

MAY 30-JUNE 2, 2024

HILL

COUNTRY

FILM

FESTIVAL

FREDERICKSBURG, TX



19 **HH** 94

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2024 Hill Country Film Festival! Or as we like to call it, year 15 of the Best Little Film Festival in Texas!

The world of film and the love for storytelling brings us together this weekend. We are here to experience films that not only entertain but broaden our horizons and enlighten the human experience. We are here because frankly, we believe art and culture are essential. Thank you for joining us!

We are excited and honored to present this year's lineup. You'll find short and feature-length films that are thought-provoking, inspiring, entertaining, and most of all independent.

HCFF would not be possible without the generous support of festival partners, film society members, and volunteers. Thank you for sharing your time, talent, and treasure with us. You enable us to contribute to the creative culture of Fredericksburg and the greater filmmaking community.

Thank you to the all-volunteer staff, who are committed to making HCFF a one-of-a-kind experience for filmmakers and film fans alike.

Thank you to the filmmakers for sharing your film with us and being a part of our story. We are inspired by your talent, your vulnerability, and your storytelling.

And finally, thank you to the film fans that ventured to the Texas hill country to join us. Enjoy the show!

HCFF STAFF

Chad Mathews, Executive Director
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Marissa Kilgore, Volunteer Coordinator/Programmer
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Sean Leonard, Programmer
Lucas Miller, Assistant Tech Director
William F. Reed, Consultant
April Soechting, Copywriter/Hospitality Team
Steve Soechting, Hospitality Team

2024 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MAY 30

12:30 PM	Short Film Block #1 (pg. 9)	Historic Nimitz Ballroom
2:45 PM	Short Film Block #2 (pg. 11)	Historic Nimitz Ballroom
5:00 PM	Filmmaker Welcome Party* Presented by the Texas Film Commission	Texas Garden at Hoffman Haus
7:15 PM	Narrative Feature I'll Be There (pg. 12)	Historic Nimitz Ballroom
9:00 PM	Thursday Night Party	Ausländer Restaurant and Biergarten

FRIDAY, MAY 31

10:00 AM	Glazed & Confused Breakfast*	Great Hall at Hoffman Haus
10:30 AM	Panel Discussion* Presented by TCU Bob Schieffer College of Communication	Great Hall at Hoffman Haus
12:00 PM	Documentary Feature Art is Love: Nepal (pg. 12)	Great Hall at Hoffman Haus
12:15 PM	Short Film Block #3 (pg. 14)	Historic Nimitz Ballroom
2:00 to 7:00 PM	The Tasting Room VIP Lounge* Presented by Pedernales Cellars	Nimitz Courtyard
2:15 PM	Short Film Block #4 (pg. 16)	Great Hall at Hoffman Haus
2:30 PM	Short Film Block #5 (pg. 21)	Historic Nimitz Ballroom
4:45 PM	Documentary Feature Print It Black (pg. 23)	Great Hall at Hoffman Haus
4:45 PM	Documentary Feature Bastards of Soul (pg. 23)	Historic Nimitz Ballroom
7:00 PM	Narrative Feature No Right Way (pg. 24)	Historic Nimitz Ballroom
9:00 PM	Friday Night Pizza*	West End Pizza Company

LOCATIONS

Historic Nimitz Ballroom - 304 E. Main St., Fredericksburg
Texas Garden at Hoffman Haus - 601 E. San Antonio St., Fredericksburg
Ausländer Restaurant and Biergarten - 323 E. Main St., Fredericksburg
Great Hall at Hoffman Haus - 601 E. San Antonio St., Fredericksburg
West End Pizza Company - 207 E. San Antonio St., Fredericksburg
Pedernales Cellars - 2916 Upper Albert Rd., Stonewall

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FOR EVENT
MAP

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

10:00 AM	Barbie - The Breakfast*	Great Hall at Hoffman Haus
10:30 AM	Panel Discussion* Presented by TCU Bob Schieffer College of Communication	Great Hall at Hoffman Haus
12:00 PM	Documentary Feature: Faders Up: The John Aielli Experience (pg. 25)	Great Hall at Hoffman Haus
12:15 PM	Student Short Films (pg. 27)	Historic Nimitz Ballroom
2:00 to 7:00 PM	The Tasting Room VIP Lounge* Presented by Pedernales Cellars	Nimitz Courtyard
2:15 PM	Short Film Block #6 (pg. 29)	Historic Nimitz Ballroom
2:15 PM	Narrative Feature Canvas (pg. 31)	Great Hall at Hoffman Haus
4:30 PM	Narrative Feature Fluorescent Beast (pg. 31)	Historic Nimitz Ballroom
5:00 PM	Narrative Feature A Time Apart (pg. 32)	Great Hall at Hoffman Haus
7:00 PM	Documentary Feature Shaking It Up: The Life and Times of Liz Carpenter (pg. 32)	Historic Nimitz Ballroom
9:00 PM	Saturday Night Party ... Starring YOU	Great Hall at Hoffman Haus

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

11:00 AM	Sunday Send-off + Awards Reception* Presented by Pedernales Cellars	Pedernales Cellars
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*EXCLUSIVE EVENTS FOR BADGE HOLDERS ONLY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please note that while All Access badge holders receive priority seating, a seat is NOT guaranteed. All Access badge holders are encouraged to arrive 10-15 minutes prior to the screening to queue for seating. All Access Badge holders who arrive after the queue has been seated are not guaranteed a seat. Doors will open 15 minutes prior to the screening.

