VTIFF
Vermont International Film Festival
OCT 21 - 30 16
VENUES AND TICKETING

TICKETING INFO
Tickets can be purchased online by clicking the GET TICKET button next to each film title at VTIFF.ORG/FESTIVAL. This will take you to our online film links where you can purchase your tickets. You can add titles to your order before the final purchase, but please be aware that you may be signed out of that site if you’re on it for more than 20 minutes. So best to select your list of titles and screening dates in advance by consulting VTIFF.ORG/FESTIVAL.

If you prefer to purchase tickets in person, the box office at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, 60 Lake Street, 3rd floor will be open daily throughout the festival itself from one hour before the first screening of the day. Be prepared for lines at busy times.

Note to Patron Members and Gold Pass holders: We reserve a certain number of seats at each screening for Patrons & Pass holders but this is on a first come, first served basis. Popular screenings will sell out and so we highly recommend booking them in advance or arriving early to redeem your ticket. You must go to the Box Office to get a ticket for each screening. It is not enough to show your pass at the door as we need to keep a numbers tally.

STAY UP TO DATE
We strongly urge you to sign up for our e-newsletter to get advance notification of upcoming events. For last minute changes, check our website regularly – VTIFF.ORG/FESTIVAL.

WHERE TO EAT, WHERE TO MEET
Snacks and coffee will be available daily in the Lake Lobby and there will be a cash bar and food at the early evening receptions from 5:30–6:30pm. We highly recommend you attend the receptions – an opportunity to meet the filmmakers and other patrons.

If you want to get out and savor the local restaurant scene, we recommend:

Skinny Pancake – 60 Lake Street, where Festival ticket holders get 15% off – bring your ticket stub with you!
Lucky Next Door – 163 Cherry Street, open 9-5 daily, where you can get lunch, snacks and coffee – all your needs in one place.
A Single Pebble – 133 Bank Street, for gourmet Chinese food.
Dobra Tea – 80 Church Street, for a tantalizing range of teas.
Kountry Kart Deli – 155 Main Street, a deli serving delicious fresh food.
Feldman’s Bagels – 660 Pine Street, the real thing.

PRICES
General Admission - $10.00
Seniors – $8.00
Students (w/ID) and youth (11 and under) - $5.00
Gold Pass – $120
VTIFF Patron Members and Gold Pass holders: FREE

VAMP event – Free with suggested donation of $5 or more.

VENUE INFO
Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center (MSL)
The Festival Information & Hospitality desk and the Box Office will be located in the lobby (3rd floor) from Oct 21 thru Oct 30. Enter either from Battery Street or from 60 Lake Street and take the elevator to the 3rd floor.
Film House
Black Box Theater

Burlington City Arts (BCA)
BCA at 135 Church Street is the screening venue for the Tuesday through Friday Lunchtime Shorts series.

Flynn Theater
The Flynn Theater at 153 Main Street the screening venue for The Triplets of Belleville.

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION
Over 1,000 spaces in the College Street and Lakeview Garages - just one block east up the hill from Main Street Landing. Garages can be accessed either from College Street (entrance is across the street from South Champlain St.) or Cherry Street next to Hotel Vermont.

On-street parking on Lake St. (both directly behind Main Street Landing and behind to the side of April Cornell) is widely available at this time of year. There is also on-street parking on the southern part of Battery St., and the western parts of College St. and Cherry St. All of these meters are free after 6pm.

Parking lot below Lake Street – metered (credit cards) 8am - 8pm weekdays, 8am-6pm Sundays,
Main Street Landing parking lot is free after 6pm weekdays and free weekends.
Merrill Lynch parking lot is free weekends and after 6pm weekdays.
The venues are located on regular Chittenden County Transit routes. There is a shuttle on College Street that leaves every 15 minutes. For more info visit CCTAride.org

ACCESSIBILITY
All venue entrances are wheelchair accessible. Both theaters at Main Street Landing can accommodate wheelchairs, but the Black Box does not provide good sight lines for wheelchairs. The Film House is fitted for the hard of hearing. If you need additional information please don’t hesitate to ask.

CONTACT
info@vtiff.org www.vtiff.org 802.660.2600
Welcome to VTIFF 2016!

We are excited by the range of films we have on offer this year. I have the privilege of chairing our 6-person programming committee and this may be the part of my job that gives me most pleasure. Each year we begin our work around February with hardly a clue as to the final line up of films and curatorial focus of the program. These emerge gradually as we watch hundreds of films, meet, talk, argue, reject and accept an ever-changing list of titles. Perhaps the most difficult part of our job is to have to let go of so many interesting films for lack of space in the festival.

A film festival is your opportunity to immerse yourself in the cinematic arts and to watch films as they are meant to be seen: on a big screen, in a dark room full of friends and strangers. But it is also an opportunity to discuss the films you have seen — at post screening Q&As with the filmmakers and at our daily receptions where you can eat, drink and talk about them. Seek advice and find recommendations from others. The benefit of total immersion in any festival is a lot more than the sum of its parts. I hope you make time to watch as many films as possible.

VTIFF’s mission is to bring the world to our community through film. We do this throughout the year with our monthly screenings and with our Global Roots Film Festival in the winter months. But the Vermont International Film Festival is our flagship program with close to 70 films, panels and discussions. This is where you can watch and learn about the preoccupation of filmmakers worldwide (artistically and topically). I hope, and believe, that the films we present help us all become better people and encourage us to ask questions about the world we live in.

This year we noted a surge in films made by women, about women and films relating to gender. Terrorism past and present also appears to preoccupy filmmakers worldwide, as well as films focusing on the meaning of “home”. We are also pleased to have teamed up with Americas Media Initiative who bring us a Cuban Cinema Spotlight; don’t miss out on programs for the whole family: films and an animation workshop; and — for the late nighters — our After Dark showcase.

I’m especially excited by our guests this year. Please read all about them elsewhere in the festival guide.

Make sure, as well, to browse our sponsors’ page — grantors, sponsors, individual donors and VTIFF members — together they make it all possible.

I’ll be at the festival most of the time. Feel free to come up to me, or to any of our board members, staff and dedicated volunteers, and let us know what you think.

Looking forward to seeing you at the movies!

Orly Yadin
Executive Director, VTIFF
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## DOCUMENTARIES
- **FICTION FILMS**
- **FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS**
  For the whole family to enjoy together.
- **STUDENT MATINEES**
  Exclusive morning screenings for high schools.
- **VTIFF AFTER DARK**
  A delicious selection of genre films at night.
- **LUNCHTIME SHORTS**
  A changing daily program of outstanding international shorts, each presented by a special guest curator.
- **SPECIAL EVENTS**
  Special events include panels, talks and parties.
- **VERMONT FILMMAKERS’ SHOWCASE™**
  VTIFF is proud to celebrate Vermont filmmaking with our annual Vermont Filmmakers’ Showcase™, the oldest and largest juried presentation of Vermont films in the state. The Showcase is supported by Ben and Jerry's Scoop Shops and by the VT Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## LUNCHTIME SHORTS
- Showcase 1
- Showcase 2
- Showcase 3
- Showcase 4
- Showcase 5
- Showcase 6
- Showcase 7
- Showcase 8

## MAIN PROGRAM: FICTION FILMS
- The Confessions
- Demon
- Evolution
- Fatima
- The Handmaiden
- The Hanji Box
- The Intergarriage
- Layla Fourie
- Made in France
- Microbe & Gasoline
- Morris From America
- Mother (Ema)
- My Revolution (Ma révolution)
- Nakom
- Phantasm (Remastered)
- Phantasm: Ravager
- The Salesman (Forushande)
- Sand Storm (Sufat Chol)
- Sixty Six.
- Sonata
- Tanna
- The Triplets of Belleville (Belleville Rendezvous)
- Under the Shadow
- Viva
- The Wall of Words (La Pared de las Palabras)

## MAIN PROGRAM DOCUMENTARIES
- Agents of Change: Black Students and the Transformation of the American University
- Best and Most Beautiful Things
- Contemporary Color
- Everybody Knows...Elizabeth Murray
- Forgotten Farms
- Havana Suite (Suite Habana)
- Kiki
- The Last Laugh
- Lo and Behold, Reveries of the Connected World
- Miss Sharon Jones!
- P.S. Jerusalem
- Political Animals
- Racing Extinction
- Seven Songs for a Long Life
- A Syrian Love Story

## VERMONT FILMMAKERS’ SHOWCASE™
- Showcase 2
- Showcase 3
- Showcase 4
- Showcase 5
- Showcase 6
- Showcase 7
- Showcase 8

## LUNCTIME SHORTS
- Sundance Shorts Film Tour: Part 1
- Sundance Shorts Film Tour: Part 2
- Special Short
- Raging Elegiacs From
- The AIDS War
- Cuban Shorts

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY
- Fiddlesticks
- The Triplets of Belleville
- Scratchatopia Workshop

## SPECIAL EVENTS
- Ask A Film Producer
- Lo & Behold, Reveries of the Connected World Discussion
- VAMP Presentation

## VTIFF AFTER DARK
- Evolution
- Phantasm (Remastered)
- Phantasm: Ravager
- Under the Shadow

## VTIFF.ORG \ VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2016
**Agents of Change: Black Students and the Transformation of the American University**

*USA | Documentary | 2014 | 66 min*

**Showtime:** Thursday, October 27 | 7:30 pm | FH

**Director:** Abby Ginzberg & Frank Dawson | **Film Source:** Filmmaker

**Sponsors:** Champlain College / Peace & Justice Center of Vermont

Director Abby Ginzberg will be in attendance.

