



For immediate release:

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**22nd Annual San Diego International Film Festival
'Celebrating the Power of Film'
with Outstanding Line-Up of Premieres from Around the World**

Opening Night Film: 'THE HOLDOVERS'

Director Alexander Payne (Focus Features)

*featuring Paul Giamatti, Dominic Sessa and Da'Vine Joy Randolph
with more studio premieres to be announced!*

**Full festival lineup announced with (91) Films in Gala, Spotlight, Narrative,
Documentary, and Short Selections; Screenings and events running from
October 18th to 22nd, 2023**

SAN DIEGO/LOS ANGELES, CA (September 5, 2023): The 22nd Annual San Diego International Film Festival is 'Celebrating the Power of Film' with curated screenings that inform, inspire and entertain. Count on the Festival to get the conversation started with compelling Social Impact Films and Q&As including: Environmental Sustainability, Fighting Government Oppression, Individuals with Disabilities and Inclusion, PTSD in the Military, Native American Issues, LGBTQAI+ Rights, Opioid Crisis and other topics affecting our world and our communities.

Film lovers will enjoy features, documentaries and shorts on the big screen. The Opening Night film premiere and party will be held at The Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park on Wednesday, October 18th. The festival will then continue from October 19th through October 22nd at the AMC14@ UTC Westfield, La Jolla, CA. The most up to date festival information is available at www.sdfilmfest.com.

According to Tonya Mantooh, CEO/Artistic Director of the San Diego International Film Festival, "*This year, our slate has been curated from over 3200 film submissions from 85 countries with compelling Social Impact Films and Q&As including Fighting Political Oppression, Environmental Sustainability, LGBTQAI+ Rights, Opioid Crisis and other topics affecting our world and our communities.*" Mantooh announced the following partnerships aligned with the Festival's mission to use the experience of film to explore issues of global impact, to create dialog, and ultimately to develop empathy and understanding in an increasingly diverse and complex world.

- **The Gary Sinise Foundation.** The Festival will present the world premiere of '**Brothers After War**' following three brothers and their experiences in the military both while serving and navigating reintegration. The 12 main characters from the film and military dignitaries will be in attendance for the screening. Preceding the film, will be a panel: *Brothers at War, using film as a catalyst for healing.*



- **Joey Travolta's Inclusion Films.** Back by popular demand, the Festival continues its longstanding partnership with the screening of *'Lights, Camera, Friendship! – Lodi'* that follows 16 young adults on the autism spectrum including a panel discussion focused on inclusive hiring practices in the entertainment industry.
- **Women's Museum of California.** In its second year, the Women's Film Series and The Unstoppable Women's Panel continue its shared mission to discover, cultivate and amplify diverse voices of women filmmakers who help shape our cultural landscape through the art of cinematic storytelling.
- **Wild & Scenic Film Festival.** A new partnership for the Festival, Wild & Scenic is celebrating over 20 years of inspiring environmental activism through film. We are proud to partner with them to co-present *'The Oil Machine'* - a British documentary on worldwide dependence on oil.
- **San Diego County Native Indian Tribes.** We are honored to once again have the support of the Jamul Indian Village, Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation, Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians to bring a powerful Native American Film Track to this year's film festival.

Now in its 22nd year, the San Diego International Film Festival is the region's premier film festival and one of the leading stops on the film circuit. The Film Festival is proud to screen narrative, documentary and short films, both in and out of competition, vying for top award honors. The lineup below includes 91 films total, 21 Narrative Competition films, 9 Documentary Competition films, and 61 Short films.

More additions will be added to the program and announced soon.

PASS PACKAGES:

The Festival's signature events (Opening Night Film and Pre-Reception and Culinary Cinema) typically sell out. **The best way to guarantee reservations at these events is to purchase a VIP pass.**

The VIP Pass Package includes: Opening Night Film and Pre-Reception, Culinary Cinema, first access to all film screenings, panels, VIP events and Fest Lounge.

The Fest Pass Package includes all screenings on Thursday - Sunday as well as Culinary Cinema.

Individual screening and event tickets to the signature events will go on sale Sept 6th on a space available basis. <https://sdfilmfest.com/buy-passes/>

More additions will be added to the program and announced soon.



