

Artis—Naples

Home of The Baker Museum
and the Naples Philharmonic

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Artis—Naples Announces Official Selections for the 2022 Naples International Film Festival (October 27-30)

**Bradford Thomason and Brett Whitcomb's festival hit
Butterfly in the Sky will be the Opening Night selection and
NIFF will close with *Jurassic Park*
accompanied live by the Naples Philharmonic**

**Alex Lehmann's *Acidman*, Brett Wagner's *The Big Bend*
and Anna Baumgarten's *Disfluency* compete
for the Narrative Feature Juried Prize**

**Alysa Nahmias' *Art & Krimes by Krimes*, Amy Bandlien Storkel
and Bryan Storkel's *The Pez Outlaw* and
Allison Otto's *The Thief Collector* will vie
for the Documentary Feature Juried Prize**



Butterfly in the Sky, Jurassic Park

Naples, FL (October 4, 2022) – As Southwest Florida contends with the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, Artis—Naples announced today that the Naples International Film Festival will take place as planned October 27-30, and also announced the film lineup. “Artis—Naples is a reflection of our community - resilient and focused on helping those affected by the storm. We recognize the restorative power of the arts and the role of our mission to help our community recover,” said CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen. “In the upcoming weeks and months, we will continue presenting visual and performing arts programming—including NIFF—that we hope will bring solace,

inspiration and even laughter to our community. This year, more than ever, we look forward to bringing film lovers and filmmakers together again to share in four days that promise to deliver the best in independent film across a variety of genres—shorts, Florida films, student films and documentary and narrative features.”

The film festival begins with a red-carpet Opening Night event highlighted by a screening of Bradford Thomason and Brett Whitcomb’s festival favorite documentary ***Butterfly in the Sky***. NIFF will close with a special presentation of Steven Spielberg’s ***Jurassic Park*** featuring a live performance of John Williams’ classic score by the Naples Philharmonic, conducted by Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly. On Friday and Saturday night, Artis—Naples will present its popular “Screenings Under the Stars” in Norris Garden on the Artis—Naples Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. NIFF alumnus Bryan Storkel will return with his and Amy Bandlien Storkel’s ***The Pez Outlaw*** on Friday night, and Nate Boyer’s ***MVP*** will screen on Saturday night.

The festival will include 64 films (13 narrative features, 9 documentary features and 42 short films) from 17 countries. All screenings will be in-person at Hayes Hall, Norris Garden or Silverspot Cinema.

“Our goal always is to bring films, filmmakers and audiences together in order to provide a rich cinematic experience that highlights the many facets of independent film,” said David Filner, executive vice president, artistic operations. “Whether we are screening films that feature art and artists who have graced our exhibition walls and performance stages, or we are simply sharing powerful and thought-provoking independent films from filmmakers all over the world, NIFF provides a unique opportunity for filmmakers and our whole cinema-loving community to experience the multidisciplinary approach to the arts that is at the heart of Artis—Naples.”

Festival Producer Shannon Franklin adds that NIFF maintains a great reputation with filmmakers because they know it is an environment where they can share their work, connect and exchange ideas—all while connecting with eager cinephiles. “NIFF reaches engaged, enthusiastic audiences who genuinely appreciate the work they are seeing on screen,” Franklin said. “Year after year, festival filmmakers and attendees give rave reviews of the NIFF experience.”

On Thursday, October 27, the Opening Night film at Hayes Hall (5833 Pelican Bay Blvd) will be Bradford Thomason and Brett Whitcomb’s ***Butterfly in the Sky*** in its Florida premiere. The film, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, has charmed audiences across the nation as it looks at the history and influence of the beloved *Reading Rainbow* series and one of the most adored television hosts of all time, LeVar Burton.

Hayes Hall will also be the location for the special presentation of Spielberg’s original thrilling “rollercoaster ride” through the land of dinosaurs, ***Jurassic Park*** (1993) on Closing Night on Sunday, October 30, appropriately on the eve of Halloween. The Naples Philharmonic, led by Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, will perform John Williams’ classic score live with the film.

