

10th Annual



AUSTIN
under the stars
FILM FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2026



AUSTIN, TEXAS



AUSTIN
FILM
SOCIETY

OFFICIAL PROGRAM



10TH ANNUAL
AUSTIN UNDER THE STARS FILM FESTIVAL
AFS CINEMA
SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2026

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 OPENING NIGHT



5:30 – 6:50 PM
NARRATIVE SHOWCASE I



6:50 – 7:05 PM
NARRATIVE FILMMAKER Q&A



7:05 – 7:40 PM
SCREENWRITER Q&A



7:40 – 8:00 PM
INTERMISSION
Red Carpet • Concessions
Feature Seating • Restrooms



8:00 – 9:40 PM
OPENING NIGHT FEATURE:
BONDING



9:40 – 9:55 PM
BONDING FILMMAKER Q&A
+ Audience Choice announcement



9:55 – 10:00 PM
OPENING NIGHT WRAP
Filmmaker Photos • Networking
Clear Theater

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 FESTIVAL SHOWCASE + AWARDS



2:30 – 3:55 PM
SHORT FORM + DOCUMENTARY SHOWCASE



3:55 – 4:10 PM
FILMMAKER Q&A
+ Audience Choice announcement



4:15 – 5:30 PM
COMEDY SHOWCASE



5:30 – 5:45 PM
FILMMAKER Q&A
+ Audience Choice announcement



6:15 – 6:30 PM
INTERMISSION
Concessions • Red Carpet
Networking • Restrooms



6:30 – 8:15 PM
AFTER DARK
Arthouse • Horror • Sci-Fi



8:15 – 8:30 PM
FILMMAKER Q&A
+ Audience Choice announcement



8:30 – 10:00 PM
NARRATIVE FINALE
Mature Narrative Showcase



10:00 – 10:15 PM
FILMMAKER Q&A
+ Audience Choice announcement



10:15 – 10:45 PM
10TH ANNUAL AUSTIN UNDER THE STARS
AWARDS CEREMONY
Audience Choice + Jury Awards + recognition



10:45 – 11:00 PM
WINNER PHOTOS + FESTIVAL WRAP



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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 – OPENING NIGHT



5:30 – 6:50 PM

★ NARRATIVE SHOWCASE I

A curated program of exceptional narrative short films.



6:50 – 7:05 PM

NARRATIVE FILMMAKER Q&A

Hear directly from the filmmakers about their stories and creative process.



7:05 – 7:40 PM

SCREENWRITER Q&A

A moderated panel with our selected feature & short screenplay attendees. Explore the craft of writing stories for the screen.



7:40 – 8:00 PM

Red Carpet • Concessions • Feature Seating • Restrooms



8:00 – 9:40 PM

OPENING NIGHT FEATURE: **BONDING**

Runtime: 1:35:22



9:40 – 9:55 PM

BONDING FILMMAKER Q&A

+ Audience Choice announcement



9:55 – 10:00 PM

OPENING NIGHT WRAP

Filmmaker Photos • Networking • Clear Theater

Despite It All
Insensible Losses
Chocolate Milk
The Fires We Play With
The Frog
Mom
Merit Society
Love, from Ellie
Total Runtime: 1:17:58





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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 – FESTIVAL SHOWCASE + AWARDS



2:30 – 3:55 PM

SHORT FORM + DOCUMENTARY SHOWCASE

Films: ~1:24:13

MICRO / SMARTPHONE

- I/O (Proof of Concept) Teaser — 2:14
- Parallel Spaceships — 2:04
- Opalescent — 2:39

ANIMATION

- Alienated! — 3:15
- Shooting the Moon — 1:12
- King Karno — 3:00

DOCUMENTARY

- Filipina Sisters — 8:30
- Butch & Mandalin:
The Search for the
Golden Morral — 18:50

MUSIC VIDEO

- CAGE - 5:32
- Die Spitz - Punishers - 4:31
- Candy Daze! - 2:36
- Deer Fellow - Beautiful Gray - 4:41
- Jeff Hilliard - Love Myself - 3:31
- Middle of Nowhere - 4:04
- Make Believe - 3:45
- Gary - 6:09
- Beauty - 3:09
- Left Behind - 3:28
- Realize - 4:12



3:55 – 4:10 PM

SHORT FORM + DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER Q&A

Q&A with the filmmakers + Audience Choice announcement.



4:15 – 5:30 PM

COMEDY SHOWCASE

Films: 1:07:21

- Physical Touch — 11:11
- Frank & Beans — 9:58
- Girl Can't Talk — 6:26
- PUMP — 7:55
- Oh Shit, Dolly! — 10:00
- Jamba-Liar — 6:51
- Driving Mr. Walker — 15:00



5:30 – 5:45 PM

COMEDY FILMMAKER Q&A

Q&A with the filmmakers + Audience Choice announcement.