2023 SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL LINE-UP

Narrative Competition (21)

A Kind of Kidnapping, Dir. D. G. Clark, UK, **San Diego Premiere**
A Letter from Helga, Dir. Ása Helga Hjørleifsdóttir, Iceland, **San Diego Premiere**
Ariel - Back to Buenos Aires, Dir. Alison Murray, Canada & Argentina, **San Diego Premiere**
A Three Storey Comedy, Dir. Sandra Mitrovic, Serbia, **West Coast Premiere**
Blood for Dust, Dir. Rod Blackhurst, USA, **Southern California Premiere**
Brave the Dark, Dir. Damian Harris, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
Fresh Kills, Dir. Jennifer Esposito, USA, **Southern California Premiere**
Isle of Hope, Dir. Damian Romay, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
Junction, Dir. Bryan Greenberg, USA, **World Premiere**
LÍMITE, Dir. George Nicholas, Mexico/USA/Bulgaria, **World Premiere**
Miranda's Victim, Dir. Michelle Danner, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
Peafowl, Dir. BYUN Sung-bin, South Korea, **San Diego Premiere**
Peak Season, Dir. Henry Loevner & Steven Kanter, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
Scarlet Winter, Dir. Munjal Yagnik, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
Simón, Dir. Diego Vicentini, Venezuela & USA, **West Coast Premiere**
Sunlight, Dir. Claire Dix, Ireland, **San Diego Premiere**
The Holdovers, Dir. Alexander Payne, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
The Taste of Things, Dir. Anh Hung Tran, France, **West Coast Premiere**
The Portrait, Dir. Simon Ross, USA & UK, **World Premiere**
To Fall In Love, Dir. Michael Lewis Foster, USA, **West Coast Premiere**

Documentary Competition (9)

Aítamaako'tamisskapi Natosi: Before the Sun Film, Dir. Banchi Hanuse, Canada, **San Diego Premiere**
A Revolution on Canvas, Dir. Sara Nodjoumi and Till Schauder, USA, **West Coast Premiere**
Brothers After War, Dir. Jake Rademacher, USA, **World Premiere**
Hidden Master: The Legacy of George Platt Lynes, Dir. Sam Shahid, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
King of Kings : Chasing Edward Jones, Dir. Harriet Marin Jones, France, **Southern California Premiere**
Lights, Camera, Friendship! - Lodi, Dir. Joey Travolta, USA, **World Premiere**
Stella, Dir. Tyler Doehring, USA, **California Premiere**
The Grab, Dir. Gabriela Cowperthwaite, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
The Oil Machine, Dir. Emma Davie, UK, **North American Premiere**

Shorts Tracks Competition (61)

Animation Filmmaking:

American Sikh, Dir. Ryan Westra & Vishavjit Singh, USA, **San Diego Premiere**

- *Awakening: The First Day*, Dir. Jos Diaz Contreras & Santiago Carrasquilla, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- *Charge*, Dir. Hjalti Hjalmarsson, Netherlands, **San Diego Premiere**
- *Driftwood*, Dir. Christopher Hills Eaton, USA, **San Diego Premiere**

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- ***Flutter***, Dir. Adam Reed Levy, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Gene's 6th Symphony***, Dir. Jordi Garcie, USA, **World Premiere**
- ***I Am From Palestine***, Dir. Iman Zawahry, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Liv&Bell "Hearty Soup of Fruitful Forest"***, Dir. Natsuki Kida, Japan, **United States Premiere**
- ***Morning Joy***, Dir. John Henry Hinkel, USA & Serbia, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***My Tiny Friends***, Dir. Jiyong Park, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Stories to be Remembered***, Dir. David Calderon, Canada, **San Diego Premiere**

Docudrama:

- ***Forgiving Johnny***, Dir. Ben Proudfoot, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***KINGDOME***, Dir. Shawn Antoine II, USA, **California Premiere**
- ***Our Children's River***, Dir. Dominic Gill, USA, **West Coast Premiere**
- ***Running With Emilio***, Dir. Lynn Ellenberg & Sholom Ellenberg, USA, **West Coast Premiere**
- ***Squid Fleet***, Dir. Ed Ou & Will N. Miller, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***The Night Doctrine***, Dir. Almudena Toral & Mauricio Rodriguez Pons, USA, **Southern California Premiere**

For Shorts & Giggles

- ***Confessions***, Dir. Stephanie Kaznocha, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Favourites***, Dir. Nick Russell, Australia, **World Premiere**
- ***HALMONI'S POT (GRANDMA'S POT)***, Dir. A. L. Lee, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***MANBAG***, Dir. Pieter De Cnudde, Belgium, **North American Premiere**
- ***Scream Gardens***, Dir. Jenson Titus & Sam Nulman, USA, **World Premiere**
- ***The Breakthrough***, Dir. Daniel Sinclair, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***The Firefighter's Ball***, Dir. Baptiste Drapeau, France, **United States Premiere**

