

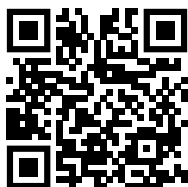


SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2025

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2025 GIG HARBOR FILM FESTIVAL

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PAMELA HOLT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello, Gig Harbor Film Festival Fans!

It's my great pleasure to welcome you to this year's GHFF — a celebration of independent cinema at its most diverse and exciting. With 91 independent films across every genre, we believe this is our most eclectic lineup yet. Each selection reflects our mission “to cultivate a community of filmmakers and film lovers that celebrates the power of the cinematic arts to educate, entertain, and inspire.”

Over the festival's four days, you'll experience cinematic storytelling on the big screen alongside fellow film fans, filmmakers, and crew members from Canada and across the country. For our VIP Passholders, we've curated an immersive, all-access experience filled with exclusive parties, events, and unforgettable moments.

The GHFF is proud to be known as a “Filmmaker's Film Festival,” welcoming back our talented alumni while introducing bold new voices. Many of our artists are offering premiere screenings and post-film Q&As — so check the schedule. Remember, every film screens twice, and your festival favorites will be shown again on Sunday.

I'm also thrilled to share that the GHFF remains ranked among the *Top 100 Best Reviewed Festivals* on FilmFreeway — placing us in the top 1% of more than 12,000 festivals worldwide!

This magic happens thanks to our generous sponsors, donors, VIPs, patrons, community, Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers — your dedication has kept the festival thriving since its founding in 2007 by Marty Thacker.

So, grab a snack, sink into your luxurious Galaxy recliner, and let yourself be transported into the magical world of film. It's showtime!

Best,
Pam

Photo Credit: Amanda Howse

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2025 FESTIVAL ~ CELEBRATING THE GIG HARBOR FILM FESTIVAL ANNUAL AUCTION



Photo Credit: Tom Collins

HOW IT WORKS

Festival films are shown in “blocks.” A block features either one feature-length film or a curated series of short films. This year, we’re proud to present 14 feature films and 11 themed shorts blocks — from laugh-out-loud comedies to heartwarming dramas to local documentaries. There’s truly something for everyone in our wonderfully eclectic lineup.

When filmmakers attend screenings, we often host an in-theater Q&A immediately afterward. The Gig Harbor Film Festival welcomes filmmakers from across the country — and many bring along their cast and crew. It’s a rare chance to connect with the talented artists who bring these stories to life.

PASS OPTIONS

VIP Pass - \$400

Enjoy full access to all films, parties, and special events for the four-day festival, including:

- Priority seating (arrive 15 minutes before showtime)
- Opening Night Film + Afterparties
- Meet the Filmmakers Party at the Morkill’s home
- Italian-themed Saturday Dinner
- Sunday Mimosa Breakfast before the Awards Ceremony
- Access to the Filmmaker & VIP Lounge in the Kiwanis Village. Let Joe mix up our signature GHFF cocktail for you!

VIP Passholders for 2025 get first chance to renew for 2026.

General Admission Pass - \$50

Your collectible 2025 GHFF embossed wristband grants entry to all films from Opening Night through Sunday festival faves. Each film screens twice, so you won’t miss a thing! Available in person at Galaxy Theatres (Gig Harbor) or online at gigharborfilm.org. Seating is first-come, first-served.

A GA Pass is an unbeatable value — four days of world-class films for the price of dinner and a movie!



COCKTAIL PARTY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 | 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Outside Galaxy Theatres in the Kiwanis Village | 4649 Point Fosdick Dr NW, Gig Harbor

Get your glam on as we prepare to celebrate the dazzle that is Bob Mackie! Custom charcuterie and Heritage Distilling Co.-themed cocktails (including wine, beer and non-alcoholic options) will be served prior to Red Carpet Photos. **PRIVATE EVENT FOR VIPs AND FILMMAKERS ONLY**

6:30pm Galaxy IMAX Theatre

OPENING NIGHT MOVIE

GIG HARBOR PREMIERE OF
Bob Mackie: Naked Illusion

Directed by: Matthew Miele | 104 minutes PG-13

Bob Mackie: Naked Illusion is a dazzling journey through the six-decade career of legendary costume designer Bob Mackie. Known for his fearless, boundary-defying creations, Mackie has shaped the look of entertainment for generations — from Cher's iconic stagewear to Carol Burnett's comedic glamour, Elton John's flamboyance, and the modern sparkle of stars like Miley Cyrus, P!nk, Tina Turner, and Zendaya.

With unprecedented access to Mackie's personal archives, Quixotic Endeavors reveals rare, never-before-seen artifacts and intimate stories from his remarkable life. The film explores his unconventional upbringing, the pivotal relationships that defined his artistry, and the indelible mark he's left on stage, screen, and the red carpet.

Featuring original interviews with his celebrated clients, creative collaborators, and designers he's inspired, *Bob Mackie: Naked Illusion* captures the brilliance of a man whose work has earned nine Emmy Awards, three Oscar nominations, and a Tony Award.

We are honored to welcome Bob Mackie and producer and Design Director Joe McFate for Opening Night at the GHFF, followed by a Q&A moderated by alumni filmmaker Natalie Lynch. Don't miss this rare opportunity to join in the lively conversation with Bob and Joe!

ALL PASSHOLDERS WELCOME



OPENING NIGHT AFTERPARTIES



Fondi Pizzeria

9:00pm

Flash your VIP Pass for an exclusive evening of authentic Italian flavors at Fondi's. Savor finger foods and light appetizers, paired with beer, wine, or a crafted cocktail. Unwind by the outdoor fireside patio, mingle with friends and filmmakers, and map out your weekend film plans!

PRIVATE EVENT FOR VIPs AND FILMMAKERS ONLY

AFTERPARTY AT FONDI PIZZERIA | 4621 POINT FOSDICK DR STE 200, GIG HARBOR



O'Looney's Irish Pub

11:00pm

The celebration keeps rolling at O'Looney's, just up the street. Savor a complimentary pint at Gig Harbor's favorite Irish pub and toast to a great Opening Night at the GHFF!

