

55th Annual USA Film Festival April 23-27, 2025 Angelika Film Center Dallas

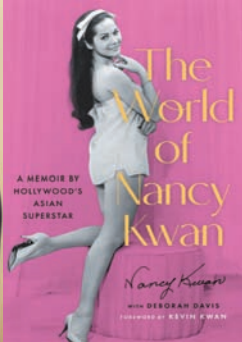
RESERVE TICKETS HERE:



The Last Rodeo



Salute to Nancy Kwan



On Swift Horses



Memento (25th Anniversary)



50th Anniversary!

DEATH RACE 2000



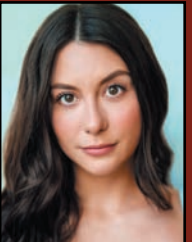
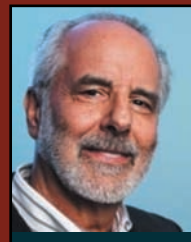
Long Shadows



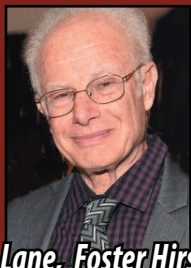
Artie Shaw: Time Is All You've Got



UnBroken



Neal McDonough, Mykelti Williamson, Jon Avnet, Brigitte Berman, Martin Kove, Stephen Tobolowsky, William Shockley, Grainger Hines, Sarah Cortez



Ruvé McDonough, Ellen Jovin, Brandt Johnson, Beth Lane, Foster Hirsch, Riki Rushing, Tiu Loigu, Tom Brady, Allen Gilmer

PHOTO CREDITS: The Last Rodeo, Neal McDonough, Mykelti Williamson, Jon Avnet - Courtesy of Angel Studios; On Swift Horses - Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics; Memento - Newmarket Films; Long Shadows - Tiu Loigu; Beth Lane - Chad Balke; UnBroken - Courtesy of Anna Andlauer; Artie Shaw: Time Is All You've Got - Courtesy of Riato Pictures

USAFF55

WELCOME

Welcome to USAFF55

We hope that you will enjoy this year's program line-up showcasing films based on true stories, rebels and artists who inspire us, films that make us laugh, films that provoke thought and discussion, and films that celebrate the **power of the arts** and the human spirit. We believe that a great city should have high quality arts programs accessible to the entire community. We extend our sincere thanks to our visiting Artists and our Sponsors, Members and Volunteers who made this program possible.



Dallas Arts Month

USAFF55 is pleased to be a part of Arts Month! Dallas Arts Month was first launched as Dallas Arts Week in 2013. It is a city-wide celebration of Dallas arts and is held annually in the month of April. Arts Month is designed to build awareness and appreciation for the work of Dallas artists and organizations and foster creative learning and activity throughout the city. Residents and visitors are encouraged to participate in events and programming offered by art and cultural institutions from all disciplines. For more information, please visit www.dallasartsmonth.com

Dallas Jazz Appreciation Month

USAFF55 is proud to once again partner with the **Sammons Center for the Arts** and **Sammons Jazz** to present screenings celebrating the rich history of Jazz. Dallas Jazz Appreciation Month (D'JAM) is a special month-long celebration of all things jazz, including the amazing jazz artists, past and present, legends and rising stars, who call North Texas home. Held each April as part of the national program called Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM), D'JAM presents a variety of events highlighting and showcasing jazz in the greater Dallas area. The local initiative is coordinated by a volunteer collective of jazz presenters, jazz educators, and jazz supporters that includes nonprofit arts groups, universities, festivals, high schools, cultural centers, jazz clubs, and museums.

2025 JURORS - SHORT FILM COMPETITION

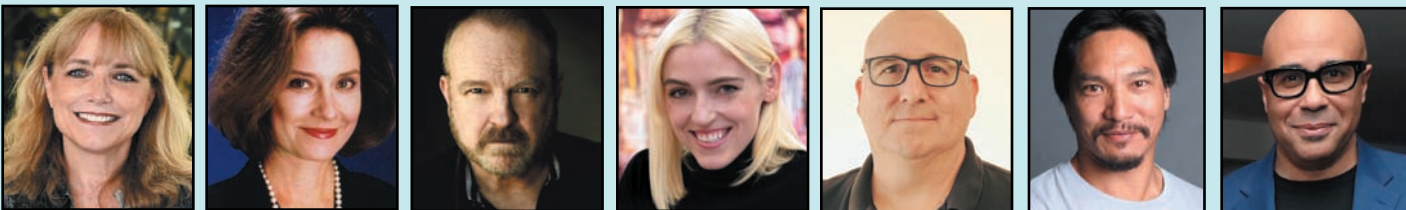


Photo credits: Karen Allen - Michele Eve Sandberg; Jim Beaver - Michael Helms; Rosson Crow - Rose Eichenbaum; Chris Roe - Lisa Stewart Photography.

Karen Allen - actress, director, educator

Diane Baker - actress, director, documentarian, producer, educator

Jim Beaver - actor, writer, producer

Rosson Crow - artist, director, writer

Bill Haller - animator, director

Jason Scott Lee - actor

Chris Roe - manager, writer, director, producer



The Festival is pleased to host Film Historian and Author **Foster Hirsch** with his new book "Hollywood and the Movies of the Fifties" -- covering a period when Hollywood "released more great films than in any other ten-year cycle in the history of American movies." The must-read book for film-lovers will be available for purchase on the [Festival's eventbrite site](#) and Foster will sign your copy at the Nancy Kwan Tribute program on Opening Night.

DEDICATION

Sadly, this past year we lost many talented artists and wonderful people who were part of our USAFF alumni family including James Earl Jones, Richard Chamberlain, Roger Corman, Quincy Jones, Jeannie Epper, Shelley Duvall, Teri Garr and David Ehrenstein (not pictured) as well as fellow Texans, friends and colleagues including Hunter Todd and Chris Chapman. We dedicate this year's program in their memory.



