

the
**FIRST RUN
FILM FESTIVAL**
2016



PARTICIPATING FILMS BY TITLE

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And Then We Broke - Antoine Combelles

15:00 min

Margot and Elliott are two unconditional, idiosyncratic & passionate lovers pushing the limits of their relationship to extremes in order to free themselves from each other's.



Anthropophagy - Asia Hunt

2:20 min

A man -- overcome with desire -- eats his best friend.



BED BUGS & COMPANY - Serena Dykman

16:00 min

A New York based bed bug inspector infests people's apartments instead of inspecting them.



Bird Dog - Katrina Whalen

25:00 min

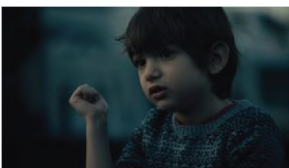
An imaginative young girl is confronted by fear and wonder after swallowing the heart of a mourning dove while on a hunting trip with her family.



Bird in Cage - Martin Barshai

5:03 min

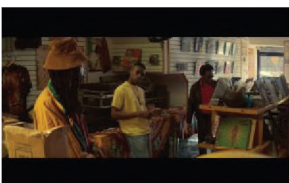
A dance phrase is repeated three times in a skylit room with unique variations on shot composition, film editing, and frame rate. Leslie Williams is with the Martha Graham Dance Company in New York City.



BLUEPRINT - Elizabeth Nichols

11:28 min

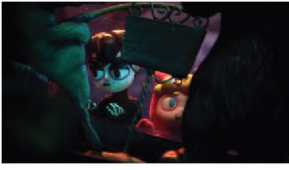
In the artists' colony of 1980 SoHo, a printmaker grapples with a pressing deadline and the unexpected arrival of his five-year-old son.



Booyaka!! - Chris Santiago

14:59 min

Brooklyn, early 80s. Conroy Jones, a shady music manager with criminal ties, has just offered Youthman an escape from a dead end job at his uncle's record store. Torn, Youthman must decide if the prospect of fast money is worth betraying the only family he has left.



Bunny Bizness - Irisa Hou

5:44 min

On his 13th birthday, a goth kid quests to buy a taxidermy raven.



Catherine - Jake Kolton

20:00 min

A woman momentarily evades her discontent by adopting a stranger's identity.



Changed Names - Lizzie Shapiro

10:00 min

A mother and daughter cope with the aftermath of divorce over the youngest son's high school graduation weekend.



Check Please - Daniel Sorochkin

14:59 min

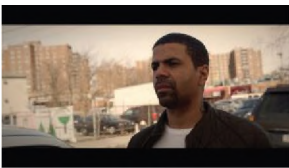
In a fancy restaurant, Ben plans to propose to his long time girlfriend, Laura, only to find out that his ring was mistakenly sent to the wrong table.



Chew the Middle - James Jahrsdoerfer

15:00 min

A poverty-stricken young woman in New York wins a contest that brings her into the realm of upper crust America - this just months after the United States abolished the middle class



Debt to Society - Tristan Daley

16:45 min

The film follows Sampson, an ex-convict, on his first and last day of freedom. While witnessing a teenager stage a robbery, he must figure out how best to use his second chance and whether he has fully paid his debt to society.



Disconnect - Isabelle Gedigk

5:22 min

A short film about a mother who's too wrapped up in her work to realize her son is growing up without her.



Dominik the Daring and Bronco the Brave - Andrew Scott

20:00 min

Dominik's trusty canine sidekick and best friend Bronco is very sick. With time running out, she realizes there's only one way to save him. That night, Dominik prays for superpowers.



Entropic - Sebastian Savino

12:00 min

Universes collide when a scientist seeking to uncover the meaning of life accidentally disrupts the robbery of a small town grocery store from another world.



Everything's OK - Eric Perini

14:57 min

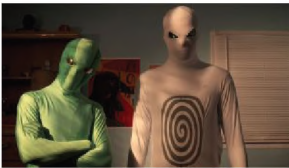
Sam's mom isn't answering his calls. It could be nothing, it'd be childish to panic--Sam knows this, but scars of past trauma loosen his grip on the present and the timeline of his life becomes muddled, forcing him to ask "is she OK?" again, and again, and again.



Father's Son - Kevin Bailey

6:19 min

A young fishboy and his birdude friend must choose between the satanic babes by the cliffs and the open road ahead.



FLY - Kahlil Maskati

14:31 min

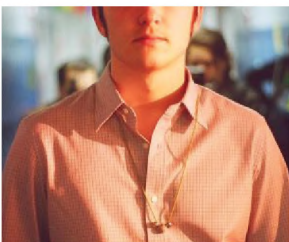
A heroic vigilante is the role model for two young boys, whose moral codes, and destinies, separate as they grow older.



