



# 2024 FORT MYERS FILM FESTIVAL

May 22-26, 2024



OFFICIAL GUIDE

*www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com*  
*www.sbdac.com*

# Events

The Fort Myers Film Festival's 14th annual is set to take place from May 22-26, 2024, in and around SWFL at venues including the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, IMAG, Alliance for the Arts, BIG ARTS, Broadway Palm Dinner Theater, Luminary Hotel, Banyan Hotel and more.

■ **May 22: "Hellbent on Boogie"** will kick off this year's festivities at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center with a star-studded red carpet rollout reception on **Wednesday, May 22**. The red carpet rollout starts at **6 p.m.** The movie begins at **7 p.m.** An afterparty will take place on the rooftop of SBDAC. The event will include high fashion, drinks, dancing, music, and filmmakers attending from around the world.

The film was completely shot in Florida and is directed and produced by **Vito Trupiano**, executive produced by **K.C. Schulberg**, and stars **Shiloh Fernandez, Emily Tremaine Fernandez, Ryan Ramirez, and John Farley**. Stars from the event will attend a private reception before the screening and will be present for a Q&A afterward. The night will feature champagne toasts, paparazzi, delicious treats for VIP attendees, and an afterparty on the roof of the SBDAC with fun, dancing, and a night never to forget.

The Fort Myers Film Festival will be benefiting several nonprofits this year including **Florida Arts Inc., #KindLee, Raddatz Foundation, FODASA and Kimmie's Recovery Zone**.

■ **May 22-26:** Join us for all of the programming at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center and other event centers around town. Films and short film blocks are \$10 for the rest of the festival. Check social media for parties and updates.

■ **May 26:** Finish off the weeklong celebration with a filmmaker panel and discussion, champagne toast and awards ceremony starting at 5:30 p.m.

## Sipping With the Stars Soiree & Donor Private Reception FMFF Event Planned:

■ The exclusive party before the biggest film party of the year with the biggest stars of the week and benefit four great causes **May 22 from 5-6 p.m.** at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center.

Join this private donor reception hosted by **Cole Peacock and Gina Birch** with the stars from this year's official FMFF films from 5-6 p.m. in the Capital Gallery of the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center before the opening night red carpet reception and film. Rub shoulders, get your pictures with the stars, have amazing cocktails and food from **Jordan's** with desserts from **Aux Delicies** and an open bar with the featured drink of the night "Star Sipping" by **Captiva Spirits** in this intimate and private donor event to benefit **Florida Arts Inc., Raddatz Foundation, #KindLee, and FODASA**.

Leave with an experience of a lifetime, a souvenir cocktail glass, a FMFF t-shirt, swag bag and the satisfaction of helping the community here in Fort Myers.

Tickets can be purchased for \$250 for this event which includes the V.I.P. reception and ticket to see the opening night film downstairs (a \$100

value), as well as attend the afterparty on the rooftop Sidney's after the movie.

Don't miss this opportunity to get meet and greet the stars for this unforgettable 14th annual Fort Myers Film Festival.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com](http://www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com) and [www.sbdac.com](http://www.sbdac.com)

## About the Fort Myers Film Festival:

■ **WHAT:** The 14th Annual Fort Myers Film Festival

■ **WHEN:** May 22-26, 2024

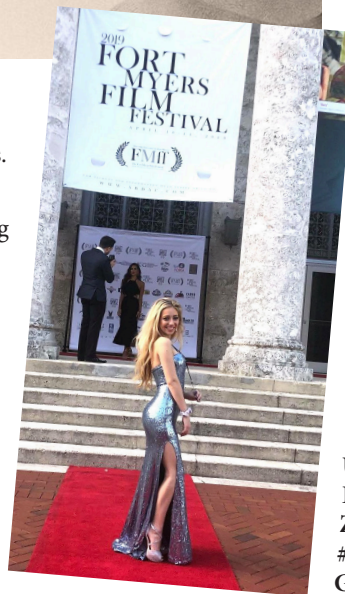
■ **WHERE:** Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, IMAG, Alliance for the Arts, BIG ARTS, Broadway Palm Theater, Babcock Ranch, Luminary Hotel, and more.

■ **TICKETS & INFO:** Opening night film is \$20 general admission or \$100 VIP party; Tickets for all other films are \$10. Some day passes will be offered for not sold out blocks for \$20. For tickets and more information, head to [www.sbdac.com/films](http://www.sbdac.com/films). VIP memberships are still available, granting access to all private and public parties, panels and screenings. For more information, head to [www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com](http://www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com). For screenings at partner venues, see their websites.

■ **ABOUT:** The Fort Myers Film Festival was awarded the prestigious 2015 Chrysalis Award for Cultural Achievement by the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau and the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce Inc. at its annual Celebration of Business & Tourism Awards Luncheon and Trade Show at the Harborside Event Center in downtown Fort Myers. The Fort Myers Film Festival was founded by Eric Raddatz, the award-winning editor of Florida Weekly, regular contributor for NBC-2 in Fort Myers, and host of Fort Myers Film Festival's indie film show, "T.G.I.M."

■ **SUPPORT:** The Fort Myers Film Festival supports Lee County student filmmakers, United Way, Raddatz Foundation, SalusCare, Lighthouse of SWFL, ACT, Kimmie's Recovery Zone, Uncommon Friends, Charity Pros, #KindLee, FODASA, Family Initiative and Golisano's Children's Hospital. Sponsored by and partnered with The Sidney & Berne Davis

Art Center, Happenings Magazine, Luminary Hotel, The Banyan, Gulfshore Life Magazine, NBC-2, Seed & Bean, Riverside Realty Group, Hilfiker Missions LLC, City of Fort Myers, Aux Delices Cafe, Jordan's, Outlier Brands, Downtown House of Pizza, UNIT A and Marcus Jansen Foundation, Starbucks, Babcock Ranch, Pamela Templeton Unlimited, Captiva Spirits, IMAG, J. Bert Davis, Clarity Certified Public Accountants, Kearns Restaurant Group, Black Tie Tuxedos, City Tavern, Martin Law Firm and the International Olympic Committee supported Fédération Internationale Cinéma Télévision Sportifs.



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# Welcome

**I**T FINALLY HAPPENED, ALMOST 170 YEARS after settlers and soldiers first built a fort on the Caloosahatchee River in 1841: an artist named Eric Raddatz rolled into Fort Myers in an old beater.

He started designing stories and covers for magazines and newspapers, making films as well as starting up news and media organizations. Then in a moment of passion, he conceived and inaugurated the first Fort Myers Film Festival.

That was 2010. Mr. Raddatz proved to be a winning lottery ticket of sorts, a man gifted at no charge to the entire region: He's a cinema devotee and authority described by pundit Tom Hall as "funny, irreverent, and controversial."

Mr. Hall might have added some other tags, too: Socially progressive, resilient, deeply curious about the world — Mr. Raddatz had escaped the choke-hold of a cultish upbringing that frowned on curiosity — and a workaholic.

His arrival was fortuitous for 1.3 million people now living in the Gulf coast counties of southwest Florida. Unbeknownst to them at first, the vibrant world of independent filmmaking was about to be introduced in full.

Nowadays, like a luck-struck lottery winner, the region is incalculably richer, awash in a king tide of cinematic culture. For 14 years that tide has risen dependably each spring with the festival when Mr. Raddatz introduces 90 or so new movies screened at the lodestone Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in downtown Fort Myers, and other nearby venues.

Minted by promising and sometimes star-bound talents, those movies create a cultural and economic muscle in the region difficult to measure. The festival itself provides something other events or art can't: not gallery-hung paintings or sculpture; not live-staged theater productions repeated night after night; not performance music of any genre; not books with their trains of little black words coupled one to another like railroad cars, all of them tracking in endlessly straight lines across inked pages or electronic screens. And not even — perhaps especially not even — Hollywood, with its big-picture, pop-film whimsies, its subject-matter restraints, and its peculiar industry economics.

Instead, nothing and no subject is off-limits at the Fort Myers Film Festival, where thousands of aficionados inherit the transformative power of travel and experience sometimes absorbed merely from a theater seat.

There's nothing else like this. And until the era of film that began just over a century ago, there never was in the history of humans.