6:15 – 6:30 PM
INTERMISSION

Concessions • Red Carpet • Networking • Restrooms





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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 – FESTIVAL SHOWCASE + AWARDS



6:30 – 8:15 PM

AFTER DARK

Arthouse • Horror • Sci-Fi

Films: ~1:43:35

ARTHOUSE

- On Air — 2:41
- A Wound Breeds Flowers — 3:48
- Making Beauty — 13:06

HORROR / SCI-FI

- Lullaby — 9:57
- Snake Eyes — 8:44
- Rough Cut — 7:05
- Growth — 9:47
- SIDE EFFECTS — 10:17
- Anemoia — 16:00
- A House on the Hill — 22:10



8:15 – 8:30 PM

AFTER DARK FILMMAKER Q&A

Q&A with the filmmakers + Audience Choice announcement.



8:30 – 10:00 PM

NARRATIVE FINALE

Mature Narrative Showcase

Films: ~1:29:05

- Blonde Ambitions — 11:42
- Sick Enough — 14:59
- Amanece — 13:12

- Stockholm — 10:24
- The Oldest — 9:48
- The Ride — 15:00



10:00 – 10:15 PM

NARRATIVE FILMMAKER Q&A

Q&A with the filmmakers + Audience Choice announcement.



10:15 – 10:45 PM

10TH ANNUAL AUSTIN UNDER THE STARS AWARDS CEREMONY

30 minutes

Audience Choice + Jury Awards + recognition



10:45 – 11:00 PM

WINNER PHOTOS + FESTIVAL WRAP

Celebrate with the winners & thank you to our community.

See you next year!





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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 – FESTIVAL SHOWCASE + AWARDS

★ SCREENPLAY SELECTIONS ★

ANNOUNCING OUR SELECTED FEATURE SCREENPLAYS IN COMPETITION

Our screenplay selection process is highly competitive. This year, we received **nearly 800 submissions** from writers around the world. We are proud to recognize these outstanding screenplays.



GENRE FEATURE SCREENPLAYS (IN COMPETITION)

PROJECT TITLE	PAGES	WRITER(S)
Aqualand	101	Luke Hunter
BAGELS & SALSA FEATURE	120	LARA REZNIK
Best Friends Forever	104	Samuel James Ater
Feral Mountains	98	Terry Luke Podnar
Gehenna	91	Aizen Malki
Glo	115	Lauren Kent
Goatman '69	80	Greg McCabe Jr
HOLLOWTOP	85	Demetrios Lambros
HOLOAI	152	George Irizarry
Hunger	66	Brian Dorsey
Inner Demons: The Exorcism of Cardinal Torres	91	CLAUDIO MARTINEZ VALLE
Lisa's Box	80	Derrick Painter
Loch Hands	77	Ross Milne
Loralie	104	Truitt Glover
Maledict	69	Mac Steele Foster
Maury	100	Adan A Fuentes
Outlaw Pancakes	116	Xanna Don't
Remember The Groove	117	Steven Raney
Reverie	114	Brett Matthew Bassock
Rising Fawn	121	Evan Corrales
Stractor	108	Amanda Marie Pearce
The Black Abbey	89	Michael Consiglio, Alex Klein
The End of October	118	P.J. Starks
The Gospel According To Chad	80	Liam Mathison Farmer
The Kitchen	107	Earl Crittenden
The Lotus	106	DU JIN KIM
The Man Who Came From The River	117	Kieran O'Dea, Brennan O'Dea
They're Out There	78	Garrett Queener
VOODOO VALENTINOS	100	Michael Louis Gould
Why Graham Works	90	Steven Raney
Yarnface	95	Kirene Bolsen-Long, Elizabeth Long



NARRATIVE FEATURE SCREENPLAYS (IN COMPETITION)