Norman Jewison (left) pictured with Quincy Jones and Conrad Hall

Shelley Duvall with Tommy Lee Jones

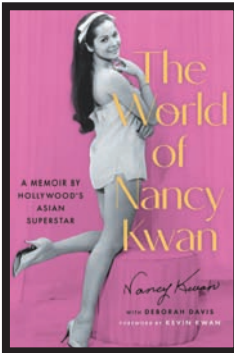
Teri Garr with Sidney Pollack



All of our programs are held in fully-accessible facilities.

USA FILM FESTIVAL 2025

OPENING NIGHT - WEDNESDAY, April 23



THE WORLD OF NANCY KWAN - A Salute to Nancy Kwan

Program includes a Film Clip Compilation + On-Stage Conversation + Book Signing

Wednesday, April 23 7:30pm

When **Nancy Kwan** burst onto the scene in the early 1960s, Asian characters in film were portrayed by white actors in makeup playing “yellowface,” and those minor roles were the stuff of cliché: shopkeepers, maids, prostitutes, servants. When -- against all odds -- Nancy landed the lead role in the much-anticipated 1960 film *The World of Suzie Wong*, she became an international superstar and was celebrated for her beauty, grace, authenticity, and spunk: a “Chinese Garbo,” the “Asian Bardot.” From Hong Kong to London, Hollywood and beyond, “The World of Nancy Kwan” charts Nancy’s journey as a luminary and pinnacle of representation in Hollywood. What obstacles did she face, what prejudices did she overcome, and how did her success create paths for others? Never allowing the fads and fickleness of show business to change her, Kwan persevered in an industry where everything was stacked against her, breaking through barriers and becoming a beacon of hope to generations of Asians who aspired to be seen. “The World of Nancy Kwan” is a multifaceted personal history of an iconic actress whose triumphant rise and resilience illuminates the broader history of Hollywood and how the only way forward is to stay true to oneself. *The program will feature a film clip compilation program of Ms. Kwan’s television and film roles (to date) followed by an on-stage conversation hosted by Author and Film Historian Foster Hirsch, followed by a book signing. Reserve your copy of Ms. Kwan’s new memoir “The World of Nancy Kwan” at eventbrite.com 80mins. Ticket information for this show may be found on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)*



MEMENTO (2000) 25th Anniversary

Wednesday, April 23 6:45pm



A landmark film from acclaimed director Christopher Nolan, *Memento* is a mind-bending thriller whose mesmerizing power grows with every viewing. Guy Pearce stars as Leonard, a man with a bizarre disorder: the inability to form new memories. Ever since that fateful night when his wife was murdered, anyone Leonard has met, or anything he has done, simply vanishes from his mind. Who are his friends? Who are his enemies? What is the truth? The answers change from second to second as Leonard seeks vengeance for his wife’s murder... and sinks into an abyss of uncertainty and danger. The film also stars Carrie-Anne Moss, Joe Pantoliano, Mark Boone, Jorja Fox, Harriet Sansom Harris and Stephen Tobolowsky. 113mins. *Presented with our friends at the Hamon Arts Library and the G. William Jones Film & Video Collection at SMU. In Attendance: Stephen Tobolowsky.* We welcome our student guests and friends to meet visiting artist Stephen Tobolowsky (SMU alumnus) to talk about playing Sammy Jankis in Nolan’s clever, enduring thriller.



HUNT FOR THE OLDEST DNA

Wednesday, April 23 7:00pm

Hunt for the Oldest DNA tells the story of a maverick gene hunter, whose single-minded pursuit of an improbable scientific vision would tease and torment him before ending with a stunning triumph: a lost world recovered from a spoonful of dirt. Two decades ago, Eske Willerslev had a radical idea: Could DNA, the fragile chemical code of life, survive intact in frozen sediment for millennia? Fellow scientists called him crazy. But the Danish biologist set out to prove everybody wrong, and his perseverance paid off with a landmark breakthrough -- with massive implications for how we understand the deep past. After many years of failure, Willerslev recovered the genetic traces of a lush forest ecosystem from before the Ice Age, more than two million years ago. The species identified from their DNA lived during the last hot epoch on Earth. Signaling a new era in DNA research, scientists can now use DNA to travel back millions of years and piece together vanished ecosystems. Today, they are poised to harvest the genetic secrets of these ancient worlds to help us adapt to our own climate future. 84mins. **In attendance: WHOI-MIT Joint Pogrm PhD Candidate Laura Barnett** to speak with the audience about how science provides insights into the past and her research focusing on prehistoric sea-level rise and salt marsh evolution. *Special thanks to our partner Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution-Dallas Chapter.*



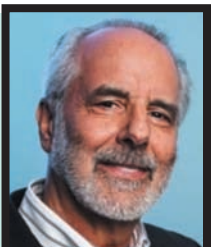
THE LAST RODEO

Wednesday, April 23 6:30pm

A retired rodeo legend risks it all to save his grandson. Facing his own painful past and the fears of his family, he enters a high-stakes bull-riding competition as the oldest contestant ever. Along the way, he reconciles old wounds with his estranged daughter and proves that true courage is found in the fight for family. Directed by Jon Avnet and co-written by Avnet, Neal McDonough and Derek Presley, the film stars Neal McDonough, Sarah Jones, Mykelti Williamson, Christopher McDonald, Ruvé McDonough and Daylon Swearingen. The film will be released by Angel Studios on May 23rd. 118mins **In Attendance: director/co-writer/producer Jon Avnet, co-writer/actor/producer Neal McDonough, actor Mykelti Williamson, actor/producer Ruvé McDonough and co-writer Derek Presley.**



