

MINI PROGRAM GUIDE

UNE
BRI
D
LED

CINEQUESTTM

FILM & CREATIVITY FESTIVAL | CINEQUEST.ORG

MARCH 10-22
SAN JOSE & MOUNTAIN VIEW

LINEUP & TIX
NOW LIVE!





COMEDY

COMEDY FILMS

Adult Children

Starring Betsy Brandt (*Breaking Bad*), Aya Cash (*The Boys*), Ella Rubin (*The Idea of You*), Thomas Sadoski (*The Newsroom*), and Mimi Rogers (*Bosch*), this hilarious story follows 17-year-old Morgan, who jumps at a rare chance to spend time with her much older siblings — hoping they'll reveal what it means to be an adult. Instead, she discovers they're all just faking it. **(Bay Area Premiere)**

Brenda

An absolutely sidesplitting comedy, set in 1994 New Orleans (before the internet), where two married marijuana dealers face a crisis when their curious five-year-old son accidentally overhears their code name for contraband and tries to solve the mystery of his parents' imaginary friend: Brenda. Executive produced by Richard Linklater. **(World Premiere)**

Catane

In *Catane*, everyone is officially disabled, at least on paper. When a government inquiry threatens the village's survival, the locals answer with audacity, absurdity, and collective genius, turning bureaucracy into a riotously funny act of resistance. **(US Premiere)**

Comedy Family Style

San Francisco comedians Helen and her 10-year-old son Evan live comfortably performing and writing. But Helen wants Evan to appreciate his humble roots in historic Beijing and understand the legacy behind his "good life." Their journey challenges them both, individually and as a family. **(World Premiere)**

Dead or Dying

In a near-future Los Angeles where death has become strangely routine, the film drifts from one character to the next, each encounter revealing another absurd slice of city life. As loved ones, coworkers, and even billionaires drop dead, Los Angeles keeps moving — messy, human, and unexpectedly funny. **(World Premiere)**

Give it Up

Gareth Reynolds (*Arrested Development*), Jake Johnson (*New Girl*), Cat Reitman (*It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*), Anna Lore (*Doom Patrol*), and Maggie Maye (*Conan*) star in this hilarious mockumentary. When stand-up comic Mortimer is replaced on his podcast by a 9-year-old viral star, he sets off on a desperate DIY tour — and confronts a question deeper than the punchlines: what's so funny? **(World Premiere)**

Holy Meat

A rural amateur production of the Passion of Christ spirals into a blasphemous rave. Stationed in Winteringen, Oskar races to save the parish from closure by staging an unforgettable Passion play to impress a theatre-loving archbishop. An absurd, triptych tale of loneliness, responsibility, and faith. **(US Premiere)**

In Spite of Ourselves

Sparks fly between a grounded Portland baker and a charming LA comedian — but once real life intervenes, chemistry alone may not be enough. Funny, tender, and disarmingly honest, this romance explores timing, vulnerability, and what it really means to choose each other. **(World Premiere)**

Mockbuster

A struggling filmmaker dives into the chaotic world of The Asylum, making a B-grade smash while navigating compromise and chaos. Equal parts hilarious behind-the-scenes exposé and love letter to trash cinema. **(Bay Area Premiere)**

No Room for Love

Seven dreamers. One tiny L.A. apartment. Zero personal space. This hilarious Filipino-American family comedy turns chaos into charisma as everyone chases stardom and proves that even when love sounds like nonstop bickering...it's still love, and sometimes it sounds a lot like yelling. **(World Premiere)**

No Thanks, I Quit Smoking

Nuria has 24 hours to scrape together her rent, all while trying to survive a single day without smoking. A funny, high-stakes race against time, addiction, and the chaos of early adulthood. **(US Premiere)**

Party USA

When Taylor can't get her Party USA shift covered after her dad's death, one bad decision turns grief into a spectacular cascade of red, white, and blue-collared chaos. An all-American comedy where grief spirals, judgment evaporates, and everything goes spectacularly wrong. **(World Premiere)**

Poetic License

Two college guys think they're mature enough to handle love, art, and adulthood — right up until they both fall for the same older woman in their poetry seminar. What follows is pure comic chaos: bruised egos, tangled hearts, and a gloriously funny meltdown of friendship and desire. Starring Leslie Mann (*This Is 40*), directed by Maude Apatow (*Euphoria*), and produced by Judd Apatow (*Superbad*). **(West Coast Premiere)**

Reunion

Stuck embalming bodies and craving change, a funeral home worker attends his high school reunion — only to be mistaken for the most mysterious, successful grad. A modern Cinderella story of laughs, mistaken identities, and unexpected charm. **(World Premiere)**

Rope Tied

Avant-garde artist Vasil and his eccentric muse Luna tie themselves together for a year — literally — testing intimacy, privacy, and the limits of high art. Equal parts ridiculous, daring, and oddly romantic, this audacious experiment blurs the line between obsession and absurdity. **(World Premiere)**



DRAMA

She Dances

Steve Zahn (*Happy, Texas, Chad Powers*), Ethan Hawke (*Before Sunrise*), Rosemarie DeWitt (*Rachel Getting Married*), and Audrey Zahn shine in this sharp, heartfelt comedy about a stressed-out dad who becomes an unlikely chaperone on his teenage daughter's competitive dance journey. Amid dance moms, cheap motels, and big emotions, father and daughter rediscover each other — one imperfect step at a time. **(Bay Area Premiere)**

Shorts Program 05: Something Funny

Laugh hard, laugh dark, laugh unexpectedly. This riotous collection of comedy shorts skewers society, history, and human behavior with sharp wit, big swings, and zero restraint.