Since 2020, the Naples International Film Festival has included its popular “Screenings Under the Stars” events with films shown on a large outdoor screen in Norris Garden on the Artis—Naples Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. This year’s screenings include ***The Pez Outlaw*** and Nate Boyer’s ***MVP***. Boyer, a former college football player and United State Army Green Beret, stars and directs this film about veterans and retired football players finding purpose and satisfaction after the uniforms come off.

Films in the Naples International Film Festival's competition categories will be vying for more than \$10,000 in prizes, including the Audience Awards for Best Narrative Feature, Best Documentary Feature and Best Short as well as the Focus on the Arts Award, given to a Narrative or Documentary film with an emphasis on one or more of the visual or performing arts. For the fourth consecutive year, there will also be juried awards in the Narrative and Documentary features categories.



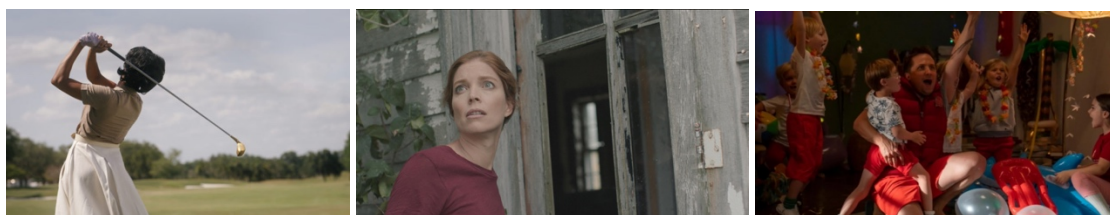
Acidman, The Big Bend, Disfluency

The Narrative Features Juried Competition slate includes the Florida Premiere of Alex Lehman's ***Acidman***, about a young woman who tracks down her reclusive UFO-obsessed father to share some news with him that may shake him out of his rut. Brett Wagner's ***The Big Bend*** will also make its Florida premiere at NIFF. The film focuses on two families who come together for a highly fraught reunion in the remote West Texas desert and will need to overcome a lot of history and drama in order to survive the experience. Anna Baumgarten's ***Disfluency*** has won several awards on the film festival circuit. The film follows a promising scholar who returns home without graduating as she deals with the PTSD resulting from the incident that sent her spiraling.



Art & Krimes by Krimes, The Pez Outlaw, The Thief Collector

Three Florida premieres make up NIFF's Documentary Features Juried Competition, including Alys Nahmias' ***Art & Krimes by Krimes***. The film chronicles the mind-boggling six-year-long process that artist Jesse Krimes secretly went through while incarcerated to create his art, smuggling out mural panels from prison, piece-by-piece, with the help of fellow artists. Husband-and-wife filmmakers Amy Bandlien Storkel and Bryan Storkel's ***The Pez Outlaw*** offers an entertaining look at a man who spent a decade during the '90s making millions by smuggling Pez dispensers into the country from Eastern Europe—until his archrival decided to destroy him. Allison Otto's ***The Thief Collector*** looks at one of the most infamous art heists on record: the theft of Willem de Kooning's *Woman-Ochre*. Stolen in 1985, the trail led to an unlikely place more than 30 years later.



Playing Through, Shudderbugs, Sweet Disaster

Additional highlights among the festival's narrative feature selections include Balbinka Korzeniowska's ***Playing Through***, which tells the story of Ann Gregory. Dubbed the Queen of Negro Golf, Gregory was the first woman of color to enter the USGA Women's Amateur. Her match with Babs Whatling, a privileged white woman from the South, forever changed both them and the game itself. Johanna Putnam's ***Shudderbugs*** will make its world premiere at NIFF. The film follows a woman's pursuit of the mysteries that abound in her childhood home after her mother suddenly dies. Laura Lehmus' ***Sweet Disaster*** recently won Best Narrative Film at the Lake Travis Film Festival. This German film follows a woman who, upon getting unexpectedly pregnant, is promptly left by the father of her child as he reunites with his ex. While she deals with serious health problems caused by the late pregnancy, she tries to get him back with the help of absurd, exaggerated and sometimes hilarious methods.