For the Love of Mangos - Kayla Wong

14:30 min

A young woman sets her father up with her professor in order to challenge his conservative Indian values. In turn, he sets Rita up on a date with their family friend.



Geester - Alysia Anderson

14:02 min

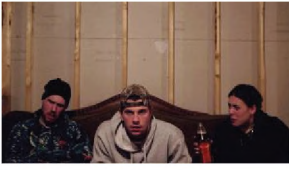
The ugliest person you've ever seen in your life wants one thing: a smile from the girl of his dreams. High school, timing, and of course his face complicate his pursuit for the exterior into a journey of the heart as well.



Go To Hell - Jacob Bittens

15:00 min

When David winds up in Hell for being too boring, he must vie for a second chance at Heaven by becoming the most interesting man in the underworld.



Golden Teachers - Sebastian (Harry) Cepka

10:00 min

Rebecca (Anika Johnson) returns home to visit her hippie mother (Holly Shephard). They dance and it's mortifying. Rebecca visits her wannabe rapper brother Pan (Matt O'Connor). A comedic exploration of the conflicting sensations of awkwardness and elation that only family can provoke in us



Goodbye Charm City - Christian Grier

18:00 min

A mother in Baltimore prepares her final impact statement to the man who murdered her son.



The Green Monster - Cyrus Cumming

2:39 min

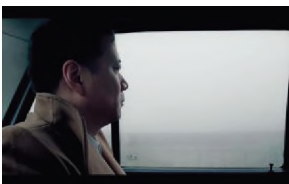
An overbearing father helps his son with a pinewood derby project.



Groomed & Tailored (Web Series) - Bridget Greaney

15:07 min

Groomed & Tailored is a comedy web series about an overwhelmed Groom and his three Groomsmen who attempt to plan an entire wedding by themselves. With the Bride working abroad for the next three months, the Best Man has taken charge. Needless to say, the Maid of Honor is NOT PLEASED.



GU - Jianjie Lin

19:00 min

On a gloomy day, Gu takes a train back to his hometown. The divorce case filed by his wife awaits him. But before resolving it, he has got other plans in mind.



He Lives in His Room - Michael Glody

13:45 min

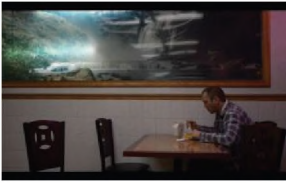
A guy has trouble leaving his room.



High Hoops - Tanner Jarman

15:00 min

After recovering from a knee injury, a high school basketball prospect fights to get her starting spot back.



In a Room Below - Gregory Oke

12:00 min

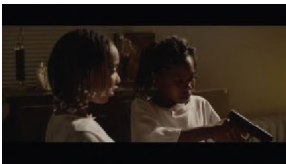
Recently arrived in New York, an immigrant becomes increasingly interested in the life of the couple living above him. However, events force him to decide whether to turn his interest into involvement.



The Intervention - Tom Mishra

9:59 min

The Intervention that occurs when a family confused their son's suicide attempt for auto-erotic asphyxiation.



Iron Play - Jasmine McLaurin

16:39 min

Desiree and Morgan, 12, have been friends since the sandbox but when a murder hits home, the girls struggle to maintain their bond as they are forced to choose between family and friendship.



Jahar - Henry Hayes

12:00 min

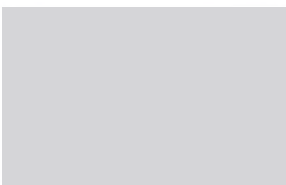
After the bombing of the marathon in Boston, a group of friends must face the fact that their friend is responsible.



Jungle - Asantewaa Prempeh

13:11 min

The lines between trust, betrayal, and forgiveness are intertwined for two Senegalese vendors as they try to make a living on the streets of New York City.



Le Barrage (The Big Dam) - Samuel Grandchamp

12:00 min

A 10-year-old boy sets o on a long-promised adventure with his father to discover Europe's biggest dam. But as they progress, harbored feelings surface and their relationship is put to a test. The dam they eventually face is not the one initially dreamed of.



Little Syria - Francisco Sanchez Solis

12:30 min

An American-Muslim woman considers giving her teenage daughter a hijab for the first time, ultimately refusing to become a victim of her cultural identity after a brush with injustice and humiliation in the streets of New York City.



A Long Day - Cenk Erturk

11:34 min

A short road movie about a Turkish man who helps his ailing father search for his childhood home



Looking for a Girlfriend - Jeremy Hung

3:00 min

After being rejected by a woman, 51-year-old Dan Perino looks to the streets of New York to find a girlfriend--by plastering fliers of his face all over downtown Manhattan. As Dan gains minor celebrity status, journalism student Dasher Pierson grows suspicious of his claims, and challenges the image Dan has created of himself.