On the following pages, film listings provide the title, country of origin, genre, run time and director for each film. **Viewer discretion is advised:** films are not rated and may contain subject matter unsuitable for young viewers.

Photographers and/or film crews will operate at all HCFF events.

Photographs/video may be used for public relations and in marketing materials by the Hill Country Film Society and Festival.

The Hill Country Film Society is committed to allowing guests and filmmakers to experience the Hill Country Film Festival free of harassment, discrimination, sexism and threatening or disrespectful behavior. We reserve the right to revoke, without notice or refund, credentials or access to festival events and venues at any time.

AUDIENCE DEMOGRAPHICS

Lend a helping hand to the Hill Country Film Society!

Gathering demographic information helps the Hill Country Film Society and Festival better understand our audience as well as apply for grants and sponsorships.

Please take a moment to complete this brief survey.



AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

Rate the films and determine the Audience Choice Award winner!

In an effort to streamline voting and decrease paper waste, HCFF Audience Choice voting will be online, by scanning a QR code.

Please rate each film you watch by scanning the QR codes provided at the end of each screening to access your ballot.

For iPhone and Android users, scan the code with your camera to access your ballot. Easy as one, two, three!

FILMMAKING

FOR THE GREATER GOOD

Students in TCU's Bob Schieffer College of Communication are passionate about using the power of film to showcase their community in action. Through the Documentary Production course, students leverage their skills and hands-on experience to promote learning across abilities and advocacy worldwide, sparking important conversations.



SCAN BELOW
to see the impactful work our
film students are creating.



Schieffercollege.tcu.edu/ftdm

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TCU

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

PRESENTED
BY



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COLLEGE of COMMUNICATION

FRIDAY | 10:30 AM | GREAT HALL AT HOFFMAN HAUS

FIND YOUR VOICE IN CINEMA

Filmmaking is competitive, and only a few people get the opportunity to shepherd a film production to the finish line. The ability to use one's voice to tell a story, from script to production to promotion, is indisputable. It requires years of cultivation, vision, and experience. This group of panelists will discuss their creative journey and explore how they developed their leadership skills (aka their voice) to inspire their cinema.

PANELISTS: Faryl Amadeus, Sarah Joy Byington, Megan Dahl, Emily Grooms, and Melanie Starks

SATURDAY | 10:30 AM | GREAT HALL AT HOFFMAN HAUS

GENERATIVE AI IN FILMMAKING: TOOLS AND TIPS ON ELEVATING YOUR CRAFT

Join creator and tech enthusiast Ian Loomer as we dive into the world of Generative AI and new methods of creativity in filmmaking. Learn about what AI tools are available to creators, when and where to use them, and how you can elevate your indie film to the next level. AI isn't about creating something from nothing, but utilizing tools to enhance and elevate your vision while making your budget stretch further.

PANELIST: Ian Loomer

MODERATOR:

Richard Allen | Professor of Film, Television and Digital Media

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HCFF PARTIES & SPECIAL EVENTS

FILMMAKER WELCOME*

PRESENTED BY THE TEXAS FILM COMMISSION

THURSDAY | 5 PM | TEXAS GARDEN AT HOFFMAN HAUS

Raise a glass and enjoy a snack as we welcome our 2024 filmmakers to Fredericksburg.

THURSDAY NIGHT PARTY

9 PM | AUSLÄNDER RESTAURANT AND BIERGARTEN

Prost! The good folks at Ausländer and HCFF invite you to talk film over a bier and small bites on Thursday night.

FRIDAY + SATURDAY BREAKFAST*

10 AM | HOFFMAN HAUS

We are starting Friday and Saturday off right. Join us for coffee, Bloody Marys, donuts (Friday) and Whataburger breakfast taquitos (Saturday) before panel discussions.

FRIDAY NIGHT PIZZA*

9 PM | WEST END PIZZA COMPANY

Cap off your Friday with complimentary pizza, refreshments and lively conversation at West End Pizza Company.

SATURDAY NIGHT STARRING YOU*

9 PM | HOFFMAN HAUS

The final party of the festival is at Hoffman Haus. Join us for light bites from Eaker Barbeque, specialty cocktails, Staff Choice Awards and more!

SUNDAY SENDOFF & AWARDS*

11 AM | PEDERNALES CELLARS

Raise a glass and enjoy the sweeping hill country views at Pedernales Cellars before heading home. Enjoy complimentary wine and a light brunch and celebrate our filmmaker award winners.



