



AMERICA'S FINEST CITY NOW WELCOMES AND AWARDS THE WORLD'S FINEST INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS!

BEST OF FEST - AUGUST 2 - 5, 2022
MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS, BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO



Dear Fellow Film Lovers,

With excitement and enthusiasm, I welcome you to San Diego Movie Awards First Annual Best of Fest Film Festival honoring independent filmmakers and screenwriters from around the globe! It's been incredibly inspiring to see the festival develop over the past year and an honor to screen such a diverse offering of outstanding independent films and to recognize excellence in screenwriting!

SDMA is by, for and about the creatives who have chosen this craft which so uniquely inspires, enlightens, and entertains. For the next four days you will have the opportunity to watch distinctive dramas, comedies, music videos, web series and documentaries and have the opportunity to hear from the talented filmmakers and screenwriters behind these thought-provoking and heartfelt stories.

San Diego Movie Awards celebrates the unflinching spirit, innovation and sweat equity that is the heartbeat of independent film and thanks you for joining us in film, conversation and celebrations!

Terry Ross
Executive Director

EVENT SCHEDULE		
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2ND (AT MOPA)	6:00 PM	Red Carpet Interviews, Light Reception
	7:00 PM	Festival Welcome
	7:20 PM	NOT TO FORGET (Benefit for Alzheimer's Association San Diego/Imperial Chapter)
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3RD (AT MOPA)	5:00 PM	SHORTS BLOCK
	7:45 PM	BETWEEN GIANTS (FEATURE)
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4TH (AT MOPA)	5:00 PM	SHORTS BLOCK
	7:45 PM	EST (FEATURE)
FRIDAY AUGUST 5TH (AT MOPA)	6:00 PM	RED CARPET, MEET THE NOMINEES!!
	7:00 PM	AWARDS CEREMONY Light refreshments follow Awards

TUESDAY - AUGUST 2ND

OPENING NIGHT

Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA) Balboa Park

6:00-9:00 PM

PROCEEDS BENEFIT ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL CHAPTER

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

August 2

6:00 PM – RED CARPET INTERVIEWS, LIGHT RECEPTION

7:00 PM – FESTIVAL WELCOME

7:20 PM – OPENING FILM – NOT TO FORGET

(BENEFIT FOR ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL CHAPTER)

Filmmakers Q&A Follows Screenings

NOT TO FORGET

Country: USA. Runtime (84 minutes) Director: Valerio Zaneli

Chris, a young con artist, is sentenced to take care of his grandmother who suffers from Alzheimer's Disease. "Not to Forget" is a powerful and emotional film that raises awareness about a disease which in some ways impacts all of us. The film is told from a unique perspective with strong performances by its award-winning cast which includes Karen Grassle, Tate Dewey, Olympia Dukakis, Cloris Leachman, Tatum O'Neal, George Chakiris, and Louis Gossett, Jr.

NOMINATED: BEST FEATURE, BEST DIRECTOR FEATURE, BEST ENSEMBLE ACTING



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3RD

BLOCK ONE

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS (MOPA) Balboa Park

5:00 – 7:30 PM – DRAMA SHORTS & ACTION SERIES – SEE FILM DESCRIPTIONS BELOW

Filmmakers Q&A Follows Screenings

DRAMA SHORTS

SHORT ONE

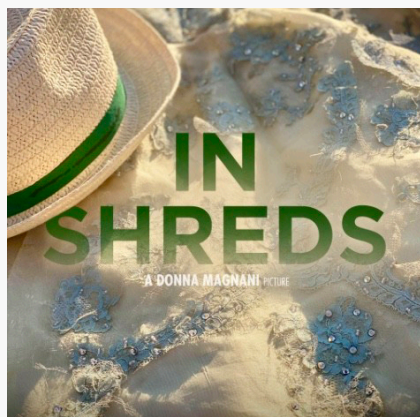
IN SHREDS

Country: USA. Runtime (18 Minutes)

Director: Donna Magnani

In Shreds is a story of a middle aged woman's 40 year love with her husband, an old dress and the journey back to hope. Written, directed and starring Donna Magnani ("Last Temptation of Christ", "Quantum Leap" "Prime Suspect")

NOMINATED: BEST FIRST TIME FILMMAKER, BEST FEMALE FILMMAKER



SHORT TWO

THE MISSED FLIGHT

Country: USA. Runtime (10 Minutes)

Director: Ellory Yu

A chance encounter between a man and woman who were lovers long ago leads to unexpected revelations.

