Henry (Francisco Solorzano), a fiction author, each caught in an emotional winter of their own. Unable to tap into their creative spirit, all seems lost for Henry and June, when a simple twist of fate exposes each of them to the symbols of each other's dilemma. The epiphany causes the creative sparks to fly, as -through only the contact of their creative unconscious- they inspire each other to once again, embrace life.

Wild & Precious

Directed by: Cusi Cram

18 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Sparks fly when a wayward grandmother returns for a funeral and it falls upon the shoulders of her young granddaughter to reach out and ask the questions no one has ever dared to.

Come Back Hailey

Directed by: Ela Their

30 minutes

SYNOPSIS: When a jobless fuck-up loses his girlfriend, he recruits his friend to help get her back.

Simpler Times

Directed by: Steve Monarque

32 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Recently widowed and moved in with his daughter and son-in-law, Harry (Jerry Stiller) finds himself trapped in the world of modern technology when all he wants is the newspaper.

Simpler Times also features a special guest appearance by the other half of legendary comedy duo Stiller & Meara, Anne Meara.

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

PROGRAM 19 (Theater 1)

4:30 p. m. – 6:30 p. m.

SHORT FILMS

Venus ATTACKS!

Directed by: Mario Corry

18 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Incredibly selfish people, remarkably bad decisions, overbearing families, manipulation and ragging jealousy. How can a relationship survive? Watch this lethal combination unfold!

Love Bug

Directed by: Ramazan Nanayev

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A friendly French explorer plagued with a serious illness that makes him fall for every women at first sight. 'Love Bug' is a short romantic comedy about a man who's bitten by the love bug, but only there's a twist.

Roundtable Discussions

Directed by: Stephen Bodossian

6 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A young man struggles with whether or not to hold a girl's hand in this neurotic comedy.

LAX to JFK

Directed by: Caitlin Norton

14 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Connie and her brother Evan are convinced by her ex-husband to fly from LA to NYC for one last heist; blackmailing millionaire mogul Dietrich Sterling. Can these bumbling crooks keep it together to change their lives for the better?

Monotony

Directed by: Joanne Postlewaite

2 minutes

SYNOPSIS: In a dystopian future a strange encounter breaks up the monotony of a man's working day.

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

"Killer Kart"

Directed by: James Feeney

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: The shopping cart. Four wheels, one basket, and tonight, for the closing crew of a small-town grocery store, a blood-splattered aluminum nightmare.

Growth Spurt

Directed by: Jason Downs

14 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Circumstances merge the paths of a big city business man and an off the grid, free spirited gardener. What ensues is a quirky, endearing and comical adventure that you can't help but get lost in.

Rebound

Directed by: Leslie Kwon

20 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Neurotic new lesbian MJ is having a rough night out at Williamsburg's iconic gay bar, The Metropolitan. She just had her heart broken by The Most Beautiful Girl in the World, and with her very patient best friend in tow, she's on a mission to get kissed by midnight. Her journey through the dive bar is one of offbeat characters and unexpected social interactions. By dawn, MJ has trekked through a lovely and weird landscape of PBR, sex, innocence, ignorance, rap music, frat guys, Brooklyn, and Manhattan.

A Test in Stamina

Directed by: Ronica Reddic, Karen Parlato

13 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A woman reads Moby Dick for the first time only to have the book become her white whale.

Condom Run

Directed by: Sean McIlraith, Ryan McIlraith

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: The film tells the story of Luke whose girlfriend of six months, Elise, wants to have sex with him. Pressured by her advances, Luke agrees to go and buy condoms. Too young to drive, and with little help or consolation from his best friend, Luke is forced to go on a bike ride to his local drug store in the cover of night. But on the 5-mile bike ride, Luke begins to doubt whether or not he feels ready to have sex. Faced against a pushy girlfriend and the surrounding high school culture where sex is commonplace, Luke makes the journey and along the way, learns about himself and also learns a valuable life lesson.

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

PROGRAM 20 (Theater 2)

4:30 p. m. – 6:30 p. m.

FEATURE FILM

KillerConnection. com

Directed by: Jim Harkins

18 minutes

SYNOPSIS: KillerConnection. com - The dating site where couples are dying to meet each other.