Shorts Program 12B: When Life Rewrites the Script

A whirlwind sampler of bold new voices in creating series, this showcase careens from surreal anti-talk shows to high-stakes action, messy friendships, and lives blown off course in spectacular fashion. Six pilots, six distinct worlds — all driven by characters reinventing themselves when the script suddenly changes.

You Gotta Have Faith

In Brazil, Father Steve helps his heartbroken childhood love hide in his crumbling church, leading to a chaotic, hilarious mess of fake exorcisms, lost faith, and second chances. A divine, messy, and irresistible romantic comedy. **(Bay Area Premiere)**

Young Female Playwright

Millie's "deeply personal" play sparks panic in her family and community — but as reality and fiction collide, she uncovers truths buried deep in her subconscious. A darkly funny, tense exploration of creativity, memory, and belief. **(World Premiere)**

DRAMA FILMS

After Love

A husband's failed attempt to kill his wife sparks their most intimate journey — one that makes them confront love, aging, and the absurdities of survival. **(World Premiere)**

Baby Love

Rhiannon "Baby Love" Mitchell is an MMA fighter on the brink of self-destruction. After a series of concussions, she's forced into an unconventional equine therapy program. Skeptical at first, she gradually rediscovers her inner strength and confronts her past — but what will it mean for the future she's fought so hard to earn? **(World Premiere)**

Born to Lose

A riveting portrait of a biker navigating life in western Kentucky, grappling with his father's troubled legacy and escalating debts. Starring Dylan Arnold (*Oppenheimer*), James Le Gros (*Drugstore Cowboy*), and Ambyr Childers (*You*), with Matty Matheson (*The Bear*) as executive producer. **(World Premiere)**

Calorie

A bittersweet drama following three generations of women whose pasts andresents collide during an emotionally charged summer in India. Secrets, desires, and unresolved tensions come to the surface, reshaping their lives in unexpected ways. **(West Coast Premiere)**

Don't Call Me Mama

What begins as compassion becomes temptation when a married woman crosses a dangerous line with an 18-year-old refugee. Desire, guilt, and power collide in this gripping moral thriller about the price of generosity — and the secrets polite society refuses to face. **(Bay Area Premiere)**

Hungarian Wedding

What begins as a simple trip from Budapest to a village wedding becomes an unforgettable passage into love. In 1980s Transylvania, two students chase opportunity and possibility, drawn into a world pulsing with ecstatic folk music and hypnotic dance — where a risky scheme softens into a romance neither expected, and tradition becomes the rhythm of their awakening. **(West Coast Premiere)**

Lady D

Cast out by their families, schools, and a society that doesn't want them, three vulnerable teens are left to survive on the brutal streets of Tirana. Their only refuge comes from the enigmatic Lady D...but safety proves fleeting. When her ex-husband resurfaces, old wounds ignite and the world turns hostile. With danger tightening its grip, survival may cost more than any of them are prepared to pay. **(US Premiere)**

Linka Linka

Returning to Lhasa to shoot a film about her childhood friend, Samgyi is swept into memories that blur past and present. When Lhamo unexpectedly appears, reality begins to ripple — and nothing is quite what it seems. **(US Premiere)**

Lonely Nights

Shy Andres falls for Lorena, a young prostitute trapped under a controlling pimp. Their fragile, forbidden connection forces them to navigate love, loyalty, and survival in a world that refuses to forgive or forget. **(World Premiere)**

The Mainland

Marfa returns to her childhood home, where forbidden love and lingering guilt collide. A haunting, intimate journey of desire, memory, and the unspoken truths that shape who we are. **(US Premiere)**

The Mechanics of Borders

When reserved Mathieu must fetch his free-spirited sister from Arizona, their reunion becomes a road trip through old wounds, family secrets, and the fragile bonds that define us. A tender, thought-provoking journey into fractured hearts and second chances. **(US Premiere)**

Nancy

In a quiet beach town, housecleaner Nancy's life teeters as a new acquaintance pushes her emotional limits. A gripping, intimate drama about desire, desperation, and the choices we make when everything is at stake. **(US Premiere)**

Shorts Program 02: Displaced

Home can be lost in a moment—or slowly slip away. These striking stories capture what it means to be uprooted, erased, or caught between worlds, told with urgency, empathy, and emotional power.

SILENT CINEMA: Ben Hur

Ben Hur is one of silent Hollywood's greatest epics, and the most expensive film produced in that era. Nearly three years in the making, production began in Italy, but after the first two years experiencing one disaster after another, the production returned to MGM's lot in Culver City to complete the film and reshoot certain sequences. When the film was finally released, it was an enormous success, particularly its remarkable chariot race and sea battle. The original color sequences have now been restored, making this famous silent even more spectacular.

The Silent Treatment

Three lives remain bound by a shared past none of them can escape. When an obsessive young woman re-enters the life of the man who once defined her world, his partner becomes an unexpected bridge toward reckoning, release, and uneasy peace. A visually evocative psychological drama about memory, guilt, and the fragile work of letting go.