The Festival's dramas and documentaries spring from the minds of men and women who either live in the region (a talent pool Mr. Raddatz insists on cultivating each year), or who make their lives and work in other national or international settings.



Films screened here have gone on to win or be nominated for some of the most prestigious awards in cinema. Among others, those include the Emmy and Peabody award winners as well as Oscar nominees, including "When I Walk," by filmmaker Jason DeSilva, showing the courageous six-year battle of a young man determined to live fully after his diagnosis with multiple sclerosis; the 2018 film "RBG," by Julie Cohen and Betsy West, an intimate look at the life of the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg; a film profiling the great writer Maya Angelou, "And Still I Rise," which Mr. Raddatz recruited after watching it at Sundance, as he did "RBG." Stars that have rolled into town to see their films play at the Fort Myers Film Festival have gone on to do even bigger films and things, including Edouard Philippe, photo on the cover, who starred just recently alongside Joaquin Phoenix in Ridley Scott's "Napoleon."

Many films have had their world premiere right here. One, "The Lost Film of Nuremberg," winner of the Fort Myers Film Festival's 2021 prize for Best Documentary, is now reverberating internationally.

French journalist and filmmaker Jean-Christophe Klotz, the director, traveled from Paris to Fort Myers to introduce it in Fort Myers, joined by Neapolitan resident K.C. Schulberg, a climate-change, human-rights activist and the Collier County Waterkeeper, and his sister Sandra Schulberg, a Columbia University adjunct professor who co-authored a book, "The Celluloid Noose," with her uncle, Budd Schulberg, before his death in 2009.

The book details Budd's search in 1945 with his brother Stuart, the father of Sandra and K.C., for film and photo evidence of the Holocaust. The Germans were hastily trying to destroy the evidence, and they succeeded in forever hiding much of it from the world. But the Schulberg brothers, both assigned to the Army while serving in the OSS, the military's intelligence service, tracked down gruesome film and photos of the German genocide of Jews, gypsies and others that had not yet been consigned to fires. They put what they found together in a film they called, "Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today."

Their evidence was used by prosecutors to refute the claims of Nazis at the Nuremberg trials that they were innocent of the acts of mass murder the film recorded.

The Schulbergs' work shaped the world's understanding of the Holocaust. But the film was shuffled aside by the U.S. government and lost in the era when German rocket scientists like Wernher Von Braun were welcomed to the U.S. — until Ms. Schulberg found a copy of it among some old manuscripts in a file cabinet at a Schulberg family home, and restored it.

Budd Schulberg went on after the war to win the Oscar for Best Story and Screenplay in the Academy's Best Picture of 1955, "On the Waterfront," with Marlon Brando famously winning Best Actor. Director Klotz's work, based on Sandra Schulberg's restoration, traces the story of the Schulberg brothers' effort to make that film in 1945, and describes what happened to it later. (K.C.'s film "Hellbent on Boogie" also happens to be this year's opening night film at the Fort Myers Film Festival.)

Such history, including the premier showing at the Fort Myers Film Festival in 2021, points to the powerful importance of film not just in art but in life-altering events — especially when forgetting the realities of the past might prove both extremely dangerous and even unforgivable.

After winning Best Documentary at the Fort Myers Film Festival in 2021, "The Lost Film of Nuremberg" screened several months later at Lincoln Center in New York City, and will now be seen at other venues here and abroad.

Meanwhile, "RBG" was nominated for two Oscars. Three or four months before it arrived in Fort Myers, Mr. Raddatz saw it at the Sundance Film Festival, where he spoke to Justice Ginsberg from a small attendant audience. He described the moment this way, in a conversation with David Sendler at Gulfshore Life Magazine.

"She was charming and direct," Mr. Raddatz said. "In this very well-done film, she fought gender bias, cared about all the people, was aware of her power and what to do with it, and had a grand sense of humor."

Most towns and many cities in the American landscape do not have an annual film festival, or for that matter a cinema standard-bearer like Eric Raddatz.

Even with a cadre of devoted Fort Myers supporters, however — they include cultural fire starters Jim Griffith, whose nonprofit Florida Arts, Inc. restored and now operates the Sidney & Berne Davis Arts Center, and longtime festival producer Melissa DeHaven — it hasn't been easy. The Festival opened at the end of a Great Recession when unemployment rates were still in the double figures some places. And a decade later the Festival had to navigate the pandemic of 2020-21.

One thing has become abundantly clear in the last 14 years: Eric Raddatz and the now internationally recognized Fort Myers Film Festival aren't going anywhere.

Except to the movies.

— BY ROGER WILLIAMS



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# 2024 FMff Schedule

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

**SBDAC**  
2301 First Street,  
Fort Myers, FL 33901

7 p.m.  
**"HELLBENT ON BOOGIE"**

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024

**SBDAC**  
2301 First Street,  
Fort Myers, FL 33901

10:30 A.M.  
**"UNDIVIDE US"**  
12: P.M.  
**"CROSSES IN THE DUST"**  
1 P.M.  
**"HELLBENT ON BOOGIE"**  
3 P.M.  
**INTERNATIONAL SHORTS**  
"Borderland"  
"Derin"  
"Serious and Lively"  
"Unconscious"  
"Tracce Perdute"  
"An Artist's Curse"  
"SAD: Standard American Diet"  
"Chukkers"  
4:15 P.M.  
**"THE URGENCY OF NOW"**  
5:10 P.M.  
**ROMANCE SHORTS**  
"The Beginning"  
"The Shortest Relationship in the World"  
"Handle with Care"  
"Many Keys - The Heartbreak Monologue"  
"Therapy Sess"  
6 P.M.  
**FROM THE HEART BLOCK**  
"Remembering Brantley"  
"Stoneheart: An Undying Gift"  
6:30 P.M.  
**"IN FIDELITY"**  
8 P.M.  
**"THE MARTINI SHOT"**  
9:45 P.M.  
**THRILLER BLOCK**  
"Not Him"  
"Alternate"  
"The Screens"  
"Neon Hereafter"  
"Ace of Cups"  
"Over Inking"  
"Button Eyes"

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024

**SBDAC**  
2301 First Street,  
Fort Myers, FL 33901

11 A.M.  
**WILL MOVE YOU BLOCK**  
"Connections"  
"An Ode For Leviticus"  
12 P.M.  
**"THE CROSSING: THROUGH BLUE"**  
1 P.M.  
**SPORTS BLOCK**  
"Going Deep for Vancouver"  
"Santorini, the Paradise of Parkour"  
2P.M.  
**"THE SUCCESSOR"**  
3:30 P.M.  
**COMEDY BLOCK**  
"All for Naught"  
"I AM Heroics"  
"The Man Who Couldn't Clap"  
"Out of Pocket"  
"I'm Not Nice"  
"Prayer from an Atheist"  
"#Ladyfinger"  
"Bear Insurance"  
"Just Laugh"  
5 P.M.  
**"THE FENTANYL PROJECT"**  
**"CHANGING A COMMUNITY"**  
6 P.M.  
**DATE NIGHT BLOCK**  
"Hope"  
"Cracked"  
"Trivia About You"  
"Body Prison"  
"Slow Dating"  
7 P.M.  
**"SPIRIT OF RECOVERY"**  
8:15 P.M.  
**"ETERNAL YOU"**  
9:45 P.M.  
**"DID I?"**

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2024

**SBDAC**  
2301 First Street,  
Fort Myers, FL 33901

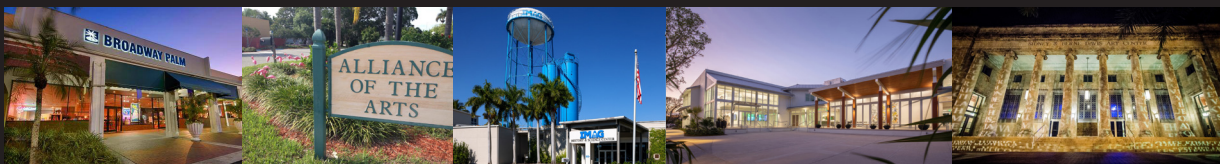
10 A.M.  
**"GETTING STABLE"**  
10:45 a.m.  
**"A FINAL LANDING ON IWO JIMA"**  
12 P.M.  
**WOMEN IN THE WORLD OF CINEMA PANEL**  
1 P.M.  
**"FROM LAUGHTER TO LEGACY: CAPTIVA'S JENSEN FAMILY"**  
2:15 P.M.  
**HIGHLY RATED BLOCK**  
"Bird Drone"  
"The Summer at Driftwood"  
"Happy Anniversary"  
"The Face of Immokalee: Public Art For Social Change"  
"Laundry Man"  
3:30 P.M.  
**UNFORGETTABLE BLOCK**  
"Under"  
"Blood is Thicker"  
"Space Coast"  
"The Curtain"  
5 P.M.  
**"ECHOES"**  
7 P.M.  
**"FLAMENCO SEVILLA"**  
8:15 P.M.  
**"SMOTHERED BY MOTHERS"**  
9:55  
**LATE NIGHT BLOCK**  
"Cherry"  
"Working From Home"  
"DeepFake"