THE TASTING ROOM VIP LOUNGE*
FRIDAY & SATURDAY | 2 - 7 PM
COURTYARD AT THE NIMITZ

**All Access and Filmmaker badge holders only*

THURSDAY, MAY 30 | 12:30 PM
HISTORIC NIMITZ BALLROOM
SHORT BLOCK 1

Tiny, Texas

USA | Drama | 12 mins

David Lykes Keenan

In 1980s Texas, a star player and his coach face off on the basketball court and, figuratively speaking, hard truths are revealed as the onion of their relationship is peeled back. (Texas Film)

The Day of

USA | Drama | 18 mins

Umar Malik

A heart-wrenching portrait of a mother's worst nightmare coming to life when she receives a devastating call from her daughter.

You Are Here

USA | D comedy | 8 mins | Texas Premiere

Michael Friberg

When insurance salesman Peter Kleebold reads an article about the size of the universe, it sends him into an existential tailspin that leads him on a journey to get out of this world.

ick

UK/USA | Drama | 11 mins

India Opzomer

Anais knows what she wants and it's to lose her virginity on prom night. But mishap after mishap forces her to question her relationship – and even her own desires. (Student Film/Texas Film)

Sister

USA | Drama | 15 mins | Texas Premiere

Shane Andries

On the day of her older sister's burial, a bereaved woman meets an amicable bartender who helps her find the courage to continue. A story about sisterly love and the bonds that will always remain. (Texas Film)

Passenger

USA | Thriller | 9 mins | World Premiere

Michael Basha

After picking up a strange passenger and taking him to his stop, a ride-share driver is caught in a dilemma when his fare doesn't want to end the ride.

The Ride To Happiness

USA | Documentary | 18 mins

World Premiere

Trish Rawls

When former AIG Executive, Gordon Massie, decided to blow the whistle on what would become a massive fraud scandal, he had no idea how it would impact his life. Learning how to deal with losing his career, and other personal tragedies let him back to his lifelong passion. (Texas Film)

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THURSDAY, MAY 30 | 2:45 PM
HISTORIC NIMITZ BALLROOM
SHORT BLOCK 2

Dog Days

USA | Animation | 3 mins

Hailey Bair

When a young boy wishes for a puppy on his 8th birthday, a magical puff of smoke brings a balloon dog to life instead. With his new companion, the boy experiences the ups and downs of pet ownership and the unique circumstances of having a balloon dog for a pet. (Student Film)

Labor + Justice

USA | Thriller | 13 mins

Sarah Joy Byington

Set in a dystopian USA, pregnant persons are required by law to give birth in front of a panel of judges. Failure to birth a living baby sentences the mother to immediate execution. The everyday, mundane births/deaths have zero effect on the judges as they devour their lunch like animals. (Texas Film)

Jaguar Del Cielo

Mexico/USA | Documentary | 14 mins

Austin Alvarado

Jaguar Del Cielo follows field tech Felix Tafoya's journey to better understand and conserve Mexico's apex predator in the El Cielo Biosphere Reserve in Tamaulipas, Mexico. By catching jaguars and fitting them with GPS collars, Felix and his co-workers can track the movement of jaguars and get insights into their mysterious and elusive lives. The information collected from the collars is crucial to better understand the species and to mitigate conflicts with humans, which is imperative for the long-term conservation of jaguars. (Texas Film)

World's Lamest Teacher

USA | Drama | 19 mins

Casey Lee Floyd

Darren Ford, a high school teacher in a lower-income school, edges ever closer to complete burnout. Desperate to educate and inspire his students, he must navigate the normal hurdles of the profession, as well as the more intricate ones his students Lucianna and Dylan throw at him, all while keeping a watchful eye on their physical and mental well-being. (Texas Film)

Leverage

USA | Comedy | 14 mins

Michael Robert Charron

Jade Betts and her sidekick Richie must infiltrate the Russian mob's Christmas party and fight their way through the ranks, using festive weapons and witty one-liners. Leverage combines action and comedy, as Betts settles old scores with her former employer to preserve what's most important to her. (Texas Film)

A GIRL. A GUY. A FORD. A LOVE STORY.

USA | Drama | 6 mins

Suzanne Weinert

A husband and wife argue over what's to become of their beloved 1975 Ford truck. (Texas Film)

Always Summer (Altijd Zomer)

Belgium | Drama | 20 mins

North American Premiere

Hans Dessers

A psychological drama about a father and daughter spending the weekend together.

THURSDAY, MAY 30 | 7:15 PM
HISTORIC NIMITZ BALLROOM
NARRATIVE FEATURE

I'll Be There

USA | Drama | 97 mins
Andrew Shea

A blended family is thrown together unexpectedly against the surreal backdrop of their childhood hero's death.
(Texas Film)

HCFF NOTES:

Director Andrew Shea and screenwriter Cindy McCreery will be in attendance.