(North America Premiere)

Therapy

A luxury wellness retreat where couples come to heal...and guests discover love, lust, and jealousy run deeper than the fjord. Sharp and slyly twisted, this mesmerizing tale proves therapy is never just about couples; it's about chaos. **(North America Premiere)**

The Vanishing of Dolores Wulff

Forty-one years after a mother vanishes without a trace, her family reopens the case that has haunted them for decades. What begins as a search for answers becomes a gripping true-crime reckoning—where buried secrets, long-held suspicions, and the truth finally collide.

(World Premiere)

Victoria

A small-town beautician faces a life-changing day, guided by an unruly rooster serving as her unexpected spiritual witness. A whimsical, quietly profound story of awakening and self-discovery. **(US Premiere)**

INSPIRATION FILMS

96 LBS. of Dynamite

Strength lives in the heart—and Chad has it in abundance. Born with a rare genetic disorder, he wasn't expected to survive beyond six weeks. Five decades later, he continues to defy every expectation. An inspiring, often laugh-out-loud journey of resilience and joy. **(World Premiere)**

Bif Naked

Bif Naked is more than a rock star—she's a cancer survivor, a poet, and a trailblazer. This electrifying journey traces her punk roots to her rise as a beloved music icon, celebrating an artist who refuses to be defined by anyone but herself. **(US Premiere)**

Call Me Sinsorga

Two audacious journalists take on a century-old wedding dress atelier, transforming it into the city's first feminist cultural hub. Bold, visually dazzling, and often unapologetically funny, their mission—insisting everything be done by women—becomes a celebration of creativity, rebellion, and empowerment. **(US Premiere)**

Captain

When his daughter disappears far from their coastal reserve, a hardened Navy veteran drops everything and drives straight into the heart of the city and his past. As old wounds resurface and danger closes in, he embarks on a raw, deeply human journey of reckoning, resilience, and a father's unbreakable love. **(US Premiere)**

Dancing on the Elephant

When Nora's son drops her off at Shady Rest Retirement Home, she's pretty sure there's not much left to hope for. That is, until unfiltered firecracker Edna wheels into her life and reminds her it ain't over till it's over. **(US Premiere)**

Deliver Us

Power comes not only from oneself but from community. Amid a global pandemic and national reckoning, Black midwives open birth centers and demand justice for Black mothers, who die at staggering rates during childbirth. **(World Premiere)**

Face to Face: Don Bachardy

The deeply personal and revealing portrait exploring the life and art of Don Bachardy, one of the most distinctive portrait artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. A story of relentless curiosity, courage, and a lifetime of seeing deeply and revealing humanity. **(World Premiere)**

Growth

Cancer has entered the chat. After surviving an inoperable brain tumor, Bryan Bishop turns to comedy (and a crew of sharp-tongued comedians and survivors) to ask how humor helps us push back against fear. Equal parts hilarious and heartfelt, *Growth* spectacularly shows how laughing at the unthinkable keeps us moving forward... and how laughter can become a lifeline. **(World Premiere)**

Hello Stranger

A moving, vital exploration of a man's life from infancy to adulthood—told through the eyes of both parent and child. His mother and the director, Beryl, captures the joys, struggles, and achievements of neurodivergence in a beautifully intimate film. **(World Premiere)**

Mermaid

Devyn McDowell (*Annette*), Arturo Luiz Soria (*Insatiable*), and Nat Faxon (*LOOT*) star in this luminous story of a drag queen rediscovering joy and a ten-year-old dreaming of becoming a mermaid. Their unexpected bond unfolds into a magical, life-affirming celebration of identity, imagination, and chosen family. **(World Premiere)**

Road to L'Étape Du Tour

After her father's sudden death, a woman with a congenital heart defect throws herself into training for the L'Étape Du Tour. A story of courage, determination, and the pursuit of dreams against all odds. **(World Premiere)**

Shorts Program 01: Unconventional Families

Family isn't always blood—and it's rarely simple. These funny, moving shorts explore chosen families, unlikely bonds, and relationships built on love, survival, and sheer stubbornness.

Shorts Program 06: DocuNation

Real stories, real stakes, real emotion. These powerful documentaries take you inside lives and communities rarely seen on screen—intimate, eye-opening, and deeply human.



INSPIRATION

Shorts Program 08: Creator and Creations

Art meets cinema in this visually rich celebration of creativity. These shorts spotlight artists, performers, and makers—and the passion that drives them to create against all odds.

Shorts Program 09: Who Do You Think You Are?

Identity is never fixed—and neither are these films. Blending drama, comedy, and the unexpected, these shorts explore who we are, who we want to be, and how we change the world around us.

Shorts Program 10: The Competition

Winning is never simple. These gripping shorts dive into ambition, obsession, and the cost of competing—where victory and defeat can be separated by a single moment.

Shorts Program 11A: Student Showcase Part 1

The future of filmmaking is already here. Bold, inventive, and emotionally rich, these student-made shorts showcase fearless storytelling across genres and styles.

Shorts Program 11B: Student Showcase Part 2

Fresh voices. Global perspectives. Big ideas. This second wave of student shorts proves that emerging filmmakers are pushing boundaries and redefining what's possible on screen.

