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Contact: Melanie Bates, Film Independent

Tel: 323.556.9338 or [mbates@filmIndependent.org](mailto:mbates@filmIndependent.org)

Ryan Collins, Ginsberg/Libby

Tel: 323.645.6800 or [ryan.collins@ginsberglibby.com](mailto:ryan.collins@ginsberglibby.com)

**2018 LA FILM FESTIVAL COMPETITION LINEUP REVEALED**

LOS ANGELES (July 31, 2018)— Today the LA Film Festival, produced by Film Independent, the nonprofit arts organization that also produces the Film Independent Spirit Awards, unveiled the official U.S. Fiction, Documentary, World Fiction, LA Muse and Nightfall sections. The 2018 LA Film Festival will screen a diverse slate of feature films, shorts and episodic series. The LA Film Festival takes place September 20-28, 2018.

“Our mission of finding fresh new voices from different geographical and cultural axes remains true,” said LA Film Festival Director Jennifer Cochis. “These storytellers are united by their ability to transport, impact and inspire audiences with the power of their craft.”

The 2018 LA Film Festival announces a diverse slate of 40 feature films, 41 short films, and 10 short episodic works representing 26 countries. Across the competition categories 42% of the films are directed by women and 39% are directed by people of color. More special screenings and programs will be announced in the coming weeks in addition to Opening and Closing Nights and Galas.

Passes are on sale now and only Film Independent Members get early access and save up to 25% and gets you in to screenings and conversations (even after they sell out). General admission tickets to individual films go on sale to Film Independent Members beginning Tuesday, August 14 and to the general public beginning Tuesday, August 21. Contact the Festival Box Office for passes, tickets and event information by calling 866.FILM.FEST (866.345.6337) or visit [lafilmfestival.com](http://lafilmfestival.com).

Venues for the 2018 Festival include the ArcLight Cinemas in Culver City, Hollywood and Santa Monica, as well as the new LMU Playa Vista Campus (opening this fall), the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and the Writers Guild Theater.

### **U.S. Fiction Competition (7)**

Original voices with distinct visions from emerging and established American independent filmmakers.

***Banana Split***, dir. Benjamin Francis Kasulke, USA, **World Premiere**

***In Reality***, dir. Ann Lupo, co-dirs. Esteban Pedraza & Aaron Pryka, USA, **California Premiere**

***Olympia***, dir. Gregory Dixon, USA, **World Premiere**

***Simple Wedding***, dir. Sara Zandieh, USA, **World Premiere**

***Softness of Bodies***, dir. Jordan Blady, USA/Germany, **World Premiere**

***This Teacher***, dir. Mark Jackson, USA, **World Premiere**

***The Wrong Todd***, dir. Rob Schulbaum, USA, **World Premiere**

### **Documentary Competition (10)**

Compelling, character-driven non-fiction films from the U.S. and around the world.

***Behind the Curve***, dir. Daniel J. Clark, USA, **US Premiere**

***Facing the Dragon***, dir. Sedika Mojadidi, USA/Afghanistan, **West Coast Premiere**

***False Confessions***, dir. Katrine Philp, Denmark, **North American Premiere**

***hillbilly***, dirs. Sally Rubin, Ashley York, USA, **LA Premiere**

***Mamacita***, dir. José Pablo Estrada Torrescano, Mexico/Germany, **US Premiere**

***Moroni for President***, dir. Saila Huusko, Jasper Rischen, USA, **LA Premiere**

***Same God***, dir. Linda Midgett, USA, **World Premiere**

***The Silence of Others***, dirs. Almudena Carracedo, Robert Bahar, Spain, **West Coast Premiere**

***Stammering Ballad***, dir. Nan Zhang, China, **North American Premiere**

***Wrestling Ghosts***, dir. Ana Joanes, USA, **World Premiere**

### **World Fiction Competition (7)**

Unique fiction films from around the world by emerging and established filmmakers, especially curated for LA audiences.