In recent years, impassioned political demonstrations have appeared on campuses across the country, from Mississippi to New Jersey, California to Washington, D.C. Many of them have been motivated by the racial discord and issues of discrimination that affect both colleges and society at large. Frank Dawson and Abby Ginzberg’s documentary about black student activism in the late 1960s offers excellent historical context for this continued civil unrest. Covering the protests at San Francisco State in 1968, as well as the takeover of the student union at Cornell University in 1969, Agents of Change features a wealth of archival material and contemporary interviews with many of the major players. Ginzberg, who appeared at VTIFF 2014 with her Peabody Award-winning documentary Soft Vengeance: Albie Sachs and the New South Africa, returns to Vermont with this timely, empowering look at a series of past incidents that continues to reverberate in today’s young activist circles. ~SJ

**Best and Most Beautiful Things**

*USA | Documentary | 2016 | 90 min*

**Showtimes:**
- Wednesday, October 26 | 7:00 pm | FH
  - Special screening with captions and audio-description for the visually and hearing impaired on Thursday, October 27 | 11:30 am | FH

**Director:** Garrett Zevgetis | **Film Source:** Carriage House Pictures | **Sponsors:** Main Street Landing / Eyes of the World

Director Garrett Zevgetis and lead character Michelle Smith will be in attendance at both screenings.

Michelle Smith lives in rural Maine. She loves cats, the internet, cartoons — typical teenage interests. Except Michelle is anything but typical: she’s legally blind and autistic, and is trying to navigate the world, discover herself and become an adult. We follow Michelle as she studies at Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, explores her sexuality and finds love. Garrett Zevgetis’ poignant, visually dynamic and touching documentary profiles a young woman who doesn’t let fear or difference get in her way. ~EF

**The Confessions**

*Italy/France | Italian/French/English w/ English subtitles | Fiction | 2016 | 100 min*

**Showtimes:**
- Saturday, October 22 | 3:45 pm | FH
- Sunday, October 23 | 8:30 pm | BB

**Director:** Roberto Ando | **Film Source:** Breaking Glass Pictures | **Sponsors:** 05401 PLUS

The peerless Toni Servillo has made a career of turning in one exquisitely realized performance after another, impressing audiences in films like The Great Beauty, Il Divo and Gomorrah. In The Confessions, Servillo reteams with his Viva la Libertà director Roberto Ando to play a monk summoned to a G8 meeting in Germany to hear the confession of the director of the International Monetary Fund. After the IMF director is discovered dead the following morning, a sly mystery begins to unfold, rich with political undertones, philosophical musings and Agatha Christie echoes. The superb cast also includes Daniel Auteuil, Connie Nielsen and a host of familiar character actors from around the globe. ~SJ

**Contemporary Color**

*USA | Documentary | 2016 | 107 min*

**Showtime:** Sunday, October 30 | 6:30 pm | FH

**Director:** Bill Ross IV & Turner Ross | **Film Source:** Oscilloscope | **Sponsors:** Lyric Theatre | **Awards:** Best Documentary Cinematography & Best Editing — Tribeca Film Festival

*Closing Night Film*

When David Byrne was asked by a high school color guard team for permission to use one of his songs for a routine, the restlessly innovative musical icon became intrigued by the unusual combination of dance-and-drill choreography and design work that color guard — the “sport of the arts” — showcases. So the former Talking Heads frontman conceived a spectacle that would marry 10 performances from the top teams in North America with original compositions by 10 adventurous and exciting musical acts, including St. Vincent, Ad-Rock (of The Beastie Boys), Ira Glass, Nelly Furtado and tUnE-yArDs. The cumulative result, captured in Contemporary Color, is a wild fusion of music, performance and cinema — an ebullient celebration of collaboration and imaginative audacity. Explaining his reasons for acquiring the distribution rights to the film, Oscilloscope Laboratories’ Dan Berger calls it “an otherworldly blend of athleticism, grace, spirit and art captured in an unbelievably electric and creative way. Watching Contemporary Color isn’t just watching a film. It is experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime performance that is so much more than the sum of its set list.” What better way, then, to commemorate the closing night of this year’s festival? ~SJ
POLAND/ISRAEL | POLISH/YIDDISH/ENGLISH W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION | 2015 | 94 MIN
SHOWTIMES: Saturday, October 22 | 8:45pm | FH
Monday, October 24 | 4:15pm | BB
Director: Marcin Wrona | Film Source: The Orchard
Sponsor: Barbara McGrew
Awards: Best Picture – Austin Fantastic Fest

The wedding in Demon holds deep significance in Polish culture. The wedding in Demon is no exception: lavish preparations and seemingly endless imbibing of vodka fill the screen in gargantuan and comic spectacle. But when the groom becomes possessed by an unquiet spirit, things go terribly wrong. The spirit in this maximalist and disturbing film is a reincarnation of the dybbuk, a traditional Jewish fable of a soul who takes possession of the body of its love object. In Demon, though, it is a soul murdered in the Holocaust that is bogged down in the blood-soaked soil of Poland. In recent years Polish cinema has trended toward uncovering secrets from World War II, as those who saw the superb Ida may remember. Here too, bones are uncovered and reveal unexpected truths. The extraordinary power of Demon lies in its fusion of physicality and spirituality. The festivities and what lies beneath them will keep you glued to the screen. ~OY

USA | DOCUMENTARY | 2015 | 81 MIN
SHOWTIME: Sunday, October 30 | 1:15pm | FH
Director: Kristi Zea | Film Source: Rubyred Productions | Sponsor: Barbara Zucker
Director Kristi Zea, Producer Caroline Goodman-Thomases and Producer Jacki Ochs will be in attendance

An intimate portrait of the groundbreaking artist Elizabeth Murray, Everybody Knows... explores the relationship between Murray’s family life and career and reconsidered her place in contemporary art history. Verité footage, home videos and excerpts from her journals, voiced by Meryl Streep, detail Murray’s internal struggles and incredible ambition. Exclusive interviews with art world luminaries provide the historical backdrop for the New York art scene. Murray moved to New York City in 1967. In 2005, she was the fifth woman to be celebrated with a retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art. Zea, who was the production designer for film luminaries such as Martin Scorsese, Jonathan Demme and Barry Levinson, brings a unique cinematic eye to the visual art world. ~OY

FRANCE/BELGIUM/SPAIN | FRENCH W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION | 2015 | 81 MIN
SHOWTIME: Thursday, October 27 | 9:30pm | FH
Director: Lucile Hadžihalilovic | Film Source: IFC Midnight
Awards: Best Cinematography & Special Jury Prize – San Sebastian International Film Festival
Part of the VTIFF After Dark Spotlight

Director Lucile Hadžihalilovic (Innocence, co-writer of Enter The Void) delivers a body horror film that slowly and methodically gets under your skin. Ten-year-old Nicolas (Max Brebant) lives on a remote volcanic island, inhabited solely by women and young boys. In a hospital overlooking the ocean, all the boys are subjected to a strange medical treatment. As Nicolas questions what is happening around him, he discovers an inexplicable nightmare. Evolution is a stunning visual experience that brings to mind David Cronenberg and H.P. Lovecraft. ~EF

COLORFUL, FANCIFUL FUN FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TUVALU AND ABSURDISTAN.

Germans have long been fascinated with政治. Fiddlesticks conjures the rakish fun of Our Gang and the whimsical cinematic spirit of Michel Gondry and Jean-Pierre Jeunet. A group of kindergarteners (convincingly played by actual 4 year olds), along with their equally prankish grandparents and their mascot (a croati named Fiddlesticks), wreak havoc on their oppressively average town in this buoyant romp of a comedy. Gotta love a film that features a Rube Goldberg-creating rodent, a cow-fart machine, and a series of Flight of the Conchords styled musical numbers! ~SJ
FORGOTTEN FARMS

USA | DOCUMENTARY | 2016 | 63 MIN

SHOWTIME: Saturday, October 29 | 1:00pm | FH

Director: Dave Simonds | Film Source: Filmmakers

A panel discussion, including director Dave Simonds; producer Sarah Gardner; Heather Darby, associate professor at the UVM College of Agriculture & Life Sciences and local dairy farmers will follow the screening.

A fascinating exploration of New England’s dairy farmers, made by a husband-and-wife team from Williamstown, Mass. The film follows several family farms and examines class divisions and cultural divides in farm and food communities. In some circles, farm-to-table restaurants, farmer’s markets and community-supported agriculture networks are booming, and the new farmers are celebrated. But there is another farmer who is left out of the local food celebration. New England has lost more than 10,000 conventional dairy farms in the past 50 years, according to the filmmakers. Many of us have forgotten that 75 years ago these farmers were at the center of a thriving local food economy. But the film is no nostalgic hark back to better days, nor does it extol the virtues of the boutique farms that get most of the press. “Dairy farms get very little attention,” says Waterman, “yet those farms produce a relatively small proportion of the food we consume, while the traditional dairy farms produce almost all the milk we consume in New England.”

*Preceded by the 27-minute short Local Motive, directed by Jaime Williams, part of a series about Vermont’s farm-to-table movement.

Screening and panel followed by reception sponsored by Skinny Pancake.

GIRL ASLEEP

AUSTRALIA | FICTION | 2016 | 87 MIN

SHOWTIMES: Sunday, October 23 | 6:15pm | BB
Friday, October 28 | 8:30pm | BB

Director: Rosemary Myers | Film Source: Oscilloscope | Sponsor: Bobbie Lanahan | Awards: Best Feature Film — Seattle International Film Festival & Adelaide Film Festival

Following in the groundbreaking tradition of Australian young adult films, Girl Asleep is a wild ride through a teenage girl’s struggle to hold onto her childhood, while everyone in her life seems bent on pushing her into adulthood. First-time feature director Rosemary Myers uses sound, color and vivid imagery — blending traditional narrative and experimental art house styles — to plunge the viewer into this bubbly, pop-culture world of teen confusion and insecurity. You’ll be tapping your toes to the music as you root for Greta to find her own path in this crazy world.