PRIVATE EVENT FOR VIPs AND FILMMAKERS ONLY

AFTERPARTY AT O'LOONEY'S IRISH PUB | 3222 56TH ST, GIG HARBOR

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 5:00pm | The Morkill Residence

PRIVATE EVENT FOR VIPs AND FILMMAKERS ONLY

MEET THE FILMMAKERS PARTY

After a full day of cinematic discoveries, enjoy this lively opportunity to connect with the creative minds behind some of your new favorite films. Savor delicious appetizers and dinner, sip on refreshing libations, and experience the warm hospitality of Board Member Peter Morkill and his wife, Liz, at their beautiful waterfront home. A beloved GHFF tradition, this unforgettable evening blends exceptional food, spirited conversation around the fire pit, and breathtaking sunsets.



Photo Credit: Angie Mitchell

ITALIAN DINNER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 5:00pm-8:00pm
SPONSORED BY KIWANIS



Outside Galaxy Theatres in the Kiwanis Village | 4649 Point Fosdick Dr NW, Gig Harbor

PRIVATE EVENT FOR VIPs, FILMMAKERS AND VOLUNTEERS ONLY

Enjoy a delicious evening inspired by the flavors of Italy under the big tent. We'll be serving three irresistible styles of spaghetti, tossed green salad, and warm, buttery garlic bread. End on a sweet note with handmade cannoli before heading to your next film!



Photo Credit: Angie Mitchell



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 | 4649 Point Fosdick Dr NW, Gig Harbor

9:00am — Mimosa Breakfast IMAX Lobby
PRIVATE EVENT FOR VIPs AND FILMMAKERS ONLY

9:45am — Awards Ceremony IMAX Theatre
ALL PASSHOLDERS WELCOME

IT'S A WRAP!

MIMOSA BREAKFAST & AWARDS CEREMONY

Come Celebrate the Winning Films and Filmmakers!

Start your morning with delicious breakfast charcuterie from Harbor Bites and Boards, fresh fruit, and Cutters Point hot coffee. Our Spirits Sponsor, Heritage Distilling Co., will be serving refreshing lavender mimosas in the IMAX Lobby. A special thanks to the Kiwanis and Galaxy Theatre for hosting this event.

Awards in eight film categories will begin promptly at 9:45am — don't miss the excitement! And if you didn't catch the films the first time, the winning Fest Faves will screen at 11:15am, 11:30am, 1:45pm, and 2:00pm.



Photo Credit: Angie Mitchell

OPENING NIGHT FUN!

KIWANIS VILLAGE

IMAX LOBBY

IMAX (cap. 294)

FONDI'S

O'LOONEY'S

5:00pm

Cocktail PartyPRIVATE EVENT FOR VIP AND
FILMMAKERS ONLY

5:30pm

Red Carpet Photos

All Passholders Welcome

6:30pm

**Bob Mackie: Naked
Illusion**(104 mins) *Rated PG-13*
DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS FILM ON PG 16
All Passholders Welcome

9:00pm

Afterparty at Fondi'sPRIVATE EVENT FOR VIP AND
FILMMAKERS ONLY

11:00pm

Afterparty at O'Looney'sPRIVATE EVENT FOR VIP AND
FILMMAKERS ONLY

**FOR FILM DESCRIPTIONS, PLEASE
SEE PAGES 16 THROUGH 27**

Feature Film

VIP and/or Filmmaker Event

Photo Credit:
Angie Mitchell

THEATRE 6 (cap. 128)
Sponsored By: SoundBridge
Center for Dental Arts

THEATRE 7 (cap. 86)
Sponsored By:
FICRA Building Trust

THEATRE 8 (cap. 81)
Sponsored By:
Heritage Distilling Co.

THEATRE 10 (cap. 109)
Sponsored By:
BBQ2U

THEATRE 9 (cap. 49)
OR OTHER VENUE

9:00am	9:00am Washington Docs (87 mins) <i>Rated PG</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 25</small>	9:00am Climbing Into Life (52 mins) <i>Rated PG</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS FILM ON PG 16</small>	9:00am Makers on the Tide (42 mins) <i>Rated PG</i> <small>DESCRIPTION OF THIS FILM ON PG 16</small>	9:00am Vietnam, One Man's Story: 50 Years in the Making (105 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</small>
	11:15am This Beautiful Life (89 mins) <i>Rated PG</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 22</small>	11:15am What's Up Doc? (90 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 23</small>	11:15am The Travel Companion <i>Rated PG-13</i> Preceded by In The Event Of (96 mins total) <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 17</small>	11:30am The Ice Cream Man (29 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</small>
	1:30pm The Librarians (92 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</small>	1:30pm The Rad Batch (95 mins) <i>Rated R</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 26</small>	1:30pm The French Italian (92 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</small>	1:30pm To Be Human (94 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 21</small>
	3:45pm Locally Sourced (94 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 24</small>	3:45pm Zzaslow K-427 (79 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</small>	3:45pm Love... And Other Bizarre Concepts (99 mins) <i>Rated R</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 18</small>	3:45pm It's All Relative (94 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 20</small>
5:00pm	6:00pm Finding Musana (94 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS FILM ON PG 16</small>	6:00pm Zurawski v Texas (99 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</small>	6:00pm Animation Destination (52 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 25</small>	6:00pm The Courageous (80 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</small>
	8:15pm Bob Mackie: Naked Illusion (104 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS FILM ON PG 16</small>	8:15pm With Friends Like These (94 mins) <i>Rated R</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 19</small>	8:15pm Really Me (76 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS FILM ON PG 16</small>	8:15pm OMG!!! (97 mins) <i>Rated R</i> <small>DESCRIPTIONS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 27</small>
				5:00pm Meet The Filmmakers Party at the Morkill's <small>PRIVATE EVENT FOR VIP AND FILMMAKERS ONLY</small>

**FOR FILM DESCRIPTIONS, PLEASE
SEE PAGES 16 THROUGH 27**

Feature Film

Short Film Block

VIP and/or Filmmaker Event

THEATRE 6 (cap. 128)
Sponsored By: SoundBridge
Center for Dental Arts

THEATRE 7 (cap. 86)
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THEATRE 8 (cap. 81)
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THEATRE 10 (cap. 109)
Sponsored By:
BBQ2U