FRIDAY, MAY 31 | 12:00 PM
GREAT HALL AT HOFFMAN HAUS
DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Presented by Pedernales Cellars

Art is Love: Nepal

USA/Nepal | Documentary | 71 mins
World Premiere
Daniel Driensky and Sarah Reyes

Texas sign painter Sean Starr embarks on a journey to Nepal to discover how artisans on the other side of the globe are preserving their traditional arts and crafts in a changing world, culminating in a motorcycle ride to visit the Magar people in the foothills of the Himalayas to learn about their tradition of song and dance.
(Texas Film)

HCFF NOTES: Directors Daniel Driensky and Sarah Reyes will be in attendance.



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FRIDAY, MAY 31 | 12:15 PM
HISTORIC NIMITZ BALLROOM
SHORT BLOCK 3

Fancy Florez's Summer Staycation

USA | Comedy | 9 mins

Marissa Díaz

Fancy Florez, a resourceful ten-year-old without friends or funds, sets out to enjoy a luxurious summer in her neighbor's abandoned pool when her game plan is thwarted by her archenemy, sparking an epic Mexican standoff.

Things I've Made My Roommate Do

USA | Drama | 9 mins

Mylissa Fitzsimmons

Max thinks he loves Samantha, Olivia knows she loves Max. Samantha is leaving town, so Olivia convinces Max to tell her everything before she goes. What could go wrong?

Don't Mess with Texas:

An Abortion Story

USA | Documentary | 6 mins

Roswell Goransson, Ellison Leticia Martin, Qiu Li Tovo-Hurt

A documentary that explores the personal impacts on Texas women related to the overturning of Roe V. Wade and how they are working together to make a better future. (Student Film/Texas Film)

You're Invited to Tuscan's 5th Birthday Party!

USA | Comedy | 14 mins | Texas Premiere

Lee Eddy

Tabitha wants the perfect day for her only son's 5th birthday party, but things take a turn. (Texas Film)

Evergreen

USA | Drama | 17 mins | Texas Premiere

Zachary Zebrowitz

Ethan's summer escape turns volatile as the unexpected arrival of his increasingly estranged best friend threatens to expose his darkest secrets.

Copilot

USA | Drama | 13 mins | World Premiere

Darcy Doyle

Gene Davitt and her aviator father, Jim, frequently visit her ailing grandfather. Throughout stories of free-flight, dinner preparations, housekeeping, and unspoken tensions, young Gene finds both what is expected of her, and who she aspires to become. (Texas Film)

Floodplain

USA | Documentary | 17 mins

Samuel Diaz Fernandez

Austin residents relive their memories of a 2013 catastrophic flood in Onion Creek, which was a once-thriving community, but now scarred by disaster. Ten years later, they are determined to prevent history from repeating itself. (Texas Film)

Break/Fix

USA | Drama | 7 mins | Texas Premiere

Amanda Pinto

Under the influence of anesthesia while receiving plastic surgery, Lily meets a grandmother she never knew who helps her think differently about her heritage.

A black and white photograph of the interior of an Oro Bianco Italian Creamery. The space features a curved counter with a dark wood-grain base and a white top. Behind the counter, there are various pieces of equipment, including a coffee machine and a display of gelato cones. The walls are white with vertical wood paneling, and the ceiling has exposed wooden beams and recessed lighting. The Oro Bianco logo is visible on the wall behind the counter.

Oro Bianco

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FRIDAY, MAY 31 | 2:15 PM
GREAT HALL AT HOFFMAN HAUS
SHORT BLOCK 4

The Good, the Bad and the III

USA | Animation | 3 mins

Carter Schmidt

Josey McCoy, a cyborg cowboy, boards a medical supply train to steal a respiratory treatment where he gets into a heated gun battle with robot guards. Against all odds, he succeeds in his mission. (Student Film)

The Test

USA | Documentary | 16 mins

Laura Waters Hinson and Claudia Myers

A Ghanaian maintenance worker at a Virginia retirement community dreams of becoming an American citizen to provide a better life for his family. With their future at stake, he enlists the help of two elderly residents to prepare for the biggest test of his life: the U.S. Citizenship exam.

Jedo's Dead

USA | Drama | 11 mins

Sara Nimeh

When a young Middle Eastern girl finds her grandfather dead, she is forced to grapple with the earthly rituals and spiritual loose ends of loss. (Texas Film)

The Greensman

USA | Comedy | 6 mins | Texas Premiere

William F. Reed

When a clever gardener clashes with a film shoot he must rely on his tools to get the job done. (Texas Film/Out-of-Competition)

In Wonderland

USA | Drama | 14 mins

Andrea Camacho McCracken

When Nina, a resilient, and tenacious 8-year-old Mexican girl is granted asylum in the U.S. and forced to stay in the custody of her estranged aunt, Carmen, she rejects her new family and escapes inside the fantasy world of her book, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. As her imagination brings to life a magical rabbit hole, she follows it down in hopes of reuniting with her father on the other side. Will Nina come to terms with the truth of her past and finally embrace the adventure of a new home?