The Man who Fell From the Sky - Shu Zhu

18:45 min

A lonely hunter shoots down a bird, only to find out that it has transformed into a boy. When the boy is found to be aging at an extremely fast rate, the two struggle to return the boy home before time runs out.



Middle School - Colin Marchon

8:21 min

Middle School sucks



Moving In Circles - Maxim Dashkin

14:30 min

Maria lives with her husband at the military base and dreams of getting away from the bad living conditions. The husband does not share Maria's dreams. Maria decides to accept the offer of another officer.



Mutt - Chloé Aktas

17:29 min

Based on a true event. Becky (8) and Joe (10), live an independent childhood with a working mother and a volatile father. In the course of two days, actions unfold removing the veneer of the ideal childhood and ideal parents. The film follows the transformation of Becky and Joe as they are forced into the harsh realm of adulthood.



Nags Head - Lauren Mullen

13:30 min

During a dizzying dysfunctional family vacation, a college student has her insecurities graffitied on her jogging route by her brother.



The Nappers - Lain Kienzle

16:40 min

After finishing a brief stint in prison, Scott returns to his idyllic hometown to make amends with his childhood best friend, Robbie. But his past quickly catches up to him, and he'll have to pay his debts, outsmart a couple of meatheads and fix his and Robbie's friendship at the same time.



Nica - Lily van Leeuwen

15:00 min

A fictional short film based on the life of Nica "Jazz Baroness" Rothschild de Koenigswarter, the patroness of the 1960's New York Jazz scene.



Oakland in Blue - Robbin Rae McCulloch

24:11 min

Is knowing how to hustle the only step to manhood? Kennedy, a recent college graduate, returns home to Oakland, CA to be manager for local rap artist Marcus. Their struggle to launch a successful independent record label without compromising their integrity is conflicted by the temptation of "Legit versus Street," threatening their lifelong friendship.



One Good Pitch - Parker Hill

4:00 min

A father and son baseball catch goes foul.



Otter of the Underground - Christina Benenati

4:30 min

When their gold mine experiences a mysterious power outage, Otter and Mole's journey to restore the mine spirals into a wild adventure.



Pecan Pie - Martin Barshai

8:23 min

A prisoner on the execution table is asked for his final statement; stories of horrendous criminals and their last meals unfold.



Pretty M John - Enrique Unzueta-Miranda

13:40 min

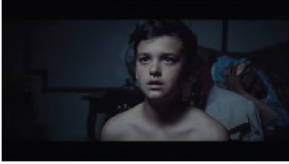
Danilo, 10, takes a special interest in the new guest at his mother's Guest House, M. John a transgender boxer. Against his mother's will, he seizes the opportunity to create a bond that may soon come to an end.



Prom - Imran J. Khan

11:09 min

Hasan Khan (18), an Indian American, sneaks out of his strict father's house in order to attend his high school prom only to be met with harsh discrimination when he least expects it.



Raghead - Sebastian Sdaigui

12:00 min

Raghead tells the story of Omar, an 11-year old Arab boy living in New York three months after the 9/11 attacks. Omar has been living with his grandmother since his father was deployed overseas by the American Military. Each day, he is bullied at school by other kids who discriminate against him based on his ethnicity. Omar is conflicted about the value of his Arab heritage and isn't sure whether he should wear his 'thawb' for Heritage Day, the school's largest event of the year. As Raghead unfolds, Omar finds a way to solve his internal conflict.



Read Aloud - Blake Pruitt

15:07 min

A young gay editor who dreams of performing is pushed into a new creative world by an online hookup.



Red Folder - Ben Kallam

10:00 min

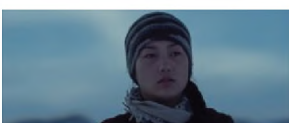
Fourteen-year-old Joseph has been tasked with finding his teacher's red folder. Over the course of a single class period, he moves from room to the next, until another student forces him to confront the implications of an increasingly elusive search.



Rosa - Alejandra Parody

20:00 min

Rosa works as a maid for an upper class family in the coast of Colombia. Despite the demanding nature of the round-the-clock job, she works hard and devotedly which earns her a position of genuine esteem within the family, and a special place in the heart of Daniel, the family's six-year-old boy. One evening, a grand birthday celebration is hosted at the family's house. When something goes terribly wrong, Rosa realizes that no matter her devotion to the boy or the family, class distinctions will forever set her apart from the family she loves.



Seide - Elnura Osmonalieva

11:25 min

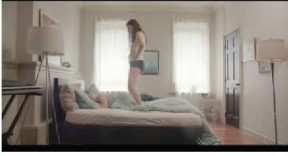
Set in the mountains in Kyrgyzstan, young Seide's life is changed forever when her family decides to arrange a marriage for her.