THEATRE 9 (cap. 49)
OR OTHER VENUE

9:00am	<div>9:00am</div> <div>Locally Sourced (94 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 24</div>	<div>9:00am</div> <div>Zurawski v Texas (99 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</div>	<div>9:00am</div> <div>The Courageous (80 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</div>	<div>9:00am</div> <div>Finding Musana (94 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THIS FILM ON PG 16</div>	<div>10:00am</div> <div>Kindship Studio Workshop and Panel Series “The Director’s Role: Pre Through Post” ALL PASSHOLDERS WELCOME</div>
	<div>11:15am</div> <div>Zzaslow K-427 (79 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</div>	<div>11:15am</div> <div>The French Italian (92 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</div>	<div>11:15am</div> <div>Really Me (76 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THIS FILM ON PG 16</div>	<div>11:15am</div> <div>Love... And Other Bizarre Concepts (99 mins) <i>Rated R</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 18</div>	<div>11:15am</div> <div>Kindship Studio Workshop and Panel Series “In On The Action with 5150” ALL PASSHOLDERS WELCOME</div>
1:30pm	<div>1:30pm</div> <div>This Beautiful Life (89 mins) <i>Rated PG</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 22</div>	<div>1:30pm</div> <div>The Travel Companion <i>Rated PG-13</i> Preceded by In The Event Of (96 mins total) DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 17</div>	<div>1:30pm</div> <div>With Friends Like These (94 mins) <i>Rated R</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 19</div>	<div>1:30pm</div> <div>Vietnam, One Man’s Story: 50 Years in the Making (105 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</div>	<div>12:30pm</div> <div>Kindship Studio Workshop and Panel Series “The Future of the Industry” ALL PASSHOLDERS WELCOME</div>
	<div>3:45pm</div> <div>The Librarians (92 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</div>	<div>3:45pm</div> <div>Makers on the Tide (42 mins) <i>Rated PG</i> DESCRIPTION OF THIS FILM ON PG 16</div>	<div>3:45pm</div> <div>Animation Destination (52 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 25</div>	<div>4:00pm</div> <div>The Ice Cream Man (29 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THIS FILM ON PG 17</div>	<div>5:00pm - 8:00pm</div> <div>Kiwanis Party PRIVATE EVENT FOR VIP, FILMMAKERS AND VOLUNTEERS ONLY</div>
6:00pm	<div>6:00pm</div> <div>Washington Docs (87 mins) <i>Rated PG</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 25</div>	<div>6:00pm</div> <div>The Rad Batch (95 mins) <i>Rated R</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 26</div>	<div>6:00pm</div> <div>Climbing Into Life (52 mins) <i>Rated PG</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THIS FILM ON PG 16</div>	<div>6:00pm</div> <div>To Be Human (94 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 21</div>	<div>10:00pm</div> <div>Afterparty at O’Looney’s ALL PASSHOLDERS WELCOME</div>
	<div>8:15pm</div> <div>Gunslingers Preceded by Ellie (115 mins total) <i>Rated R</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 16</div>	<div>8:15pm</div> <div>OMG!!! (97 mins) <i>Rated R</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 27</div>	<div>8:15pm</div> <div>What’s Up Doc? (90 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 23</div>	<div>8:15pm</div> <div>It’s All Relative (94 mins) <i>Rated PG-13</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 20</div>	<div>8:15pm</div> <div>Gunslingers Preceded by Ellie (115 mins total) <i>Rated R</i> DESCRIPTORS OF THESE FILMS ON PG 16</div>

**FOR FILM DESCRIPTIONS, PLEASE
SEE PAGES 16 THROUGH 27**

Feature Film

Short Film Block

VIP and/or Filmmaker Event

IMAX (cap. 294)
SPECIAL EVENTS

9:00am	9:00am "It's A Wrap!" Mimosa Breakfast (IMAX lobby) <small>PRIVATE EVENT FOR VIP AND FILMMAKERS ONLY</small>
	9:45am Awards Ceremony <small>ALL PASSHOLDERS WELCOME</small>

THEATRE 6 (cap. 128)
Sponsored By: SoundBridge
Center for Dental Arts

11:15am/11:30am	11:30am Fest Faves - Feature Film #1
	2:00pm Fest Faves - Shorts Block #2
1:45pm/2:00pm	11:15am Fest Faves - Shorts Block #1
	1:45pm Fest Faves - Feature Film #2

THEATRE 10 (cap. 109)
Sponsored By:
BBQ2U

FOR FILM DESCRIPTIONS, PLEASE
SEE PAGES 16 THROUGH 27

Feature Film

Short Film Block

VIP and/or Filmmaker Event

NEW!

WORKSHOP AND PANEL SERIES FOR FILMMAKERS AND FILM FANS!

Saturday, September 27 10:00am, 11:15am, 12:30pm

The Kindship Studio (4793 Point Fosdick Dr #200, Gig Harbor)



This year, our expanded workshop series is open to all passholders! Join us for a morning of engaging, behind-the-scenes insight from working professionals across the filmmaking spectrum.

10:00am-11:00am: THE DIRECTOR'S ROLE, PRE THROUGH POST

Join prolific film and television director **Tamra Davis** (Grey's Anatomy, Dead to Me) for an interactive workshop that demystifies the director's role from pre-production through post. Explore how to build a scene, direct actors, and foster collaboration and leadership on set.

11:15am-12:15pm: IN ON THE ACTION WITH 5150

Step into the adrenaline-fueled world of stunt filmmaking with **Vinny O'Brien**, a key member of Hollywood's legendary 5150 Action Team (Bad Boys, Transformers, Fast & Furious, Jack Ryan). From guns and explosions to drift driving and fire stunts, Vinny shares the secrets of designing, directing, and executing jaw-dropping action sequences.

12:30pm-1:30pm: THE FUTURE OF THE INDUSTRY

Discover how emerging technologies and shifting creative landscapes are shaping the entertainment world.

This lively panel features writer/director **Brian Skiba** (Gunslingers), actress/producer **Laurie Love** (Pursuit), director **Tamra Davis** (Grey's Anatomy), action director/stuntman **Vinny O'Brien** (Twisters), and AI innovator **Aisha Martin** (Escape Media).

OPEN TO ALL PASSHOLDERS!





GIG HARBOR PREMIERE
FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Bob Mackie: Naked Illusion *Rated PG-13*

Directed by: Matthew Miele
104 mins | USA

THURS 6:30PM | FRI 8:15PM

This enthralling documentary chronicles the journey of one of fashion's most iconic figures, renowned for his daring, boundary-pushing designs. Naked Illusion is not just a tribute to one of the greatest costume designers of our time -- it is a tribute to the timeless artistry of costume design and the transformative power of fashion. Featuring interviews with Cher, Miley Cyrus, Carol Burnett and more, the film offers an intimate portrait of Mackie -- exploring his unique upbringing and the inner circle that shaped him and the optimism and boldness that define his groundbreaking work.