NOMINATED: BEST FIRST TIME FILMMAKER



SHORT THREE

ENTITLED

Country: USA. Runtime (10 Minutes)

Director: Kelsey Fordham

Lenna is thrust into the spotlight when the details of her sexual assault go viral. As her story spreads, lines blur between physical reality and the social media world when a swarm of strangers force their way into her home and frantically rifle through her belongings in search of answers.

NOMINATED: BEST DRAMA SHORT, BEST ACTRESS, BEST FEMALE FILMMAKER



SHORT FOUR

THE WITCHING HOUR

Country: USA. Runtime (19:16 Minutes)

Director: Steven La Morte

In Hell's Kitchen, New York, a married couple, scarred by alcoholism, mutual distrust, and perceived infidelity, discover love follows no rules and trust is a choice.

NOMINATED: BEST DRAMA SHORT, BEST ACTRESS



SHORT FIVE

UNFILTERED THROUGH THEIR EYES

Country: USA. Runtime (14:25 Minutes)

Director: Frank Fazio

Written, directed, and produced during the pandemic lockdown "Unfiltered Through Their Eyes" brings insight into how the pandemic impacted children around the world. Thanks to contributing global filmmakers and their commitment, the film brings a new perspective to the pandemic through the eyes of children.



ACTION SERIES!!!

SAUCE BOYS

USA. Runtime (45 Minutes) Director: Brian Gilleece

With time of the essence and mounting pressure from the brass, two hip detectives work to protect the sanctity of the game of hockey while investigating a slew of counterfeit pucks threatening the hockey centric Sauce District. Written, directed and starring Brian Gilleece ("Westworld", "Daddy Issues", Ryan Murphy's "Hollywood").

NOMINATED: BEST WEB SERIES



BLOCK TWO

7:45 PM – 10:00 PM FEATURE PRESENTATION – BETWEEN GIANTS

SEE FILM DESCRIPTION BELOW

Filmmakers Q&A Follows Screenings

BETWEEN GIANTS

Country: USA. Runtime (1:37 Minutes)

Director: Maxwell Frost

David and Maxwell cycle over 3,500 miles in the Himalayas. From altitudes starting at 700 ft. and climbing to 17,480 ft. along a few of the highest mountain passes on the planet, which included the “Most Treacherous Road in the World.” Staying at Buddhist monasteries, guest bedrooms and ditches for two months, exploring some of the most hidden corners of the world, it was the people they met along the way that truly made this trip memorable, and provided the healing they were both searching for.



NOMINATED: BEST FEATURE, BEST DIRECTOR FEATURE

THURSDAY - AUGUST 4

BLOCK ONE

5:00 PM – 7:30 PM UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES/DRAMA SHORTS- SEE FILMS DESCRIPTIONS BELOW

Filmmakers Q&A Follows Screenings

UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES

SHORT ONE

MOONTALK

Country: USA. Runtime (4 Minutes)

Director: DIRECTOR: MICHAEL HAWK

A new visual experience of a powerful endless force.

Having lost the love of his life Zena, Gizón the poet —inspired by the voice of the moon— takes us through a mysterious journey as he meets his greatest challenge: he must let go of time and space to be reunited with his love.



NOMINATED: BEST EXPERIMENTAL SHORT

SHORT TWO

IMMORTAL GAME

Country: USA. Runtime (10:54 Minutes)

Director: John Freeman

Early in the 21st Century, Man has developed the technology to create humanoid androids with short, fixed lifespans. Ema, returns to Earth with the hope of extending her lifespan. After discovering her creator has been murdered, she meets a new visionary poised to continue the fateful experiments.