Solo un ensayo

Spain | Drama | 9 mins | Texas Premiere

Hugo Sanz

Two sisters, seven and eleven years old, are hiding inside a closet in a house. The little sister thinks they are rehearsing for a game but the older one knows that a terrible threat lurks outside.

Smoke

USA | Drama | 15 mins

Joshua Gallas

A firefighter returns home after the most difficult shift of his life. (Texas Film)



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Hill Country Film Festival | 20 | www.hillcountryff.com

FRIDAY, MAY 31 | 2:30 PM
HISTORIC NIMITZ BALLROOM
SHORT BLOCK 5

The Bubby Bear Show

USA | Animation | 2 mins

Thavin Vongpatanasin

In this episode of The Bubby Bear Show, Bubby introduces the alphabet until a sinister figure appears. Bubby must escape while trying to keep the alphabet lesson going. (Student Film)

Dynasty and Destiny

USA | Documentary | 7 mins

Texas Premiere

Travis Lee Ratcliff

A psychological portrait of the mother-daughter duo, Kanasha Jackson and Kortnee Solomon, bound together by their passion for the rodeo and the weight of their family's legacy in the sport. (Texas Film)

Ice Cream Shop Girls

USA | Dramedy | 18 mins

Kyra Boldrighini

While spending a day at the mall, Dani, an aloof teen, runs into her rowdy guy friends. She drags her impressionable little sister, Bella, along with her as she hears and sees things she shouldn't. The facade Dani puts up in front of the boys is slowly overtaking her true self. Bella's relationship with her sister is disintegrating. A mentor figure, Mikayla, tries to lend a hand. Unfortunately, the sisters come to learn the hard way that they can't keep their innocence from melting away. (Texas Film)

Moratorium

Ireland | Drama | 18 mins | Texas Premiere
KC Connolly

Ireland: After the moratorium on evictions ends, a widowed father finds himself on the edge of homelessness and has one last chance to plead his case to a solicitor before he and his children are forced out onto the street.

1201

USA | Thriller | 12 mins | Texas Premiere
Bobby Jordan

For more than a decade, Daniel and his son, Micah, have sought answers to the tragedy that shattered their family. And now, as their journey closes in on what may be its final stop, Daniel begins to grapple with the consequences of discovering the truth.

Search & Destroy

USA | Drama | 15 mins

Alexander Rosales

For Rafael and his friends, the first day of summer is always reserved for a swim at the neighborhood pool. But this year, they must spend it searching the neighborhood for a squad member who is accused of ditching them.

ANY SIGN AT ALL

USA | Drama | 9 mins | Texas Premiere
Faryl Amadeus

Clutching at straws and running on fumes, a desperate young woman's indecision about the future of her unborn child has her looking for signs from the universe. Stranded at a crossroads, will the future finally reveal its plan?

The Word

USA | Comedy | 10 mins

Rob M. Neilson

Billionaires decide to give African Americans reparations for slavery...but there's a catch. (Texas Film)



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FRIDAY, MAY 31 | 4:45 PM
GREAT HALL AT HOFFMAN HAUS
DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Print It Black

USA | Documentary | 86 mins
Tomas Navia and Megan Hundahl Streete

Print It Black follows the journalists of the Uvalde Leader-News in the aftermath of the Robb Elementary school shooting that killed 19 children and 2 teachers. It intimately chronicles the story of crime reporter Kimberly Rubio and her husband, Felix, who lost their ten-year-old daughter, Lexi, in the shooting. The film traces Kimberly's rise to national prominence as an advocate for gun reform while processing unimaginable grief and loss. Through the Leader-News' reporting, we witness this small rural Texas town's ongoing discord as families search for accountability from local law enforcement and leaders, and the social fabric of the town is unwoven. (Texas Film)

HCFF NOTES: Producers Tomas Navia and Megan Hundahl Streete will be in attendance.

FRIDAY, MAY 31 | 4:45 PM
HISTORIC NIMITZ BALLROOM
DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Bastards of Soul

USA | Documentary | 81 mins
Paul Levatino

In the limelight of imminent global fame, a Texas band's journey is marked by the unforeseen loss of their charismatic front man, Chadwick Murray. This documentary captures the raw essence of their final album sessions and the electrifying stage presence that defined them, celebrating the enduring legacy of a man who achieved his dreams against all odds. (Texas Film)

HCFF NOTES: Director/Producer Paul Levatino and Director of Photography/Editor/Co-Producer Zack Tzourtouklis will be in attendance.