Salute to Jon Avnet



With one of the most impressive, versatile and accomplished resumes in Hollywood, **Jon Avnet** has directed, written, and produced more than 80 motion pictures, television movies, series and Broadway plays, winning Oscars, Emmys, Tonys, Peabody’s, DGA Awards, the Humanitas, Golden Globes, and the AFI’s Franklin Shaffner Medal, among others. Audiences know him best for co-writing, directing and producing the beloved film *Fried Green Tomatoes* -- which garnered multiple Academy Award nominations, BAFTAs, and a nomination for Best Picture by the Golden Globes -- in addition to the feature films *Uprising*, *Three Christs*, and *Between Two Women*. Other notable directing credits include *Up Close and Personal* and *Righteous Kill* and episodes of “Justified,” “Manhunt: Deadly Games,” “Sneaky Pete,” “Boomtown,” “Justified City Primeval,” and “The Starter Wife.” In addition to his wide success as a director, Avnet has produced several critically acclaimed films including Paul Brickman’s *Risky Business* and *Men Don’t Leave*, *Black Swan*, *The Burning Bed*, *Less Than Zero*, *Red Corner*, *When a Man Loves a Woman*, *Mama Flora’s Family*, *Heatwave* in addition to the popular films *The Mighty Ducks* trilogy, *The Three Musketeers*, *Inspector Gadget*, and *George of the Jungle*. His upcoming film projects include a documentary about American Ballet Theater’s principal ballerina, Isabella Boylston (which he is directing and producing with Jennifer Garner), a film based on a script by Washington Post journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Eli Saslow (which he is directing), *The Secret Life of the Lonely Doll*, and he is also working as a producer with Graham Yost on his first film as a director. Avnet is the CEO of Indigenous Media (IM), which he founded with Rodrigo Garcia and his son Jacob Avnet. IM produces “60 Second Docs,” which has received over 10 billion views and has more than 12.3 million followers. On Broadway, Avnet’s plays have received 35 Tony nominations and 12 Tony awards. He produced two Tony Award-winning shows, “Spamalot” and “The History Boys,” (with Bill Haber) along with “The Pillowman,” “Inherit the Wind,” “The Seafarer,” and “Country Girl.” In addition to his film, television and stage work, Avnet has participated as a mentor at the Director’s Lab at Sundance and its sister program in France. He lectures on film and Holocaust studies at numerous universities worldwide and has supported a diverse range of charitable organizations. His humanitarian work has taken him around the world to interview historical figures including Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo, Thabo Mbeki, Cyril Ramaphosa in addition to over 200 Holocaust survivors. Today, Avnet is Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors at AFI, where he has been a guiding force for over 30 years (and Chairman for 8 years). He was twice chair of the Directors Guild of America Negotiations committee, making unprecedented gains for all Guild members -- including the first AI protections for any Union in the U.S. which eventually led to the formation of the DGA AI Committee (chaired by Christopher Nolan and Avnet). He serves on the Board of Directors, the Western Directors Council, and the Pension and Health Plan Committee of the DGA. In addition, Avnet has served on the Board of Advisors for the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania for 17 years. He has been married to artist Barbara Brody Avnet for 49 years. They have two daughters, Alexandra and Lily, and a son, Jacob. They have five grandchildren: Isabella, Henry, Sage, Ruby and Ezra. *The Festival proudly welcomes Jon Avnet to our stage.*

USA FILM FESTIVAL 2025

THURSDAY, April 24



FREE SHOW

MAGIC FARM

Thursday, April 24 7:00pm

When a misguided American documentary crew in search of their next viral segment ends up in the wrong town in rural Argentina, chaos ensues. As they collaborate with locals to fake a new music trend, unexpected relationships form and an unfolding health crisis becomes apparent. Amalia Ulman's absurdist comedy stars Chloë Sevigny, Alex Wolff, Simon Rex, Joe Apollonio, Camila del Campo, Amalia Ulman, and Valeria Lois. *Magic Farm* will be released by Mubi on May 9th. 93mins.



FREE SHOW

ON SWIFT HORSES

Thursday, April 24 7:00pm

Muriel (Daisy Edgar-Jones) and her husband Lee (Will Poulter) are beginning a bright new life in California when he returns from the Korean War. But their newfound stability is upended by the arrival of Lee's charismatic brother, Julius (Jacob Elordi), a wayward gambler with a secret past. A dangerous love triangle quickly forms. When Julius takes off in search of the young card cheat he's fallen for (Diego Calva), Muriel's longing for something more propels her into a secret life of her own, gambling on racehorses and exploring a love she never dreamed possible. Directed by Daniel Minahan, with a screenplay by Bryce Kass, based on the novel of the same name by Shannon Pufahl, *On Swift Horses* also stars Sasha Calle, Kat Cuning and Don Swayze. The film will be released by Sony Pictures Classics on April 25th. 117mins.



FREE SHOW

UNBROKEN

The feature film *UNBROKEN* will be preceded by the short film *WATCHING WALTER*

Thursday, April 24 7:00pm

The daughter of a Holocaust survivor, filmmaker Beth Lane, embarks on an international quest to uncover answers about the plight of her mother and six siblings who escaped Nazi Germany. The powerful documentary chronicles the seven Weber siblings who evaded capture and death, and ultimately escaped Nazi Germany following their mother's incarceration and murder at Auschwitz. After being hidden in a laundry hut by a benevolent farmer, the children spent two years on their own in war torn Germany. Emboldened by their father's mandate that they 'always stay together,' the children used their own cunning and instincts to fight through hunger, loneliness, rape, bombings and fear. Their journey culminates with a painful ultimatum, when, separated from their father, they are told that they must declare themselves as orphans in order to escape to a new life in America. Unbeknownst to them, this salvation would become what would finally tear them apart, not to be reunited for another 40 years. *UnBroken* is Beth Lane's feature debut, written by Lane and Aaron Soffin. Presented with our friends at 3 Stars Jewish Cinema. 96mins. **In Attendance: writer/director/producer Beth Lane.**

The program will be followed by an on-stage conversation with filmmaker Beth Lane moderated by Stephen Tobolowsky. This screening is made possible by The Weber Family Arts Foundation.