Semele - Myrsini Aristidou

12:00 min

Semele will do anything to spend some time with her long absent father. A school note becomes just the excuse for her to visit him at his workplace, where her presence highlights their fragile relationship.



SHEBANG - Jon Simon

13:29 min

It all started when she tried masturbating with a ping pong ball...



Silent Wood - Devon Leaver

11:57 min

A man enters the forest to take his own life, but when an unknown assailant attacks him from the darkness beyond his camp, the tables quickly turn and he is forced to fight for his life instead.



Siren Call - Evan Metzold

12:52 min

A recently engaged young man begins receiving a series of mysterious phone calls from an unknown woman.



Snaggletooth - Spencer Jezewski

16:48 min

The boy opens the door. The boy meets the dog. The boy meets the man. The boy meets the bugs.



Snip - Jenna Gelenberg

20:00 min

A newly dead high school teacher learns to say goodbye to his loved ones with the help of a special teenage girl.



Solo - Matthew Puccini

18:53 min

A young Appalachian teenager quietly slips out of his small town one morning - and as he and his young brother spend the day journeying along the backroads of their hometown, the larger mystery of where they're going becomes heartbreakingly clear.



Something About Wonder - YiYi Han

15:28 min

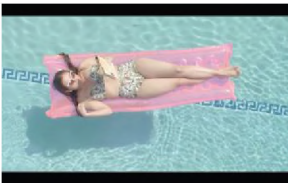
A helpless romantic plans to murder the love of her life's fiancé, however her plan is interrupted when she is forced to get a ride from a socially awkward hearse driver who is trying to bury his pet turtle.



Stranded at the Altar - Ryan McCabe

18:15 min

A troubled youth sabotages his father's wedding to save their relationship. Featuring Benjamin Brancatto, with performances by Bill Rogers, Lorelee Tyson, Marcus Cohan, Benjamin Berschback, and Barbara Rosenblat (Orange is the New Black).



TEEN DAZE - Brigette Lopez

20:00 min

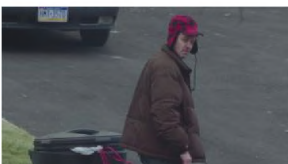
A coming-of-age story about a teenage girl who sets out to lose her virginity while spending the summer with her womanizing father.



A Test - Zuxiang Zhao

20:00 min

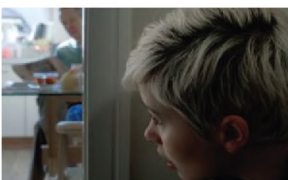
The story happens in a high school of a small town far away from the big cities. Only a few days before the College Entrance Exam, a middle-aged teacher Chen Jun is about to make one of the most difficult choices in his life whether to tell his most promising student Renming about his father's mining accident happened only a few days ago.



Trifles - Germain Gulick

9:00 min

A disagreement arises between neighboring families on opposite sides of the street



Tuesday - Charlotte Wells

11:15 min

Every Tuesday, sixteen-year-old Allie stays with her dad and insists that this week will be no exception. Throughout the course of the day, she endures awkward encounters with family and friends before finally arriving at her dad's flat where her routine is broken by the silence of an empty home. Alone, Allie begins to accept the magnitude of her loss.



twentysomething - Avital Siegel

28:40 min

Sam's 22nd birthday isn't going as planned. After her boss, a George Washington impersonator, fires her from the historical reenactment center, Sam struggles with friends, family and relationship obligations in order to fulfill her only wish; to see a comet that comes only once every 150 years.



WELCOME - Serena Dykman

17:00 min

The day her boyfriend plans to propose to her, Anna, a young New York-based Czech doctor is held at U.S. immigration after a humanitarian trip to Uganda.



Where People Hide Away - Renee Mao

13:50 min

Where People Hide Away delves deeply into the psyche of a World War Two soldier forced to face the childhood and wartime traumas that haunt his memories. Through hypnosis he is led through the landscape of his broken mind in order to recover a significant memory that will ultimately determine his post-war fate.



Who's Afraid of the Octopus Man? - Ben Sottak

8:46 min

A man and his stuffed octopus confront a tentacle-fingered monster from their past.



Wildfire - Adam Meeks

12:17 min

A dangerous forest fire threatens the faith and safety of a religious community in the Rocky Mountains.



Yesterday, Now, Tomorrow - Jamila Meloche

10:58 min

Jessica and Andrew are siblings and best friends. Their friendship is tested when Andrew discovers his first romantic interest.



Zayar - Chriz Naing

12:45 min

A traumatized Burmese refugee, Zayar, gets separated from his mother during the escape from the Burmese military. Under custody of his uncle, he settles in America with his younger sister, but faces racism and the fear of never reuniting with his mother again.