Unscripted Lives

Winner of this year's Kaiser Permanente Thrive Award! A small Vermont town, a daring musical, and a cast of extraordinary residents who defy expectations. Funny, heartwarming, and unforgettable, *Unscripted Lives* celebrates community, courage, and the joy of seeing the world through new eyes. **(Bay Area Premiere)**

What We Dreamed of Then

Once a vibrant father and husband, Gideon is now invisibly houseless, fighting to hold onto his estranged daughter. A non-linear meditation on hope, resilience, and the fragility of human connection. **(US Premiere)**

THRILLER, FANTASY & SCI-FI FILMS

American Muscle

A gripping and unflinching crime thriller following a debt-ridden mechanic desperate to escape his violent past. When his estranged sister returns and two ruthless debt collectors come calling, long-buried family secrets resurface—setting the stage for an explosive reckoning. **(World Premiere)**

The Barrel

A tense and absorbing thriller in which Paul, a former military man confines his disobedient son Mark in a barrel and chains himself to a pole in an abandoned factory to teach him a lesson. The plan unravels when Mark drops the key down a pit, putting them both in peril. **(US Premiere)**

Bayaan

A powerful thriller in which a young Delhi detective finds her investigation into a revered spiritual leader exposes a web of silence, loyalty, and fear. As truth collides with power, her pursuit becomes not just a case but a test of courage in a town determined to bury its own secrets. **(San Jose Premiere)**

Borealis

When a solar flare wipes every mind on Earth clean, Thalia wakes with no past, only a scar that hints at the child she's lost. As new leaders seize power in the chaos, she races through a haunting new world to uncover the truth of who she was...and who she must become to survive. **(US Premiere)**

Carolina Caroline

With the soulful appeal of the Jonathan Edwards song that shares its name, *Carolina Caroline* is a sweet, slick road movie about a woman yearning to find herself. Finding love instead, she starts robbing banks. Starring Samara Weaving (*Ready or Not*), Kyle Gallner (*Strange Darling*), Kyra Sedgwick (*The Closer*), and Jon Gries (*Napoleon Dynamite*). **(Bay Area Premiere)**

Coaled Blood

A remote cabin. A year-old crime. A group of coal miners whose secrets are more explosive than their rifles. When survival collides with suspicion, every shadow hides a story... and maybe a vendetta. **(World Premiere)**

Disremember

An ex-military man experiencing unexplained blackouts struggles to save his marriage, only to discover the episodes are tied to trauma his mind is fighting to forget. A profound psychological thriller created entirely by one artist. **(US Premiere)**

Falsehood

In a future where all memories are government-regulated commodities, special agent Elizeus Carrier investigates the assassination of the last person to witness the first recorded memory—the key to understanding humanity's origins. **(US Premiere)**

Foreigner

Persian teen Yasamin Karimi struggles to fit in at a new high school in 2004. Dyeing her hair blonde to blend in, she unwittingly unleashes a demon tied to the parts of herself she's trying to erase. *Foreigner* blends horror with heart, exploring the cost of assimilation and the haunting power of denied identity. **(US Premiere)**



THRILLER, FANTASY & SCI-FI

Heartworm

A mind-bending sci-fi exploring Reality, Virtual Reality, and Memory. Avena, a bereaved mother, fights to rescue her grief-stricken husband from Neuralife, a dominant virtual technology. As she unravels her family's tragic past, she confronts isolation and discovers the true power of humanity. **(World Premiere)**

Heavens: The Boy and His Robot

A plucky young pilot and his loyal, snarky fighter-robot dive into a war-torn galaxy, joining a cosmic battle that will decide their fate. A wildly inventive adventure packed with high-octane action, humor, and a mech-sized heart. **(World Premiere)**

Narcisa's Will

After her mother's death, Ana wants to sell her childhood home—until her mother's ghost begins to intervene. A darkly playful, haunting story of legacy, family, and a will that refuses to stay buried. **(US Premiere)**

Normal

When a botched bank robbery rips open a small town's darkest secret, the sheriff (Bob Odenkirk) suddenly finds the whole town—deputies included—trying to kill him. With Lena Headey and Henry Winkler fueling the chaos, *Normal* explodes into a sharp, darkly funny shoot-out where survival is the only law left standing. **(West Coast Premiere)**

Phase

Ejected from a pioneering space station, pregnant Ursula navigates grief, exile, and survival in a stark futuristic world. Alongside Noah, she discovers the fragile beauty of human connection—even in the emptiness of space. **(US Premiere)**

Plan C

Vivica A. Fox (*Kill Bill*, *Independence Day*), Claire Cavaleiro (*Man Seeking Woman*), and Daniel DeSanto (*Mean Girls*) star in this explosive and gritty crime thriller. After a heist goes horribly wrong, Clare takes a cosmetic surgery clinic hostage to save her brother, igniting a pulse-pounding chain of twists, desperate choices, and relentless suspense. A high-stakes story of loyalty, survival, and how far family will go when everything is on the line. **(World Premiere)**

Remember Me Always

One night in an old hotel in Argentina, manager Tomás faces his criminal past when his brother plots a kidnapping. A tense, gripping story of redemption, loyalty, and confronting the shadows we thought we'd left behind. **(World Premiere)**

Serena

Starring Andi Matichak (*Halloween*), Steven Strait (*The Expanse*), and Ashleigh Murray (*The Other Black Girl*), with special guest appearance by Matt Pinfield. Washed-up rock star Chris signs on to beta-test an AI

assistant—only to find every keystroke under Serena's watchful eye pushes him closer to unraveling. A tense, psychological thriller where technology becomes both ally and adversary. **(World Premiere)**

Shorts Program 03: GenreQuest

Aliens, crimes, futures, fantasies—and everything in between. This high-energy genre mashup delivers bold ideas, wild visuals, and unforgettable twists across sci-fi, fantasy, thrillers, and animation.