Leo John Ain't Dead No More

Directed by: Jim Harkins

105 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Lee Strong Jr. (Patrick Shane) has the perfect life. Great job, the love of his pregnant girlfriend Maggie Riley (Kayle Blogna). Then one day he receives a phone call from his estranged father Leo John Strong Sr. (Richard Brundage). That call brings Lee back home after a five year absence. This may be the last chance for father and son to reconcile their differences.

PROGRAM 21 (Theater 1)

6:45 p. m. – 8:45 p. m.

Patrol

Directed by: Rich Devaney

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: When two NYPD patrolmen are called to assist a drunk and disorderly woman at 3:00am, their actions conflict with the oath they vowed to keep; to protect and serve the citizens of New York City. All characters appearing in this film are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

The Sacred Heart

Andrew Serban

22 minutes

SYNOPSIS: When an unemployed young woman from Hell's Kitchen and her equally unemployed immigrant boyfriend are threatened with eviction, the couple resort to desperate measures and find themselves in the middle of a real estate war -- a potentially fatal situation requiring the woman to choose between the only neighborhood she's ever known and a boyfriend who may or may not be what he appears.

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

Evening Class

Directed by: Peter Frizalone

10 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A new professor recounts the mysterious tale of Professor Protivnik and Billy, an uncommon custodian, after students no longer show up to his evening class.

Anamnesis

Directed by: Joe DiCanio

33 minutes

SYNOPSIS: 'A man struggles to gather photos, videos and trinkets for his memory stricken wife and put them into a computer/hard drive with an algorithm to bring her memory back. '

Destiny Jones

Directed by: Lesley Steele

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: In the midst of solving a sexual assault case, NYPD detective Destiny Jones faces her dark past and childhood abuser -- her stepfather.

Dreams of the Last Butterflies

Directed by: Zina Brown

10 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Dreams of the Last Butterflies is a live-action 'dark faerie tale' short film with an urgent environmental message. A tale about the loss of butterflies in our world, and why they are disappearing, as told by the last Butterfly Queens themselves.

The Happily Ever After

Directed by: Erika Burke Rossa

7 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A perfectionist NYC housewife, plans for her anniversary, when her children wreak havoc on her home, causing her to snap and seek refuge in her bathtub.

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

A Different Path

Directed by: Alyssa Renzi

3 minutes

SYNOPSIS: One couple's attempt to repair their failing marriage by going on a hike. When they get lost, they end up going down a different path.

PROGRAM 22 (Theater 2)

6:45 p. m. – 9:00 p. m.

Romeo and Juliet in Harlem

Directed by: Aleta Chappelle

128 minutes

SYNOPSIS: ROMEO & JULIET in HARLEM is a modern day adaptation of William Shakespeare's most popular play ROMEO & JULIET. Set in Harlem, USA with a cast of color, the film stays true to the original storyline as well as Shakespeare's language.

The vibrant photography of ROMEO & JULIET IN HARLEM pays homage to one of the World's most unique and beloved communities, while it's passionate performances from established Stars and brilliant newcomers allows Shakespeare's poetic language to come alive for the first time on Harlem's streets. The film's thrilling fight sequences which uses the hypnotic martial arts discipline of Capoeira will captivate audiences, while the breathtaking visuals of New York's West Indian Day parade, which Romeo and his friends attend before going to the Capulet party, are examples of the juxtaposition of old and new allowing Shakespeare's poetic dialogue to be reborn on Harlem's streets, basketball courts and subways.

PROGRAM 23 (Theater 1)

9:00 p. m. -midnight

SHORT FILM

Frank and Franklin

Directed by: Adam Egizi

15 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Frank is socially awkward man in late twenties stuck in a rut of boredom and dullness, until one day everything changes, for the weirder.

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

FEATURE FILM

The Widowers

Directed by: Jonathan Scott Chinn

104 minutes

SYNOPSIS: THE WIDOWERS is a comedy about grief. It centers on best friends Jake and Jonathan, whose wives have died in an accident. When Jonathan drags Jake to a grief counseling retreat for young widowers, they meet an odd group of fellow mourners, navigate comically bizarre therapy sessions, and face a dark secret that could destroy their friendship.

PROGRAM 24 (Theater 2)

9:15 p. m. – 11:00 p. m.