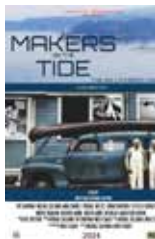
WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Climbing Into Life *Rated PG*

Directed by: Melissa J Davey
52 mins | USA

FRI 9:00AM | SAT 6:00PM

Dierdre Wolownick is the oldest woman to ascend El Capitan in Yosemite. Never an athlete, she excelled in languages, art, music and other intellectual pursuits. In her 60's she began running and climbing out of curiosity. Her son, Alex Honnold of the film Free Solo, was her mentor. Dierdre proves that we are never too old to try something new.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE
MAKERS ON THE TIDE *Rated PG*

Directed by: Mick Flaaen & Michael Sean Sullivan
42 mins | Made in Washington

FRI 9:00AM | SAT 3:45PM

This documentary about the Willits Bros Canoe Co. covers the careers and canoes that Floyd and Earl Willits made for over 50 years from their factory on Day Island. The handcrafted red cedar canoes have become some of the most sought after watercraft in the world. With less than a thousand made and beautifully made by hand, the Willits Bros were true artisans. With interviews from historian Michael Sullivan, Willits Bros author Pat Chapman, Puyallup tribal elder Robert Satiacum, as well as Girl Scouts of Western WA, collectors and family members this film explores the era of wooden canoes and craftsmanship and the legacy of these two brothers.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE
FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Gunslingers *Rated R for bloody violence and language*

Directed by: Brian Skiba
104 mins | USA

SAT 8:15PM | THEATRES 6 & 9

In a town named Redemption, reformed gunslinger Keller (as played by local actor Jeremy Kent Jackson) and mad genius Ben are guided by spiritual leader Jericho towards vindication. While confronting their violent histories, their newfound peace is challenged by violence and revenge.

PRECEDED BY:



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

ELLIE *Rated R*

Directed by: Vinny O'Brien | 11 mins | USA

A father, pursued by ruthless foes, uses games to distract his daughter from danger, inadvertently preparing her for their perilous journey. He relies on resourcefulness to protect her and strengthen their bond.



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Finding Musana *Rated PG-13*

Directed by: Jim W Hanon
94 mins | USA/Uganda

FRI 6:00PM | SAT 9:00AM

A young Ugandan and a Colorado intern discover firsthand how charity models in Africa can create exploitation and dependence. Together with unexpected partners, they develop a model of local ownership and microenterprise that could forever shift how the West views poverty relief.



WORLD PREMIERE
FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Really Me *Rated PG-13*

Directed by: Andy Yardy & Andrea Groenink
76 mins | USA

FRI 8:15PM | SAT 11:15AM

Really Me is an intimate glimpse into a family's gender transition journey, told through moments of self-discovery, grief, and acceptance. A touching testament to finding peace in authenticity, while navigating faith, questioning, and self-acceptance.

Really Me: The Diary of a Soul in Transition unfolds through intimate video diaries from Megan, a trans femme discovering her authentic self. Her wife Kari, trans daughter, and son share the journey but it's Megan's vulnerable chronicles of faith questioning and self-acceptance that form this film's emotional core. Through her eyes, we witness the complex journey of her first 18 months of transition, capturing the beauty of transformation and the courage to live truthfully.

2025 FILMS ~ FEATURE FILMS CONTINUED



WA STATE PREMIERE

The Courageous *Rated PG-13*

Directed by: Jasmin Gordon

80 mins | Switzerland

FRI 6:00PM | SAT 9:00AM

In a small town on the edge of wild country, an eccentric and delinquent mother has had enough of the rules. Crushed by her mistakes and by a society that doesn't give a damn – or a second chance – to people like her, she'll do anything to prove to her children, and to herself, that she still is a good person.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

The Ice Cream Man *Rated PG-13*

Directed by: Robert Moniot

29 mins | USA

FRI 11:30AM | SAT 4:00PM

Shortly after the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands, a popular ice cream shop owner, Ernst Cahn, finds himself targeted by the infamous "Butcher of Lyon," Klaus Barbie. As his world crumbles, "The Ice Cream Man" must choose between resistance and death, a choice that will reverberate throughout the country. Based on actual events.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

The Travel Companion *Rated PG-13*

Directed by: Travis Wood & Alex Mallis

89 mins | USA

FRI 11:15AM | SAT 1:30PM

A documentary filmmaker depends on his friend's airline employee benefits for free flights. When the friend finds a girlfriend, he desperately tries to preserve his travel privileges.

PRECEDED BY:



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

In The Event Of

Directed by: Natalie Lynch | 7 mins | USA

May we please have your attention for a short but important safety video that could just save your life, as planes are falling out of the sky all the time right now. A new informational comedy from the over-caFFEINATED minds of Natalie Lynch and Tara Jayn.



WA STATE PREMIERE

The French Italian *Rated PG-13*

Directed by: Rachel Wolther

92 mins | USA

FRI 1:30PM | SAT 11:15AM

A comedy about a New York couple (Cat Cohen & Aristotle Athari) who become obsessed with their loud downstairs neighbors (Chloe Cherry & Jon Rudnitsky). When they find out one is an actress, they contrive a fake play in order to get revenge.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

The Librarians *Rated PG-13*

Directed by: Kim Snyder

92 mins | USA

FRI 1:30PM | SAT 3:45PM

Librarians unite to combat book banning, defending intellectual freedom on democracy's frontlines amid unprecedented censorship in Texas, Florida, and beyond.



WORLD PREMIERE

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Vietnam, One Man's Story: 50 Years in the Making *Rated PG-13*

Directed by: Michael Mitchell

105 mins | Made in Washington

FRI 9:00AM | SAT 1:30PM

Local Vietnam veteran Michael Mitchell created this documentary about the war in Vietnam as a tool to support fellow veterans struggling with PTSD. Using music as reference points, he draws on his own experiences to explore the challenges of returning to everyday life with family, friends, and loved ones.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

Zurawski v Texas *Rated PG-13*

Directed by: Maisie Crowe & Abbie Perrault

99 mins | USA

FRI 6:00PM | SAT 9:00AM

A group of women denied abortions, even at the brink of death, band together with a fearless attorney to sue the state of Texas in an extraordinary effort to regain their rights and reproductive futures — not only for themselves but millions of others.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Zzaslow K-427 *Rated PG-13*

Directed by: Robert Ham

79 mins | USA

FRI 3:45PM | SAT 11:15AM

Zzaslow K-427, honors the remarkable service of the longest tenured bomb-sniffing dog to ever serve in the U.S. Army, and how this unassuming black Labrador retriever saved lives, both on and off the battlefield, healing humans in extraordinary ways that are completely unexpected.