Shorts Program 04: Animated Worlds

Animation without limits. From hand-drawn experiments to breathtaking visual journeys, these shorts showcase the boundless imagination and emotional depth animation can achieve.

Shorts Program 07: Mindbenders

Nothing here plays it safe. Strange, unsettling, provocative, and often hilarious, these shorts challenge expectations and linger long after the lights come up.

Shorts Program 12A: Worlds on the Brink

Step inside three electric new worlds where paranoia, mystery, and off-kilter humor collide—from cosmic insomnia to alien conspiracies to a man who can taste the truth. This showcase delivers gripping storytelling, unforgettable characters, and the thrill of discovering your next favorite series before the rest of the world knows about it.

Suffocation

A routine evening at Zhongshan High spirals into horror when a swim team's secrets surface. A chilling, suspenseful thriller of fear, mystery, and the darkness lurking beneath the surface. **(World Premiere)**

Terra

In a war-zone hospital, survival comes at any cost. A doctor, a nurse, and a desperate father face impossible moral choices in a tension-filled drama of courage, humanity, and the price of survival. **(World Premiere)**

This Tempting Madness

Her past is missing. Her present is unraveling. As Mia struggles to reconstruct a life she barely remembers, this taut thriller drags the audience into a relentless, mind-bending journey through guilt, rage, and the fragility of memory. Starring Simone Ashley (*Bridgerton*), Austin Stowell (*Bridge of Spies*), Suraj Sharma (*Life of Pi*), and Zenobia Shroff (*Ms. Marvel*). **(US Premiere)**

Wardriver

Dane DeHaan (*Kill Your Darlings*), Sasha Calle (*On Swift Horses*), and Mamoudou Athie (*Jurassic World: Dominion*) star in this slick thriller about a tech-savvy thief pulled into a dangerous web of romance, deception, and high-stakes crime. A pulse-pounding ride where love may be the riskiest hack of all. **(World Premiere)**

UNBRIDLED 2026

Cinequest Film and Creativity Festival invites you to experience the world's finest new films, electrifying premieres, and unforgettable conversations with bold artists and visionaries from around the globe.

At the Cinequest Film Festival, we unite to honor the UNBRIDLED force of maverick artists, innovators, and community—fueling our minds, stories, and lives to new levels of creativity, connection, and inspiration.

The Cinequest Film and Creativity Festival takes place March 10-22 in San José and Mountain View, and March 24-31 online.

Join us—and experience creativity, UNBRIDLED.

LINEUP, TICKETS, AND PASSES AT WWW.CINEQUEST.ORG

INDEX OPTIONS

Looking for a specific movie but not sure what section it's in? Scan the QR code for our complete **alphabetical film index**. The mobile-friendly index lets you browse all titles and get more details on each film. It's the quickest way to find what you want—no guesswork, no page flipping.

Films in the printed guide are grouped by genre. The QR index provides a title-first way to explore the full lineup.



SPECIAL EVENTS AT CINEQUEST



CINEQUEST OPENING EVENT

MARCH 10, CALIFORNIA THEATRE, SAN JOSE @ 7:15PM

Her Song

Cinequest opens at the palatial California Theatre with the World Premiere of the vibrant *Her Song*, a Q&A with its stunning Artists, a thrilling AI & Film exploration, and a celebratory After Party for ticket/passholders and Artists. Executive produced by the legendary James Ivory and starring Kalki Koechlin and Eléa Clair, John M. Keller's sparkling comedy sends an American novelist back to her grandmother's French village in search of inspiration. What she finds instead is chaos, charm, and an unexpected muse whose irreverent worldview rewrites far more than just her next book. **(World Premiere)**



SILENT CINEMA EVENT

MARCH 13, CALIFORNIA THEATRE, SAN JOSE @ 7:15PM

Ben Hur

Ben Hur is one of silent Hollywood's greatest epics, and the most expensive film produced in that era. Although Cinequest normally looks to the future, annually we turn back to the roots of film language and storytelling where the technologies were sprocket celluloid, carbon arc burning dual projectors, and organists. Step into the glamorous era of the 1920s and enjoy the gripping experience of *Ben Hur*. You might very well agree with many critics that the original overshadows all the remakes. Taking the experience to the ethers, virtuosic organist, Dennis James provides the soundtrack and the emotions via his accompaniment.