The Long Rider, Take Me to the River New Orleans, Path of the Panther

Additional documentary feature highlights include ***The Long Rider***. Directed by another NIFF alumnus, Sean Cisterna, the film follows the near impossible—and at times beyond-harrowing—journey from Canada to South America by a man on horseback. Eric Bendick's ***Path of the Panther*** focuses on a photographer who finds himself on the front lines of the destructive forces that threaten the total collapse of the Florida Everglades. Martin Shore's ***Take Me to the River New Orleans*** celebrates the rich musical history, the heritage, legacy, culture and influence of New Orleans and Louisiana. The film will make its Florida premiere at NIFF.

The Naples International Film Festival's themes for the curated short film programs include ***Passion for the Arts, The World Around Us, Lessons Learned, A Sense of Place, Risks and Rewards, Point of View*** and the ***Student Filmmaker Showcase***.

NIFF's Filmmaker Panels hosted by Elaine Newton will include ***Florida in Focus: Filmmaking in the Sunshine State*** (Friday, October 28). In this panel, Newton will discuss making movies in the Sunshine State with industry experts and some of our visiting filmmakers. On Saturday, October 29, Newton will host ***Adventures in Filmmaking*** in which some of our visiting filmmakers will share their candid and comical behind-the-scenes stories of what it really takes to make a movie.

Tickets for all screenings and activities at Silverspot Cinema and Daniels Pavilion go on sale September 30. Tickets for the Opening Night Film and Party, the Closing Night Awards Ceremony, Film and Wrap Party and *Jurassic Park in Concert* are currently on sale. For more information, visit artisnaples.org/niff.

We extend our deep gratitude to Festival Presenting Sponsors Dr. Richard Lublin and Christine Stahl Lublin. Generous support is also provided by the Collier County Tourist Development Council.

Sincere thanks to Opening Night Film and Party Sponsors Roger and Kathy Marino, Closing Night Event Sponsors Rick and Gayle Landuyt, Filmmaker Lounge Sponsors Stan and Sarann Kraushaar, and Theater Sponsors Damien M. Drab Sr., Bobbi and David Drobis, Vincent and Debra Maffeo and Entech. We are pleased to partner with Gulfshore Life and Naples Daily News as our exclusive Media Sponsors.

The 2022 Naples International Film Festival (NIFF) Official Selections:

OPENING NIGHT FILM PRESENTATION

Butterfly in the Sky

Florida Premiere

Directors: Bradford Thomason, Brett Whitcomb

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 86 minutes

Butterfly in the Sky tells the story of the beloved PBS children's series

Reading Rainbow, its iconic host LeVar Burton, and the challenges its creators faced in cultivating a love of reading through television.

CLOSING NIGHT FILM PRESENTATION

Jurassic Park (1993)

Director: Steven Spielberg

Country: U.S., Running Time: 127 min

A pragmatic paleontologist touring an almost-complete theme park on an island in Central America is tasked with protecting a couple of kids after a power failure allows the park's cloned dinosaurs to run loose.

NARRATIVE FEATURES

JURIED COMPETITION

Acidman

Florida Premiere

Director: Alex Lehmann

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 90 minutes

Maggie tracks down her estranged and reclusive father, Lloyd (Thomas Haden Church), who lives in the middle of nowhere searching for UFOs—an obsession that has taken over his life. Struggling to accept who her father has become, Maggie searches for a new way to connect with her dad so she can share a life-changing secret of her own with him.

The Big Bend

Florida Premiere

Director: Brett Wagner

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 104 minutes

Two families meet for a long overdue reunion in the remote West Texas desert, and events quickly don't go as planned. Harboring secrets and facing private crises, they explore one of the wildest places in America, testing the boundaries of marriage, friendship, and parenthood—and doing their best to survive the experience.

Disfluency

Director: Anna Baumgarten

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 93 minutes

After failing her final college class, Jane returns home to her family's lake house and comes to terms with the confusing drama that derailed her senior year.

ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURES

Dear Zoe

Florida Premiere

Director: Gren Wells

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 94 minutes

A powerful coming-of-age story of love, loss, grief and resilience in which teenage Tess enlists the support of her biological father—a lovable slacker—and the charming juvenile delinquent next door in the aftermath of the death of her little sister, Zoe.

Food and Romance

Director: Annika Appelin

Country: Sweden; Running Time: 102 minutes

A sudden change forces Karin to reevaluate her life. With the help of friends, food and passion, she refuses to accept that life has an expiration date and takes the second chance she is given.