THE HANJII BOX

USA | FICTION | 2016 | 62 MIN

SHOWTIME: Friday, October 21 | 7:00pm | FH

Director: Nora Jacobson | Film Source: Filmmaker
Sponsors: Duncan Wisniewski Architecture / A Single Pebble / VTIFF Board President Lorna-Kay Peal

* Opening Night film, world premiere *

Director Nora Jacobson and lead actors Suzanne C. Dudley & Natalie Kim will be in attendance.

A tense cross-cultural love story, inspired by Meg Dean Daiss’s essay about her own experiences. Hannah, a recently divorced art historian, has decided to downsize. Her adopted daughter Rose helps pack the house, but resists clearing out her own room. The tension between mother and daughter escalates until finally, an item of great importance to both of them gets broken: Rose’s Hanji box, which Hannah and her husband bought for Rose years ago in New York City’s Koreatown. Or did they? Determined to prove a point, Hannah takes the train to Koreatown to find the store where she purchased the decorative box made from traditional Korean paper. In the process, she meets a Korean artist and compulsively spends time with him and his friends. The encounter leads to a mental journey of cultural discovery and a form of reverse adoption: her desire to be adopted by her daughter’s birth culture. On another level, through its narrative of interracial adoption, The Hanji Box magnifies familiar and complex mother-daughter relationships.

* Vermont Filmmakers’ Showcase Award Winners will be announced at the screening.*
HAVANA SUITE (SUITE HABANA)

CUBA/SPAIN | SPANISH W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | DOCUMENTARY | 2003 | 85 MIN

SHOWTIME: Sunday, October 30 | 1:45pm | BB

Director: Fernando Pérez | Film Source: Americas Media Initiative | Sponsor: Anna Blackmer
Producer Dany Diaz and AMI Director Alex Halkin will be in attendance. Part of the Cuban Cinema Spotlight

Fernando Pérez, who wrote and directed Suite Habana, is considered by many to be Cuba’s greatest living filmmaker. The film, which explores the boundaries between documentary and fiction, follows 10 people, from dawn until late at night, as they go about their lives in Havana. There is virtually no dialogue, and no voiceover narration — yet Suite Habana probes deeply into the lives of ordinary working-class Cubans in ways that create a complex and open-ended portrait of the city. With a beautiful score by Alejandro Edesio, the movie itself structured like a piece of music. Still accurate and relevant 13 years after its release, this film portrays the Havana that you will not see on any tour. ~AB

THE INTERROGATION

ISRAEL/GERMANY | GERMAN W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION | 2016 | 80 MIN

SHOWTIME: Sunday, October 23 | 1:45pm | FH

Director: Erez Pery | Film Source: Corinth Films | Sponsor: UVM Hillel

Based on the memoirs of Rudolf Höss, the longest-serving commandant of Auschwitz, The Interrogation is a taut examination of the psychological complexities of the perpetrators of the Holocaust. First-time director Erez Pery, who also co-wrote the screenplay, frames the narrative as a cat-and-mouse interrogation between Höss and a young Polish investigation judge, who’s tasked with obtaining an ironclad confession from the man who oversaw the mass killing of millions of Jews. Pery, who wrote a Ph.D. dissertation titled “The Cinematic Logic of the Nazi Death Camp and Its Influence on Modern Post War Cinema,” takes a scholar’s approach to the contemplation of man’s capacity for evil. But his assured direction provides a rare level of tension for a historical drama, including a well-executed narrative twist that upends the moral compass of the film’s daunted investigator. ~LB

* Preceded by Silence, an 11-minute animated documentary about the learned and self-imposed postwar silences of a young girl who survived the Holocaust. Co-directed by VTIFF executive director Orly Yadin, Silence was short-listed for the 1999 Academy Awards.
KIKI

USA/SWEDEN | DOCUMENTARY | 2016 | 94 MIN

SHOWTIME: Friday, October 28 | 6:15pm | BB

Director: Sara Jorden | Film Source: IFC Sundance Selects
Awards: Best Documentary – Berlinale & Full Frame

Documentary Film Festival
Producer Lori Cheatle will be in attendance.

An heir to Jennie Livingston’s seminal 1990 documentary Paris Is Burning, Sara Jorden’s Kiki looks at New York City’s still-thriving House & Ballroom scene in the 21st century. Dynamic footage of rehearsals and competitions, along with engaging interviews featuring a vibrant array of dancers, DJs, drag artists and designers, together form a lively portrait of a community that uses performance and fashion to confront adversity and celebrate creativity and individuality. Shedding light on a wide range of issues, including addiction, abuse, police harassment, HIV/AIDS, coming out, transitioning and more, Kiki also stands as a testament to the strength and resilience that community can provide — especially when there are fresh beats backing you up. ~SJ

Note: Lori Cheatle will also be participating in the Ask a Producer panel discussion.

THE LAST LAUGH

USA | DOCUMENTARY | 2016 | 88 MIN

SHOWTIME: Sunday, October 23 | 3:45pm | FH

Director: Ferne Pearlstein | Film Source: Film Collaborative
Sponsor: UVM Hillel

Director Ferne Pearlstein & Producer Robert Edwards will be in attendance.

Can comics make jokes about the Holocaust? This documentary by Ferne Pearlstein — featuring Mel Brooks, Sarah Silverman, Carl Reiner, Rob Reiner and Larry Charles — explores the often unspoken rules of humor and bad taste. Who gets to decide what is funny and what is offensive? The comics? The Holocaust survivors? The audience? In her search for answers, Pearlstein casts far and wide, from a Holocaust survivors’ meeting to newly discovered footage of the Jerry Lewis comedy film that takes place at a concentration camp, The Day the Clown Cried, which Lewis has never allowed to be shown publicly. The Last Laugh will make you laugh. How you feel about that laughter is up to you. Pearlstein digs deep into the issues, but lets the audience make up its own mind. ~JS

LAYLA FOURIE

SOUTH AFRICA/GERMANY | FICTION | 2013 | 108 MIN

SHOWTIME: Sunday, October 30 | 11:00 am | FH

Director: Pia Marais | Film Source: Filmmaker

For her third feature film, Pia Marais - who has lived in Berlin for many years - returned to South Africa where she grew up to make this classy thriller. Layla Fourie (Rayna Campbell), a young single-mother who works as a polygraph examiner, is sent far away to test potential employees for a casino. She has to take her young son Kane with her because she has no one she can turn to for help. When an accident happens along the way, Layla doesn’t fully appreciate the effect it has on her and her son and the consequences it will create. In the constant presence of mistrust, lies and fear, she soon becomes a suspect herself. Layla Fourie develops into a political thriller which takes the audience into the paranoia, fear and mistrust of a society that is still profoundly affected by racial conflict. ~OY
LO AND BEHOLD, REVERIES OF THE CONNECTED WORLD

USA | DOCUMENTARY | 2016 | 98 MIN

SHOWTIME: Monday, October 24 | 6:30pm | FH

Director: Werner Herzog | Film Source: Magnolia | Sponsor: Vermont Technical College / BTV Ignite / Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies / Burlington Generator / Champlain Mini Maker Faire / Alternator

The screening is preceded by a reception at 5:30pm and is followed by a panel discussion.

Though it doesn’t precisely coincide with the turn of the millennium, the widespread adoption of the internet is the dividing technological line between the 20th and 21st centuries. And what better person to examine the repercussions of the sea change of the internet era than 74-year-old Werner Herzog? The New German Cinema godfather put the movement on the map in the early 1970s with the 16th century saga Aguirre, the Wrath of God, and in his seasoned years has plumbed the outer reaches of the human experience with the rugged documentaries Grizzly Man and Encounters at the End of the World. Herzog’s latest doc spans the origins of the first ones and zeroes of the nascent internet to a potentially apocalyptic future, when a giant solar flare could destroy the intricate links of a digitally connected world. In between, Lo and Behold takes us on a tour of everything from the possibilities of fully autonomous cars and artificially intelligent robots to the destructive effects of cyberbullying and the pain of people suffering from electromagnetic hypersensitivity. It’s all held together by the mellifluous tones of Herzog’s thickly accented English narration, which has become as instantly recognizable as his distinctive style of documentary filmmaking. ~LB

MADE IN FRANCE

FRANCE | FRENCH W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION | 2015 | 89 MIN

SHOWTIMES: Tuesday, October 25 | 4:15pm | BB
Thursday, October 27 | 6:30pm | BB

Director: Nicolas Boukhrief | Film Source: Distrib Films | Sponsor: John Douglas

Made in France tells the story of an undercover journalist who infiltrates a jihadist cell in a Paris suburb, whose mission is to destabilize the city center of Paris. This gripping account of five French citizens who have embraced the call to jihad reminds us that not all Arabs are jihadists, and not all jihadists are Arabs. At the same time, the film seizes on the even more unsettling idea that anyone could be a terrorist — and not just foreigners. They could be your neighbors or even your children. Made in France is one of those rare films that turns a thriller genre into an upfront and personal encounter with five men who could not be more different from each other. This taut thriller was conceived as total fiction and was scheduled to be released in January 2015. Then the Charlie Hebdo shooting occurred. The rescheduled release date, Nov. 18, 2015, turned out to be just days after the mass Paris killings. Once again, the film was pulled by the distributor and not released in France until April of this year. ~OY

MICROBE & GASOLINE

FRANCE | FRENCH W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION | 2015 | 100 MIN

SHOWTIMES: Saturday, October 22 | 1:45pm | FH
Wednesday, October 26 | 8:15pm | BB

Director: Michel Gondry | Film Source: Screen Media | Sponsor: A Single Pebble

The latest film from Michel Gondry (Mood Indigo; The Science of Sleep; Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind) transforms his cut-and-paste magic realism into reality. Creative and shy artist Microbe can’t make friends at school until he meets Gasoline, an outsider cut from the same cloth. They hatch a plan to build a car and travel across France on an epic road trip to escape the realities of teen life. Microbe & Gasoline represents a different direction for Gondry; it’s much more straightforward, but still with all the charm, earnestness and joy of his best work. Starring Audrey Tautou (Amelie; The Da Vinci Code), Ange Dargent and Théophile Baquet. ~EF
MISS SHARON JONES!