WATCHING WALTER

Set in both 1995 Philadelphia and World War II Nazi occupied Poland, and based on the true story of Holocaust survivor-turned watchmaker Wladyslaw "Walter" Wojnas, *WATCHING WALTER* is a slice of life story that touches on several poignant moments in Wojnas life during those times. It's a story of triumph over tragedy and is all too relevant in today's turbulent international climate. Directed by Mitch Yapko, written by Mark Dylan Brown and produced by Yapko, Brown and Cynthia Gravinese-Brown, the film stars Stephen Tobolowsky. 17mins.

In Attendance: director/producer Mitch Yapko, writer/executive producer Mark Dylan Brown, executive producer/actress Cynthia Gravinese-Brown and actor Stephen Tobolowsky.



Beth Lane is the award-winning director, executive producer and writer of the feature documentary film *UNBROKEN*. An actress, singer and dancer, she is a second-generation Holocaust survivor. Beth's driving force has always been to create spaces to exercise our collective capacity for empathy through storytelling, design and meditation. Building bridges for a better future is paramount to her work. A keynote speaker, she has curated and served on panels nationwide & hosted over 40 episodes of a weekly Instagram Live on-camera podcast, "Banter with Beth." Beth is the founder of The Weber Family Arts Foundation which is the culmination of many thoughtful years of experience as an artist and activist serving on philanthropic boards and volunteering. The mission of WFAF is to combat antisemitism, bigotry and hate by driving awareness, engagement and activism through the arts, across a wide variety of mediums, by sharing stories of hope. *UnBroken* is The Weber Family Arts Foundation's inaugural project. de Lamarondiere Rock Productions is a subsidiary of WFAF.



Stephen Tobolowsky has appeared in over 250 movies and television shows. He is best known for roles in *Groundhog Day*, *Memento*, "Silicon Valley," "Californication," "Glee," "The Goldbergs," and Norman Lear's new "One Day at a Time." He co-wrote *True Stories* with David Byrne and Beth Henley. He wrote and performed *Stephen Tobolowsky's Birthday Party*, which premiered at the HBO Comedy Festival, and his concert film *The Primary Instinct* (which screened at USAFF in 2018). Stories from his notable podcast "The Tobolowsky Files" have been heard across the country on NPR and PRI radio stations, and can be heard anytime on Slashfilm.com and on iTunes. His books of short stories, "The Dangerous Animals Club" and "My Adventures with God," are published by Simon and Schuster.



Mark Dylan Brown is an award-winning writer for film, television, and theater. Originally from Philadelphia, PA, Mark's character-driven, socially relevant scripts and plays have placed in numerous competitions and festivals all across the U.S. He attended UCLA's School of Theater, Film & Television. He is a current member of the VS. Theater Company, Station House Reading Series, and Detroit Street Films, located in Los Angeles.



Mitch Yapko is an award-winning director/writer/producer, known for his unique character work, focusing often on real characters in surreal situations. His films have shown in over 150 film festivals over the years. Mitch has spent over 15 years directing shorts and pilots, sketch comedies and web series. With a background in theater performance, he has the unique ability to connect with his actors to bring out the best performances every time. When he's not directing narrative content, Mitch produces commercials and photo shoots for brands such as adidas, Nike, Jack Daniels, XBOX, Footlocker, Taco Bell, Converse and more.



Upon graduating from The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City, **Cynthia Gravinese-Brown** began working in Off-Broadway and regional theatres. As a writer, executive producer, and actress, her love for dance inspired her to develop "Meet Me at the Barre," an award-winning streaming web series. Next, Cynthia will appear in the feature films *Something's More Than One Thing* and the psychological thriller *Protos*. She recently produced *WATCHING WALTER*, with her husband Mark, and the film *Baby Blues* - both playing at festivals across the country.

USA FILM FESTIVAL 2025

FRIDAY, April 25



FREE SHOW

MISTURA

Friday, April 25 7:00pm

Set against the rich cultural backdrop of 1960s Lima, Ricardo de Montreuil's compelling drama tells the story of Norma Piet, a woman in her mid-30s whose life is upended when her husband abruptly abandons her. Left to face the scorn of high society and the burden of personal betrayal, Norma's world collapses as she grapples with isolation and self-doubt. However, her story takes an unexpected turn when she embarks on a journey of self-discovery through the vibrant and diverse world of Peruvian cuisine as she forges an unlikely friendship with the family's chauffeur, Oscar. As they explore Peru's culinary heritage together, Oscar helps Norma rediscover her identity and appreciate the beauty in the country's diversity. Through food, she reclaims her sense of self, transforming her passion into a thriving restaurant business that defies societal expectations. At its core, *Mistura* is a celebration of Peru's cultural and culinary richness. It explores themes of identity, resilience, and the healing power of food, all while highlighting the vibrant diversity that makes Peru's gastronomy unique. 96mins.

RESERVE TICKETS FOR
ALL SHOWS HERE:



FREE SHOW

NARRATIVE SHORT FILMS (In Competition)

Friday, April 25 9:00pm

Join us for a collection of comedic and dramatic short films. In André Hayato Saito's *AMARELA* a Japanese-Brazilian teenager who rejects her family traditions experiences a violence that seems invisible; in Faek Falak's *HIGH SPIRITS* five friends and colleagues experience a turbulent night that tests their friendship and changes their lives; in Sebastian Kwizdziński's *MOTHER* a woman on parole returns to her hometown to meet her 11-year-old son; in Anissa Daoud's *MRS. FAIZA & DR. LOVE* a mother pursues a career that allows her to reconnect with her youthful ambitions and to be unafraid of transgression; and in Sue Ann Pien's *ONCE MORE, LIKE RAIN MAN* experience a day in the life of an autistic actress who runs the gambit of stereotypes she has to deal with in a funny, frustrating, painful and sometimes triumphantly sarcastic kind of way. 98mins.

USAFF55 celebrates Autism Awareness Month with this special screening of *Once More, Like Rain Man*.