The Forger

Florida Premiere

Director: Maggie Peren

Country: Germany; Running Time: 116 minutes

Based on a true story of bravery in the face of evil, *The Forger* stars Louis Hofmann (Netflix's *Dark*) as an audacious young man who poses as a marine officer and forges documents to help fellow Jews escape Nazi Germany.

Hard Shell, Soft Shell

Director: Emma Benestan

Countries: France/Algeria; Running Time: 100 minutes

Loved-up oyster farmer Az thinks he's made it. But when an elaborate proposal goes awry and his girlfriend Jess breaks his heart, Az is forced to confront his understanding of what happiness really looks like—both hers and his own.

iMordecai

Director: Marvin Samel

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 102 minutes

Sean Astin stars as Marvin is an ambitious cigar maker trying to support his own family while still being there for his aging parents, Mordecai (Judd Hirsch) and Fela (Carol Kane). When Mordecai's ancient flip phone breaks, he starts to take lessons on his new iPhone, opening him up to all kinds of novel experiences and adventures, making him feel like a kid again.

MVP

Director: Nate Boyer

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 112 minutes

Based on a true story of combat veterans and former pro athletes finding purpose and identity after the uniform comes off.

Playing Through

Director: Balbinka Korzeniowska

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 91 minutes

Late in her career, Ann Gregory, dubbed the Queen of Negro Golf, finds the courage to be the first woman of color to enter the USGA Women's Amateur. She collides with Babs Whatling, a privileged white woman from the South who is searching for her own identity. This highly publicized match forever changes both them and the game.

Róise & Frank

Florida Premiere

Directors: Rachael Moriarty, Peter Murphy

Country: Ireland; Running Time: 84 minutes

It has been two years since Róise lost the love of her life: her husband, Frank. She is now isolated in grief, cut off from family and community. The arrival of a mysterious dog, who seems intent on connecting with Róise, heralds huge change... but is it for the better?

Shudderbugs**World Premiere**

Director: Johanna Putnam

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 106 minutes

Samantha Cole returns to her childhood home when her mother suddenly passes. In place of familiar spaces and memories, Sam finds only uneasiness and confusion. Things are missing, the environment seems unnatural and the neighbor, Noah, who discovered her mom's body is suspiciously obtuse. Isolated with these mysteries, Sam wrestles with her sanity and certainties.

Sweet Disaster

Director: Laura Lehmus

Country: Germany; Running Time: 92 minutes

Frida unexpectedly falls pregnant, and Felix, the father of her child, breaks up with her to reunite with his ex. Although some serious health problems caused by the late pregnancy force Frida to rest, she still tries to get Felix back, using methods that are absurd, exaggerated and sometimes hilarious.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES**JURIED COMPETITION*****Art & Krimes by Krimes*****Florida Premiere**

Director: Alysa Nahmias

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 84 minutes

While locked up for six years in federal prison, artist Jesse Krimes secretly creates monumental works of art—including an astonishing 30-foot mural made with prison bed sheets, hair gel and newspaper. He smuggles out each panel, piece-by-piece, with the help of fellow artists, only seeing the mural in totality upon coming home.

The Pez Outlaw**Florida Premiere**

Directors: Amy Bandlien Storkel, Bryan Storkel

Country: U.S./Austria; Running Time: 87 minutes

In the 1990s, Pez dispensers were worth more, gram for gram, than cocaine or even gold. Steve Glew, from rural Michigan, spent 10 years smuggling Pez dispensers into the U.S. from Eastern Europe, making millions of dollars. It was all magical until it wasn't when his archnemesis, the Pezident, decided to destroy him.

The Thief Collector**Florida Premiere**

Director: Allison Otto

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 89 minutes

In 1985, Willem de Kooning's *Woman-Ochre*, one of the most valuable paintings of the 20th century, was cut from its frame at the University of Arizona Museum of Art. More than 32 years later, the painting is rediscovered in the unlikeliest of places. *The Thief Collector* unravels the layers of this infamous heist.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURES***Lift*****Florida Premiere**

Director: David Petersen

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 87 minutes

Lift shines a spotlight on the invisible story of homelessness in America through the eyes of a group of young home-insecure ballet dancers in New York City and the mentor who inspires them.