USA | DOCUMENTARY | 2015 | 93 MIN

SHOWTIMES: Saturday, October 22 | 6:30pm | FH
Sunday, October 23 | 11:15am | BB

Director: Barbara Kopple | Film Source: Cabin Creek Films
Sponsor: Todd Lockwood
Awards: Best Documentary – Sarasota Film Festival

Barbara Kopple, who won Oscars for her documentaries Harlan County U.S.A. (1976) and American Dream (1990), has a long history of documenting people — especially women — of great resilience. In this masterful documentary, you’ll be swept away by the sheer positive energy of Sharon Jones, the amazing singer and phenomenal force of nature who headlines the Dap-Kings. But it’s more than a joyous music documentary; following Jones’ cancer diagnosis, her indomitable battle to continue her work, her high spirits and stage presence will keep you glued to the screen. Jones holds the film together throughout the tumultuous year of being on the verge of releasing a new album and embarking on a tour. “You think you’ve seen something / Lord, I’ve just begun,” Sharon Jones sings. And you don’t doubt her for a second. ~OY

MORRIS FROM AMERICA

GERMANY/USA | ENGLISH/GERMAN W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION | 2016 | 91 MIN

SHOWTIMES: Sunday, October 23 | 2:00pm | BB
Thursday, October 27 | 3:45pm | FH

Director: Chad Hartigan | Film Source: A24 | Sponsor: Bridget Meyer
Awards: Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award – Sundance

Thirteen-year-old Morris (Markees Christmas), a fish out of water navigating the rapids of teen life, lives in Heidelberg with his father (Craig Robinson of The Office and This Is the End). With ambitions of rap stardom and attractions for a popular schoolmate, Morris seeks guidance from his German tutor (Carla Juri of Wetlands) and respect from his dad while facing the casual cruelty of high school and negotiating the cultural anxieties of life as a stranger in a strange land. The perceptive script offers a fresh take on young black experience, while winning performances imbue this endearing tale with a convivial spirit and a whole lot of heart. ~SJ

WANT TO GO TO A PARTY?

Check out page 27 for event information
MOTHER (EMA)

ESTONIA | ESTONIAN W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION | 2016 | 89 MIN

**SHOWTIMES:**
- Thursday, October 27 | 8:30pm | BB
- Saturday, October 29 | 11:30am | BB

**Director:** Kadri Kousaar | **Film Source:** Film Sales Co.
**Awards:** Estonia’s official submission to the 2016 Academy Awards

What is it with the films of Scandinavia and neighboring countries, such as Estonia, and their penchant for dark comedy? Sharing an offbeat sense of humor, this *Fargo*-esque tale of idiosyncratic characters will keep you guessing until the end. Meanwhile, you will enjoy meeting many of this small town’s characters — first and foremost Elsa, the eponymous mother in the film, who has to give up her job to care for her comatose schoolteacher son, who was shot at by an unknown. To find relief from a tedious marriage and a house with neutral tones of beige and grey (echoed in the cinematography), Elsa conducts a secretive romance. Many people enter and leave the house, and for a small town where everybody knows all there is to know about everybody else, the policeman investigating the case cannot fathom why no one seems to know of her indiscretions. This wonderfully pitch-black comedy hides some dark secrets.

~OY

MY REVOLUTION (MA RÉVOLUTION)

FRANCE | FRENCH/ARABIC W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION | 2015 | 80 MIN

**SHOWTIMES:**
- Wednesday, October 26 | 4:15pm | BB
- Saturday, October 29 | 6:15pm | BB

**Director:** Ramzi Ben Sliman | **Film Source:** Visit Films

There’s nothing like a first crush — the first stirrings of attraction, the exhilaration and tension of being newly smitten. Couple that with attending one’s first political rally — the rush of passion and fervor all around, that sense of collective and personal turbulence — and you’ve got the makings of a fraught and combustible coming-of-age tale. Fourteen-year-old Marwann, a charmingly rakish French-Tunisian Parisian, is more concerned with goofing around than with the social upheavals taking place both near and far. But then, while trying to impress the girl he likes, he winds up at a demonstration where a journalist snaps a picture of him that appears in the following day’s newspapers. Before long, Marwann has become an unwitting face of the Arab Spring and the center of attention at school. He soon finds himself questioning how fully he should embrace this newfound identity and what it reveals about his family roots and origins — and whether he can reconcile his mixed intentions. *My Revolution* is a smart, endearing and timely story. It reflects the director’s belief that “where you belong is where you’re loved, and the languages we speak make us who we are.” ~SJ

LUNCH BREAK?

Check out our Lunchtime Shorts on page 22
**NAKOM**

GHANA | KUSAAL W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION | 2016 | 90 MIN

**SHOWTIMES:** Wednesday, October 26 | 6:15pm | BB
Thursday, October 27 | 4:00pm | BB

**Director:** T.W. Pittman & Kelly Daniela Norris | **Film Source:** Corinth Films

**Awards:** Best Film – Durban International Film Festival

A city versus village tale of classical beauty, *Nakom* is the story of a medical student who returns to his remote village in Ghana following the death of his father. Jacob Ayanaba, in a striking debut, plays a young man of talent and promise who’s torn between the lure of the urban dream and the pressing duties of assuming the patriarchal role in a rural family on the brink of ruin. Beautifully shot in widescreen compositions that capture the fickle weather of the Ghanaian countryside in both its fertile splendor and the barren cruelty of the dry season, *Nakom* is both timeless and modern — and at once culturally specific and universal. ~LB

---

**P.S. JERUSALEM**

CANADA/ISRAEL | HEBREW/ARABIC/ENGLISH W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | DOCUMENTARY | 2015 | 87 MIN

**SHOWTIMES:** Saturday, October 29 | 6:45pm | FH

**Director:** Danae Elon | **Film Source:** Filmoption International

**Film Source:** Filmoption International

**Sponsor:** Burlington-Bethlehem-Adar Sister City Program

**Awards:** Special Jury Prize – Haifa International Film Festival

Director Danae Elon will be in attendance.

Filmmaker Danae Elon, the daughter of writer Amos Elon, grew up in Jerusalem before relocating to New York City. In this film, she chronicles what happens when she and her husband, Philip, a French-Algerian Jew who never lived in Israel, move their family to Jerusalem. Shot over the course of three years, the film captures how the city’s tensions become internalized within the family, exposing divisions between past and present, hope and reality. Elon turns the camera on her three young boys as they ask endless questions and confront the reality around them. We learn to see the Palestinian-Israeli reality from their point of view and that of their friends. She sends them to the only school in the city that teaches Arab and Jewish children together, a respite from the conflict enveloping her surroundings. But can she keep her family together — and keep a cool head — in the political and cultural heat of Jerusalem? ~OY

---

**PHANTASM (REMASTERED)**

USA | FICTION | 1979 | 88 MIN

**SHOWTIME:** Tuesday, October 25 | 7:00pm | FH

**Director:** Don Coscarelli | **Film Source:** Silver Sphere Corporation

**Film Source:** Silver Sphere Corporation

**Sponsor:** Main Street Landing

Exclusive Vermont Theatrical Screening.

Part of the VTIFF After Dark Spotlight

* Free screening *

In Don Coscarelli’s hallmark of horror franchises, townspeople have been dying under mysterious circumstances. Thirteen-year-old Mike investigates, discovering that the town’s mortician, “The Tall Man” (played by the late Angus Scrimm), is murdering folks and then reanimating the dead. Along with his older brother, Jody, and ice cream man Reggie, they must confront The Tall Man, his minions and the deadly silver sphere. This presentation is a high-def digital restoration of the 1979 film, supervised by Coscarelli and J.J. Abrams’ *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* Bad Robot company. ~EF
## Full Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Friday 10/21</th>
<th>Saturday, 10/22</th>
<th>Sunday 10/23</th>
<th>Monday 10/24</th>
<th>Tuesday 10/25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>VT Showcase 1 (47 Min, Pg 23)</td>
<td>VT Showcase 4 (42 Min, Pg 24)</td>
<td>Miss Sharon Jones! (93 Min, Pg 11)</td>
<td>Sonita (90 Min, Pg 18)</td>
<td>Lunchtime Shorts: Sundance 1 (60 Min, Pg 22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>VT Showcase 2 (31 Min, Pg 23)</td>
<td>Microbe &amp; Gasoline (100 Min, Pg 10)</td>
<td>Fiddlesticks (82 Min, Pg 6)</td>
<td>Demon (94 Min, Pg 6)</td>
<td>Sand Storm (87 Min, Pg 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15pm</td>
<td>VT Showcase 3 (43 Min, Pg 23)</td>
<td>VT Showcase 5 (60 Min, Pg 24)</td>
<td>Silence (11 min) The Interrogation (80 min, Pg 8)</td>
<td>Lo &amp; Behold (98 Min, Pg 10)</td>
<td>Made in France (89 Min, Pg 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>OPENING NIGHT Hanji Box &amp; Awards (61 Min, Pg 7)</td>
<td>The Confessions (100 Min, Pg 5)</td>
<td>Morris From America (91 Min, Pg 11)</td>
<td>Fatima (79 Min, Pg 6)</td>
<td>Political Animals (76 Min, Pg 16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>VT Showcase 7 (30 Min, Pg 25)</td>
<td>The Last Laugh (88 Min, Pg 9)</td>
<td>Sand Storm (87 Min, Pg 17)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Miss Sharon Jones! (93 Min, Pg 11)</td>
<td>Girl Asleep (87 Min, Pg 7)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8pm</td>
<td>VT Showcase 8 (60 Min, Pg 25)</td>
<td>A Syrian Love Story (104 Min, Pg 18)</td>
<td>The Confessions (100 Min, Pg 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45pm</td>
<td>Demon (94 Min, Pg 6)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Location Guide