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024

**SBDAC**  
2301 First Street,  
Fort Myers, FL 33901

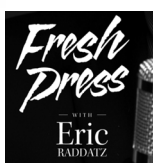
9:30 A.M.  
**"TOUGH SKIN"**  
10:40 A.M.  
**"A NEW KIND OF WILDERNESS"**  
12:15 P.M.  
**"WOMEN OF THE WATERSHED"**  
1:25 P.M.  
**ENVIORNMENTAL BLOCK**  
"Big Trees"  
"PLASTIK"  
"Beyond the Soil"  
"Dov'è la Vittoria!"  
"Salt in the Soil"  
2 P.M.  
**"THE GREEN DESERT"**  
3 P.M.  
**LOCAL BLOCK**  
"Master Larry"  
"Pine Island On Fly"  
"Hurricane Ian"  
"The Remedy"  
"Intersection"  
4 P.M.  
**MINDFUL BLOCK**  
"The Countryman"  
"Red Cookies"  
"Credit"  
"Sfortunato"  
"Silence"  
"BayouTech"  
5:30 p.m.  
**FMFF PANEL AND AWARDS CEREMONY**

Visit our partner venues this year for films, parties, mixers and more!



For more information head to [www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com](http://www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com)

• Tickets can be purchased for individual films at [www.sbdac.com](http://www.sbdac.com). For more information head to [www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com](http://www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com). • Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, 2301 First Street, Fort Myers FL 33901, (239) 333-1933 — Films and short film blocks are \$10 or \$20 for day pass. • The Fort Myers Film Festival and Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center may ask any who aren't following safety or ethical standards to be removed at any time per their discretion. • For updates and voting on your favorite film of the festival go to [www.facebook.com/fortmyersfilmfestival](http://www.facebook.com/fortmyersfilmfestival). • All films are unrated—parents strongly cautioned.



Thank you to our sponsors, partners and friends of FMff

# Films

Official selections for the 14th annual Fort Myers Film Festival to be held May 22-26, 2024 at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center unless otherwise noted. For offsite films check [www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com](http://www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com). \*Times and schedule are subject to change. Please check the website for all upcoming events.

## Wednesday 5.22.24

@ Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center  
2301 First Street,  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
[www.sbdac.com](http://www.sbdac.com)  
Tickets are \$20 GA / \$100 VIP

### OPENING NIGHT FILM 7 P.M.

#### “Hellbent on Boogie”

By Vito Trupiano, K.C. Schulberg

Alan returns to his small Floridian hometown to find his sister Quinn all grown up. But when he discovers that their overbearing mother is sheltering Quinn because of her autism, he hatches a plan for them to run away together so that Quinn can pursue her dream of becoming a



professional dancer.

*Starring Shiloh Fernandez, Emily Tremaine Fernandez, Ryan Ramirez and John Farley.*  
1h30m; Feature, Local, Florida Film; US



## Thursday 5.23.24

@ Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center  
2301 First Street,  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
[www.sbdac.com](http://www.sbdac.com)

### 10 A.M. “Undivide Us”

By Kristi Kendall

America is at a crossroads where politicians, traditional media, and social media fan the flames of toxic partisanship that have led many Americans to question whether they can trust their fellow citizens. Through the intimate lens of six focus groups across three American cities, the film explores the twisted landscape of toxic polarization and uncovers the potential for healing conversation, local community, mutual respect, and democracy. Aiming to awaken the silenced majority that seeks solutions rather than strife, “Undivide Us” is not just a documentary; it’s a timely and urgent plea to reclaim the nation’s soul through open discourse, civic engagement, and

self-governance.

*Starring: Ben Klutsey, Tony Woodlief, Dee Allsop, John Inazu, Ilana Redstone, Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili, Robert B. Talisse*  
1hr13m; Documentary; US

### 12 P.M. “Crosses In The Dust”

By Christine Kane

At the Arizona-Mexico border, the Sonoran Desert has been weaponized as part of the “Prevention Through Deterrence” policy, which has cost the lives of thousands of migrants since its inception in the mid-1990s. The film follows a law professor and her students as they assist organizations fighting the ongoing immigration crisis along the border while honoring those who have perished on their journey into America.



*Starring Irene Pons, Brett Castro, Adrianna Gonzalez, Jazzalyn Velez, Kajal Patel*  
51m; Documentary, Feature, Latinx, Latino; US

### 1 P.M.

#### “Hellbent on Boogie”

By Vito Trupiano, K.C. Schulberg

Alan returns to his small Floridian hometown to find his sister Quinn all grown up. But when he discovers that their overbearing mother is sheltering Quinn because of her autism, he hatches a plan for them to run away together so that Quinn can pursue her dream of becoming a professional dancer.

*Starring Shiloh Fernandez, Emily Tremaine Fernandez, Ryan Ramirez and John Farley.*  
1h30m; Feature, Local, Florida Film; US

### 3 P.M. INTERNATIONAL SHORTS “Borderland”

By Polina Kovalova

Kristina falls asleep. In her dreams, she remembers

her childhood, years marred by hardship and loss. Now she must reckon with her past both in her dreams as well as in the waking world.  
8m; Animation, Experimental, Short, Student; Ukraine

### “Derin”

By Ali Osman Taşlı

After studying the water crisis as a school assignment, Derin struggles with the burden of the facts she has encountered.

*Starring Deniz Pia Baydar, Deniz Karadeniz, Ayşe Baydar, Melih Baydar*  
4m; Turkey; Short; Turkey

### “Serious and Lively”

By Jie Ying SONG

We were all a child and will inevitably get old. Under red flags in the sunshine, everyone was a child. As time goes by, our life has improved in material terms and our thoughts have changed. Good or bad. Progressive or backward. However, what hasn’t changed are family love and children’s innocence.

*Starring Jie Ying SONG, Xiao Xuan SONG*  
5m; Experimental, Short; China

### “Unconscious”

By Nima Kalvandi

A boy with albinism is looking to find a new friend.

8m; Experimental, Short, Student; Islamic Republic of Iran

### “Tracce Perdute”

By Gianluca Gloria

An old inspector and a clumsy assistant investigate the mysterious missing of an elder man. There aren’t traces of his family and a kidnapping is suspected. To solve the mystery they’ll need to go further through their family history, missing beloved ones, and illnesses that nurture memories.

*Starring Antonia Catania, Silvia D’Amico*  
10m; Drama, Fiction, Short, Student; Italy

### “An Artist’s Curse”

By Steven J Mihaljevich





**"In Fidelity"**  
5.23@ 6:30p.m.



When a malevolent creature resides inside the artwork of a 10-year-old girl, fate is sealed, with trauma from her childhood echoing across her life. Art and horror collide when the girl becomes a Mother and desperately tries to come to terms with her delusions and the shocking truth about her daughter.

*Starring Jay Jay Jegathesan, Georgia Eyres, Valentina Blagojevic, Mani Shanks, Simon Carter*  
10m; Short; Horror, Thriller, Mental Health;  
Australia

**"SAD: Standard American Diet"**

*By Niamh Marnell*

Betty squares off against her arch nemesis ... herself. Will she be victorious this time, or will she fail once again? Betty wants to eat healthy and she knows it's good for her, but she also knows that ... the junk food is inside the house! The same struggle is faced in kitchens across the nation every day. Can we win the fight?