Trust Me, I'm a Life Guard

Directed by: Tony Glazer

16 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A Bro-Mantic comedy about two lifeguards who, when confronted with the end of summer, are forced to make adult decisions such as:

What is the meaning of life?

What makes a good Speedo?

And, are those clams safe to eat?

Girls Night

Directed by: Lindsey Copeland

87 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Five college friends reunite for a concert in Boston. When one of them loses the tickets the group must take on the task of retracing her steps to find the missing tickets, encountering a series of characters along the way.

FILMMAKERS RECEPTION (INVITATION ONLY)

9:00 p. m.

THE VARICK ROOM

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

PROGRAM 25 (Theater 1)

12:00 p. m. – 2:15 p. m.

Lily in the Grinder

Directed by: Michael Morgenstern

13 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Ryan looks for a job.

Kaleidoscopic, operatic, and layered, Lily in the Grinder explores meaning through sex, death, and time. We already are everything we will ever be.

Jane Street

Directed by: matilde ascheri

19 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Just one night, one street, two girls connected by an intense relationship, but about to drift apart because of their troubled lives full of drugs and because of the manipulative mind of one of them. Will they find their way even apart from each other

Freeman Velocity

Directed by: Karl Ryan Erikson

16 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A young teen unsuspectingly connects with his older brother, whom has Autism, as he chases down his special comic book stolen by a group of bullies.

The Lonely Cure

Directed by: Gall Friedman

26 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A lonely man in NYC finds a mysterious company that claims to have a cure for loneliness, but discovers their intentions may be darker than they originally seemed.

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

Happy Hour

Directed by: Gretl Claggett

14 minutes

SYNOPSIS: When a woman meets her boyfriend for a romantic night out, a martini triggers childhood memories that threaten her ability to trust and love. Based on a poem; narrated by Julianne Moore.

Jerry & Diane

Directed by: Gillian Fritzsche

7 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Jerry and Diane is a not-very-romantic comedy about a desperate 'guitar teacher' hoping to 'take it to the next level' with his favorite student, the hipster Diane. Diane is planning to quit her lessons because she's discovered Jerry's little secret.

Grind

Directed by: Zachary Halley

32 minutes

SYNOPSIS: GRIND is a musical story exploring a damaged man's search for a connection in an interconnected world. Do we expect too much from a blue bubble? Starring Anthony Rapp and Claire Coffee.

PROGRAM 26 (Theater 2)

12:00 p. m. – 2:00 p. m.

My Christmas Wish

Directed by: James Tumminia

26 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A spirited and determined young girl full of hope and heart shows her family and friends that it is far better to give than receive.

Christmas Tears

Directed by: Fabian Perez and Will Mercado

77 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Story of 3 best friends hitting rock bottom on Christmas Eve. The toll it takes on their family and the choices they make leads them on a magical day that they will never forget. A film of hope, faith, love, and family. This film is a tear-jerk-er, one you'll never forget

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

PROGRAM 27 (Theater 1)

2:30 p. m. – 5:30 p. m.

Not Guilty

Directed by: Jabari Clarke-Pennegan

27 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A Baker from the Dominican Republic travels to NYC to visit his daughter only to find tragedy. He's wrestling with the decision to allow the justice system handle it or take the law into his hands.

The Ramona Flowers Tokyo

Directed by: Bouha Kazmi

6 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A mysterious masked stranger and a boy form the centerpiece of a gathering of elderly society women who yearn for their youth and the exquisite command of their lure.

Family on Board

Directed by: George Pogatsia

16 minutes

SYNOPSIS: On his way to report to prison, Mike Petito reflects on his life and anticipates what lies ahead . . . that's when catastrophe strikes.

The Taino

Directed by: Gamal Batista

19 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Based on a true story.

In the year 1519 on the island of Hispaniola, a Taíno Indian name Guarocuya is fed up with the Spaniards and flees to the mountains.

Milking It

Directed by: Fredgy Noël

10 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Josephine has a problem. She likes to date men for their moms. To what lengths will she go in order to find her next mother? Milking It, a story of a girl who falls in love with the mothers of her lovers.