**Film House**
60 Lake Street, 3rd Floor at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center (MSL)

**Black Box Theater**
60 Lake Street, 3rd Floor at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center (MSL)

**Burlington City Arts (BCA)**
135 Church Street
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Student Matinee Racing Extinction (94 Min, Pg 16)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Best &amp; Most Beautiful Things w/ Audio description &amp; Captions (90 Min, Pg 5)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Lunchtime Shorts: Sundance 2 (60 Min, Pg 22)</td>
<td>BCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30pm</td>
<td>Mother (89 Min, Pg 12)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td>Layla Fourie (108 Min, Pg 9)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Lunchtime Shorts: Racing Extinction (94 Min, Pg 16)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Ask a Film Producer Panel (60 Min, Pg 26)</td>
<td>Great Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Local Motive (27 Min)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15pm</td>
<td>Everybody Knows ... Elizabeth Murray (59 Min, Pg 6)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45pm</td>
<td>The Salesman (125 Min, Pg 16)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45pm</td>
<td>Morris From America (91 Min, Pg 11)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3pm</td>
<td>Racing Extinction (94 Min, Pg 16)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Sonata (90 Min, Pg 18)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45pm</td>
<td>Havana Suite (85 Min, Pg 8)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>My Revolution (80 Min, Pg 12)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4pm</td>
<td>Fatima (79 Min, Pg 6)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>Seven Songs For a Long Life (90 Min, Pg 17)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45pm</td>
<td>Tanna (104 Min, Pg 19)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4pm</td>
<td>Wall of Words (87 Min, Pg 20)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15pm</td>
<td>Nakom (90 Min, Pg 13)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>VAMP presentation (60 Min, Pg 26)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15pm</td>
<td>My Revolution (80 Min, Pg 12)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Made in France (89 Min, Pg 10)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15pm</td>
<td>Kiki (94 Min, Pg 9)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15pm</td>
<td>Evolution (81 Min, Pg 6)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Closing Night Contemporary Color (107 Min, Pg 5)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Best &amp; Most Beautiful Things (90 Min, Pg 5)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Agents of Change (66 Min, Pg 5)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45pm</td>
<td>Girl Asleep (87 Min, Pg 7)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:45pm</td>
<td>P. S. Jerusalem (87 Min, Pg 13)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15pm</td>
<td>The Salesman (125 Min, Pg 16)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9pm</td>
<td>Viva (100 Min, Pg 20)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00pm</td>
<td>Under The Shadow (86 Min, Pg 20)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30pm</td>
<td>Evolution (81 Min, Pg 6)</td>
<td>Film House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30pm</td>
<td>Mother (89 Min, Pg 12)</td>
<td>Black Box</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**FILMS: A TO Z**

#### Phantasm: Ravager

**USA | FICTION | 2016 | 87 MIN**

**Showtime:** Tuesday, October 25 | 9:00pm | FH

**Director:** David Hartman | **Film Source:** Well Go USA

Exclusive Vermont Theatrical Screening. Part of the VTIFF After Dark Spotlight

This highly anticipated fifth and final film in the Phantasm series was eight years in the making, featuring Angus Scrimm's final on-screen performance. Mike and Reggie (original Phantasm cast members Reggie Bannister and A. Michael Baldwin) face The Tall Man for one final showdown to save humanity. ~EF

#### Political Animals

**USA | DOCUMENTARY | 2016 | 86 MIN**

**Showtimes:** Tuesday, October 25 | 6:30pm | BB

**Director:** Jonah Markowitz & Tracy Wares | **Film Source:** Idiot Savant Pictures | **Sponsor:** Madeleine Kunin

**Awards:** Best Documentary – Los Angeles Film Festival | **Sponsor:** Madeleine Kunin

California Senator Carole Migden will be in attendance.

This documentary portrait of the first four openly gay elected California state politicians reflects its subjects: vivacious, focused and passionate. Carole Migden, Sheila Kuehl, Jackie Goldberg and Christine Kehoe broke ground and glass ceilings with equal aplomb, each of them shepherding landmark legislation into law with significant social and legal ramifications far beyond their home state. Political Animals recounts the legislative battles — the strategic compromises and momentous victories — fought for by these four determined, trailblazing lesbians over the course of their careers. And while celebrating these politicians’ historic achievements, the film also reminds us that the fight is far from over. At a time when many hard-won protections are under attack across the country, and the progress made in recent decades is threatened by a foul and virulent backlash, this reminder is both welcome and invigorating. The struggle for civil rights carries on. Political Animals pays tribute to four incredible women who helped shape the movement. ~SJ

#### Racing Extinction

**USA/UK/JAPAN/MEXICO/HONG KONG/CHINA/INDONESIA | DOCUMENTARY | 2015 | 90 MIN**

**Showtimes:** Friday October 28, 3:00pm | FH

Student Matinee Screening on Wednesday, October 26, 11:30am | FH

**Director:** Louie Psihoyos | **Film Source:** Film Collaborative

**Sponsors:** Jane Kramer / Seventh Generation Foundation / Anne Slade Frey Charitable Trust

**Awards:** Oscar nomination for Best Original Song

Director Louie Psihoyos will participate in a Q&A via Skype.

Racing Extinction, from the Oceanic Preservation Society and the Oscar-winning filmmakers of 2009’s The Cove, is a gripping eco-thriller documentary that examines biodiversity loss, its effect on humanity, and the solutions that inspire hope for a more sustainable future. Through a series of eye-opening investigative sequences — often using clandestine and guerilla-style approaches — the filmmakers expose a range of industrial and commercial practices that are having devastating effects on the environment and ecosystems across the planet. Documenting both the deadly consequences of the international wildlife trade and the alarming connections between carbon emissions, ocean acidification and species extinction, the film employs a collective of activists and artists who use cutting-edge technologies to bring these urgent matters to light. ~SJ

#### The Salesman (Forushande)

**IRAN/FRANCE | FARSI W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION | 2016 | 125 MIN**

**Showtimes:** Wednesday, October 26 | 3:45pm | FH

Saturday, October 29 | 8:15pm | BB

**Director:** Ashgar Farhadi | **Film Source:** Cohen Media

**Awards:** Iran’s official submission to the 2016 Academy Awards

Ashgar Farhadi’s unnerving pre-credit and opening scenes set the tone for this masterful narrative of a middle-class couple. Emad and Rana, during the course of rehearsals for Arthur Miller’s Death of a Salesman, undergo traumatic events that cause cracks in their relationship — just like the cracks in the Tehran apartment building they live in. Farhadi, the lauded writer-director of the Oscar-winning 2011 film A Separation, keeps us on our toes in this drama that’s part revenge thriller and part psychoanalysis of trauma. After Rana is attacked in the shower one night, Emad pours his anger on the unknown attacker. But Rana refuses to go to the police. Does Emad’s desire for revenge help Rana overcome the effects of this traumatic event, or does his lack of understanding for what she has to endure make things worse? The tension mounts incrementally as he seeks clues to the identity of the attacker and we are left with questions about the role of mercy and vengeance. ~OY
**SAND STORM (SUFAT CHOL)**

Israel/France | Arabic w/ English subtitles | Fiction | 2016 | 87 min

**Showtimes:**
- Sunday, October 23 | 4:00pm | BB
- Tuesday, October 25 | 4:00pm | FH

**Director:** Elite Zexer  
**Film Source:** Kino Lorber

**Awards:**
- Grand Jury Prize for World Cinema — Sundance Film Festival
- Roger Ebert Prize for Best Foreign Film for a First-Time Filmmaker — Traverse City Film Festival
- Israel’s official submission to the 2016 Academy Awards

Debut writer/director Elite Zexer’s tale of familial relationships across three generations, set in a Bedouin village in Southern Israel, is at once a condemnation of its misogynistic culture and a nuanced portrait of its women. In this polygamous society, we witness Jalila preparing the wedding celebrations for her husband’s new second wife. To add to her woes, Jalila discovers that her daughter Layla has a secret boyfriend in school. Drama after quiet drama follows. What makes this film stand out is Zexer’s ability to flesh out complex characters (including the father) and her understanding that the oppression of these women manifests itself not only through the action of the men, but also by the way the women themselves have internalized it. Sand Storm is an intelligent and mesmerizing film about a culture that few outsiders get to see. ~OY

**SEVEN SONGS FOR A LONG LIFE**

UK | Documentary | 2016 | 83 min

**Showtime:**
- Saturday, October 29 | 3:30pm | FH

**Director:** Amy Hardie  
**Film Source:** Cargo

POV Exec. Producer Justine Nagan and film producer Lori Cheatle will be in attendance.

This screening is a special preview of an upcoming broadcast of the long-running POV program on Vermont PBS. Documenting six hospice patients at Stratcarron in Scotland, Amy Hardie’s film poses the question: How does one cope with the uncertainty of life after a terminal diagnosis? Seven Songs for a Long Life is a heartwarming and poignant look at end of life — a subject that is not discussed often enough. ~EF

Note: Justine Nagan and Lori Cheatle will also be participating in the Ask a Producer panel discussion.