4m; Short; Ireland

**"Chukkers"**

*By Manuel Ramos*

Two teenagers, facing everyone, will defy the old-fashioned social rules of playing in a Polo Club.

*Starring Laetitia Dorén, Ken Appledorn, Aída Ramírez, Horacio Real*  
12m; Short, Drama, Sport, Social, Polo; Spain

4:15 P.M.

**"The Urgency of Now"**

*By K.C. Schulberg*

The movie documents how climate change has and will impact the world and particularly, Southwest Florida.

30m; Documentary, Local, Florida; US



**"Crosses in The Dust"**  
5.23@ 12p.m.

5:10 P.M.  
ROMANCE SHORTS  
**"The Beginning"**

*By Aly Mang*

In a world full of choices, Everly ("Eve") navigates right from wrong and good from evil; following her heart, no matter the cost- or ultimate sacrifice.

*Starring Aly Mang, Hansel Pacheco, Mack Kuhr, Dominick LaRuffa, Tia Barr, Katie Claire McGrath, Yevgenia Kats, Jeff Golkin*  
20m; Short, Drama, Romance, Narrative; US



**"The Shortest Relationship in the World"**

*By Xiaoxuan Han*

This may be the shortest relationship in the world.  
1m; Short Short, Animation, Experimental, Music Video, Short, Student; China

**"Handle with Care"**

*By Michael Glover Smith*

A woman and a man go on a date, both for the first time in years. Each faces the dilemma of how open and honest they should be.

*Starring Alyssa Thordarson, Mickey O'Sullivan*  
7m; Short, Comedy, Drama, Romance; US

**"Many Keys - The Heartbreak Monologue"**

*By Michael Clark Messier*

# Films

Heartbreak welcomes her new friends to this odd reality. A monologue extracted from the novel/feature film screenplay "A Distance from Avalon - When the Dying and the Dead Reunite" by Mike Messier.

*Starring Jessica Carradero*  
5m; Horror, Drama, Monologue, Short; US

## "Therapy Sess"

*By Jason Holmes*

Freshly divorced Marketing Director Carlena Bates navigates the dating world with her girls by her side as her toxic ex-husband lingers in her life. As a new love interest enters the picture and she struggles to find direction, Carlena enlists the help of a therapist to help her find direction and answers to this complicated season of life she finds herself in.

*Starring Faith Wright, Lamon Archey, Vonii Bristow*  
16m; Short; US

6 P.M.

## FROM THE HEART BLOCK "Remembering Brantley"

*By Nicholas Markart*

After the devastating loss of fourteen-year-old Brantley Griffin, his family finds meaning in a life-saving new purpose.

*Starring Matt Griffin, Mandy Griffin, LK Griffin, Brantley Griffin*  
5m; Documentary, Short; US

## "Stoneheart: An Undying Gift"

*By Nicholas Markart*

Steve Hilfiker, a heart transplant survivor and

father of four, describes his experience facing death, and how his perspective on life has forever changed following the fateful operation.

*Starring Stephen Hilfiker*  
6m; Documentary, Drama; US

6:30 P.M.

## "In Fidelity"

*By Rob Margolies*

Thirty years into a loving, committed marriage, Lyle (Parnell) and Holly (Buono) begin to wonder if they played life too safe once she's diagnosed with terminal cancer. As they both grapple with the fact that Holly has never been romantically involved with anyone other than her husband, the two decide to test the boundaries of love, and Holly is encouraged to explore intimacy with another man. After a flirtation arises between Holly and their charismatic rockstar neighbor Hoyt (Haysbert), this unconventional love triangle soon attracts Holly's hilariously quirky best friend, Ethel (Douglas), and has surprising ramifications for the married couple's rebellious Gen-Z daughter Greta (Shields). As they all navigate this uncharted romantic scenario, boundaries are blurred as love is put to the ultimate test.

*Starring Chris Parnell, Cara Buono, Dennis Haysbert, Illeana Douglas, Willow Shields*  
1h27m; Feature, Drama, Romance, Comedy; US

8 P.M.

## "The Martini Shot"

*By Stephen Wallis*

This existential drama follows an ailing movie director as he begins to shoot what he believes

to be his final work of art. What starts out as a normal movie, ends up being an exploration of mortality and one's profound effect on the world.

*Starring Matthew Modine, John Cleese, Derek Jacobi, Stuart Townsend, Fiona Glascott*

*1hr40m; Comedy, Drama, Existential, Romantic, Feature; Canada*



9:45 P.M.

## THRILLER BLOCK "Not Him"

*By Sarah Young*

When her husband turns strange and violent, the wife becomes convinced he is possessed. But will anyone believe her? With electric performances from Tori Ernst ("Counting", "Consider the Lilies") and Charlie McElveen (JJ Redick in FX's upcoming limited series "The Sterling Affairs", HBO's "The Deuce", HBO Max "Pretty Little Liars"). This nail-biting script by director & writer Sarah Young is heart-pounding suspense in the vein of "Gaslight" meets "The Shining."

*Starring Tori Ernst, Charlie McElveen, Katharine Chin, Ryan Nicholas Cooper*  
15m; Short, Horror, Thriller, Suspense, Drama; US



## "Alternate"

*By Christian X. Pyles*

A young girl is home alone until her doppelgänger



"The Martini Shot"

5.19@11am.

**"Derin"**  
5.23@3p.m.



tries to replace her.

*Starring Tatum Bates, Alena Stevenson*  
6m; Short, Horror, Thriller; US

### "The Screens"

*By Erik Champney*

When a patient in a psychiatric hospital engages with an unfamiliar visitor, he discovers the two might share a frightening connection.

*Starring Harvey Lipman, Randy Borruso*  
17m; Short, Thriller, Horror, Fantasy, Experimental, Drama, Suspense, Surrealist; US

### "Neon Hereafter"

*By Pacey Hansen*

The hypnotic buzz and glow of neon engrosses Cecilia as she struggles to evade her addiction, disturbed past, and the nightmarish monster ceaselessly stalking her.

*Starring Brittany Hoffner, Spencer Makow, Finnegan Greisl*  
16m; Short, Horror, Student; US

### "Ace of Cups"

*By Nicole Marie Lasso*

A young woman is catapulted into a journey of self-forgiveness as projections from her past visit, confront and guide her through her trauma.

*Starring Ash Tinoco, Elias Rivera, Jaya Wilson*  
7m; Short, Student, Avant-Garde Drama, Surrealist; US

### "Over Inking"

*By Molly Mignano*

Worried about the permanence of deciding on her first tattoo, a young woman confides in an unexpected expert on the topic.

2m; Animation, Experimental, Student; United States

### "Button Eyes"

*By Michael Hubble*

A lonesome creature born without eyes must traverse the abstract world that surrounds him in order to seek out the source of a strange sound that may hold the key to restoring his sight.

3m; Animation, Experimental, Short, Student; US



## Friday 5.24.24

@ Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center  
2301 First Street,  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
www.sbdac.com

11 A.M..

### WILL MOVE YOU BLOCK "Connections"

*By Corey Marr, Lisa Mills*

A close look inside the world of a Special Olympian, Becky Richter.

18m; Documentary, Short, Student; US

### "An Ode For Leviticus"

*By Montana Cypress*

A decrepit old man discovers the true nature of his doctor's appointment and attempts to escape.

*Starring Gary Farmer*  
22m; Short; US

12 P.M.

### "The Crossing: Through Blue"

*By Logan Graham, Zachary Solomon*

Experience The Crossing: Through Blue & immerse yourself in a long-distance endurance paddle challenge from Bimini, Bahamas to Lake Worth Beach, Florida. We'll be revisiting the events that unfolded at this year's Crossing for Cystic Fibrosis, an 80-mile paddleboard race with a purpose, through the lens of Blake Carmichael & Team BLU3.

*Starring Piper Suit, Travis Suit, Tatiana Tims, Aiyana Sugerman, Casey McCullough, Alex Schulze, Blake Carmichael, Robert Carmichael, Doug Brandon, David Golubev*  
36m; Documentary; US

1 P.M..

### SPORTS BLOCK

#### Going Deep for Vancouver

*By Margriet de Schutter*

Since her childhood Margriet de Schutter has had a dream: to compete at the Olympics in Vancouver as a short track speed skater. Years of vigorous training bring her success, but also a battle with an increasing number of injuries. When she loses her place in the National Team, Margriet suffers a mental crisis. How will she cope without her sport, will she still know who she really is? The same passion that drove Margriet to 'go deep' as an athlete enables her to go deep in this very personal and revealing documentary.