FREE SHOW

SHARP CORNER

Friday, April 25 7:00pm

Based on the short story from Russell Wangersky's Giller Prize-nominated collection "Whirl Away," *Sharp Corner* is the story of a man's spiral as he tries to find greater purpose in his life. Josh (Ben Foster), a hapless family man, and his wife, Rachel (Cobie Smulders), escape the city for an idyllic country home -- the perfect setting to raise their six-year-old son, Max (Will Kosovic). But on their first night, a fatal car accident on the sharp corner in front of the house disrupts their plans, and Josh finds himself drawn into saving the lives of the car crash victims. As his obsession takes hold, he places his wife and son in jeopardy, setting in motion a series of events that threaten to break his family apart. Writer/director Jason Buxton's gripping film is not only a psychological thriller but a dark satire that subtly critiques the fragile nature of contemporary masculinity. 110mins.



FREE SHOW

STUDENT SHORT FILMS (In Competition)

Friday, April 25 9:15pm

Join us for a program of dramatic and wildly creative new U.S. and international student works including Jason Adam Maselle's *PUNTER* which follows a young boy who must navigate the underbelly of the gambling world for his father; in So Man Tsoi's *MINT CONDITION* a primary school student risks being modified into a robot if she fails to perform to perfection; in Linus von Stumberg's *SYNCOPE* a dance ensemble must dance for their lives; in Max Tullio's *ALL BEAUTY QUEENS HAVE BROKEN BONES* a young girl believes God has told her she must break her leg (literally) to win the Miss Teen Indiana Pageant; in Zhihao (Dino) Zheng's *AMPHIBIAN* a downtrodden man becomes an axolotl; and in Alexis Bouillé's outrageous *SHAOLIN OFFICE* an over-loaded employee working late faces-off with the cleaner who gets in the way. 93mins.



FREE SHOW

HANCOCK PARK

Friday, April 25 7:00pm

Fifty-something Ruby Lewis (Christina Beck) is an aging actress who has spent years taking care of her dying father, an alcoholic who earned his living playing cowboys in Hollywood Westerns. Forced to sell the family's palatial Pasadena home, Ruby puts on her fraying designer gown and straps on her gold heels. Into her Louis Vuitton knockoff duffel bag, she packs a stack of legal documents, her father's favorite boots, and a box from the crematorium. After a fruitless audition for a role she is wrong for, Ruby arrives in Hancock Park for an extended stay with her younger sister, Sara, and Sara's injured stuntman husband, Andy. Hotheaded Andy is sure Ruby is withholding their father's fortune from Sara, while Sara tries her best to stay sober and keep everyone happy. Sara introduces her sister to the downstairs neighbor, Jason, a permanently high, eye-patch-wearing, Tesla-driving, reiki-certified massage therapist, who takes a shine to Ruby. While refusing to admit she's on the brink of homelessness, Ruby's theatrical presence and blatant lies quickly cause problems for everyone in the Hancock Park apartment complex. In survival mode, Ruby goes to extremes as she plays the role of her lifetime, weaving a tale of woe while she's secretly sly as a fox. 84mins. **In attendance:** writer/director Christina Beck.



FREE SHOW

WHATEVER IT TAKES

Friday, April 25 9:00pm

In the summer of 2019, a seemingly ordinary couple became the unsuspecting victims of a campaign of cyberstalking that spiraled out of control. Their quiet lives were shattered by sinister threats, grotesque deliveries -- such as a bloody pig mask -- and mounting paranoia. As the terror escalated, law enforcement, including the FBI, traced the trail back to an unthinkable source: eBay, the global giant famed for its motto that "people are basically good." What they uncovered was a surreal tale of power, obsession, and desperation, driven by senior members of the company's security team, who were attempting to protect their CEO from a feared corporate raider. Jenny Carchman's jaw-dropping documentary dives into this extraordinary true crime story, exploring the disintegration of corporate ethics, the unchecked dysfunction at the heart of a tech empire, and the lives of a journalist couple forever changed by their ordeal. A timely and gripping account of scandal in Silicon Valley. 93mins.

USA FILM FESTIVAL 2025

SATURDAY, April 26



FREE SHOW

LOVE, DANIELLE

Saturday, April 26 4:00pm

When Danielle (Devin Sidell), a happily married thirty-something, tests positive for a BRCA1 gene mutation she learns that this puts her at high risk for developing breast and ovarian cancer. Thanks a lot, DNA! She now struggles with daily life, working at her bakery with her hubby Pat (Michael Roark) and hanging out with slightly clueless best buds on game night (Marianna Palka & Ian Owens), while supporting her older, smart-alecky sister Amy (Jaime King) who is already undergoing chemotherapy for a breast cancer diagnosis. Danielle now contemplates preemptively removing her "ticking time bomb" breasts and reproductive organs before cancer can get her, too. Her decision-making process involves flashbacks of her screwed up childhood with absent parents, anesthesia-induced dreams, and stressful confrontations with her recovering alcoholic mother (Lesley Ann Warren) and self-absorbed 70's western TV star father (Barry Bostwick). Ultimately, Danielle must figure out how to prioritize her health and well-being by putting herself first in this scorchingly intimate and humor-filled triumph. Directed by Marianna Palka, and co-written by Steven Sears and Devin Sidell, based on Sidell's real life experiences. 79mins. **Filmmakers in attendance.**



FREE SHOW

REBEL WITH A CLAUSE

Saturday, April 26 7:15pm

One fall day in 2018, Ellen Jovin set up a folding table on a Manhattan sidewalk with a homemade sign that said "Grammar Table." Right away, passersby began excitedly asking questions, telling stories, and filing complaints. What happened next is the stuff of grammar legend. Ellen and her filmmaker husband, Brandt Johnson, took the table on the road, visiting all 50 states as Brandt shot the grammar action. But this story transcends grammar. It's the story of an epic quest in a divided time to bring us all closer together. 85mins. **In Attendance: director/producer/cinematographer/editor Brandt Johnson and film subject/author Ellen Jovin.**



Brandt Johnson is the producer, director, cinematographer, and editor of the docucomedy *Rebel with a Clause* -- and he is married to the film's subject, Ellen Jovin. Before this project, he wrote and produced several plays and a comedy web series.