2025 FILMS ~ Love ... and Other Bizarre Concepts - Short films showcasing the complexities of love and romance (96 mins, Rated R)

FRI 3:45PM | SAT 11:15AM

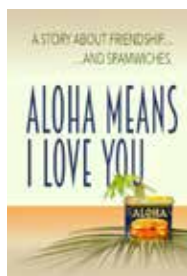


WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Sexy Grandma

Directed by: Jonathan Wolfe
15 min | USA

When a widowed grandmother is challenged by her gay grandson to start online dating, she must reignite her passion for life and overcome a painful secret if she hopes to find love once again.

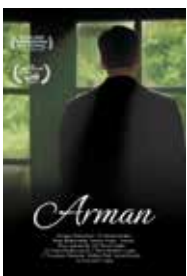


WA STATE PREMIERE

Aloha Means I Love You

Directed by: Katy Dore
6 min | USA

Clara and Bertie have been friends for nearly 60 years, but when Clara wants to add a new man into the mix, Bertie's devotion to her friend is tested.



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Arman

Directed by: Farzad Kiyafar
12 min | Made in Washington

Feeling overwhelmed and isolated on the day of his wedding, Arman, a gay closeted immigrant, has to lie to his family on the phone about his marriage in the U.S. Moments before walking down the aisle, he is uncertain how to move forward.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Infinity!

Directed by: Benjamin To
11 min | USA

A famous Japanese American ballroom dance duo must choose between their passion or their lives as WWII concentration camps begin to rise in the U.S.



WA STATE PREMIERE

Hearts of Stone

Directed by: Tom Van Avermaet
30 min | Belgium/Croatia

In the heart of a bustling metropolis, Paula, a lonely street artist, entertains people as a living statue. She longs with an impossible love for Agatha, a stone sculpture next to which she can be found every day. One day, when reaching her familiar spot, she finds her stone companion replaced by an abstract, modern sculpture. After a frantic search, she discovers Agatha cast aside amidst a group of discarded, classical statues who have lost their place in the modernising sculpture park. As the sun sets, Paula finds herself trying to wake the lonely statue from her stone slumber.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

An Almost Successful Dating App Love Story

Directed by: Winter Coleman
12 min | USA

A curious young woman attends the funeral of a man she "matched" with on a dating app.



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

The Fires We Play With

Directed by: Paulina Manseau
10 min | USA

A married couple navigates the complexities of love and desire in a world where technology blurs the lines between fantasy and reality.

2025 FILMS ~ **With Friends Like These** - Friendship runs deep in this collection of short films (94 mins, Rated R)

FRI 8:15PM | SAT 1:30PM



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

An Old Friend

Directed by: Nuk Suwanchote
14 min | Made in Washington

An imaginary friend (Jason Faunt) finds out his sole purpose is to bring happiness to his child, only to discover his child is a 90 year old man (Tom Skerritt) on his death bed.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

The Bissell

Directed by: Rachid Karim Chatti
7 min | USA

Linda hosts a dinner party to show off her new Persian rug. Scott asks for red wine with his Branzino and accidentally spills it all over the new rug. Linda is inconsolable so Scott asks if she owns a Bissell to get the stain out. She tells him that she doesn't, causing all of the party guests to turn on her.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

i hope you're happy.

Directed by: Gretchen Mahkorn
14 min | USA

Under the shadow of the opioid crisis, four friends come together to grieve the loss of their friend to addiction. When more is revealed, tensions run high and anger and blame are reckoned with.



WORLD PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Soccer Mommies

Directed by: David Bradburn
3 min | USA

Two friends enjoy a gossip and game of soccer.



WORLD PREMIERE

Ranch Hands

Directed by: Stefan Hajek
15 min | Made in Washington

Ren and Matt are bunkmates, workmates, and playmates for life, but when the matriarch of the farm on which they work and live winds up in Matt's bed, it hastens a proposal that Ren has for them to buck the system. But when Matt hears the plan, his resistance sends their relationship into a tailspin that threatens their lifelong connection. Inspired by "They Fell," a piece from the play "Almost, Maine" by John Cariani, Ranch Hands tests the concepts of traditional relationships and all the institutional expectations surrounding them. Filmed in Oregon City, OR and Baring, WA.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Drifting

Directed by: Samantha Aben
9 min | USA

DOMINIC, charming yet unmotivated to grow out of his childish ways, waits for his estranged high school friend MAC outside of the roller rink they frequented when they were kids. Optimistic at the assumption the duo will revert to the dynamic they once had, it quickly becomes clear that the two have grown in separate directions. Once Dominic learns of Mac's imminent move due to a new job, he accepts friendships aren't meant to last forever.



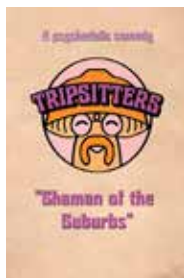
WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Extended Warranty

Directed by: Tess Sullivan & Sara Carpenter
15 min | USA

When her forever friend malfunctions without an extended warranty, Ledy puts her faith in human connection in the hands of a customer service representative.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

Tripsitters

Directed by: Al Granstrom & Lucas Montgomery
16 min | Made in Washington

A psychedelic, lo-fi comedy short about two drug-babysitters who, after bickering on the job, scare their mushroom-tripping client into the woods, forcing them to find the poor guy.



WA STATE PREMIERE

Spit It Out

Directed by: Ray Sisters
16 min | Made in Washington

A father (Eric Roberts) enthusiastically shares his DNA ancestry test results with his family. What could go wrong? Everything.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE – Q&A AFTER FILM

Such A Pretty Girl

Directed by: Deborah Puette
6 min | USA

Meg has returned to her childhood home to help her aging father. But when her twelve-year-old uncovers a long-forgotten relic from her past, Meg must decide in a matter of moments who she'll protect: her parent or her child.



FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE – Q&A AFTER FILM

Liz Lays an Egg

Directed by: Elizabeth Archer
10 min | USA

Liz and Noah are excited to become new parents, but Liz's world is flipped upside-down when she gives birth to a very large egg. Through a mix of humor, surrealism, and heartfelt moments, Liz Lays an Egg explores the first moments of motherhood and postpartum through an original lens, challenging stereotypes and celebrating the messy, imperfect reality of motherhood.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE – Q&A AFTER FILM

Kind Mother

Directed by: Clare O'Connor
15 min | Made in Washington

An estranged mother arrives at the silent retreat that her daughter is attending. When the two women engage in an unusual – and fantastical – power struggle, limits are tested, generational trauma is brought to light, and together they must grapple with mortality and forgiveness.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE – Q&A AFTER FILM

Once More, Like Rain Man

Directed by: Sue Ann Pien
15 min | USA

'It's up to you to make a future that has you in it...' We follow Zoe (Martinez) and her dad, Gerry (Jones), in a 'day in the life' of an autistic actress running the gambit of stereotypes she has to deal with – and her dad's battle in supporting her forging that path for herself – in a funny, frustrating, painful and sometimes triumphantly sarcastic kind of way.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE – Q&A AFTER FILM

You Mean The World To Me

Directed by: William Morgan
13 min | Made in Washington

Two brothers embark on one last adventure to watch a screening of their favorite childhood movie before the older one leaves home to attend an elite academy.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE – Q&A AFTER FILM

What It's Like To Be Okay

Directed by: Noah Bean
19 min | USA

When struggling actor Terry Moore puts his career before his family, he must find a way to make amends for his mistake and reconnect with his heartbroken daughter.

2025 FILMS ~ To Be Human - Dramatic short films that examine the human condition (94 mins, Rated PG-13)

FRI 1:30PM | SAT 6:00PM



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Obit

Directed by: Ben Tedesco
23 min | USA

An introverted, lonely, obituary writer deals with mortality in her own way, while navigating her own unfulfilled life.



WA STATE PREMIERE

June Bug

Directed by: Kyle Sawyer
13 min | Canada

June Bug is about an elderly woman whose failing eyesight forces her to come to terms with the fact that she'll never be able to drive her beloved 1959 VW Beetle again. As her health declines, her refusal to adapt to her new reality puts growing strain on her adult son (and reluctant caretaker), and ultimately, all it takes is a fond shared memory to break through the barriers they have put up.



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

The Intention Invention

Directed by: R.J. Sullivan
4 min | USA

An idealistic inventor develops a technology capable of detecting the true intentions of anyone it targets.



WA STATE PREMIERE

Susana

Directed by: Gerardo Coello Escalante & Amandine Thomas
16 min | Mexico

Susan, a middle-aged American tourist, finds herself alone in Mexico City. When she encounters a group of young Americans, she jumps at the opportunity for a little adventure, discovering just how powerful her dollars can make her.



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Discount Doug

Directed by: Joshua Nathan
10 min | USA

Douglas Buckles, better known by his professional alias, Discount Doug around California's San Joaquin Valley, is a prominent radio voice actor for local car dealership ads. However, when Doug falters during his biggest job of the year - recording for the 'New Year's Eve Super Sale Event, advertisement at Todd Diepenbrock's Cars, Trucks, Vans, and SUVs, Doug's entire career - and more - is called into question.



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

A Guest In My Country

Directed by: John Gray
15 min | USA

An immigrant Uber driver takes an upscale couple across town, and the drama that unfolds among them reveals truths they all would have preferred stayed hidden.



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

May I Put You On Hold?

Directed by: Ash Blodgett
13 min | USA

While dealing with telephone customer service, Liz is accidentally transferred to the Afterlife. Now, stuck between death and hold music, Liz must outwit cosmic bureaucracy and discover what really matters, if she wants to get back to the land of the living.



WA STATE PREMIERE

The Candy Factory

Directed by: Cory Jacobs & Jason Schmidt
20 min | USA

A turn-of-the-century former candy factory in Brooklyn is more than just a space for artists to create — it's a tender ecosystem held together by the particular, magnetic force of the building's owner.



WA STATE PREMIERE

The Bird In My Backyard

Directed by: Ryan Wilkes
20 min | Canada

In an urban backyard on Canada's West Coast, a window salesman has created a living laboratory for investigating hummingbird behaviour. The Bird in My Backyard follows citizen scientist, Eric Pittman, as he documents the journeys of two female Anna's hummingbirds as they attempt to raise their young in his urban garden. It's a story about the childlike curiosity in all of us, the wonders it can reveal and the doors it can open if we just lean in a bit closer.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

Glass Quest

Directed by: Georgia Krause
12 min | Made in Washington

Every year in the forests of the Pacific Northwest, adventure seekers from across the nation gather to compete in the Northwest Glass Quest. This fantasy-documentary is inspired by the magic of the Pacific Northwest region and the fantastical beauty of life itself. One part love letter to Washington and another an exploration of how the genre of fantasy can fit into the format of documentary, Glass Quest is an innovative take on exploring the magic within our own reality.



US PREMIERE

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

LITTLE MATCHMAKERS

Directed by: Rachel Borders | 12 mins | USA

Summer and Sienna's grandfather has been lonely since their grandmother passed away. The girls decide to find him a new match, which includes sneaking into a senior speed dating event.



WORLD PREMIERE

Different All My Life

Directed by: Justin R MacFayden
7 min | USA

The inspiring story of Sherry, a talented singer whose life has been defined by perseverance and courage in the face of adversity.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

TEN TIMES BETTER

Directed by: Jennifer Rita Lin
30 min | USA

Driven by his refugee mother to be "ten times better" in white America, George Lee is the quintessential invisible immigrant with an extraordinary past. The 88-year-old blackjack dealer in Vegas, who grew up in Shanghai studying ballet with Russian emigres, was handpicked by George Balanchine to originate the Chinese dance in the choreographer's 1954 premiere of The Nutcracker. He was persuaded by Gene Kelly to try Broadway in the original Flower Drum Song -- pioneering tales of an early AAPI dancer who no one knows. Until now.