28m; Documentary; Netherlands

#### "Santorini, the Paradise of Parkour"

*By Biel Macià*

Two parkour athletes set off on an adventure to Santorini to jump across this paradise of white and blue rooftops, showing the essence of this risky sport and an exciting way of life.

*Starring Biel Macià, David Escobar*  
19m; Documentary, Short, Sport, City, Travelling, Friendship, Young; Spain

**"Just Laugh"**

5.24@3:30p.m.



# Films

## 2 P.M.. "The Successor"

By Thom Verheul

The world's best trainer of trot horses is Richard Westerink (40) in the South of France. Starting with only a suitcase and hardly any money he discovered the horse Timoko, which won him more than 5 million euros and two times the Elitloppet in Stockholm, the greatest race in the world. Last May he won the Elitloppet again but now with the son of Timoko, Etonnant. What is the secret talent of Richard and his horses? He built with them a very personal relationship. The film follows Richard since April 2021, around the question: Is Etonnant the successor? In one of the most important races, the Prix d'Amerique in Paris, Etonnant cannot improve his father and fails. Following Richard up to Stockholm we get an intimate and surprising look in the closed world of trot, behind the scenes.

1h7m; Sport; Documentary; Netherlands



## 3:30 P.M.. COMEDY BLOCK "All for Naught"

By TL Westgate

A hitman thinks he's on a routine mission, but he's got another thing coming.

Starring Alea Figueroa, Ryan Forrestal, TL Westgate, Christa Luzynski, Michelle Bretana  
5m; Short; US

## "1 AM Heroics"

By Henry Severe

After a portal is opened in their living room, two best friends have a late-night argument due to one's secret superhero identity being accidentally revealed.

Starring Phoenix, Rolf Julmisse, Hakem Jean-Baptise  
5m; Short; Comedy, Sci-Fi; US

## "The Man Who Couldn't Clap"

By Hyunoh Chang, Josh S Rose

A short story of a man looking back on his life. Caught in a complicated affliction that makes it impossible for him to clap or put his hands together, he ultimately finds a way to live with it. A dance of acceptance, a silent applause to learning to live with what life hands us.

Starring Gaige Johnson, Glenn Ratcliffe, Konner Rudisill, Angela Su, Kimberley Kim, Devin Rader, Kyle Brueggemann  
3m; Music Video, Short, Fiction, Drama; US

## "Out of Pocket"

By Bobbie Rosenkranz, Tristan Ledford

A runner's worst fear becomes reality when an ominous figure follows in his footsteps.

Starring Ian Faulkner, Stephen Rosenkranz, Bobbie Rosenkranz  
3m; Comedy, Short, Student; US

## "I'm Not Nice"

By Shannon Morall, Tom A. Capps

When an anti-social superspy misses her target on a hit-gone-wrong, she must face her greatest fear in order to complete her mission: small talk.

Starring Janelle Tedesco, Dan Jessup, Lori Hammel, Hannah Jane Jennings, Tony Tedesco, Laurel Lockheart  
16m; Short, Comedy, Spy; US

## "Prayer from an Atheist"

By Connor Augustine Farrell

An atheist college student discovers a homeless man in an alleyway is Jesus Christ, and pushes him to cure his friend's cancer.

Starring Stu Maxheimer, Abi Bais  
8m; Short, Sci-fi, Comedy, Drama; US

## "#Ladyfinger"

By Andres Irias

Paula Mitchum's ordinary day gets turned upside down when a robbery attempt on her goes south after she fatally shoots the thief with an unlikely weapon, making her a viral sensation in mere minutes.

Starring Umberto Paolone, Aniela McGuinness,



*Veronika Dresko, Keon Gaynor, Stephie Torres, Ivan Nodal, Julie Berry, Xavier Latortue*  
7m; Short, Drama, Comedy, Thriller, Psychological Thriller; US

### “Bear Insurance”

*By Austin Parkman*

A gullible old man is put to the test when a crafty salesman knocks on his door and tells him he needs bear insurance.

*Starring David A. Gentry, Eric Newcombe, Jessica Carradero, Cheyenne Downing*  
8m; Short; US

### “Just Laugh”

*By Kemp Brinson*

A small-town community theater attempts a fiendishly difficult and dangerous production. The mayhem bares the heart of a community and speaks to the importance of laughter and escape.

*16m; Documentary, Short; US*

5 P.M..

### “The Fentanyl Project”

*By KT Curran*

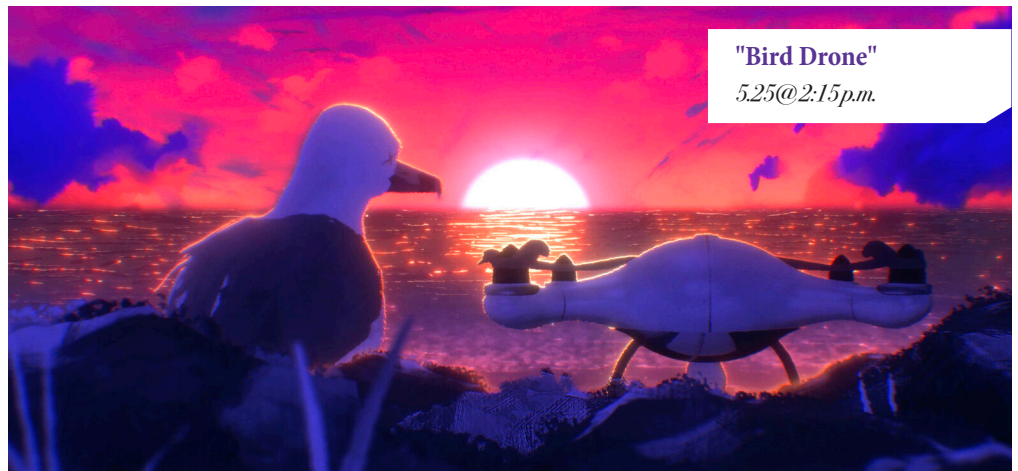
A heartbreaking public health crisis is affecting unsuspecting families across America - illegal fentanyl poisoning. Hidden in so-called “party drugs” and disguised as Xanax, Adderall, cocaine, cannabis, and even children’s candy – these “fake pills” and fentanyl-laced drugs often lead to fatal results. 50 times stronger than heroin, fentanyl is cheap, potent, and small enough to send in the mail. The Fentanyl Project from Wingspan Productions illuminates how illegal fentanyl poisoning is affecting the lovely beachside town of Sarasota, Florida.

*26m; Documentary; US*

### “Changing a Community”

*By John Biffar*

Kimie’s Recovery Zone is an independent, non-profit organization led and governed by representatives of local communities of recovery. Led by President Al Kinkle, who lost his daughter to a fentanyl poisoning, he has led a community to



### “Bird Drone”

*5.25@2:15p.m.*

be aware and help those in need. The organization organizes recovery-focused policy advocacy activities, carry out recovery-focused community education and outreach programs, and helps with peer-based recovery support services.

*17 m; Short; USA*

6 P.M..

### DATE NIGHT BLOCK

#### “Hope”

Love conquers all. Maybe.

*By Mike Timoney*

*Starring Judy Krause, Travis Mitchell, Bob Rutan*  
4m; Short; US

#### “Cracked”

*By Max A Yoffe*

A woman discovers her husband’s affair, prompting an emotional and transformative journey of self-discovery and empowerment through dance, as she confronts their toxic relationship and walks away with newfound confidence

*Starring Evelin Carvajal, Sam Duffy, Elio Martinez*  
10m; Short; US

#### “Trivia About You”

*By Amy Berryman and Christian LaMorte*

In post-lockdown Ne York City, Mellie and

Bernard each separately seek the respite of an hour with a book in Central Park. When Bernard happens to sit on the same bench as Mellie, they realize they’ve seen each other many times before, but only in their online Trivia Group. As they start to open up for the first time in many months, trivia gets a little more personal in this pandemic-inspired romance.