FRIDAY, MAY 31 | 7:00 PM
HISTORIC NIMITZ BALLROOM
NARRATIVE FEATURE

No Right Way

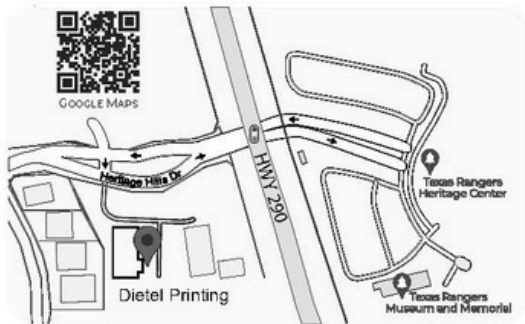
USA | Dramedy | 103 mins
Chelsea Bo

Georgie, a brazen tween, is thrust into the guardianship of her half-sister Harper whose attempts to parent only lead to exposing their paralleled childhood wounds.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 1 | 12:00 PM
GREAT HALL AT HOFFMAN HAUS
DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Faders Up: The John Aielli Experience

USA | Documentary | 75 mins

Sam Wainwright Douglas

and David Hartstein

John Aielli influenced Austin's musical diversity for over 50 years. The opera singer from Killeen became Austin's legendary voice. His freeform interviews, on-air mishaps and philosophical musings made "Eklektikos" a one-of-a-kind show. (Texas Film)

HCFF NOTES: Directors Sam Wainwright Douglas and David Hartstein will be in attendance.



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SATURDAY, JUNE 1 | 12:15 AM
HISTORIC NIMITZ BALLROOM
STUDENT SHORT BLOCK

Head in the Clouds

USA | Animation | 2 mins

Kaylee Tian Lin Tan

A quirky student who daydreams with her head high in the clouds must creatively elude her strict math teacher.

Bent Out of Shape

USA | Animation | 3 mins

Chloe Merwin

A square-shaped woman and her child live in a dull, square world. However, when a bright, circular neighbor moves in next door, the square woman begins to feel that her world is being threatened.

Memento Mori

USA | Drama | 8 mins

Ines Wallisch

A doctor learns that he has a brain tumor and has only three months to live. To make up for lost time, he embarks on wild adventures changing his perspective on death.

The Crow Woman

USA | Drama | 4 mins

Brooklyn Rice

The story of a seemingly eccentric 16-year-old girl and her search for meaning. (Texas Film)

Muse

USA | Drama | 2 mins

Abbie Bergman

A young artist prepares for his art show. (Texas Film)

Elevated

USA | Drama | 4 mins

Zoha Omar

A student struggles to take the elevator for fear it might consume him. Will his fear consume him instead? (Texas Film)

The Understudy

USA | Drama | 8 mins | World Premiere

Lucas Miller

When a theatre troupe understudy gets a mysterious call from his director, he attempts to decipher the meaning of her message at a cast wrap party. (Texas Film/Out-of-Competition)

What You Don't Know: A Driver's Story

USA | Drama | 7 mins | Texas Premiere

Christopher Chan

In the bustling chaos of New York City, a taxi driver's ordinary routine takes an extraordinary turn when a series of chance encounters with passengers triggers a profound introspection. (Texas Film)

Please Don't Stand While I'm Falling

USA | Documentary | 8 mins

Texas Premiere

Kyle Ward

Almost 5 years after his life-changing injury, a teen reflects on his journey to piece together the brokenness left behind after falling into a constant repetition of life. (Texas Film)

Octopus Ninja

USA | Animation | 2 mins

Donghoe Kim

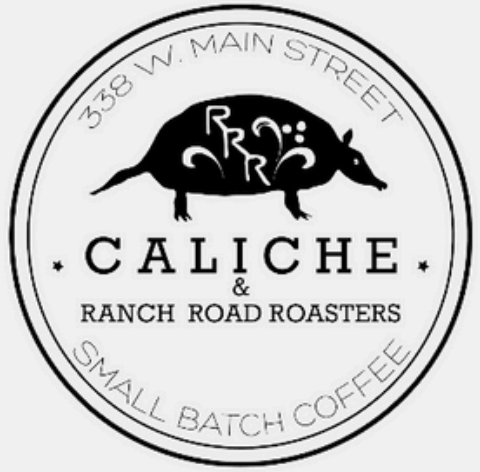
An octopus ninja sets out on a mission to rescue his wife and child after they were taken to a notorious sushi restaurant.

The Perfect Line

USA | Drama | 12 mins

Caitlyn McConnell

The Perfect Line showcases one woman's journey to break into the male-dominated sport of racing. To win, she must revisit relationships that have haunted her and find courage to take new risks. When she pushes her car to the edge at a racetrack in Angleton, Texas, she finds the limits of her car and her relationship with her driving coach. (Texas Film)



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SATURDAY, JUNE 1 | 2:15 PM
HISTORIC NIMITZ BALLROOM
SHORT BLOCK 6

Presented by Pedernales Cellars

Body

USA | Dark Comedy | 7 mins

Ronald Short

Jake swears he just saw one of his Halloween decorations move and, worst of all, neither he nor his girlfriend, Dawn, knows where the damned thing came from. (Texas Film)

Cinching Saddles

Canada | Comedy | 8 mins | Texas Premiere

Aman Pannu and Kevin Sengara

A mockumentary that follows the wild journey of Calvinder, aka Cinch, who adopts a fake Texas accent and genuinely believes he's a cowboy, despite lacking any authentic cowboy skills. The series captures Cinch's comedic attempts to fit into the ranch's cowboy culture. As the ranch continues to thrive without his intentional assistance, the story unfolds with a humorous exploration of identity and the unexpected impact Cinch has on the community.