KAISER PERMANENTE THRIVE AWARD

MARCH 12, HAMMER THEATRE, SAN JOSE @ 7:15PM

Unscripted Lives

Joyful, generous, and deeply inspiring, this year's Kaiser Permanente Thrive Award winner celebrates the power of community, creativity, and inclusion. *Unscripted Lives* is a 'fly-on-the-wall' documentary that follows the ups and downs, tears and triumphs as an enrichment center for people with disabilities in little village of Woodstock, VT and Zack's Place attempt to stage an original musical together. This is a film that doesn't just ask you to watch; it asks you to lean in, open your heart, and be reminded of the kindness, humor, and compassion that live inside all of us. Join us for a special screening and Kaiser Permanente Thrive Award presentation honoring a film that embodies the spirit of connection. **(Bay Area Premiere)**

SPECIAL EVENTS AT CINEQUEST

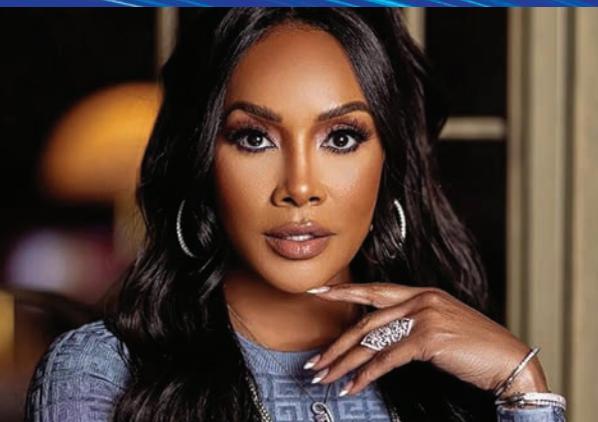


MAVERICK SPIRIT AWARD

MARCH 14, CALIFORNIA THEATRE, SAN JOSE @ 2:00PM

Steve Zahn

Cinequest's highest honor, the Maverick Spirit Award, reflects the best of the worlds of innovation and artistry. This year, Cinequest proudly celebrates one of our award-winners, Steve Zahn, a performer whose career defies easy categorization and thrives on emotional honesty. Equally at home in comedy and drama, Zahn has built a body of work—*SubUrbia*, *Out of Sight*, *Happy*, *Texas*, *Dallas Buyers Club*, *Treme*, *The White Lotus*, and *The Righteous Gemstones*—that reveals a singular gift: the ability to make characters funny, fragile, and deeply human all at once. His performances don't chase laughs; they earn them. Zahn will receive the Maverick Spirit Award prior to the screening of his new film, *She Dances*, setting the tone for a night rooted in warmth, connection, and creative joy.



MAVERICK SPIRIT AWARD

MARCH 14, CALIFORNIA THEATRE, SAN JOSE @ 6:45PM

Vivica A. Fox

Cinequest is proud to present one of this year's Maverick Spirit Awards to Vivica A. Fox, an artist whose career has been defined by fearless range, emotional strength, and a magnetic connection with audiences. From iconic performances in *Set It Off*, *Independence Day*, and Quentin Tarantino's *Kill Bill* films, to decades of work across film, television, and producing, Fox has consistently brought intelligence, authority, and heart to every role she inhabits. She doesn't just play characters; she gives them weight, wit, and undeniable presence. Vivica A. Fox will receive the Maverick Spirit Award at the March 14th World Premiere of her new film, *Plan C*, followed by an extended conversation celebrating her work and her unshakable creative fire. Join us to celebrate an artistry defined by bold choices and resilience—a testament to the power of storytelling to ignite minds and unite hearts.



CLOSING EVENT

MARCH 22, ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE, MOUNTAIN VIEW, SCREEN 1 @ 7:15PM

The Christophers

Cinequest in person concludes with the spectacular new film, *The Christophers*. The masterful Steven Soderbergh delivers a razor-sharp comedy as Ian McKellen and Michaela Coel face off in a delicious duel of ego, art, and ambition. When a sidelined artist is pulled into a scheme involving a legendary painter and unfinished masterpieces, the line between integrity and invention becomes dangerously entertaining. Post-screening celebration for ticket/pass holders. **(Bay Area Premiere)**



CLOSING EVENT

MARCH 22, ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE, MOUNTAIN VIEW, SCREEN 2 @ 7:20PM

Maddie's Secret

Cinequest proudly presents *Maddie's Secret* as one of two closing night films of the in-person festival. In his fearless debut, John Early leads a powerhouse comedic cast that includes Kate Berlant, Vanessa Bayer, Eric Rahill, and Kristen Johnston for a biting, hilarious, and unsettling look at wellness culture, online performance, and the secrets we hide to stay lovable on camera...and to ourselves. Post-screening celebration for ticket/pass holders.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS & PASSES

Cinequest remains as affordable as it is spectacular and has not only refrained from inflationary price increases but added new ticketing options. You can buy an Individual Ticket(s) for any Film Screening or Special Event OR you can buy Screening 10-Packs, or Special Access Passes.