*Starring LeeAnne Hutchison, Grant Neale*  
12m; Short; US

#### “Body Prison”

*By Cameron Kit*

In the future, aboard the matriarchal space cooperative “Liberty”, women will be born and live their lives without the shadow of the patriarchy over them. So when Sasha Rivera arrives at the correctional facility station to receive chastisement for public nudity, she is stunned at the form of her punishment.

*Starring Julia Reingold*  
5m; Short; Sci-Fi; US

#### “Slow Dating”

*By Adam Szudrich*

When an elderly lady tries speed dating it leads to a night with a charming stranger and a heartbreaking revelation.

*Starring Julie Collis, Peter O’Brien*  
7m; Short; Australia

7 P.M..

### “Spirit of Recovery”

*By John Biffar*

SWFL’s longstanding Emmy Award-winning filmmaker John Biffar’s latest feature documentary, “Spirit of Recovery,” will have its world premiere at the Fort Myers Film Festival. The film follows SWFL artists, businessmen, leaders, musicians, as well as well-known stars, in a story of courage and caring that memorializes the indomitable spirit as SWFL recovered together.

*Starring Greg Biochini, Maria Pia Malerba, Tiite Baquero, Erik Lindbergh, Lester Holt, Eric Raddatz, Kerry Sanders, and Al Kinkle with organizations Harry Chapin Food Bank, Kimie’s Recovery Zone, Big Arts, Florida Rights of Nature Network, and more.*

*60m; Documentary; Local; US*



### “Remembering Brantley”

*5.23@6p.m.*

# Films

8:15 P.M.  
**“Eternal You”**

By Hans Block, Moritz Riesewick

Startups use AI to create avatars that allow them to talk with their loved ones after death. Exploration of deep human desire for immortality, questioning consequences of commodifying this age-old dream.

1hr17m; Documentary; US; Korea

9:45 P.M.  
**“DID I?”**

By Sarah Tice

Genevieve attempts to navigate her life with Dissociative Identity Disorder, but begins to see flashbacks of memories she had no part in creating. Nervous of how dangerous she may be, she descends into psychological hallucinations as she approaches the origin of her trauma.

Starring Alexandra Pica, Raven Wynn, Trinity Soos, Nicola Masciotra, Briegette Bullock, Michael Vitovich, Nico James, Nick Reid, Gabriella Montuoro

1h41m; Feature, Thriller, Horror; US



## Saturday 5.25.24

@ Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center  
 2301 First Street,  
 Fort Myers, FL 33901  
 www.sbdac.com

10 A.M.  
**“Getting Stable”**

By Vanessa Leonard

Amanda Held, a veteran and lifelong equestrian, felt compelled to help her fellow American military veterans heal from the psychological impacts of armed combat and tours of duty. Leaning on her lifelong experience and love of horses, she formed Healing of Veterans through Equine-Assisted Service, commonly known as H.O.O.V.E.S. Veterans of the United States military services enter into the H.O.O.V.E.S. program whose mission is to use rescue horses to heal and empower them through training exercises. Getting Stable follows both Amanda as she runs the program and the participants themselves as they both seek the power of healing from interacting with horses.

41m; Documentary, Short; US

10:45 A.M.  
**“A Final Landing on Iwo Jima”**

By Tim Gray, Dave Beaty, John Paluzzi

The focus of this one-hour documentary is the return to Iwo Jima of a Marine veteran wounded there in the savage fight beginning in February of

1945. We also follow the son of another Marine, who is trying to put his father’s World War II puzzle together. His dad never spoke about the combat he saw on Iwo Jima. Produced by Fort Myers filmmaker Dave C. Beaty along with DP John Paluzzi and former WINK-TV Sports anchor Tim Gray, the film is narrated by CBS sports commentator Jim Nantz. The team traveled to the island of Iwo Jim in the west Pacific last year a journey of over 8000 miles from Florida to film on the WWII battlefield.

60m; Documentary; US

12 P.M.  
**“Women in the World of Cinema Panel”**

The Fort Myers Film Festival will also feature a diverse group of women who have not only excelled in various disciplines within the film industry but have also garnered multiple nominations and awards throughout their illustrious careers with a “Women in the World of Cinema Panel,” featuring actress Priscila Buair, director Stephanie Ruiz, production designer Ana Milena Rojas, and more. This gathering of accomplished professionals promises an enlightening exploration of their journeys, offering insights into their unique experiences and valuable perspectives. The audience will have the opportunity to delve into their amazing stories, learning about the challenges they’ve overcome, and the milestones they’ve accomplished.

30m;

1 P.M.  
**“From Laughter to Legacy: Captiva’s Jensen Family”**

By Ken Sneed, Captiva Island Historical Society

The Jensen brothers are beloved by Island residents and visitors and their Twin Palm Marina & Cottages was an island icon for 40+ years under the family’s ownership.

60m; Documentary, Local, Florida; US

2:15 P.M.  
**HIGHLY RATED BLOCK**  
**“Bird Drone”**

By Radheya Jang Jegatheva

A heartfelt story of unrequited love explored

through a lonely seagull struggling to accept that his newfound object of affection is a human-operated drone with limited battery life.

9m; Animation, Short, Drama, Animation, Romance; Australia

**“The Summer at Driftwood”**

By Sydney Carlson

When a reserved girl with a traumatic home life is paired up at summer camp with an outgoing girl who sees the best of life, they decide to use their summer bucket list as an escape from the harsh trials of reality. However, summer doesn’t last forever, and the girls must face the unknowns of their futures.

Starring Caroline Rose, Alison Diaz, Jaya Wilson  
 9m; Short, Student, Drama, Coming of Age; US

**“Happy Anniversary”**

By Stephanie Ruiz

A married couple with ties to the black market getaway to salvage their relationship and celebrate their anniversary. It’s until their intrusive host saves one of them from a not so Happy Anniversary.

Starring Darina Eid, Orlando Cintron Jr., Dan Berkey  
 22m; Short, Psychological Thriller, Drama, Suspense, Thriller; US

**“The Face of Immokalee: Public Art For Social Change”**

By Tara Calligan

Delve into the heart of Immokalee, Florida, where one Naples photographer is challenging stereotypes and redefining public art’s role in creating social change. Photographer Michelle Tricca’s incredible four-and-a-half-year journey has realized in larger-than-life, black-and-white portraits of Immokalee’s residents, giving a voice to a community often overlooked. Explore the lives, struggles, and dreams of the people who call Immokalee, Florida home. “The Face of Immokalee” installation is a powerful testament that art can really humanize and inspire, proving that we all share the same human face beneath our labels.

Starring Michelle Tricca  
 9m; Documentary, Short, Local; US



**“Faces of Immokalee”**  
 5.25@2:15p.m.

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# Films

## “Laundry Man”

By Laura A. Garcia

A woman’s worst fears are awakened when her pile of laundry comes alive.

*Starring Galya Vidal, Mike Stone  
5m; Short, Horror, Comedy; US*

3:30 P.M.

## UNFORGETTABLE BLOCK

### “Under”

By Aloura Melissa Charles

When Minh, a trafficking victim escapes her captors and hides under a residential house, she is secretly drawn into the life of Amy mother struggling with postpartum depression. Both women feel trapped and alone. As Minh listens to the joys and tears of both Amy and her baby, she is reminded the child she tragically lost.

Ultimately, Min comes to Amy’s aid and the women connect, finding friendship and hope.

*Starring Catarina Kim, Katie L Hall  
19m; Short; US*

## “Blood is Thicker”

By Melissa Skirboll

Two sisters living in the same city but completely different worlds reconnect over a meal. A mother suffering dementia pulls them back home but before they can return the trauma of their past must be addressed.

*Starring Jeanine Bartel, Melissa Skirboll  
13m; Short; US*

## “Space Coast”

By Justin Barber

People from around the world gather on the Space Coast to witness the launch of Artemis-1, the ‘World’s most powerful rocket.’ But Mark, a veteran of the Space Shuttle Program, doubts this ‘moonoggle’ will ever fly.