The Long Rider

Director: Sean Cisterna

Country: Canada; Running Time: 96 minutes

When Filipe Leite leaves his adoptive home of Canada, the aspiring journalist embarks on an epic quest to ride the length of the Americas from north to south—entirely on horseback—to return to home his family in South America.

Path of the Panther

Director: Eric Bendick

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 89 minutes

Drawn in by the haunting specter of the Florida panther, a photographer finds himself on the front lines of an accelerating battle between forces of renewal and destruction that have pushed the Everglades to the brink of ecological collapse.

Still Working 9 to 5

Florida Premiere

Directors: Camille Hardman, Gary Lane

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 91 minutes

Still Working 9 to 5 explores what has and hasn't changed for women over the last 40 years since the release of the hilarious 1980 workplace comedy *9 to 5*.

Take Me to the River New Orleans

Florida Premiere

Director: Martin Shore

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 115 minutes

Take Me to the River New Orleans celebrates the rich musical history, the heritage, legacy, culture and influence of New Orleans and Louisiana. A true collaboration and melting pot of influences from around the world.

SHORT FILMS

SHORTS PACKAGE #1: PASSION FOR THE ARTS

Chihuly: Roll the Dice

East Coast Premiere

Director: Peter West

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 27 minutes

World-renowned artist Dale Chihuly pursues an idea that will push glass to its physical limits.

Conducting Life

Director: Diane Moore

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 31 minutes

The remarkable journey of Roderick Cox as he pursues his dream: To secure a top conducting position with a major orchestra.

Identity: The Andrew Nemr Story

Florida Premiere

Director: Jon Cipiti

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 23 minutes

Follow international tap dance artist Andrew Nemr on his unique journey.

SHORTS PACKAGE #2: THE WORLD AROUND US

A Very Fragile Thing

Florida Premiere

Directors: Selah Eshetu, Ryan De Franco

Country: Ethiopia/U.S.; Running Time: 14 minutes

A first-person journey into the collapse of democracy and the rise of a civil war that has claimed the lives of half a million Ethiopians since 2020.

The Bathtub

Director: Sergi Marti

Country: Spain; Running Time: 19 minutes

A man is taking a bath when his cell phone suddenly rings. On the other side of the line is Clara, a girl who insistently tries to sell him a life insurance policy that will change his life.

Medea

Director: Feifei Zhong

Country: China; Running Time: 14 minutes

A woman struggles between her career and family after finding her unexpected pregnancy.

Mamma

Director: Aslak Danbold

Country: Norway; Running Time: 15 minutes

On Christmas Eve, a mother searches for her drug-addicted daughter in a desolate cityscape.

Florida Premiere

Rodrigue in Love

Director: Johann Dionnet

Country: France; Running Time: 24 minutes

During the Avignon Festival, one of the most important theater festivals in the world, a comedic actor tries to seduce a beautiful dramatic actress by pretending to play Rodrigue in *Le Cid*.

U.S. Premiere

SHORTS PACKAGE #3: LESSONS LEARNED

Black Slide

Director: Uri Lotan

Country: Israel/U.K.; Running Time: 11 minutes

A young and timid kid learns a helpful life lesson on the scariest ride at the water park.

Cycle Vérité

Director: Adam J. Graves

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 15 minutes

When Don sets out to recover his stolen bicycle, he finds himself drawn into a cycle of truth and deception and is forced to reconsider the meaning of forgiveness.

Florida Premiere

Frank & Emmett

Director: Carlos F. Puertolas

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 13 minutes

Two lifelong friends finally have a much-needed conversation about the only thing they've never talked about: One of them is a puppet.

Make Your Soul Grow

Director: KC Connolly

Country: Ireland; Running Time: 13 minutes

The true story of Kurt Vonnegut's final letter of inspiration.

Florida Premiere

Melons

Director: Matt MacDonald

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 15 minutes

A jolly but meek grocery store manager must learn to stand up for himself after a misunderstanding brands him as public enemy No. 1.