**SIXTY SIX**

USA | Animation/Experimental | 2002-2015 | 90 min

**Showtime:**
- Sunday, October 30 | 3:15pm | FH

**Director:** Lewis Klahr  
**Film Source:** Filmmaker  
**Sponsor:** Judy Gerber

Director Lewis Klahr will participate in a Q&A via Skype.

Combining ambitious artistry and formal inventiveness with a pulp sensibility, an ingenious approach and a bit of kitsch, master collagist and animator Lewis Klahr has created a captivating stop-motion mosaic that employs a potent stew of media and techniques. Consisting of 12 chapters made over the course of 13 years, and playing like a loose picaresque across a shady, fedora-and-high-heel strewn past, Sixty Six is an avant-garde work that trucks in the language of mass culture. It’s a kind of reimagined Route 66 littered with Pop Art ephemera, mythical allusions, noirish postures and stray American idioms. Leonard Cohen and Euripides sharing smokes with Roy Lichtenstein and Mickey Spillane. Debuting last December at MoMA, the anthology film has primarily been presented in museums and galleries. This VTIFF screening is a rare chance to see this singular masterwork in a theatrical setting; a bound-to-be-fascinating post-film discussion with Klahr over Skype only sweetens the deal. A unique cinematic experience that blurs boundaries between art forms, Sixty Six is why film festivals exist. ~SJ
**FILMS: A TO Z**

**SONITA**

**IRAN/GERMANY/SWITZERLAND | FARSI/DARI/ENGLISH W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | DOCUMENTARY | 90 MIN**

**SHOWTIME:** Monday, October 24 | 4:00pm | FH
Saturday, October 29 | 1:30pm | BB

**Director:** Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghemi | **Film Source:** Women Make Movies

**Awards:** Grand Jury Prize & Audience Award for World Cinema Documentary — Sundance Film Festival

Director Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami will participate in a Q&A via Skype after the 1:30pm screening on Saturday, October 29.

Sonita is a teenage girl, a rapper, an Afghan refugee living in Iran, and, in her mind, a star. The young girls she meets find their voices through her music and are wowed by the power and confidence she exudes. Eventually even the film's director, Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami, finds herself drawn in as part of her subject's story, blurring the boundaries and making the audience question who is in control. Although the subject is timely, serious and heart wrenching — especially as Sonita’s family threatens to sell her into marriage — the film always manages to be upbeat and inspirational, due to the magnetism of its subject. This movie won’t likely be the last we see of Sonita. ~JS

**A SYRIAN LOVE STORY**

**UK/SYRIA/LEBANON FRANCE | ENGLISH/FRENCH/ARABIC W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | DOCUMENTARY | 2015 | 76 MIN**

**SHOWTIME:** Sunday, October 23 | 6:30pm | FH

**Director:** Sean McAllister | **Film Source:** Cat & Docs | **Sponsor:** Vermont Council on World Affairs | **Awards:** Grand Jury Award — Sheffield International Documentary Festival

The screening will be preceded by a special reception and followed by a Q&A with former U.S. Ambassador to Syria, Robert Ford.

Amer Daoud, a Palestinian, met Raghda Hassan, a Syrian, through a hole in the wall of their adjoining cells while both were political prisoners in Syria in the 1990s. After Hassan was imprisoned for publishing a book about their romance, Daoud sought the help of British filmmaker Sean McAllister and the U.S. State Department to highlight her plight. McAllister is the kind of documentarian who is prepared to take risks to alert audiences to important issues. He spent time behind bars to chronicle this struggle of a married couple torn between raising their four sons and exposing the iniquities of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad’s dictatorship. Perhaps more than any other film about refugees and political activists — thanks to MacAllister’s dogged following of the family over five years — we not only gain insights into the complexities of living away from home, but also of the effect that freedom fighting can have on family life. *A Syrian Love Story* is a fascinating, compassionate, provocative film that is both timely and essential viewing. ~OY

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**TANNA**

AUSTRALIA/VANUATU | NAUVHAL W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION | 2016 | 104 MIN

**SHOWTIME:** Saturday, October 29 | 3:45pm | BB

**Director:** Martin Butler & Bentley Dean | **Film Source:** Lightyear Entertainment | **Awards:** Best Direction in a Feature Film – Australian Directors Guild Awards / Best Cinematography – Venice Film Festival / Australia’s official submission to the 2016 Academy Awards

Vanuatu native Marco Johnson will be in attendance. Q&A moderated by Megan Epler Wood.

After a young woman runs away with the man she loves to avoid an arranged marriage, villagers wrestle with preserving their traditional culture, or adapting it to the increasing outside demands for individual freedom. *Tanna* is the first-ever feature shot entirely in the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu. Based on dramatic events that took place on the volcanic island of Tanna in 1987, *Tanna* is breathtakingly beautiful and compellingly told. The filmmakers spent seven months living with the Yakel, a tribe whose customs and lifestyle have changed little for centuries.

During this time the filmmakers were told of a great love story from the recent past. The result was a screenplay written in close collaboration with the Yakel and performed predominantly by its members, who had never seen a film before. An eye-opening scene sees arranged marriage defended via the example of Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth II. This Romeo and Juliet story offers not only a glimpse into a remote and unfamiliar place and culture, but also raises questions about the traditional and the modern. The story is about opposed tribes, their attempts to make peace, and two lovers who rebel after one is steered into an arranged marriage. ~OY

**THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE**

(FELLEVILLE RENDEVOUS)

FRANCE/BELGIUM/CANADA/UK/LATVIA | FRENCH W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION/ANIMATION | 2003 | 78 MIN

**SHOWTIME:** Thursday, October 27 | 7:30pm | Flynn Center

**Awards:** Oscar nominated for Best Animated Feature & Best Original Song / ‘Palm Dog’ – Cannes Film Festival / Best Music – César Awards / Best Picture - Genie Award & Lumiere Award & New York Film Critics Circle Award & the Étoile d’Or

Composer Benoît Charest leads Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville in the live performance of his original score. Kidnapped by mysterious henchmen, a Tour de France cyclist named Champion is spirited across the ocean to the teeming metropolis of Belleville. His near-sighted grandmother and faithful dog follow his trail and are taken in by a trio of eccentric jazz-era divas, while the motley sleuths follow the clues in hot pursuit. This beloved animated film will be accompanied by a live performance by composer Benoît Charest’s Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville in the live performance of his original score.

Know a budding filmmaker, screenwriter, animator, or film critic?

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**FILMS: A TO Z**

**UNDER THE SHADOW**

JORDAN/UK | Farsi w/ English subtitles | Fiction | 2016 | 86 min

**Showtime:** Saturday, October 29 | 9:00pm | FH

**Director:** Babak Anvari | **Film Source:** Vertical Entertainment

Part of the VTIFF After Dark Spotlight

**Awards:** United Kingdom’s official submission to the 2016 Academy Awards

Director Babak Anvari’s first feature film will surely draw comparisons to *The Babadook*, but there’s much more lurking under the surface. It’s 1988 in Tehran. The Iran-Iraq war continues on, with daily bombings. The country’s bloody revolution slowly tears a mother and daughter apart. As they struggle to stay together in the midst of these modern terrors, a mysterious evil stalks through their apartment, threatening their grip on reality. This claustrophobic combination of the evils of man and the supernatural create a gripping, visceral horror experience. —EF

**VIVA**

CUBA/IRELAND | Spanish w/ English subtitles | Fiction | 2015 | 100 min

**Showtime:** Friday, October 28 | 9:00pm | FH

**Director:** Paddy Breathnach | **Film Source:** Magnolia

**Awards:** Ireland’s official submission to the 2015 Academy Awards

This finely wrought, compelling drama of a young, aspiring drag performer in Havana contending with his newly released convict father, while struggling both to make ends meet and make it onstage at a local club, features fantastic performances, sensuous, striking cinematography and an all-encompassing sense of place. A classic story of buried resentments, bruised identities and time lost, *Viva* captures the roiling tensions and aspirations of transforming cultures in the microcosm of a father and son’s relationship. Aesthetically rich and emotionally urgent, Irish director Paddy Breathnach’s film explores the painstaking but illuminative process of discovering truth through artifice. In the act of performance, in the guise of a lie, honesty can be found, and genuine sentiment can be revealed. How that truth is received is the question that remains. —SJ

**THE WALL OF WORDS**

(CUBA SPANISH W/ ENGLISH SUBTITLES | FICTION | 2014 | 97 min

**Showtime:** Sunday, October 30 | 4:00pm | BB

**Director:** Fernando Pérez | **Film Source:** Americas Media Initiative | **Sponsor:** Anonymous

Producer Dany Diaz and AMI Director Alex Halkin will be in attendance.

Part of the Cuban Cinema Spotlight

We are pleased to present two of Fernando Pérez’s films as part of the Cuban Cinema Spotlight: *Havana Suite* and *The Wall of Words*. In *The Wall of Words*, Luis, since childhood, has suffered from dystonia and cannot communicate through body language or words. Between the medical institution and family, his inner life is an impenetrable wall. By crafting a fictional story of a family that falls apart when one of the siblings becomes disabled, Pérez provides a parable of the difficult topics of human communication, pain and the limits of sacrifice. —AH
Neon Bull (2015), by Gabriel Mascaro
Saturdays (January 14th, 21st, 28th)
3:00 & 8:00 P.M.
Middlebury College

VTIFF@MIDD
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Saturdays (January 14th, 21st, 28th)
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VTIFF IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE VERMONT FILMMAKING
CHECK OUT OUR ANNUAL VERMONT FILMMAKERS’ SHOWCASE™ ON PAGES 23–25
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25**

**SUNDANCE SHORTS FILM TOUR: PART 1**

*Source:* Sundance Film Festival

**AFFECTIONS**
Written & directed by Bridey Elliott | USA | Fiction | 2016 | 16 min
This comedy about isolation and loneliness follows a young woman who is adrift and seeking intimacy in the most unlikely places.