*23m; Documentary, Short; Science, Space; US*

## “The Curtain”

By Leslie-Ann Coles

Mother-daughter tensions bind one generation to



Awards/Panel/Party

5.26@5:30p.m.

the next in a seedy motel room where love, sex, and a wish for redemption lurk beyond the curtain when Beatrice, 50, is confronted with her own mortality. Beatrice revisits an old haunt from her childhood to reconcile herself with those she loves, evoking the memory of her mother following a mastectomy.

*Starring Bill MacDonald, Beth Hornby, Imogen Whist, Sean Jones, Matthew Powell, Delaney Tomchick, Leslie-Ann Coles  
15m; Short; Canada*

5 P.M.

## “Echoes”

By Tim Ritter

With humanity wiped from the face of the earth, God retires to a cabin in the woods to start the Adam-and-Eve experiment over. As time passes and the seasons go by, familiar patterns — and mistakes — emerge, only this time they will force the new first family into an unprecedented, impossible choice.

*Starring Jonathan Raffoul, Noel Gates, Kahlid Elijah Tapia, Andres Erickson, Logan Ayala, Trinity Soos, Shannon Gallagher  
1hr52m; Feature, Sci-Fi, Drama; US*

7 P.M.

## “Flamenco Sevilla”

By John Biffar

The film features flamenco sensation Manuel Jimenez and follows two sisters, both musicians,

as they work reinventing the art and music of flamenco with Captiva musician Johnny Jensen. The feature shows how for centuries, thousands of people converge on Seville on Easter week. They celebrate faith, family, and friends. Processions of the Virgin Mary crisscross the streets at all hours, orange blossoms perfume the air, delicious tapas, and wine are savored in street-side cafes, and Flamenco dancers dazzle the thousands of visitors that swell this ancient city.

*60m; Documentary, Local; Spain; US*

8:15 P.M.

## “Smothered by Mothers”

By Brian Herzlinger

Wealthy football star Bobby Davis goes to bed one night secure in his wealth of almost 100 million dollars—and awakens the next morning almost broke. It appears that his business manager lost almost all of Bobby’s money, and every dollar invested by Bobby’s relatives—every last penny lost in a Ponzi scheme. Worse: Bobby finds out that three women are pregnant by him. Things can always get worse: like a straw in the wind, sponsors, money, and luck can go in any direction. Bobby is forced to retire from football after testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs.

*Starring: Shannon Brown, Bobby Davis, Heather Matarazzo, Jim O’Heir, Chuck Ardezzone, Jamie Bernadette, Marilyn Bass  
1hr30m: Feature, Local: US*

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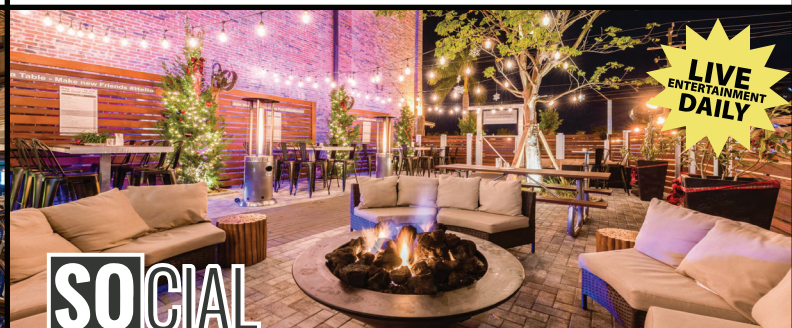
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# Films

9:55 P.M.  
LATE NIGHT BLOCK  
"Cherry"

By Phi Phi

A repressed young woman with a penchant for violence discovers exactly what she's been missing after an encounter with an adult shop's persistent customer goes awry.

*Starring KC Lacerte, Devon Schimbeno, Celestino de Cicco, Anika Samayoa*  
18m; Short, Student, Drama; US

"Working From Home"

By Monica Matute

On Thanksgiving night, a young Latina woman must confess to her Hispanic family that her job revolves around posting sexy videos online.



*Starring Laura Garrido, Aniria Turney, Wil Gonzalez, Juan Enrique Edenhofer, Alexandra Yepes*  
9m; Short, Student; US

"DeepFake"

By Nate Zegue

A scammer uses deepfake technology to disguise her voice.

*Starring Katelin Durr*  
6m; Sci-Fi; Short; US



## Sunday 5.26.24

@ Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center  
2301 First Street,  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
www.sbdac.com

9:30 A.M.

"Tough Skin"

By Montana Cypress

Director Montana Cypress gives a look into the perilous world of Alligator Wrestling through the eyes of Florida's Indian tribes. From a culture-based practice to the commercially viable world of gator wrestling championships, we discover the innovative paths the tribes have embraced to sustain their sovereignty in an ever-evolving world.

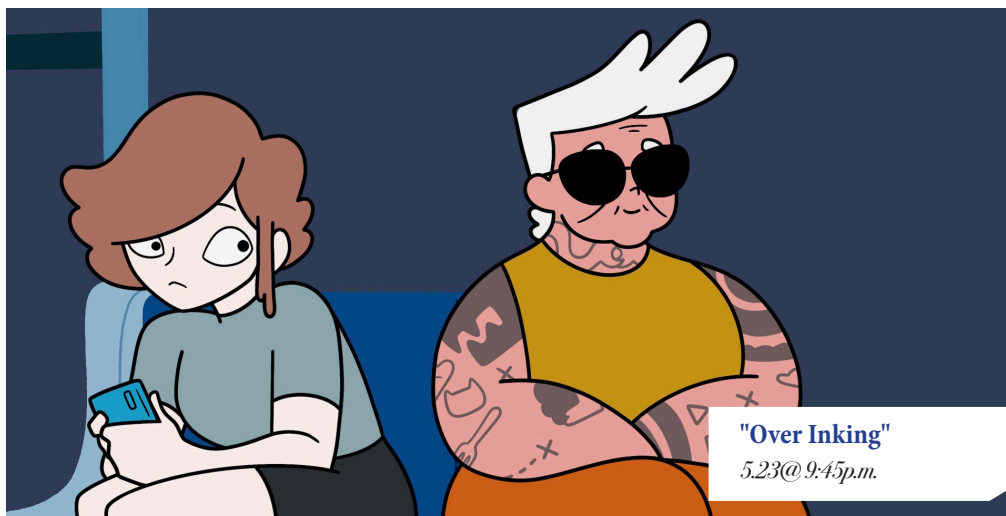
60m: Documentary, Florida; US

10:40 A.M.

"A New Kind of Wilderness"

By Silje Evensmo Jacobsen

In a forest in Norway, a family lives an isolated lifestyle in an attempt to be wild and free, but a tragic event changes everything, and they are



"Over Inking"

5.23@ 9:45p.m.

forced to adjust to modern society. Silje Evensmo Jacobsen's portrait of the Payne family is an intimate encounter with a family coming to terms with a new reality.

*Starring Ulv Vatne Payne, Falk Vatne Payne, Freja Vatne Payne, Ronja Breda Vatne, Maria Gros Vatne, Nikolaus Ithell Payne*  
1h24m; Documentary; Norway

12:15 P.M.

"Women of the Watershed"

By Scott Michael Barnett

A young woman journeys to the source of the Everglades headwaters to better understand the historic challenges of water management and pollution that now threaten this fragile ecosystem.

Along the way, she will meet a new generation of advocates who are redefining the balance of women in conservation.

*Starring Chloe Barnett*  
60m; Documentary; US



1:25 P.M.

ENVIRONMENTAL BLOCK

"Big Trees"

By Daniel Richardson

Older than the Roman Empire, the giant sequoia trees have stood thousands of years and weathered every force mother nature has thrown their way, that is, until now. From the logger's ax to climate change-induced fire storms, the famous Big Trees of the Sierra Nevada need our help to survive, so they may continue to thrive, and for countless generations to walk their groves in wonderment.

6m; Nature, Historical; Documentary, Short; US

"PLASTIK"

By Philip Rom

View the plastic pollution crisis through the eyes and imagination of a child in Southeast Asia, a major hotspot for plastic pollution. (PLASTIK) is the first short film made in Asia for audiences in Asia that uses creative storytelling and live-action drama to raise awareness and catalyze action to

end plastic pollution in the region? It pulls on the heartstrings and is both wrenching and warming in equal measure. Witness how a child can take individual action to influence their family to say no to single-use plastic.