Global Consciousness:

- ***Every Five Miles***, Dir. Vincent Lambe, Ireland, **North American Premiere**
- ***JA (Water)***, Dir. Christian Cavazos, Mexico, **United States Premiere**
- ***Lambing***, Dir. Katie McNeice, Ireland, **Southern California Premiere**
- ***Our Males and Females***, Dir. Ahmad Alyaseer, Jordan, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Teddy***, Dir. Thom Lunshopf, Netherlands, **North American Premiere**

Evocative Storytelling

- ***Demon Box***, Dir. Sean Wainsteim, Canada, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Each Lovely Thing***, Dir. Paloma Nozicka, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Motherland***, Dir. Christina Yoon, USA & South Korea, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***nothing, except everything.***, Dir. Wesley Wang, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***TIAN HEI HEI***, Dir. Jina Miao, USA, **World Premiere**

Short & Sweet:



- ***Goodbye Persil***, Dir. Ugo Savouillan, France, **North American Premiere**
- ***Under Refurbishment***, Dir. Griffin Douglass, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Share For Me***, Dir. Alexander Georges, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Sweet Refuge***, Dir. Maryam Mir, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Desi Standard Time Travel***, Dir. Kashif Pasta, Canada, **San Diego Premiere**

Student Showcase:

- ***DISCHARGED***, Dir. Bridget Taylor, USA, **World Premiere**
- ***iCare***, Dir. Bruno Urzi, UK, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Rickshaw***, Dir. Raphaël Hernandez, UK, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Starstruck***, Dir. Jonathan Gotlib, Israel, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***The External-Internal Monologue of an Interdependent Insomniac***, Dir. Julian Felix Aaronson, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***TOM & CINDA***, Dir. Eva Neuwirth, USA, **World Premiere**
- ***Virgins for Satan***, Dir. Ashlynn Judy, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Waves Apart***, Dir. Josh Greene, USA, **San Diego Premiere**

Unhinged

- ***CORNERBOY***, Dir. Kai Kurve, Germany, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Feng Shui***, Dir. Kamran Rathod, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Ice Cream. Sladoled***, Dir. Steve Spremo, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Kakor (Cookies)***, Dir. Alessandro Stigliano, Sweden, **North American Premiere**
- ***Pushover***, Dir. Brian Lederman, USA, **World Premiere**
- ***Room Tone***, Dir. Michael Gabriele, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***The Wondrous Worlds of Piero Maria***, Dir. Helena Guerra, Brazil, **North American Premiere**
- ***Trundle and the Lost Borscht of Atlantis***, Dir. Laura Lee, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Zae is Zendaya***, Dir. Tyler Davis, USA, **San Diego Premiere**

When Worlds Collide:

- ***A Wedding Day***, Dir. Brendan Beachman, USA, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Cataract***, Dir. Jonatan Egholm Keis, Denmark, **Southern California Premiere**
- ***Motherland***, Dir. Christina Yoon, USA & South Korea, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***Faranak***, Dir. Mehrnoush Alia, Iran, **San Diego Premiere**
- ***THINGS UNHEARD OF***, Dir. Ramazan Kilic, Turkey, **West Coast Premiere**

About The San Diego International Film Festival:

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The San Diego International Film Festival is the region's premier film event and one of the leading stops on the independent festival circuit. The Festival offers a totally unique film experience; including world premieres, never before seen studio releases and the best in independent filmmaking. **We believe cinema is a catalyst for positive change.** The festival programming is diverse – however everyone has a genre that speaks to their heart – including us. With a passion for social impact topics, we've focused the lens on curated independent films that explore the issues affecting our world including homelessness, prejudice, pollution of the world's rivers, animal and environmental extinction, sustainability, sex-trafficking, military stories and more.

About the San Diego Film Foundation:

CREATING EMPATHY IN A COMPLEX WORLD....

Our mission is to use the experience of film to explore issues of global impact, to create dialog, and ultimately to develop empathy and understanding in an increasingly diverse and complex world. We leverage these important conversations via our partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education and the San Diego Unified School District to use cinematic storytelling to help educate future leaders on key issues affecting our communities and world.

A 501c.3. The San Diego Film Foundation brings the finest independent cinematic storytelling from around the world to San Diego each year. We present films that make a difference through a variety of events and programs. We have a created robust infrastructure to continue sharing film and discussion safely including:

- **FOCUS on Impact Film Series** for all High School Students in San Diego County (Fall and Spring 2023/2024)
- **Film Insider Series** (May - August 2023)
- **2023 San Diego International Film Festival** (October 18-22, 2023)