WA STATE PREMIERE

Mother of Portland

Directed by: Kyle Tobin LaMontagne

6 min | USA

A gritty glimpse inside the kitchen of one of the most beloved restaurants in Portland and the wild, ambitious, and heroic life of owner and head chef Lisa Schroeder. The inspiring story of this powerful woman and how she became a pillar in a Portland community that desperately needs



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

We Were The Scenery

Directed by: Christopher Radcliff

14 min | USA/Canada/Vietnam

The story of Hoa Thi Le and Hue Nguyen Che, who, in 1975, after fleeing the Vietnam War by boat and docking in the Philippines, were utilized as background extras in the filming of APOCALYPSE NOW.



WORLD PREMIERE

On Homesteading

Directed by: Nathan Keowen

13 min | USA

After decades of building a life in rural Annapolis, two aging hippies come to terms with the prospect of leaving their homestead as they face growing physical challenges of age.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Destroy All Humans

Directed by: Phillip Lybrand

27 min | USA

A documentary short about AI in art + media, the death of shared culture, and how I accidentally made the first AI-generated rock album.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Capacity In Reserve

Directed by: Brandon Harrop

29 min | USA

In Capacity In Reserve, Rob Spencer's life is forever changed after a tragic car accident leaves him with complete amnesia — 23 years of memories wiped away. Without an identity or a past to guide him, Rob's resilience and unshakable spirit lead him on a path of remarkable accomplishments.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

View From The Floor

Directed by: Megan Griffiths & Mindie Lind

5 min | Made in Washington

In pursuit of a life on stage, a singer without legs confronts exploitation and imposter syndrome as she chases her dreams and those around her chase inspiration porn.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Body Buddies

Directed by: Tommy Heffernan

3 min | Made in Washington

An engagement photographer and a mobster are forced to work together in order to save their skins.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Jet Lag

Directed by: Kacey Morrow & Dustin Morrow

5 min | Made in Washington

Using frame-by-frame rotoscope animation and the stylized aesthetic of classical airline safety brochures, the short film adapts Christopher Schaberg's acclaimed nonfiction book "Airportness: The Nature of Flight" for the screen.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

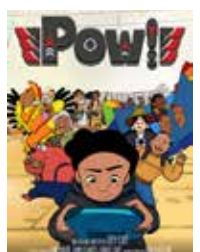
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

A Fateful Weekend

Directed by: Tony Doupe

13 min | Made in Washington

The weekend of JFK's assassination as seen through the eyes of a seven-year-old boy.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

Pow!

Directed by: Joey Clift

8 min | Made in Washington

A Native American kid scrambles to charge his dying video game console at a bustling intertribal powwow.



WORLD PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Float and Fly

Directed by: Kristalyn Simler & Kristian "Joey" Hawkins

13 min | Made in Washington

Silvia, a spirited youngster, loves spending time with her abuelo on his boat, yet she dreams of flying high in the sky. As she struggles with reading, she must find the courage to overcome her challenges and soar toward her ambitions.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

The Stranger

Directed by: Rachel Taggart

13 min | Made in Washington

A witness on the run. A stranger in pursuit. A seedy motel at the center of it all. Who's predator? Who's prey? And who else is involved?



WORLD PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Axed

Directed by: Kent Loomer

6 min | Made in Washington

Each year, a killer emerges from the shadows to unleash a series of brutal, symbolic murders — always precise, always unsolved. When a determined FBI profiler joins two burned-out detectives on the trail, they uncover a chilling pattern and go after the predator who kills with purpose and vanishes without a trace.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Charlotte, 1994

Directed by: Brian Pittala

16 min | Made in Washington

A dramatic short film about a young woman (Charlotte) who gets a surprise visit at work from her younger sister (Sydney) who has come looking for answers to a growing rift in their family. It's a drama about the connection between sisters and the pain some people have to go through just to be themselves in the world.



WORLD PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

The Graves

Directed by: Colin Simpson

12 min | Made in Washington

A young woman returns to her childhood home and learns her mother's passing wasn't an accident.

2025 FILMS ~ Washington Docs - Homegrown documentary shorts (87 mins, Rated PG)

FRI 9:00AM | SAT 6:00PM

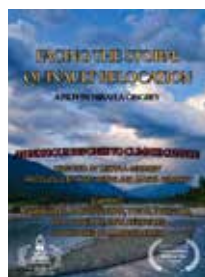


FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Echos of the Sound: The Story of Hugo and the Southern Resident Orcas

Directed by: Emma Stafki & Annie Stafki
30 min | Made in Washington

In 1968, a young orca named Hugo was torn from his family in Vaughn Bay and sold to an aquarium, forever altering his fate and that of his pod. "Echos of the Sound" chronicles Hugo's heart-wrenching journey from the wild to captivity, revealing the deep emotional and ecological toll.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

Facing The Storm: Quinault Relocation

Directed by: Mikayla Gingrey
18 min | Made in Washington

"Facing The Storm: Quinault Relocation", embarks on the journey of the Quinault Indian Nation to relocate their tribe from ancestral lands.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Loki Pete

Directed by: BJ Bullert
25 min | Made in Washington

A portrait of resilience, fisherman Pete Knutson navigates the turbulent waters of Alaska and the market.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Neah Bay: Restoring Ancestral Waters

Directed by: Nancy Donnelly
14 min | Made in Washington

For thousands of years Makah Tribal fishermen like Robert Moss hunted for traditional foods in the waters of Washington's Neah Bay. But today thousands of tons of marine debris literally loom over the Makah Tribe's ancestral waters, threatening to choke the waters that sustained these self-described ocean hunters' families for generations.

2025 FILMS ~ Animation Destination - animated shorts from around the world (52 mins, Rated PG-13)

FRI 6:00PM | SAT 3:45PM



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

Inkwo for When the Starving Return

Directed by: Amanda Strong
18 min | Canada

Dove, a gender-shifting warrior, uses their Indigenous medicine (Inkwo) to protect their community from an unburied swarm of terrifying creatures.



WA STATE PREMIERE

Caries

Directed by: Aline Höchli
10 min | Switzerland

Eager to create a monumental work of art, a shaman remains blissfully unaware that she is painting her murals inside the mouth of a vain weather presenter.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

Flower Show

Directed by: Elli Vuorinen
8 min | Finland

Girls have been cultivated like flowers for generations. We need more growing seasons to breed new ways into the system.



WA STATE PREMIERE

Field Recording

Directed by: Quinne Larsen
2 min | USA

A meandering joke about three dreams. Recorded in English and chinuk wawa, an Indigenous language of the Columbia River.