Ellen Jovin is the founder of a traveling pop-up grammar advice stand known as the Grammar Table. She is the author of the 2022 national bestseller "Rebel with a Clause" and has answered the grammar questions of total strangers on the streets of all 50 states.



Photo: Conor Merriman

FREE SHOW

HOUSEWIFE OF THE YEAR

Saturday, April 26 4:00pm

Ciaran Cassidy's *Housewife of the Year* tells the story of Ireland's treatment of women through the prism of a unique, surreal, live televised competition, that has to be seen to be believed, where a generation of Irish women competed in front of a live audience for the title of 'Housewife of the Year.' Former contestants share their direct experiences of marriage bars, lack of contraception, Magdalene laundries, financial vulnerability, boredom and shame, and of course, of being contestants in the competition. A poignant, often hilarious, uplifting story of a resilient generation of women and how they changed a country. 81mins.



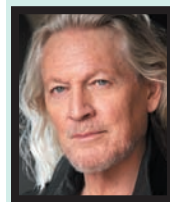
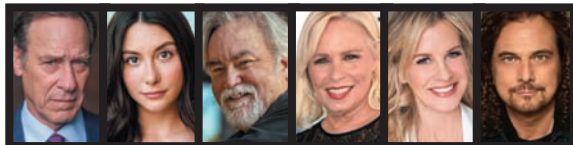
Photo: Tiiu Loigu

FREE SHOW

LONG SHADOWS

Saturday, April 26 7:00pm

When a young boy's mother and father are savagely murdered, he ages out of an orphanage intent on revenge, but the love of a young woman and psychological trauma lead him down a mystifying path. William Shockley's feature debut is a thrilling western starring Dermot Mulroney, Jacqueline Bisset, Dominic Monaghan, Blaine Maye, Sarah Cortez, Grainger Hines, David St. Louis, Chris Mulkey, Ronnie Gene Blevins and Mike Markoff. Quiver Distribution will release the film in Summer 2025. 104mins. **In Attendance: director/co-writer/producer William Shockley, actor/co-writer Grainger Hines, actor Sarah Cortez, executive producers Allen Gilmer and Riki Rushing, producer/casting director Tiiu Loigu and producer Tom Brady.**



William Shockley has fashioned a storied career as an actor, director, screenwriter and producer. Shockley's most recent work includes directing and co-writing the American Western film *Long Shadows* and serving as Executive Producer on *The Assessment*. Shockley previously directed and co-wrote

the short film, *COMMON THREADS*, winning Best Family Short Film at the IFS Film Festival, six Awards of Excellence at the Best Shorts Awards Competition in La Jolla, and Best Production Design at the Lady's First International Film Festival. In 1986, while doing theatre in Dallas, Shockley was cast by Paul Verhoeven in *Robocop* on his first audition. After a move to Los Angeles, Shockley landed a slew of TV roles. He broke into film, with roles in *The Adventures of Ford Fairlane*, *Switch* and *The Joyriders*, along with *Madison*, *Finding Harmony* and the cult classic *Showgirls*. He won over audiences for six years as 'Hank Lawson' in "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman." He also starred opposite Whoopi Goldberg in "Bagdad Cafe" and opposite Teri Garr in "Good & Evil." Shockley has co-written twelve scripts that have been made into feature films and produced thirteen feature films and three TV movies.



FREE SHOW

VILLAGE KEEPER

Saturday, April 26 4:00pm

Karen Chapman's directorial debut is a captivating drama which follows a family grappling with secrets that uphold domestic abuse and unresolved rage. After life's precarious scale tips her fortune back into poverty, Jean relocates her children to move in with their grandmother to the community housing project where she grew up. Jean lives in constant fear of everything that could go wrong, going to great lengths to shelter her children. So when a spree of violence comes to her doorstep, she secretly cleans an abandoned crime scene, which unknowingly leads her on a path that exposes generational chains of silence, self-discovery and finally putting herself first. 83mins.



FREE SHOW

DEATH RACE 2000 (1975)

50th Anniversary & Salute to Martin Kove
Includes film clip Tribute honoring Martin Kove

Saturday, April 26 7:00pm

Join us for a fond revisit of producer Roger Corman's B movie cult classic celebrating its 50th anniversary. In the year 2000, hit-and-run has become the national sport. Paul Bartel directs the no-holds-barred cross-country thrill-and-kill race with gleeful aplomb where drivers garner points by trying to knock out their opponents along with as many pedestrians as possible, while a resistance group plans to kill the drivers using obstacles sedulously placed along the main course. Starring David Carradine, Sylvester Stallone, Martin Kove, Roberta Collins, and Mary Woronov as the drivers, each with a distinct, campy personae, the outrageous, violent and mindless joyride continues to garner new fans. Rated R. 84mins. **In Attendance: Martin Kove.**



Martin Kove is best known for his iconic portrayal of the villainous karate sensei John Kreese in *The Karate Kid* trilogy and the Netflix hit series "Cobra Kai." With six seasons, "Cobra Kai" has cemented its place as one of Netflix's best-performing original series. Kove shared the screen with Leonardo DiCaprio in Quentin Tarantino's acclaimed *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*. A longtime fan of Kove, Tarantino personally selected the veteran actor for the film. With over 100 film credits, Kove's most notable roles include *Rambo: First Blood Part II* alongside Sylvester Stallone, and the western classic *Wyatt Earp* starring Kevin Costner. On television, Kove spent six years playing Detective Victor Isebecki in the Emmy Award-winning series "Cagney & Lacey." His recent TV appearances include guest-starring roles in ABC's "The Goldbergs" and CBS' "Criminal Minds." Born in Brooklyn, New York, Kove has over three decades of experience in film and television. Despite his busy career, he finds the most fulfillment in spending quality time with his twins, Rachel and Jesse, and his grandson. *The Festival welcomes Martin Kove to our stage to celebrate his enduring career (to date).*

USA FILM FESTIVAL 2025

CLOSING NIGHT - SUNDAY, April 27



ARTIE SHAW: TIME IS ALL YOU'VE GOT (1985) 40th Anniversary

New 4k Restoration and Remastered Sound!