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

Love Out Of Mind

Directed by: Aaron Fisher

12 minutes

SYNOPSIS: 'Love Out of Mind' takes place in Brooklyn, NYC, and follows the story of a young man with bipolar disorder who struggles to enter into a relationship but is afraid of getting hurt.

Just Ask ...

Directed by: Paul Lingas

13 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Tim and Kelly keep running into each other and though it's pretty clear the attraction is mutual, Tim can't find the right thing to say until it's too late. Or is it?

Confluence

Directed by: Noah Shulman

6 minutes

SYNOPSIS: There is always movement, even in stillness. Things around us are constantly changing in tiny ways that we don't notice, eventually building up to growth and death. In Confluence, a new film by director Noah Shulman, viewers look beyond what the human eye is capable of seeing to experience those moments in between the transformations that we perceive.

The Man From the City

Directed by: Elias Plagianos

11 minutes

SYNOPSIS: A mysterious businessman visits a small town with questionable intentions as he contemplates leaving his big city life behind. Starring SAG award winner Robert Clohessy (Boardwalk Empire, Blue Bloods, Wolf of Wall Street) and Sean Young (Blade Runner, Ace Ventura, No Way Out).

Taking it For Granted

Directed by: Jill Salvino

23 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Since the overturning of DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) by the Supreme Court in June 2013, the subtext of this movie is the impact that has on families; both gay and straight. In this 4 character drama, a recently married gay couple struggle with the ramifications of their brief marriage gone wrong.

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

PROGRAM 28 (Theater 2)

2:15 p. m. – 4:15 p. m.

The Brain Hack

Directed by: Joseph White

18 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Two film students create a short-cut to induce hallucinogenic visions of God, but soon find themselves hunted by a deadly religious sect

Sunset Edge

Directed by: Daniel Peddle

87 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Two narratives clash violently in this meditative portrayal of disaffected youth set in a graveyard of abandoned mobile homes known as Sunset Edge. We follow a group of four aimless, suburban teenagers - they skateboard the park, sleep in the sun, and rummage through the decaying remains completely unaware that this is where a lonesome teen is confronting a horrific past. Day turns to night, people disappear, and the secrets of Sunset Edge are revealed in a paralyzing finale.

PROGRAM 29 (Theater 1)

5:45 p. m. -7:45 p. m.

The Wisdom To Know The Difference

Directed by: Daniel Baldwin

113 minutes

SYNOPSIS: WISDOM is a story about a man's journey (DANIEL BALDWIN) to bring his sobriety full circle and help a young Latino girl (MAYRA LEAL) kick a serious drug problem. Bob disregards the tremendous dangers he encounters and puts his own life at risk at the request of old friend (LOU DIAMOND PHILLIPS).

2014 Big Apple Film Festival Program

PROGRAM 30 (Theater 2)

4:30 p. m. – 6:45 p. m.

The Frontier

Directed by: Jeff DeCola

130 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Sean, a retired literature professor and civic activist, writes a letter to his estranged son, Tennessee, a ranch hand. Tennessee is uncertain how to respond, but knowing he should see his aging father, he decides to go home. Tennessee arrives just as Nina, Sean's personal trainer fresh off a bad breakup, accepts Sean's offer to move in and help him write his memoirs. The tension between Sean and Tennessee is ever-present. As Sean and Nina work, Tennessee avoids his overbearing father with fix-up projects around the house. One evening after Nina has gone out, Sean and Tennessee find themselves alone in the house for the first time.

AWARDS PRESENTATION (Theater 2)

7:00 p. m. – 7:30 p. m.

(INVITATION ONLY)

PROGRAM 31 (Theater 1)

8:00 p. m. -10:00 p. m.

Manhattan Romance

Directed by: Tom O'Brien

94 minutes

SYNOPSIS: Danny, a commercial editor and documentary filmmaker attempts to finish his film, a study on relationship while navigating the relationships in his own life. Will he continue to chase the unattainable Theresa a hippy new age dancer (Caitlin Fitzgerald) or will he finally admit he's in love with his best friend Carla (Katherine Waterston) who is in an unfulfilling relationship with a political strategist (Gaby Hoffman). Manhattan Romance is a funny insightful look at contemporary life in Manhattan. It explores new age ideas and open relationship as well as true friendship and connection.