NOMINATED: BEST SCI FI, BEST ACTOR



SHORT THREE

LUCID DREAMS

Country: USA. Runtime (13:34 Minutes)

Director: Kostiantyn Mishchenko

Lucid dreaming is an altered state of consciousness in which a person is aware that he is dreaming, and can control its content to some extent. Through stunning visual images, the film explores that mysterious state between REM sleep and wakefulness.

NOMINATED: BEST EXPERIMENTAL SHORT



SHORT FOUR

THE FORGOTTEN PLACE

Country: USA. Runtime (11:38 Minutes)

Director: Oscar Rene Iozoya

When Kip responds to an ad for a “best friend,” he develops a rapport with his potential employer, Eric. Over the course of the interview, the two men explore various scenarios for how their relationship will play out. Adapted from a short play, The Forgotten Place is a funny, bittersweet, and moving look at love and friendship.

NOMINATED: BEST COMEDY



SHORT FIVE

A FEAST THAT NEVER COMES

Country: USA. Runtime (16:22 Minutes)

Director: Maria Juranic

Four characters inhabit cycles within cycles of contentment, discontentment, inertia, movement, desire, and betrayal. A story emerges—told through the marriage of music (Ex-Fiancée) and stunning choreography (ChrisMastersDance)—functioning as a set of nesting dolls, inviting you to uncover as many layers as you wish

NOMINATED: BEST MUSIC VIDEO



SHORT SIX

THE HOOKUP**

Country: USA. Runtime (12:48 Minutes)

Director: Alex Robert Mandelberg

Comedian Genevieve Joy tries a dating app for the first time... hilarity follows.

NOMINATED: BEST COMEDY

** ADULT CONTENT



SHORT SEVEN

FORNICAKES**

Country: USA Runtime (14:33 Minutes)

Director: Steven Becker

A virginal master-baker and a self-described sex goddess team up open and erotic bakery, only to have their social-climbing arch-nemesis declare a turf war.

ForniCakes is a contemporary web series in the style of Friends meets Two Broke Girls. At its heart it's the story of how women, no matter their differences, have each other's backs.

NOMINATED: BEST WEB SERIES

**ADULT CONTENT



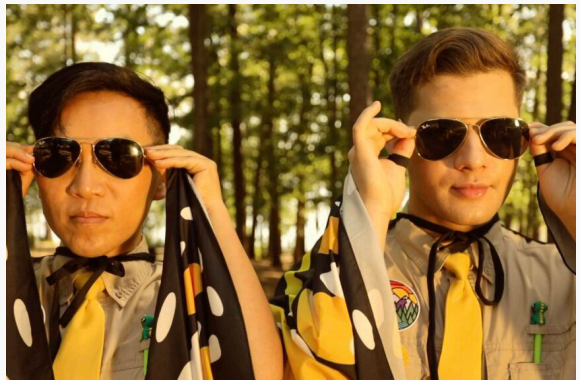
SHORT EIGHT

BEAVER BOYS

Country: USA. Runtime (18:40 Minutes)

Director: Jeffery Ho

The Beaver Boys follows the journey of two quirky characters as they attempt to save the planet from plastic pollution in a determined quest to protect Mother Nature. While offering a positive message, the comedic juxtaposition of these two endearing characters and their developing friendship will draw you into their offbeat little world.



NOMINATED: BEST COMEDY, BEST ACTOR

DRAMA SHORTS

SHORT ONE

VICTIMS

Country: USA. Runtime (15:00 Minutes)

Director: Zachary L. Harris

A family's bond is pushed to the limits as doctors attempt to save a loved one from a drug overdose.

NOMINATED: BEST DRAMA SHORT, BEST DIRECTOR SHORT, BEST ACTRESS, BEST ENSEMBLE ACTING



SHORT TWO

MARISOL

Country: USA. Runtime (17:09 Minutes)

Director: Juan Escobedo

"Marisol" is inspired by the true story of a little girl from East LA who dreams of the perfect Quinceañera dress until her life takes a drastic turn after an incident of domestic violence. A story of hope, resilience and love.