Sunday, April 27 4:00pm

Outspoken, manipulative, independent thinking and oftentimes controversial, Artie Shaw (1910-2004) was one of the most popular stars of the Swing Era, who famously broke the color barrier by hiring the legendary Billie Holiday, Hot Lips Page and Roy Eldridge for his bands. Shaw's complex love-hate relationship with his own celebrity caused him to walk away from performing almost as many times as he walked away from his marriages. Winner of the 1986 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, Brigitte Berman's insightful documentary portrays the restless life and five-decade career of the gifted bandleader known as the "King of the Clarinet." Anchored by an incisive interview recorded when Shaw was 72 years old, this entertaining portrait is much more than a jazz film; it is the story of a brilliant and complex individual. The first film profile about the life of Artie Shaw, the film features interviews with Polly Haynes, John Wexley, Lee Castle, John Best, Helen Forrest, Buddy Rich, Mel Tormé, Mack Pierce, Frederic Morton, and Evelyn Keyes. *Co-presented with Sammons Jazz, D'JAM and Sammons Center for the Arts.* 116mins. **In Attendance: writer/director/producer Brigitte Berman.**



Brigitte Berman is an Academy Award-winning producer, director, editor and writer with a career that spans more than forty years. She has produced and directed over two hundred documentaries, both independently and at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. With her independent production company, Bridge Film Productions Inc., Berman has directed and produced two feature documentaries *Artie Shaw: Time Is All You've Got* and *BIX: "ain't none of them play like him yet"* -- both of which she has restored. Alongside her late husband, Victor Solnicki, Berman produced the award-winning *Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist and Rebel*, *The River of My Dreams: A Portrait of Gordon Pinsent* and *Hugh Hefner's After Dark: Speaking Out in America*. Currently she is in post-production on her next feature documentary film about the extraordinary iconic ballet dancer, Christian Holder.



I GOT THIS

Sunday, April 27 6:30pm

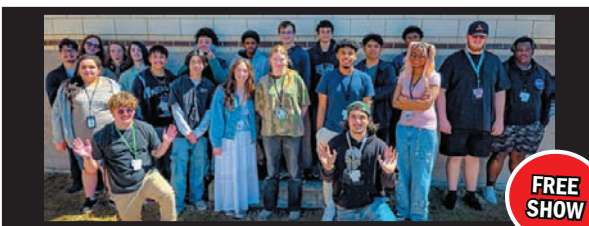
In 1975, Dr. Tony Herring started working with young children who had amputations or were born missing limbs. Not knowing anything about prosthetics, Dr. Herring was told "don't worry, the kids will teach you everything you need to know"-- and they did. The clinic at Scottish Rite For Children became an exciting place for the kids and their families to come to get help and meet other families in the same situation - making their lives better while having fun along the way. 30mins. **In Attendance: director Ken Mandel and Dr. Tony Herring.**



REEL OWL CINEMA SHORTS

Sunday, April 27 3:30pm

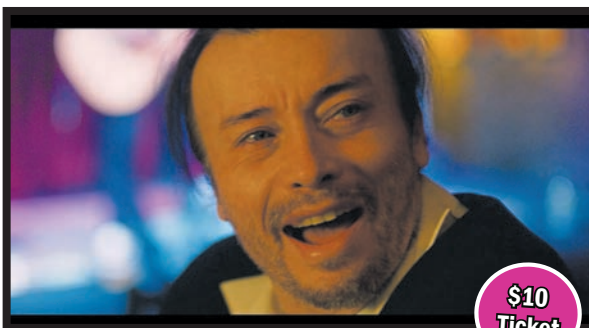
Join us for a collection of short films from Garland High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) film program students. The four-year curriculum, based off of SMU's film program, teaches students the art and craft of narrative filmmaking along with film history and theory. They will celebrate 20 years in the Garland ISD on May 17, 2025 at their 20th Annual Reel Owl Cinema Film Festival. 60mins.



SACHSE HIGH SCHOOL SHORTS

Sunday, April 27 4:45pm

Sachse High School Digital Media Students in Audio/Video Production and Animation are part of the CTE pathways that give students the ability to learn a trade while in school. Students in these classes learn how to create documentaries, commercials, stop motion, and cel animation while also learning how to work as a team to create fun and impacting stories. 60mins.



TONIC (Encore Screening)

Sunday, April 27 7:00pm

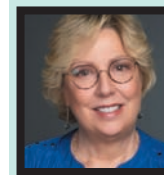
Sebastian Poe (Billy Blair), a washed up piano player, spends his days and nights performing low paying gigs in Jazz Clubs and dive bars. Sebastian is also in debt to a corrupt police detective Terry (Jason Coviello), who he owes eight-thousand dollars. When Terry asks for his debt to be paid and Sebastian can't come up with the cash, he tasks Sebastian with killing someone that needs to be taken out. He gives him the rest of the night to complete the job. Over the course of the night, Sebastian's plight plunges him into the dark streets of Deep Ellum where he comes across an odd assortment of characters all while battling with his conscience and his desire to just f-ing play the piano. Written and directed by Derek Presley, the film is produced by Lola Lott and Jason Starne, and executively produced by Alex Blackmon. The film's cast also includes Lori Petty, Richard Riehle, Ed Westwick and Vernon Davis. 104mins. **In Attendance: writer/director Derek Presley, editor/pro-ducer Jason Starne, producer Lola Lott and other cast/crew.**