TESSA

USA | Documentary | 16 mins

World Premiere

Megan Dahl

A documentary set in the American South about finding freedom and independence, regardless of physical limitations, disability, and perceptions. Tessa, a 7-year-old girl born with a limb difference, was adopted as an infant from an orphanage in Ethiopia by a loving family in Austin, Texas. What Tessa wants to do is swim. With practice, perseverance, and passion, Tessa shows the true endurance of the human spirit by competing in her first swim meet at the Endeavor Games, the premier adaptive sports competition in the USA. Tessa finds freedom in the water she doesn't have anywhere else and brings us along on that joyful journey of believing in oneself. (Texas Film)

The Hope Chest Has a Secret Drawer

USA | Drama | 15 mins | Texas Premiere

Laura Frenzer

What happens when you forget to forget? A stressed daughter working tirelessly to reach her mother lost in an Alzheimer's haze accidentally uncovers a dark family secret.

Julie Baby

USA | Drama | 17 mins | Texas Premiere

Emily Grooms

When a little girl gets called a whore for the first time, she discovers her place in the world but also her power to define herself. (Student Film/Texas Film)

Calf

Ireland | Drama | 14 mins

Jamie O'Rourke

A sinister farm accident leaves Cáit with a terrible decision to make.

The Heart of Texas

USA | Drama | 15 mins | Texas Premiere

Gregory J.M. Kasunich

Janie May, an aspiring country singer stuck in the paycheck-to-paycheck grind, gets big news that she's a radio contest finalist while finishing her overnight shift at a local diner in Waco, Texas. She must race to the station to sing for hometown country music hero Harlan Thompson in hopes of winning the opening act spot on his upcoming tour. In a chaotic dash to the studio, she collides her car into Jesús, an undocumented worker who refuses medical care or police assistance out of fear of being discovered and deported. The two engage in a struggle, each in pursuit of their own American dreams. In the end, they do the only thing they know how to do: fend for themselves. (Texas Film)

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SATURDAY, JUNE 1 | 2:15 PM
GREAT HALL AT HOFFMAN HAUS
NARRATIVE FEATURE

Canvas

USA | Thriller | 100 mins | Texas Premiere
Melora Donoghue and
Kimberly Stuckwisch

Pitted against each other since youth and raised to believe true artists are only formed through suffering, the sisters reunite after years of estrangement. One sister learns authenticity, the other regret, but neither escapes the sins of their father.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 | 4:30 PM
HISTORIC NIMITZ BALLROOM
NARRATIVE FEATURE

Fluorescent Beast

USA | Comedy | 90 mins | Texas Premiere
Paul Osborne

A man is sent on a clandestine business trip by a shadowy executive. The details of the trip withheld even from him, the man must follow a series of mysterious clues to uncover the true nature of his mission.

HCCFF NOTES: Producer Melanie Starks will be in attendance.



Helping Here.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 | 5:00 PM
GREAT HALL AT HOFFMAN HAUS
NARRATIVE FEATURE

A Time Apart

France/USA | Drama | 75 mins

Texas Premiere

Courtney Hope Thérond

Alyssa returns to Paris to finalize her divorce but while spending a final week with her soon-to-be ex-husband, she starts to question whether she's making the right decision.

HCFF NOTES: Subtitled

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 | 7:00 PM
HISTORIC NIMITZ BALLROOM
DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Presented by Pedernales Cellars

Shaking It Up: The Life and Times of Liz Carpenter

USA | Documentary | 88 mins

Christy Carpenter and Abby Ginzberg

Over her 89 years, Liz Carpenter was often front and center where history was unfolding, leaving her own indelible mark on some of the most vivid moments and movements that shaped the twentieth century. Journalist, vice-presidential advisor, White House official, author, humorist, political activist, and feminist leader—hers is the story of blazing professional trails while pushing forward an agenda for women's rights, political engagement, and the environment that remains highly relevant today. (Texas Film)

HCFF NOTES: Director Christy Carpenter will be in attendance.

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Thank you to all the incredible people and organizations that give so graciously of their time, talent and treasure.