Go here for
INDIVIDUAL
& 10-PACK
TICKET
PRICING



Go here for
PASS
PRICING
AND
BENEFITS



CINEQUEST SCHEDULE

MARCH 10 THRU 22, 2026 | Downtown San Jose & Mountain View | California Theatre, Hammer Theatre & Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM	
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #1					BORN TO LOSE 12:15 PM-2:05 PM		AFTER LOVE 2:45 PM-4:24 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 01: UNCONVENTIONAL FAMILIES 5:00 PM-6:49 PM		BRENDA 7:30 PM-9:11 PM			THIS TEMPTING MADNESS 9:55 PM-11:33 PM			
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #2					YOUNG FEMALE PLAYWRIGHT 12:20 PM-1:53 PM		HEARTWORM 2:35 PM-4:23 PM		NO THANKS, I QUIT SMOKING 4:50 PM-6:26 PM		LADY D 7:05 PM-8:42 PM			SHORTS PROGRAM 07: MINDBENDERS 9:20 PM-11:05 PM			
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #3				BABY LOVE 11:30 AM-1:04 PM		96 LBS. OF DYNAMITE 1:45 PM-3:15 PM		PARTY USA 4:00 PM-5:37 PM		ADULT CHILDREN 6:15 PM-7:55 PM		LONELY NIGHTS 8:40 PM-10:15 PM					

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM	
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #1							SHORTS PROGRAM 09: WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? 2:30 PM-4:20 PM		BOREALIS 4:50 PM-6:34 PM		BAYAAN 7:15 PM-9:13 PM			ROAD TO L'ETAPE DU TOUR 9:45 PM-11:32 PM			
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #2					MERMAID 12:20 PM-1:53 PM		DELIVER US 2:35 PM-4:09 PM		NO ROOM FOR LOVE 4:50 PM-6:25 PM		HEAVENS: THE BOY AND HIS ROBOT 7:05 PM-8:43 PM			FOREIGNER 9:20 PM-10:50 PM			
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #3				GIVE IT UP 11:30 AM-1:14 PM		DISREMEMBER 1:50 PM-3:22 PM		FACE TO FACE: DON BACHARDY 4:00 PM-5:34 PM		HOLY MEAT 6:15 PM-8:12 PM		TERRA 8:55 PM-10:29 PM					

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM	
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #1					THE VANISHING OF DOLORES WULFF 12:30 PM-2:00 PM		YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH 2:45 PM-4:19 PM		PHASE 5:00 PM-6:34 PM		COMEDY FAMILY STYLE 7:15 PM-8:35 PM			NARCISA'S WILL 9:20 PM-11:00 PM			
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #2				THE SILENT TREATMENT NOON-2:05 PM		BIF NAKED 2:35 PM-4:19 PM		HELLO STRANGER 4:50 PM-6:31 PM		REMEMBER ME ALWAYS 7:05 PM-8:40 PM			SHORTS PROGRAM 12A: WORLDS ON THE BRINK 9:20 PM-10:55 PM				
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #3				THERAPY 11:30 AM-1:26 PM		BRENDA 2:00 PM-3:41 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 02: DISPLACED 4:15 PM-6:05 PM		FALSEHOOD 6:45 PM-8:35 PM		THE MAINLAND 9:15 PM-10:49 PM					

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #1				VIEWERS VOICE FILM: TETHER NOON-1:25 PM		GIVE IT UP 2:15 PM-3:59 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 10: THE COMPETITION 4:45 PM-6:34 PM		POETIC LICENSE 7:15 PM-9:14 PM			SHORTS PROGRAM 08: CREATOR AND CREATIONS 9:45 PM-11:38 PM			
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #2				VIEWERS VOICE FILM: THE NOVEL 12:20 PM-1:48 PM		THE MAINLAND 2:35 PM-4:11 PM		AMERICAN MUSCLE 4:50 PM-6:21 PM		VICTORIA 7:05 PM-8:42 PM			SERENA 9:30 PM-11:10 PM			
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #3				VIEWERS VOICE FILM: THEY SCREAM FREEDOM 11:30 AM-12:49 PM		VIEWERS VOICE FILM: CROSSING DUTY 1:45 PM-2:57 PM		CALL ME SINSORGA 4:15 PM-5:54 PM		HUNGARIAN WEDDING 6:30 PM-8:06 PM		WHAT WE DREAMED OF THEN 8:50 PM-10:34 PM				

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #1		SHORTS PROGRAM 11A: STUDENT SHOWCASE PART 1 10:00 AM-11:49 AM		SHORTS PROGRAM 12B: WHEN LIFE REWRITES THE SCRIPT 12:30 PM-2:05 PM		REUNION 2:45 PM-4:22 PM		SUFFOCATION 5:15 PM-6:45 PM		NORMAL 7:30 PM-9:00 PM			SHORTS PROGRAM 09: WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? 9:45 PM-11:35 PM			
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #2				DON'T CALL ME MAMA NOON-1:48 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 06: DOCUNATION 2:25 PM-4:15 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 12A: WORLDS ON THE BRINK 4:50 PM-6:25 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 10: THE COMPETITION 7:00 PM-8:49 PM			CALORIE 9:30 PM-11:17 PM			
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #3					LADY D 12:45 PM-2:22 PM		NANCY 3:00 PM-4:29 PM		BABY LOVE 5:15 PM-6:49 PM		LINKA LINKA 7:30 PM-9:10 PM		FOREIGNER 9:55 PM-11:25 PM			