PROJECT TITLE	PAGES	WRITER(S)
A Fine Line	113	Dan Burns
Better Angels	115	Shannon Denise Evans
Bixby Bridge-And the Sun Came Up	70	Eric Moon
Black Women Don't Bleed	114	Erika Timmons
Cael	102	Christian Dalton
Chameleon	120	Saattik Das
Corporate America	135	Elora Ellis
Death in Poland	125	Grant Huffman
Deuce	110	John A Kinney
Easy Money	100	Connor Carpenter
Fault Lines	89	Jess Thomas
Five Defiant Women	80	Vivianne Rosenberg
Founding Father	137	Maurice Moore
Green	118	David Keel
Joan Bressler Set in Philadelphia	86	Linda J Collier
Killdeer	136	Blue Merrick
Lafitte	122	Gary Stewart Branfman
Lord High Executioner	140	Grant Huffman
Michelangelo: The Man Inside the Stone	101	Mehul Shah
MORDECHAI AND KLAUS	104	Rosalyn Rosen
Project Cerberus	80	Douglas Maurice Parker
R.E.S.E.T	84	Arvi Ragu
Sea Foam	87	Alex Bulger
Second Chances	121	John Raymond Rogers
So Did I	118	Nick Nelsen
Souled Weight	100	Adonis Joseph Anthony
Spoon-fed Addiction	120	Silvano Williams
Surf City	106	Robert A Breedlove
Thanksgiving	118	Carol McCann
The Blue Cage	112	James Barr
The Last Semester	101	DC Cummings, John Goshorn
The Last Sentinel	96	Stuart B Long
The Punk Rock Queen of the Jews	109	Rossi
Themselves	140	Penelope Kate Pena
Two Houses	112	gary s branfman
Vacuum	125	Leiter S Daniellson
Vignette	123	Evan Corrales
Waltzing Across Texas	97	SK Purvis
What Good is Believing	110	Thomas Pace
WINGS	94	Maja Pavic

★ ABOUT OUR SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

Selected from nearly 800 submissions from writers around the world, these outstanding writers represent the best in feature-length screenplays across genre and narrative storytelling.

Congratulations to all our selected writers!



Winners will be announced during the
**10TH ANNUAL AUSTIN UNDER THE STARS
AWARDS CEREMONY**
Saturday, September 26

★ THANK YOU TO EVERY WRITER WHO SHARED THEIR STORY WITH US. ★
YOUR VOICES INSPIRE.



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GENRE SHORT SCREENPLAYS (IN COMPETITION)

PROJECT TITLE	PAGES	WRITER(S)
Alpha Nova POC	11	Jenny De La Fuente
Birdies	10	Tara Kaye Burgh
Coercion	17	Liam Mathison Farmer
DEAD EAST "Nippon Flight 319"	30	Paul Alan Gober
Eagle 12	30	Lamar D. Vine
In With the Storm	20	Cara Marshall
Maledict	10	Mac Steele Foster
Penal Code	6	Kate Hooper
Perfect Execution	8	David R. Schleicher
Pluck	12	Naddine Madell-Morgan
Second Choice	15	Shaun Foley
The Mowers	12	Liam Mathison Farmer



NARRATIVE SHORT SCREENPLAYS (IN COMPETITION)

PROJECT TITLE	PAGES	WRITER(S)
The Shadow of The Sun	24	Honghu Mao, Mingna Su
10 Past 6	15	Aaron Michael Garcia
Boys Don't Cry	11	Tyler Garrett Coe
Christmas Homecoming	6	Sara Gaston
Circus Freak	13	Samantha Murdock Hussey
Cross Threads	11	Dylan Weand
Crush	8	Laurie Gamble
Don't Break Any Hearts	12	Bryan Huynh
Durning Road	13	Paula McCool
Mirror Mirror	19	Saskia Lynge
Missed Connection	10	Marion Trent
Returns & Errors: Pets	5	Donna Bonilla Wheeler
Ride or Die	28	Ian "El" Trutt
SIDE EFFECTS	13	Fred Perry
SLUSH	15	Paolina Milana
Souls	10	Mikal Himes
Teagan Montgomery	10	Robert Dylan Foster
The Choice	15	R.J. Pineiro
The Kickback	20	Keshia Thomas
The Long Way There	18	Rashad Simmons
The Pixel Cartel	11	Robert A Breedlove
Troubled Ledge	22	Latreice Lathan
Upstate	29	Theo Stockman



TV PILOT SCREENPLAYS (IN COMPETITION)

PROJECT TITLE	PAGES	WRITER(S)
IKiller_Dorothy	52	Shannon Denise Evans
At The Flash	52	Sean Chandler, David Leeper
BAGELS & SALSA TV PILOT	50	LARA REZNIK, LARA Reznik
Box Exit	54	Parker Alexander McCabe
Chubbies	34	Jeremy Ray Burchard
Cursed	60	Brian Whiteman
DEAD EAST "Nippon Flight 319"	30	Paul Alan Gober
Entry Level	37	Zane Taylor Hill
Greg's Dojo	34	Jeremy Ray Burchard
Gross Prophet	54	Kathryn Robinson
Here Come the Poons	33	Katie Raulerson
Highways	48	Michael Sloyka
How Not to Disappear Completely	27	Steve Brumwell
Run	—	Patrick Brady
The Liberty of the Clink	60	Allie Moss
Tomorrow is Totally Screwed	33	Miachel Pruett
Viande Fraîche "Pretend We're Dead"	47	SK Purvis

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