Florida Premiere

The Interview

Director: Inga Moren Tapias

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 9 minutes

An interview between two women at opposite ends of their careers turns into a therapy session... but who is interviewing whom?

Florida Premiere

SHORTS PACKAGE #4: A SENSE OF PLACE

An Irish Goodbye

Directors: Tom Berkeley, Ross White

Country: Ireland; Running Time: 23 minutes

In rural Northern Ireland, a pair of estranged brothers reunite following the untimely death of their mother.

Florida Premiere

The Desert King

Director: Lev Mergian

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 16 minutes

A young woman hikes into the quirky kingdom of an eccentric recluse and joins him on his adventures.

East Coast Premiere

Ousmane

Director: Jorge Camarotti

Country: Canada; Running Time: 25 minutes

A newly arrived immigrant in Montreal faces a challenging situation when he meets an elderly disoriented lady at the end of his workday.

Florida Premiere

Out of Tune

Director: Portlynn Tagavi

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 15 minutes

Stigmatized since childhood by her love of the rock band Journey, Maya finds her voice in a world where she doesn't feel "Black enough."

Florida Premiere

SHORTS PACKAGE #5: RISKS AND REWARDS

Heart Land

Director: Lauren Ciaravalli

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 12 minutes

When a cynical New Yorker gets stuck on a layover in Kansas, she finds a romantic spark where she least expects it—a "red" state.

Florida Premiere

Progress

Director: Christopher Boulton

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 7 minutes

A builder/designer couple traces the lineage of a mysterious object.

The Right Words

Director: Adrian Moyses Dullin

Country: France; Running Time: 15 minutes

A sibling rivalry spills over from social media into real life when 15-year-old Kenza pressures her little brother, Madhi, to profess his love to a crush.

Florida Premiere

Shark

Director: Nash Edgerton

Country: Australia; Running Time: 14 minutes

A lifelong prankster may have finally met his match in his latest relationship.

Florida Premiere

Skim

Director: William Pisciotta

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 18 minutes

A closeted woman cleaning pools in South Florida is met with a risky opportunity to change her lot in life.

Volley

Director: Oliver DeFilippo

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 15 minutes

A casual game of tennis between friends becomes an awakening to the relationships and the lives they take for granted.

Florida Premiere

SHORTS PACKAGE #6: POINT OF VIEW

Babatoura

Director: Guillaume Collin

Country: Canada; Running Time: 11 minutes

Comfort food for uncomfortable times.

Florida Premiere

Bendix: Site Unseen

Director: Anthony Scalia

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 26 minutes

A documentary about a blind waiter and single father who overcomes his disability in order to provide for his family.

Florida Premiere

Hamleyed

Director: Pedro Blanco-Uribe

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 8 minutes

To be, or not to be: A young man reflects on his desire to take revenge on the world through a terrorist attack.

Mr. Spam Gets a New Hat

Director: William Joyce

Country: U.K.; Running Time: 14 minutes

When a man with a head full of dreams is beaten down by the foreman in the factory where he works, a woman in a polka-dot dress brings meaning, love and dreams back into his life.

Florida Premiere

The Status Quo

Director: Marie-Pier Diamond

Country: Canada; Running Time: 19 minutes

In the near future, humanity does not challenge the status quo anymore—until a man opposes it and seeks the truth behind an apathetic society.

U.S. Premiere

SHORTS PACKAGE #7: STUDENT FILMMAKER SHOWCASE

Agent Stout (K-12)

Director: Joshua Vennetti

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 10 minutes

Secret agent Stout races to disarm a bomb as the clock counts down to annihilation.

Café Drawing (College)

Director: Junrong Zhang

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 2 minutes

A sketch character in a sketchbook tries to save herself from a splash of coffee when the artist leaves for a while.

Funeral Fever (College)

Florida Premiere

Director: Janicel Diaz

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 4 minutes

A young woman begins planning her perfect funeral after receiving a psychic reading.

Gone (K-12)

Florida Premiere

Director: Kyle Ward

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 4 minutes

As development encroaches on a farming community, they struggle with the loss of their heritage and land.

Hardcore (K-12)

East Coast Premiere

Director: Madeleine Case

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 10 minutes

When a young photographer falls in love with a drummer, she finds herself suspended between life, death and motherhood.