**BACON & GOD’S WRATH**
Written & directed by Sol Friedman | Canada | Documentary | 2016 | Short Film Jury Award | 9 min
A 90-year-old Jewish woman reflects on her life experiences as she prepares to try bacon for the first time.

**EDMOND**
Written & directed by Nina Gantz | UK | Animation | 2016 | 9 min | Short Film Jury Award
Edmond’s impulse to love and be close to others is strong—maybe too strong. As he stands by a lake contemplating his options, he reflects on his defining moments in search of the origin of his desires.

**HER FRIEND ADAM**
Written & directed by Ben Petrie | Canada | Fiction | 2016 | 17 min | Short Film Special Jury Award for Outstanding Performance (Grace Glowicki)
A boyfriend’s jealous impulse spirals out of control in 16 minutes of romantic doom.

**THE GRANDFATHER DRUM**
Written & directed by Michelle Derosier | Canada | Fiction | 2016 | 13 min
As the balance of the world turns upside down for the Anishinabek people, the elder Naamowin builds a healing drum to save his grandson and his people.

**THUNDER ROAD**
Written & directed by Jim Cummings | USA | 13 min | Short Film Grand Jury Prize
Officer Arnaud loved his mom.

**PICKLE**
Written & Directed by Amy Nicholson | USA | Doc | 2016 | 15 min | Source: Oscilloscope
An ode to man’s capacity to care for all creatures throughout their sometimes greatly protracted existence until their occasionally sudden and unfortunate demise.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28**

**CUBAN SHORTS**
All films Spanish w/English subtitles

*Source:* Americas Media Initiative
Part of the Cuban Cinema Spotlight

**LA CARGA (THE LOAD)**
Directed by Victor Alexis Guerrero | Documentary | 2015 | 23 min | 19 sec
This road-stop movie captures the intimate relationship between the workers on a train that in theory should never stop but actually spends the majority of its service time detained.

**YUNAISY**
Directed by Juan Pablo Darañas | Fiction | 2014 | 13 min
A young Cuban filmmaker faces censorship for the first time. He must choose between taking a great career opportunity or maintaining the integrity of “Yunaisy”.

**ALINA, 6 AÑOS (ALINA, 6 YEARS OLD)**
Directed by Milena Almira and Manuel Benito de Valle | Fiction | 2008 | 5 min
A young girl looking through a family photos album remembers moments in her infancy where nothing is what it appears.

**HUESITOS (LITTLE BONES)**
Directed by Gabriela Leal Carrazana | Animation | 2015 | 3 min | 26 sec
A young solitary girl has a strange routine.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27**

**RAGING ELEGIACS FROM THE AIDS WAR**

*Source:* Filmmaker

**EARLY VIDEO WORKS**
by John R. Killacky
Note: mature content

**UNFORGIVEN FIRE**
Experimental | 1990 | 13 min | 30 sec

**STOLEN SHADOWS**
Experimental | 1995 | 10 min | 25 sec

**WALKING WITH THE DEAD**
Experimental | 1996 | 5 min | 33 sec
John Killacky, executive director of the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in Burlington, will screen three of his AIDS-related short agitprop videos from the 1990s. As losses mounted in the early years of the pandemic, Killacky and his friends utilized their own bodies to mourn and as a call against government inaction. These elegiac works have been screened worldwide and are in several museum and library collections.
All Vermont Filmmakers’ Showcase programs are free with a recommended donation of $5-$10. The filmmakers will attend for post-screening discussions. Special thanks to Ben & Jerry’s, Arts Council of Vermont and the Grace Jones Richardson Trust for sponsoring the Showcase and to all the generous awards sponsors.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21**

**SHOWCASE 1, 1:30PM**

**In the Bight**

Fiction | 28 min  
Directed, written, edited & produced by Ben Finer  
Eight-year-old twins explore the woods of Vermont. Gradually, the beauty of the natural setting blends with the mysteries of childhood imaginations.

**Dad’s 50th Surprise Party**

Fiction | 9 min 31 sec  
Directed, written & edited by Matt Lennon  
Two brothers team up to finally one up their prankster dad for his 50th birthday.

**Joan in Owl Land**

Fiction | 8 min 51 sec  
Directed, written, edited & produced by Martin Castaneda  
An imaginative girl sets to bring back her father, with help of the Owl Thing.

**SHOWCASE 2, 3:00PM**

**Last Night**

Fiction | 23 min  
Directed & written by Jon Andrews  
A young woman struggles with mixed emotions on the last night of an intense and unusual summer romance.

**Awake**

Animation | 7 min 48 sec  
Directed, animated & written by Sofy Maia  
A young boy tries to make peace with a growing, lurking enemy that follows him throughout life.

**SHOWCASE 3, 4:15PM**

**Becoming a Woman**

Fiction | 7 min  
Written & produced by Marianne DiMascio & Angie Albeck  
Directed by Kevin Christopher  
Young Sally anticipates the many changes associated with becoming a woman and seeks advice from the always helpful Nurse Jenkins.

**Sunday 1287**

Fiction | 11 min  
Directed & written by Brandon del Pozo  
While her sister and daughter wait in the car, Vanessa tries to leave her abusive boyfriend for the last time.

**Black Canaries**

Fiction | 18 min 30 sec  
Directed & produced by Jesse Kreitzer  
Isolated, desperate, and haunted by his coal-stained birthright, Clarence Lockwood continues his daily descent into the accursed Maple mine—even after it has crippled his father and blinded his youngest son.

**The Collinwood Fire**

Animation | 6 min  
Directed by Daniel Houghton  
On March 4, 1908, the Collinwood Elementary School burned to the ground, trapping and killing 172 school children inside.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

SHOWCASE 4, 1:00PM
The Sign

Directed, edited & produced by James Lantz
When their homemade “Trump 4 President” sign is vandalized twice, a Vermont filmmaker travels back to Virginia to interview his parents about their support for the Republican candidate for President.

The Tent Village

Co-Directed, produced & edited by Nilima Abrams
A nuanced view into the lives of roadside tent dwellers in India, filmed by their teenaged children.

SHOWCASE 5, 2:15PM
Freedom & Unity TV Films

Freedom and Unity TV is an annual film contest for young Vermonter’s who make short films about their lives, passions and interests in their home state of Vermont. The films are judged by professionals in the film industry and awarded prizes. In 2016, 94 films were submitted. This is a selection of some of the films.

Sincerely, Vermont
3 min 45 sec
By James Abrams | Rochester Institute of Technology
An experimental film with a raw interpretation of the things I see in my town.

Breaking Binary
14 min 58 sec
By Eva Rocheleau, Becca Cottrell, Fiona Nelson | Champlain Valley Union High School and home schooled
Depicts the complications of a binary gender system in today’s education system.

Extreme Walking
3 min 3 sec
By Reilly Dillon | Saint Michaels College
Extreme walker Mike Hunt takes walking to the next level. Check out his incredible skills in this action packed three minute video. This was a school project. Filmed in under an hour.

Red Roots
2 min 5 sec
By Zane Swift | South Burlington High School
An exploration into the roots of political parties in Vermont.

Humans Of Burlington
5 min 44 sec
By Danielle Hazelton | Champlain College
A short experimental documentary portraying the stories of individuals all connected through the city of Burlington, Vermont. The stories highlight ideas of failure, passion, disabilities, love, success, beauty, and advice.

SHOWCASE 6, 3:45PM
Lake Champlain: The Untold Story
9 min
By Mason Mashtare | Northwest Technical Center
This film is informative, but at the same time it has heart and perspective from locals. The voiceover is backed up by strong visuals.

The Saint Alban’s Raid
3 min 44 sec
By Laurent Gagne | Bellows Free Academy
It was made to look like an old film. I was greatly inspired by the 1903 film, “The Great Train Robbery”.

Stolen
13 min 48 sec
By Rhea Hayes and Alex Schlater | Champlain College
A documentary about cyber deception and telling both sides of the story.

Peace or Prozac
2 min 5 sec
By Leah Kaliski | Thetford Academy
This is the story of my depressive episode in 9th grade, told entirely in pictures.

SHOWCASE 7, 5:00PM
Peace Has No Borders

Documentary | 70 min
Directed by Deb Ellis & Denis Mueller
Between 1965-1973, over 50,000 Americans made their way to Canada, refusing to participate in the Vietnam War. Forty years later, Canada has another moral choice — whether to give refuge to U.S. veterans of the Iraq War. Caught between two countries, today’s resisters fight the law, politics, and the court of public opinion for the opportunity to remain in Canada.
SHOWCASE 7, 6:30PM

Don’t Touch the Camera

Documentary | 17 min 37 sec
Directed by Anna Cuevas & Serena Gauthier
A documentary discussing gender inequality in the film industry and at film school by the female film majors of the 2018 graduating class at Champlain College.

One Night

Fiction | 12 min 30 sec
Directed, written & produced by Cal Hopwood
After a night of partying, Jake and Katie wake up with different opinions on the consensual nature of their hook-up.