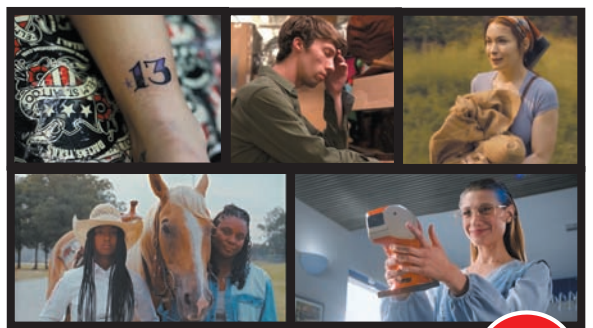
THE STONES ARE SPEAKING

Sunday, April 27 4:00pm

Olive Talley's fascinating documentary tells the inspiring story of how archaeologist Mike Collins, at great risk and personal sacrifice, saved 30 acres of looted land deep in the heart of Texas and revealed it as one of the most significant sites in the Americas. Collins and his team changed history when they found evidence of people living in Central Texas 20,000 years ago. The film is more than a simple tale of discoveries at the Gault Archaeological Site. It illustrates the power of an individual to make a difference and what people can accomplish when they come together for the greater good. 86mins. **In Attendance: filmmaker Olive Talley.**



Olive Talley is an award-winning producer, writer and journalist with a career that spans network television and news reporting for newspapers, an international wire service and radio stations, and most recently independent filmmaking. Her first feature-length film, *All Rise For the Good of the Children*, premiered at the 2019 USA Film Festival in Dallas and was nominated for a Lone Star Emmy. Olive is a two-time Emmy finalist for her work as a staff producer at "Dateline NBC" and ABC's "Primetime Live!" news magazine shows. Her investigative reporting in radio and newspapers won dozens of state and national awards. Most notably, she was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in investigative reporting for an investigation of medical care in the federal prison system. She won a George Polk Award and two Texas Headliner Awards, among others. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Olive also attended Harvard University on a Nieman Fellowship.



TEXAS SHORT FILMS


(In Competition)

Sunday, April 27 7:15pm

Join us for an eclectic program of new short films with Texas connections including -- Mark Raso's *THE UGLY CHICKENS*, based on a short story by Howard Waldrop, featuring a professor who sets out on a cross-country expedition after learning that the extinct dodo bird might still exist; Travis Lee Ratcliff's documentary *DYNASTY AND DESTINY*, a portrait of a mother-daughter duo bound together by their passion for the rodeo; Justin Wilson's documentary *THE NUMBER THIRTEEN: A TATTOO HISTORY* which follows Dallas-based tattoo artist Oliver Peck as he explores the phenomenon of shops tattooing the number 13 on Friday the 13th as they race to achieve a Guinness World Record; in Nicholas Michael Buck's poem-based *STORAGE FEES* a young man finds temporary shelter in a storage unit while he mourns the death of his mother; and in Hisham Iyad Hajir's *WEASEL* things go horribly awry for an inattentive mother who is captivated by a new high-tech device that instantaneously sells anything it scans. 75mins. **Filmmakers in attendance**

SCHEDULE & TICKET INFO.

ANGELIKA FILM CENTER

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23	THURSDAY APRIL 24	FRIDAY APRIL 25	SATURDAY APRIL 26	SUNDAY APRIL 27
<p>RESERVE TICKETS FOR ALL SHOWS HERE:</p> 			<p>4:00pm Housewife of the Year</p> <p>4:00pm Love, Danielle</p> <p>4:00pm Village Keeper</p>	<p>3:30pm Reel Owl Cinema Shorts</p> <p>4:00pm The Stones Are Speaking</p> <p>4:00pm Artie Shaw: Time Is All You've Got</p>
		<p>6:45pm Memento</p> <p>6:30pm The Last Rodeo/ Salute to Jon Avnet</p> <p>7:00pm Hunt for the Oldest DNA</p> <p>7:30pm Salute to Nancy Kwan The World of Nancy Kwan</p>	<p>7:00pm Magic Farm</p> <p>7:00pm On Swift Horses</p> <p>7:00pm UnBroken & Watching Walter</p>	<p>7:00pm Hancock Park</p> <p>7:00pm Mistura</p> <p>7:00pm Sharp Corner</p> <p>9:00pm Whatever It Takes</p> <p>9:00pm Narrative Short Films</p> <p>9:15pm Student Short Films</p>

USA FILM FESTIVAL

TICKET INFO

Beginning - April 1st

Tickets available exclusively for USA Film Festival

MEMBERS & SPONSORS ONLY

All Member/Sponsor Tickets are **FREE**
(Limited quantities)

To request tickets, please call the

Member **TICKET REQUEST LINE**

214-821-6300

Phone lines open **10:30am to 5:00pm M-F**

Beginning - April 9th

Tickets available to **GENERAL PUBLIC**

Programs are **FREE** unless otherwise noted.

To order **TICKETS (general public)** visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/55th-annual-usa-film-festival-4150893>

DAY-OF SHOW - Any remaining tickets

will be available at the Angelika Film Center
upstairs sales desk

beginning ONE HOUR prior to EACH showtime.

The USA Film Festival is supported, in part, by the **City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture**.
The USA Film Festival is supported, in part, by the **Texas Commission on the Arts**.
This project is supported in part by an award from the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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Theater Location

All programs will take place at the
Angelika Film Center / Dallas

5321 E. Mockingbird Lane at Central Expressway

Parking in garage is free.

Other Festival Information

- Schedule is subject to change. (It's a Festival!) Guests and titles listed are confirmed at press time. Additional guests and changes anticipated.
- Program times listed are for actual film running times and do not include discussions with Festival Guests in attendance.

Membership

JOIN US -- and receive free previews every month!
Send us an email request for a membership brochure at

usafilmfest@aol.com

USA FILM FESTIVAL
214-821-FILM www.usafilmfestival.com