2m; Short, Environment; Malaysia

"Beyond the Soil"

By Jaime Jacobsen, Eric Forbes

Beyond the Soil explores the emotional impact of climate change on farmers and ranchers who are on the frontlines of the megadrought in the Rocky Mountain West and their innovation and resilience in the face of ecological crisis.

*Starring Kyler Brown, Roy Pfaltzgraff, Julie Sullivan*  
5m; Documentary, Short, Environment, Science, Climate, Food, Agriculture, Well Being, Mental Health; US

"Dov'è la Vittoria!"

By Stefano Lisci

Mara and Gianni are a strong couple, despite their differences, who had recently gotten married. They live in an old cottage house with recycled furniture and tons of stuff everywhere, in perfect symphony with the nature surrounding them. A 'creative biodiversity'. A bizarre wedding gift will turn their lives upside down.

*Starring Martina De Santis, Francesco Meola, Carla Signoris, Valerio Bongiorno*  
10m; Short, Student; Comedy, Fiction, Environment, Green Film; Italy

"Salt in the Soil"

By Niav Conty

The sea is quietly surging, more and more each year, slipping its poison salt into the soil. Originally created for the stage, 'Salt in the Soil' is a response to the sea slowly rising and saltwater intrusion in forests. Often killing large areas of trees, "ghost forests" are spreading at a rapid pace due to the effects of climate change and extreme weather in coastal forests. Some of the worst damage remains out of sight in rural areas away from cities and daily consciousness. Re-imagining this work as a dance film allowed the choreography to be captured amongst the dead and dying trees of Botany Bay, South Carolina.

5m; Short, Dance; US

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**"The Countryman"**

5.26@4p.m.

# Films

2 P.M.

**"The Green Desert"**

By Leo Zahn

America's harshest climate is home to the nation's breadbasket. The desert valleys of Yuma, Imperial, and Coachella produce 90% of the winter vegetables consumed in the US. Agriculture in this region depends on Colorado River water delivered from the All-American Canal. Yet it's a system on the brink of catastrophe. The effects of climate change and a twenty-year drought have brought its reservoirs nearly to a dead pool. States battle for their fair share of precious river water amidst constant cries for cutbacks. In the face of unprecedented scarcity, these desert valleys are in a race to conserve and innovate. Can this agricultural linchpin find a way to survive? The food security of an entire country hangs in the balance.

1h24m; Documentary, Environment, Agriculture; US

3 P.M.

**LOCAL BLOCK  
"Master Larry"**

By Eric Raddatz

Master Larry wasn't always a role model. He has, however, turned his life into positivity though, masterfully helping thousands of kids train and develop discipline and self-worth in a world lacking it in his Cape Coral taekwondo studios.

Starring Master Larry  
7m; Short, Sports, Local; US**"Pine Island On Fly"**

By Stuart Anson

The title says it all!

Starring Tim Gleason, Gregg McKee, Alex Moran, Forrest Bolebruch, Noel Plumb  
8m; Short, Local; US**"Hurricane Ian"**

By James Marko

Hurricane Ian, a storm that impacted the whole community of Lee County, FL.  
16m; Short, Local, Documentary; US**"The Remedy"**

By Kate Olivia Sandnes, Brandon Villa

A christian short film inspired by the story of director and filmmaker, Kate Sandnes and her late father. This film tells the story of redemption and hope in the midst of the highs and lows of father-daughter relationships. Through all the hardship, Molly learns the true remedy to heal her pain.

Starring Sophia Brook, Steve Enguita, Talulla Timm, Kayley Edwards, Giana Randall  
13m; Short, Local; US**"Intersection"**

By Toni Palumbo

Starring Melissa Hennig, Kyle Bittner  
9m; Short, Local; US

4 P.M.

**MINDFUL BLOCK  
"The Countryman"**

By Andy Kastelic

Bitterness threatens to destroy a small farming

community until a stranger arrives with a curious proposition.  
21m; Short; US**"Red Cookies"**

By Puspanchalee Sukkata

When this celebration party is filled with nothing but the corruption of the upper class, Pracha rebels against this system by destroying the party with just one box of red cookies.

9m; Short; Comedy; Experimental, Short, Student; Thailand

**"Credit"**

By Patrick Kirton, Susan Kirton

An aging, once-major movie star contemplates his relevancy in Hollywood. He meets a young mega popstar, in a story of personal redemption.

Starring Brad Maule, Eric Mason Kirton, Blayne Weaver  
14m; Short; US**"Sfortunato"**

By Debra Markowitz

A down-on-his-luck gambler is determined to control his fate.

Starring Michael Fedele, Frank Failla, EJ Acosta, Debra Markowitz  
12m; Short; US**"Silence"**

By Curtis Collins

A mother excited about a big promotion at work becomes preoccupied with the rat race of life and forgets her most precious package

Starring Jewelissa Gonzalez, Lucus Riguez, Jonathan Bogue, Kelley Collins  
11m; Short, Local; US**"BayouTech"**

By Kathleen Renee Krenitsky

In a world now devoid of humans, artificial intelligence has taken over. Journey into the bayou, where a former service android learns to make her own way, re-contextualizing the world around her, and embarking on a journey of self-discovery. Will she be able to overcome her initial programming?

Will she learn to succeed where humans have failed?  
Starring Serkan Akman, Kevin Krenitsky, Ipek Naz Çinar  
11m; Animation, Experimental, Short; Sci-Fi; US

5:30 P.M.

**FMFF Panel and Awards Ceremony**

Join for a selection of filmmakers from the Fort Myers Film Festival for a discussion open to the public with awards given out, champagne toasts and afterparty on the rooftop of the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center.

**"Laundry Man"**

5.25@2:15p.m.



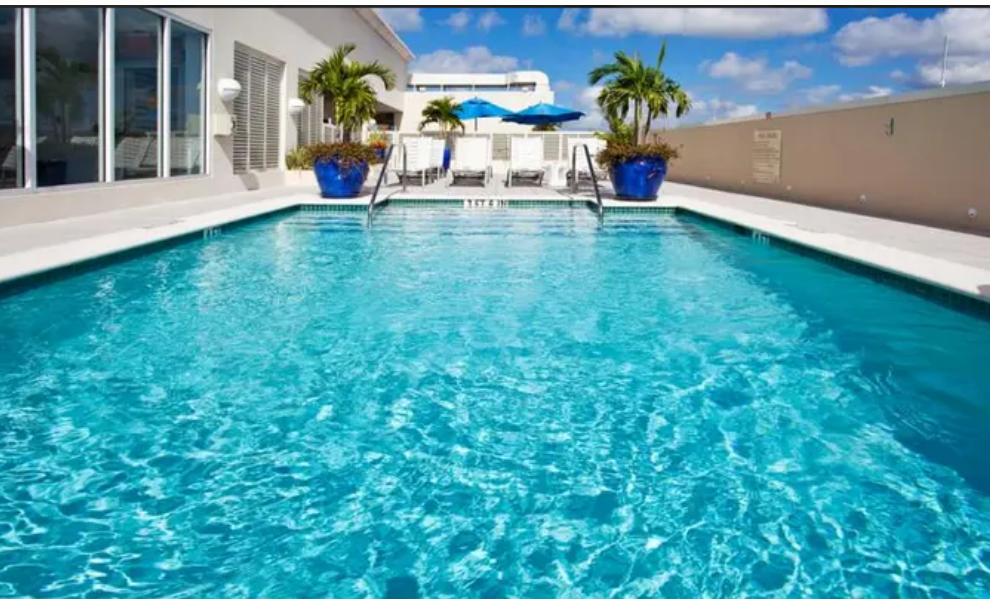
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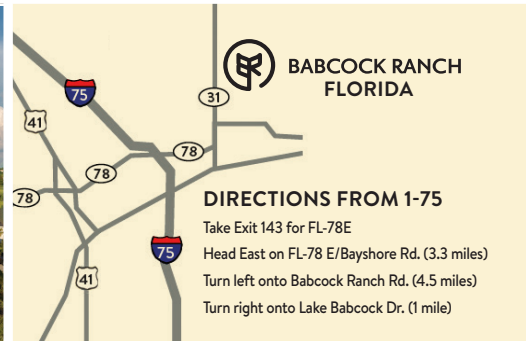
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