NOMINATED: BEST SHORT, BEST DIRECTOR SHORT, BEST CHILD ACTOR



THURSDAY - AUGUST 4

BLOCK TWO

7:45 PM - 10:00 PM FEATURE PRESENTION — "EST" SEE FILM DESCRIPTION BELOW

Filmmakers Q&A Follows Screenings

EST

Country: USA. Runtime (1:43:42)

Director: Antonio Pisu

"EST" is a road movie that tells the adventurous journey of three Italian boys to a country still under dictatorship. An unlikely crew made up of three friends who, almost unknowingly, will know the story of a people of their struggles and their hopes for a tomorrow that may never come.

NOMINATED: BEST FEATURE, DIRECTOR FEATURE, BEST ENSEMBLE ACTING



BEST SCREENPLAY FEATURE NOMINEES

ZIGGY AND RACHEL – Michael Rispoli, Gregg Greenberg

Ziggy and Rachel focuses on the friendship between a young boy and a transgender girl in his Manhattan building.

I Met Her at Birkenau – Laurie Clemens Maier

When a Jewish teenage prisoner becomes the object of a female Nazi guards affections, she barter herself to keep her friends and family alive, but when the Allies liberate the camp she must choose to save the guard or gain revenge.

The Passage of Sun – Aaron Braxton

Three brothers challenge the Convict Leasing System of forcing African American men into an Alabama prison in order to continue providing slave labor and county revenue post-Civil War.

Rigged – Steven Ellis

RIGGED is a slow burning thriller that peels back the curtain of a small, but pivotal, state senate race in the affluent suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Modern-day digital marketing techniques, mastered in 2016 to stun the world, are now utilized to hold all levers of power. The intimate state senate race attracts a lot of financial attention with stakes so high.



BEST SHORT SCREENPLAY NOMINEES

Loving in Truth – James Fitzmaurice

While working on a book about the turbulent early years of the food memoirist MFK Fisher, Mary, a mixed-race biographer, interviews the elderly actress Gloria Stuart (of Titanic fame). Both interviewer and interviewee ponder the ways in which the truth about past love is shaped by self-interest.

Never Wake A Sleeping Man – Rick Shepherd

A brief friendship between a homeless man and child displays the importance of life's innocence as well as the fragility of the human condition.

Welcome to Pineville – Steve Walter

An out-of-work actor lands the role of a lifetime in a desert town known as 'the home of the Western.'

Sweetwater Road – Myk Watford

When his son is accused of murder, Hank must risk everything to keep his family together and win his son's freedom.



FRIDAY - AUGUST 5



SDMA BEST OF FEST AWARDS CEREMONY

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS (MOPA) BALBOA PARK

6:00 PM - RED CARPET, MEET THE NOMINEES!!

7:00 PM - AWARDS CEREMONY

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOLLOW AWARDS!

SAN DIEGO MOVIE AWARDS STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS EVENT COORDINATOR

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SOCIAL MEDIA

Santiago Ortiz

TRAILER/VIDEOGRAPHER/ DIT

Jackie Bainto

RED CARPET INTERVIEWS

Sasha Foo

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Sofia Dinogan

CATERING

The French Gourmet

ALZHEIMER'S SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL VALLEY BENEFIT ORGANIZER

Douglas Friedman

TICKETING

TicketSpice

AWARD PRESENTERS

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MERRICK McCARTHA

BILL WISNESKI

LINDA SCHWARZ

LISA BRUHN

ALAN VAZQUEZ

ANGELA BINNS

DERRICK ACOSTA

THANK YOU TO OUR
AMAZING VOLUNTEERS
WHO MAKE IT ALL
POSSIBLE!!!!

THANKS FOR BEING GREEN! PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR PROGRAMS!

WHERE THERE'S A WALK, THERE'S A WAY.



The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Because like flowers, our participants don't stop when something's in their way. They keep raising funds and awareness for a breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia. It's time to add your flower to the fight.

Join us at alz.org/walk



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San Diego North County

Kit Carson Park | September 24, 2022

San Diego

NTC Park at Liberty Station | October 8, 2022

Imperial County

Bucklin Park | November 19, 2022

For more info, call 619.678.8322.