The Letter (K-12)

Florida Premiere

Director: Cameran Ford

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 2 minutes

A young woman experiences the perils of waiting until the last minute to pop the prom question.

Life with Coffee (College)

Director: Sohee Jeon

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 5 minutes

A Yemeni refugee sheltering in the U.S. finds his identity as a merchant selling coffee from his homeland.

My Cat Lucy (College)

Director: Kate Vaillant

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 2 minutes

A boy is convinced that his beloved pet cat is possessed by a demon.

Reaper (K-12)

Florida Premiere

Director: Eva Ulreich

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 4 minutes

The Grim Reaper attempts to claim a lost soul.

Space Race (College)

Director: Shane Dioneda

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 5 minutes

Two competing astronauts race to claim the moon for themselves.

Swept Away (K-12)

Director: Braden Webb

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 5 minutes

A man turns into his biggest fear.

Florida Premiere

The Trip (College)

Director: Alyssa Archard

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 11 minutes

Stuck in a world she can't escape, Jesse must confront the forces in power or live in an eternal loop under someone else's control.

Vilomah (College)

Director: Tom Ingwersen

Country: U.S.; Running Time: 10 minutes

A mother celebrates her deceased daughter's birthday... until her husband comes home.

World Premiere

ARTIS—NAPLES

Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis—Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction.

KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS

Led by CEO and President Kathleen van Bergen, we offer audiences more than 800 paid and free events annually within a variety of venues and settings situated throughout the 8.5-acre Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus. Artis—Naples welcomes thousands of visitors each year for a broad array of artistic and educational opportunities perfect for audiences of all backgrounds and interests. The cultural campus is home to five buildings, including two performance halls (Frances Pew Hayes Hall and Myra J. Daniels Pavilion), The Baker Museum, the Toni Stabile Education Building and the Kohan Administration Building.

NAPLES PHILHARMONIC

The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida's arts community. As part of Artis—Naples, the Naples Philharmonic performs more than 140 orchestral and chamber music concerts, as well as opera and ballet, education, community and special event concerts annually between September and June in the 1,477-seat Hayes Hall, the 283-seat Daniels Pavilion and around the Southwest Florida region. The Naples Philharmonic has enjoyed a history of working with world-class music directors, with Andrey Boreyko being the fourth and most recent. Following the completion of Boreyko's eighth and final season in 2022, a search is underway for the Sharon and Timothy Ubben Music Director position. Other podium leadership includes Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly, celebrating 13 years in this role in the 2022-23 season and bringing pops performances that celebrate music in its many forms. In 2017, conductor Radu Paponiu was named assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic and director of the Naples Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and in 2019 he was promoted to associate conductor. Starting with the 2022-23 season, Alvin Ho has joined the artistic team as assistant conductor of the Naples Philharmonic.

THE BAKER MUSEUM

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine art museums in Southwest Florida. The museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Comprising more than 4,000 objects, the museum's broad holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art reflect the generosity and commitment of area collectors. Of particular strength are The Baker Museum's collections of American and Mexican modern art, including significant gifts from the collection of Olga Hirshhorn.

With more than two decades of collecting and exhibiting, the museum is dedicated to stewardship and scholarship from both its growing permanent collection and outside sources. At the same time, The Baker Museum seeks out the best traveling exhibitions from the leading arts institutions in the world—including recently the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Smithsonian Institutions—to enrich the Southwest Florida community. In fall 2020, Artis—Naples celebrated the opening of an 18,000-square-foot expansion of The Baker Museum, designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, that created new spaces for multidisciplinary exploration and social interaction.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis—Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages. Each season thousands of Collier County Public Schools interact with Artis—Naples education programming both on its cultural campus and in classrooms. The Lifelong Learning program provides engaging lectures and study opportunities for adults seeking to engage more deeply with the arts.

The Friends of Artis—Naples, with more than 3,400 households who give \$75 or more, offers activities, travel experiences and events geared toward creating a deeper relationship between patrons and the arts.

In 2017, Artis—Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival's continued excellence and growth. In 2019, NIFF was named one of *MovieMaker* Magazine's "Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World," and in 2022 celebrates its 14th year in the community.

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