WA STATE PREMIERE

TV or The Disturbance of Forest Hill Road

Directed by: Frederic Siegel
14 min | Switzerland

Six-year-old Diego exceeds his screen time and ends up with square eyes.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

Em & Selma Go Griffin Hunting

Directed by: Alexander Thompson

15 min | USA

An allegorical 1930's-set fable about mothers and daughters and the beasts they hunt.



WA STATE PREMIERE

Somebody Cares

Directed by: Julien Lasseur

5 min | USA

A deadbeat brother finally finds compassion from his grumpy sister moments before being catapulted through the air by a 4-wheel drive Bronco.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

Hurikán

Directed by: Jan Saska

13 min | Czech Republic

Hurikán rushes to save his favorite beer stand from closure by fetching a new keg to impress the bartender he crushes on. In a wild Prague district, he faces robbers, cops, and his own thirst.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

easybake

Directed by: Sasha Duncan

11 min | Canada

After consuming a clay sculpture, an insecure teen wakes with the ability to sculpt her own body, leading to an obsessive pursuit of "perfection".



WA STATE PREMIERE

The Idea

Directed by: Henry Chastain

9 min | USA

A bored couple's fascination with spying on their younger neighbors blurs the line between curiosity and intrusion.



WA STATE PREMIERE

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

But I'm A Shoe

Directed by: Chen Drachman

12 min | USA

This is the story of a woman who wanted to fly comfortably, so she used a new service called "Objectified Travel" just to be reminded that the grass isn't always greener.



WORLD PREMIERE

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Softboy

Directed by: Tommy Meisel

12 min | Made in Washington

A hopeless romantic goes to extraordinary lengths to make sure a first date is a success.



GIG HARBOR PREMIERE

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

The Open Door

Directed by: Dean Ronalds

12 min | USA

An all-star cast, high production value and a "must-see" ending drive this incredible adaptation of the famous short story "The Open Window" by H. H. Munro. A short film set in 1918, THE OPEN DOOR tells the story of Framton Nuttel who is sent to the countryside by his physicians in order to calm his nerves. It is there he meets a young girl, Mae, who begins to share the eerie secrets of this small town. Starring DJ Qualls (Ever Love Hope) with C. Thomas Howell and Penelope Ann Miller.



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Bronze

Directed by: Corey Benson Powers
7 min | USA

Wine, sun, and a good book: the perfect ingredients for Tori to relax in her yard on a beautiful summer day. Spurred by a flirtatious message, Tori launches into an impromptu photo shoot – unaware that she has an audience.



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Death is a Favor

Directed by: Cecilia Kim
10 min | USA

Drew has had it with her 93-year-old mother-in-law, Nai Nai, who seems to have a vendetta against her and dead set on ruining her marriage to her husband Jack. How much more can Drew take before she snaps?



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

The Unquiet Dead

Directed by: John Gray
12 min | USA

A therapist treats an unstable young woman who claims to be harassed by an assortment of malevolent spirits – who are demanding something from her.



US PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Freakin' Weekend

Directed by: David Bradburn
6 min | USA

A horror movie spoof about a couple trying to decide what to do for the weekend.



WA STATE PREMIERE
The Things We Keep

Directed by: Joanna Fernandez
15 min | USA

When Kate receives word her estranged mother is unable to take care of herself, she reluctantly returns to pack up her mom's house and send her to a nursing home.



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

Slush

Directed by: Ashley Monique George
17 min | USA

Frankie reunites with her toxic community and must tap into her dark side to survive unscathed.



WA STATE PREMIERE

Taga

Directed by: Jill Sachs
18 min | USA

Vivi, a third-culture Filipina-American, travels to the Philippines to reconnect with her roots, but falls in with a group of Western eco-volunteers. When they scorn the customs of a remote mountain village, an ancient evil comes knocking.



WA STATE PREMIERE
FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE - Q&A AFTER FILM

A Good Death

Directed by: Kaz PS
11 min | USA

When a devoted death doula arrives at the home of her new clients, she immediately begins to suspect that something is very wrong.



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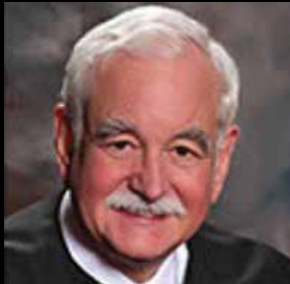
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Photo Credit: Angie Mitchell
Photo Credit: Tom Collins

Interested in volunteering for the 2026 Festival? Reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Kim Hansen, at volunteercoordinator@gigharborfilmfestival.org



IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARTY THACKER

Founder & Executive Director, Gig Harbor Film Festival

With vision, passion, and an unwavering dedication to the arts, Marty Thacker helped bring a dream to life. In 2007, alongside a small group of film lovers and community supporters, Marty founded the Gig Harbor Film Festival, building on the dream first imagined by former City Councilwoman Marilyn Owel.

Over the years, Marty transformed that vision into a thriving event that not only brought world-class films to our community but also created a stage for stories that matter. From documentaries exploring urgent global issues to the inspiring works of young filmmakers, the festival under Marty's leadership became a cultural cornerstone of Gig Harbor.

Marty was never bashful about reaching out to big names in the industry, even contacting Robert Redford in 2013. Her persistence and charm brought notable guests to the festival, including David DePatie (Pink Panther), Hal Linden (Barney Miller), Walter Mirisch (producer of West Side Story, Some Like It Hot), and Karen Black (Easy Rider, The Great Gatsby). In 2011, the legendary Julie Andrews attended a screening of Victor Victoria, and actor Josh Lucas also made an appearance in 2012, bringing star power and excitement to the community.

For eight years as Executive Director, Marty's warm spirit, creative vision, and relentless belief in the power of film touched countless lives. She gave Gig Harbor not just a festival, but a celebration of storytelling, art, and shared humanity.

We express our deepest gratitude for her remarkable contributions. Marty leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire audiences, filmmakers, and the community for years to come. Marty will be deeply missed, but her light will continue to shine through the community she helped create.

Please join us at the Awards Ceremony on Sunday, September 28 at 9:45am as we honor Marty's legacy during our program. For the first time, we will be recognizing outstanding filmmakers with cash awards on behalf of the newly-established Annual Legacy Awards program dedicated to Marty's vision. She would be so proud!

***Thank you, Marty, for making the stories happen—and for making
our own community's story richer and more vibrant.***





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