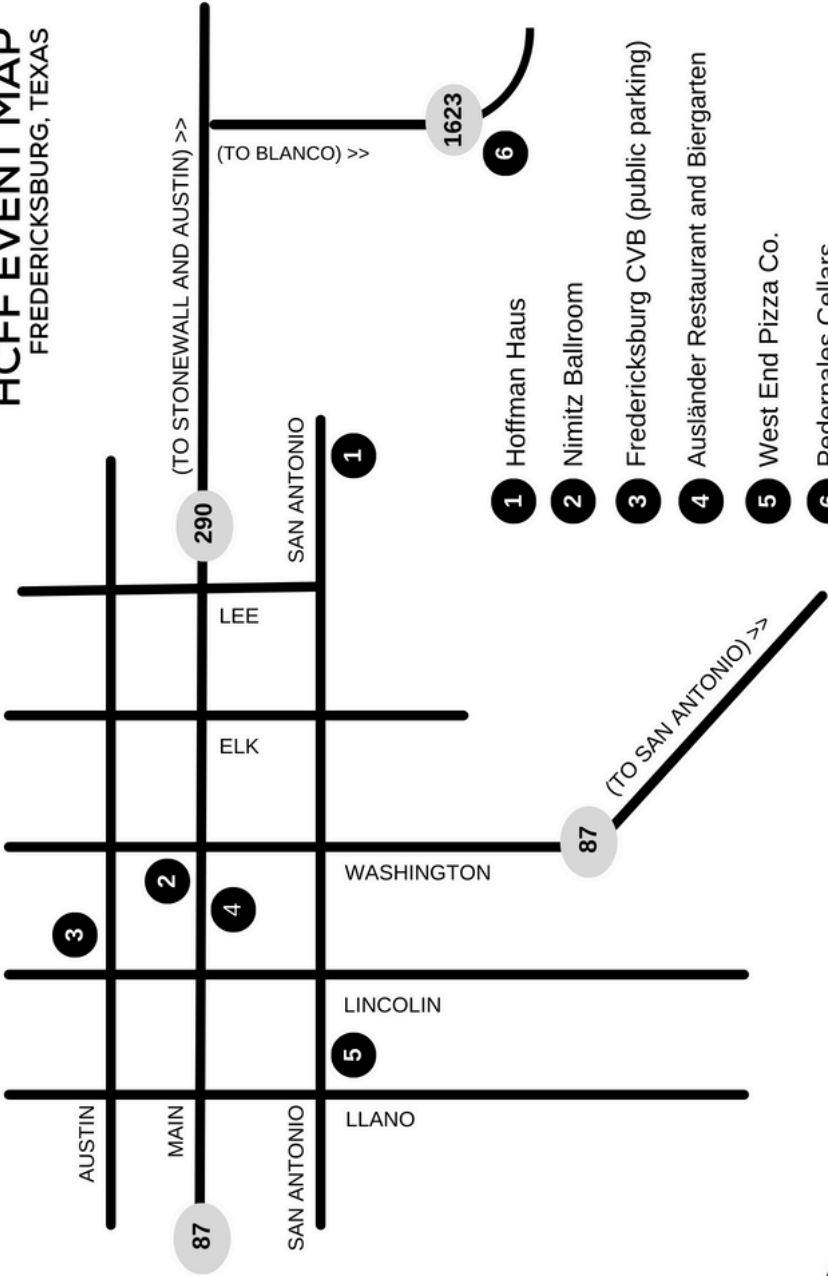
Richard Allen	Nexstream
Lindsey Ashley	Sandra Keyser
Connie and Stan Barron	Sherry Keyser
Blanco Chamber of Commerce	Amanda Koone
Christie Bourquin	Jeanine and Larry Kuhlken
Traci Boyer	Julie Kuhlken
Ben Brashear	Juanita and John Lee
Natalie Burns	Andi Littlejohn
Ken Esten Cooke and Christine Granados	Renie and Steve Litton
City of Fredericksburg	Karen and Ernie Loeffler
Kathleen R. and Harold Coates	Susan Mahoney
Robin and Ed Cowsar	Gayle and Jerry Miskovsky
Janet Degenhardt	Manny Pandya
Mary DeGreve	Tony Perez
Patricia Dwyer-Morgan	Mary and Ron Piotrowski
Eaker Barbeque	Pritzer Sweet Shop
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Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau	Steve Riley
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Johnson City Chamber of Commerce	Washburne Families
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National Museum of the Pacific War	

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Christy Felder	Lori McClellan	Paula Provost
Taylor Garcia	Madeline Miller	Joe Simmons
Nancy Hiner	Adriana Olivares	Marilyn Smith
Steve Hiner	Danny Poole	

HCFF EVENT MAP

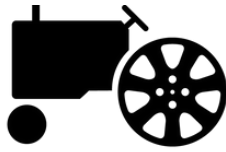
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HILL COUNTRYTM FILM SOCIETY

OUR MISSION

The Hill Country Film Society (HCFS) encourages discovery through visual storytelling. We create experiences that educate, inspire and engage.

The Hill Country Film Society not only hosts the annual Hill Country Film Festival, but also provides year-round independent film programming in the Texas Hill Country through the monthly Indie Film Series, Summer Film Camp and Film Affaire, an annual exploration of food and film.

Membership levels are available to suit every budget. To learn more visit www.hillcountryff.com/film-society.



The Hill Country Film Society (HCFS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations to HCFS are tax deductible to the extent as allowed by law.

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