SHOWCASE 8, 8:00PM

High Water Mark: The Rise & Fall of The Pants

Documentary | 60 min
Directed, written, edited & co-produced by Bill Simmon
In the last days before the internet changed the music industry forever, one small-town-band’s will succeed became the stuff of legend. High Water Mark: The Rise & Fall of The Pants explores the lasting footprint that The Pants had on Burlington, Vermont’s vibrant music scene in the 1990s and the intense, devoted fandom the band has enjoyed since. It chronicles their struggle to “make it” in the last days before the Internet era would forever change the music industry. But as the ’90s came to a close, this buzz band from Burlington seemed to burn out as quickly as it had blown up, leaving many to wonder what had happened. The film also asks hard questions about the personal toll of ambition and what can happen when a big fish tries to swim upstream to a larger pond. High Water Mark is a story that happened in Vermont, but it’s a tale that no doubt rings familiar in countless music scenes around the country. Are The Pants “the best band you’ve never heard,” or one of thousands of talented acts that got caught up in the tumultuous shifting tides of the music biz? The answer might be both. Experience the story and music of The Pants, then, you decide.

VERMONT FILMMAKERS’ SHOWCASE AWARDS

The awards will be announced at the Opening Night film, all except the Audience Favorite which will be announced at the Closing Night film. We encourage everyone to fill out the ballots as you exit the screenings.

JAMES GOLDSTONE AWARD, a $1,000 cash award given to an Emerging Vermont Filmmaker and sponsored by Bill Stetson & VTiff

BEN & JERRY AWARD, a $300 cash prize given to recognize and support a Vermont filmmaker who, through the lens, documented and raised awareness of an important social or environmental issue with verve and ingenuity

ZERO GRAVITY AWARD, a $500 cash prize for the Most Innovative film

HAWK AWARD, a $350 cash prize for Best Screenplay, sponsored by Hawk Ostby

FOOTAGE FARM USA AWARD, a credit for stock footage worth $600 from the Footage Farm collection given for most creative use of archival footage

HOTEL VERMONT AWARD, a $250 cash prize, given to a film that creates the Best Sense of Place

URBAN RHINO VISUAL AWARD, a $250 cash prize given for Best Cinematography

VCAM AUDIENCE FAVORITE AWARD, $200 by popular ballot

VTIFF BEST ACTING AWARD, Two Patron Annual Memberships to VTiff, value $338
CUBAN CINEMA SPOTLIGHT
A special tribute to Fernando Pérez and contemporary Cuban filmmakers. Presented in partnership with Alex Halkin, Director of Americas Media Initiative (AMI).

Wall of Words (La Pared de las Palabras)
See page 20.

Havana Suite (Suite Habana)
See page 8.

Cuban Shorts — see Lunchtime Shorts section
See page 22.

VTIFF AFTER DARK
VTIFF gets in the Halloween spirit with these After Dark horror offerings. Presented in partnership with the Green Mountain Gore Society

Phantasm (Remastered) and Phantasm: Ravager
See page 13 and page 16.

Evolution
See page 6.

Under the Shadow
See page 20.

VAMP PRESENTATION
SHOWTIME: Thursday, Oct 27 | 6:00-7:00pm | Film House
Clips from a new restoration project of the Vermont Archive Movie Project - footage of the poet Ruth Stone, and a compilation of clips from prominent Vermont filmmakers who appear in the VAMP database.

*Free event*

FAMILY FRIENDLY FILMS & EVENTS

Scratchatopia Animation Workshop with Steve Woloshen
SHOWTIME: Sunday, October 22 | 11:30am | Atrium
Festival favorite and internationally renowned animator Woloshen returns to VTIFF with a special animation workshop. Young and old alike can explore the joys of camera-less filmmaking and discover new tricks and techniques along the way. Participants are encouraged to choose materials and tools, and then scratch, paint and collage directly onto the surface of clear leader, black leader or previously shot material! The goal of this exceptional workshop is to explore, play and take risks with animation. All results will be digitized and viewed publicly on the day! See Woloshen’s website: https://scratchatopia.wordpress.com

Fiddlesticks
SHOWTIME: Sunday, October 23 | 11:30 am | Film House
See page 7.

STUDENT MATINÉE

Racing Extinction
Documentary | 2015 | 90 min.
SHOWTIME: Wednesday, October 26 | 11:30am | Film House
Director: Louie Psihoyos | Sponsor: Anne Slade Frey Foundation / Jane Kramer / Seventh Generation Foundation
Director Louie Psihoyos will participate in a post-screening discussion via Skype.
A gripping eco-thriller documentary that examines biodiversity loss, its effect on humanity, and the solutions that inspire hope for a more sustainable future, the Oscar-nominated Racing Extinction is ideal for student groups and classes interested in Environmental Studies, Biodiversity, Sustainability, Activism, or Nonfiction Filmmaking.

To reserve group tickets for students and school groups, email: Seth@vtiff.org
For more information about the film, see page 16.

MORNING SCREENINGS

Best and Most Beautiful Things
SHOWTIME: Thursday, October 27 | 11:30am | Film House
A special screening with captioning and audio description for the hard of hearing and visually impaired. Director Garrett Zevgetis and lead character Michelle Smith will be in attendance
For more information about the film see page 5.

BURLINGTON FILM SOCIETY

The Handmaiden
SHOWTIME: Friday, October 28 | 6:00pm | Film House
Sponsors: Main Street Landing
All VTIFF Members receive free admittance to this Burlington Film Society screening.
For more information about the film see page 7.

PANELS

Lo & Behold,
Reveries of the Connected World Discussion
SHOWTIME: Monday, October 24 | 6:30pm | Film House
Sponsors: Vermont Technical College / BTV Ignite / Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies/ Burlington Generator / Champlain Mini Maker Faire / Alternator
A panel discussion featuring some of the movers and shakers of Vermont’s tech community.
For more information about the film see page 10.
Note: The film screening and panel discussion will be preceded by a reception.

Ask A Film Producer
SHOWTIME: Friday, October 28 | 1:00pm | Great Room
Sponsors: VT PBS
Film producers Justine Nagan (Exec. Producer of PBS’s POV program, Life Itself, The Trials of Muhammad Ali) and Lori Cheatle (festival films Kiki and Seven Songs for a Long Life) answer your questions on how to get a film made and produced. This is a perfect opportunity for filmmakers and students to get quality time with two accomplished film producers and for the general public to learn more about the business of broadcast documentaries. Moderated by Champlain College Professor of Film Studies, Julia Swift.
*Free event*

Forgotten Farms Discussion
SHOWTIME: Saturday, October 29 | 1:00pm | Film House
Sponsors: Champlain Mini Maker Faire / Alternator
For more information about the film see page 7.
Note: The screening and panel discussion will be preceded by a reception.
RECEPTIONS AND PARTIES

Every evening from 5:30–6:30pm in the Lake Lobby of Main Street Landing

Make this your daily routine as the place to meet and talk about films you’ve seen or plan to see. The receptions will feature a variety of food tastings as well as a cash bar – perfect for some relaxation and refreshments in between afternoon and evening screenings!

Opening Night Party
Friday, Oct 21 | 8:45pm ‘til late | Lake Lobby
Sponsor: Skinny Pancake
Following the screening of The Hanji Box, the opening night film. Food and cash bar by Skinny Pancake.

Slow Food Vermont Reception
Saturday, Oct 22 | 5:00–6:00pm | Lake Lobby
Soul food tasting and cash bar.

Vermont Council on World Affairs Reception
Sunday, Oct 23 | 5:30:30pm | Lake Lobby
Sponsor: VCWA
Special Reception before A Syrian Love Story in the presence of former US Ambassador to Syria, Robert Ford.

Lo & Behold Reception
Monday, Oct 24 | 5:30–6:30pm | Lake Lobby
Sponsors: Vermont Technical College with Burlington Generator; BTV Ignite; VCET; Champlain Mini Maker Faire; Alternator
Special reception before the screening of Lo & Behold in the presence of the movers and shakers of Vermont’s tech community. Catering by Carrot Top Catering and cash bar.
For more information about the film see page 10.

Physician’s Computer Company (PCC) Reception
Wednesday, October 26 | 5:45–7:00pm | Lake Lobby
Special reception sponsored by PCC to support VTIFF.
Catering by Let’s Pretend, cash wine bar by Shelburne Vineyard

Vermont PBS Reception
Saturday, October 29 | 5:30–6:45pm | Lake Lobby
Special reception before Seven Songs for Seven Lives in the presence of Justine Nagan, Executive Producer of POV.
Catering by Carrot Top Catering, cash wine bar by Shelburne Vineyard.

Closing Night Party at Skinny Pancake
Sunday, Oct 30 | 8:30pm | Skinny Pancake
Following Closing Night film Contemporary Color.

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lori Cheatle (Seven Songs for a Long Life, Kiki and Ask a Producer panel)
Dany Diaz (Havana Suite and The Wall of Words)
Suzanne C. Dudley (The Hanji Box)
Robert Edwards (The Last Laugh)
Danae Elon (P. S. Jerusalem)
Sarah Gardner (Forgotten Farms)
Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghemi (Sonita, via Skype)
Justine Nagan (Seven Songs for a Long Life and Ask a Producer panel)
Jacki Ochs (Everybody Knows...Elizabeth Murray)
Ferne Pearlstein (The Last Laugh)
Louie Psihoyos (Racing Extinction, via Skype)
Dave Simonds (Forgotten Farms)
Steve Woloshen (Scratchatopia Animation Workshop)
Kristi Zee (Everybody Knows...Elizabeth Murray)
Garrett Zevgetis (Best and Most Beautiful Things)

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Former U.S. Ambassador Robert Ford (A Syrian Love Story)
Heather Darby (Forgotten Farms)
Alex Halkin (Havana Suite, The Wall of Words and Cuban Shorts)
Marco Johnson (Tanna)
Sen. Carole Migden (Political Animals)
Michelle Smith (Best and Most Beautiful Things)
Megan Epler Wood (Tanna)
VERMONT FILMMAKERS’ SHOWCASE & AWARDS

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