***Border***, dir. Ali Abbasi, Sweden, **California Premiere**

***The Cotton Wool War***, dirs. Cláudio Marques, Marília Hughes, Brazil, **US Premiere**

***The Day I Lost My Shadow***, dir. Soudade Kaadan, France/Lebanon/Qatar/Syrian Arab Republic, **US Premiere**

***Heaven Without People***, dir. Lucien Bourjeily, Lebanon, **LA Premiere**

***Microhabitat***, dir. Jeon Go-Woon, South Korea, **West Coast Premiere**

***Socrates***, dir. Alex Moratto, Brazil, **World Premiere**

***Tower. A Bright Day.***, dir. Jagoda Szalc, Poland/Czech Republic, **LA Premiere**

### **LA Muse (10)**

Fiction and documentary films that capture the spirit of Los Angeles.

***The Advocates***, dir. Rémi Kessler, USA, **World Premiere**  
***El Chicano***, dir. Ben Hernandez Bray, USA, **World Premiere**  
***Fire on the Hill***, dir. Brett Fallentine, USA, **World Premiere**  
***Funke***, dir. Gabriel Taraboulsy, USA, **World Premiere**  
***Making Montgomery Clift***, dir. Robert A. Clift, Hillary Demmon, USA, **World Premiere**  
***Saint Judy***, dir. Sean Hanish, USA, **World Premiere**  
***Solace***, dir. Tchaiko Omawale, USA, **World Premiere**  
***Staycation***, dir. Tanuj Chopra, USA, **World Premiere**  
***Stuntman***, dir. Kurt Mattila, USA, **World Premiere**  
***We the Coyotes***, dirs. Hanna Ladoul, Marco La Via, USA, **North American Premiere**

### **Nightfall (6)**

From the bizarre to the horrifying, these are films to watch after dark.

***The Dead Center***, dir. Billy Senese, USA, **World Premiere**  
***Deep Murder***, dir. Nick Corirossi, USA, **World Premiere**  
***Ghost Light***, dir. John Stimpson, USA, **World Premiere**  
***Head Count***, dir. Elle Callahan, USA, **World Premiere**  
***Spell***, dir. Brendan Walter, USA, **World Premiere**  
***Thriller***, dir. Dallas Jackson, USA, **World Premiere**

**Short Films (41):** From over 3,100 submissions, the short films selected represent 14 countries. Short films are shown before features and as part of six short film programs. Shorts will compete for juried prizes for fiction and documentary shorts, as well as an Audience Award for Best Short Film.

### **Episodes: Indie Series from the Web (10)**

This showcase of independently crafted web series celebrates rising creators whose work and subjects are innovative and unfiltered.

***Avant-Guardians***, dir. Clarence Williams IV, USA  
***Flatbush Misdemeanors***, dirs. Dan Perlman, Kevin Iso, USA  
***Fresh***, dir. Grant Scicluna, Australia  
***Kiki and Kitty***, dir. Catriona Mackenzie, Australia  
***Otis***, dir. Alexander Etseyatse, USA  
***Pedal & Paint***, dir. Bradley Smith, USA  
***Psusy***, dirs. Duckworth, Jaya Beach-Robertson, New Zealand  
***Revenge Tour***, dir. Andrew Carter, USA  
***Robits***, dir. Christopher Parks, USA  
***Tracy Buckles***, dir. Robin Nystrom, USA

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Twitter @LAFilmFestival. Official event hashtag: #LAFilmFestival.

**ABOUT THE LA FILM FESTIVAL**

The LA Film Festival is a key part of the exhibition arm of the nonprofit arts organization Film Independent. Showcasing new American and international cinema that embraces diversity, innovation and unique perspectives, the Festival produces one-of-a-kind events featuring critically acclaimed filmmakers, industry professionals and award-winning talent from Los Angeles and around the world. Presenting Media Sponsor is Los Angeles Times. Official Venue is ArcLight Cinemas. Platinum Sponsors are American Airlines, EFILM I Deluxe and HBO. The University Sponsor is Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television. Festival Supporters are Directors Guild of America, eTech Rentals, Kona Productions, TREETI and Visit Seattle. Festival Affiliates are 21st Century Fox Global Inclusion, ATK Audiotek, SAGindie and Writers Guild of America, West. Additional support provided by National Endowment for the Arts. IMDbPro is the Official Industry Resource. CITI is the Official Credit Card. Getty Images is the Official Photographer.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Albina Oks, Director of Corporate Sponsorship, at [aoks@filmIndependent.org](mailto:aoks@filmIndependent.org) or 323.556.9352.

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