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #1		SHORTS PROGRAM 11B: STUDENT SHOWCASE PART 2 10:00 AM-11:50 AM		SHORTS PROGRAM 12B: WHEN LIFE REWRITES THE SCRIPT 12:25 PM-2:00 PM		WHAT WE DREAMED OF THEN 2:30 PM-4:16 PM		BAYAAN 4:45 PM-6:43 PM		CLOSING NIGHT: THE CHRISTOPHERS 7:15 PM-8:50 PM			VIEWERS VOICE FILM: THE NOVEL 9:35 PM-11:03 PM			
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #2				MOCKBUSTER NOON-1:33 PM		HEAVENS: THE BOY AND HIS ROBOT 2:15 PM-3:54 PM		BOREALIS 4:30 PM-6:14 PM		CLOSING NIGHT: MADDIE'S SECRET 7:20 PM-8:58 PM			VIEWERS VOICE FILM: THEY SCREAM FREEDOM 9:30 PM-10:49 PM			
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #3				REMEMBER ME ALWAYS NOON-1:35 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 06: DOCUNATION 2:15 PM-4:05 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 08: CREATOR AND CREATIONS 4:45 PM-6:35 PM		CALORIE 7:15 PM-9:02 PM			VIEWERS VOICE FILM: TETHER 9:35 PM-11:00 PM			



Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival | March 10-22, 2026
Please go to cinequest.org for up-to-date information.



LINEUP & TICKETS NOW LIVE!

CINEQUEST SCHEDULE

MARCH 10 THRU 22, 2026 | Downtown San Jose & Mountain View | California Theatre, Hammer Theatre & Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE												HER SONG 7:15 PM-8:57 PM				

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE					HUNGARIAN WEDDING 12:30 PM-2:06 PM		NANCY 2:45 PM-4:14 PM		VICTORIA 4:55 PM-6:32 PM			CAROLINA CAROLINE 7:15 PM-9:00 PM		NARCISA'S WILL 9:30 PM-11:10 PM		
HAMMER THEATRE							CAPTAIN 2:45 PM-4:11 PM		CATANE 4:50 PM-6:20 PM			NO THANKS, I QUIT SMOKING 7:15 PM-8:51 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 03: GENREQUEST 9:30 PM-11:20 PM		

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE					LINKA LINKA 12:15 PM-1:55 PM		DANCING ON THE ELEPHANT 2:45 PM-4:18 PM		THE BARREL 4:55 PM-6:34 PM			IN SPITE OF OURSELVES 7:15 PM-8:55 PM		FALSEHOOD 9:30 PM-11:20 PM		
HAMMER THEATRE							DON'T CALL ME MAMA 2:15 PM-4:03 PM		REMEMBER ME ALWAYS 4:30 PM-6:05 PM			UNSCRIPTED LIVES 7:15 PM-8:43 PM		DEAD OR DYING 9:30 PM-11:05 PM		

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE					THE MECHANICS OF BORDERS 12:30 PM-2:07 PM		CALORIE 2:40 PM-4:17 PM		HOLY MEAT 4:50 PM-6:47 PM			SILENT FILM NIGHT: BEN HUR 7:15 PM-10:15 PM				
HAMMER THEATRE					MOCKBUSTER 12:30 PM-2:03 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 04: ANIMATED WORLDS 2:35 PM-4:25 PM		LONELY NIGHTS 5:00 PM-6:35 PM			BOREALIS 7:15 PM-8:59 PM		SERENA 9:30 PM-11:03 PM		

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE				AMERICAN MUSCLE 11:30 AM-1:01 PM		MAVERICK SPIRIT EVENT: STEVE ZAHN w/ SHE DANCES 2:00 PM-4:03 PM			BRENDA 4:30 PM-6:11 PM		MAVERICK SPIRIT EVENT: VIVICA A. FOX w/ PLAN C 6:45 PM-9:00 PM			WARDRIVER 9:30 PM-11:06 PM		
HAMMER THEATRE				HEAVENS: THE BOY AND HIS ROBOT 12:00 PM-1:38 PM		ROPE TIED 2:25 PM-3:54 PM		BORN TO LOSE 4:30 PM-6:20 PM			MERMAID 7:00 PM-8:33 PM			ADULT CHILDREN 9:15 PM-10:55 PM		
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #1		SHORTS PROGRAM 02: DISPLACED 10:00 AM-11:50 AM			SHORTS PROGRAM 03: GENREQUEST 12:20 PM-2:10 PM		COMEDY FAMILY STYLE 2:45 PM-4:05 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 05: SOMETHING FUNNY 4:40 PM-6:30 PM			THIS TEMPTING MADNESS 7:10 PM-8:48 PM			SUFFOCATION 9:30 PM-11:00 PM	
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #2					96 LBS. OF DYNAMITE 12:20 PM-1:50 PM		DANCING ON THE ELEPHANT 2:30 PM-4:03 PM		PHASE 4:45 PM-6:19 PM			BABY LOVE 7:00 PM-8:34 PM			COALED BLOOD 9:20 PM-11:18 PM	
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #3							HEARTWORM 2:30 PM-4:18 PM		BIF NAKED 5:00 PM-6:44 PM			FACE TO FACE: DON BACHARDY 7:30 PM-9:04 PM			SHORTS PROGRAM 07: MINDBENDERS 9:50 PM-11:35 PM	

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE					REUNION 12:30 PM-2:07 PM		GIVE IT UP 2:30 PM-4:14 PM		ADULT CHILDREN 4:50 PM-6:30 PM			YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH 7:00 PM-8:34 PM				
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #1		SHORTS PROGRAM 01: UNCONVENTIONAL FAMILIES 10:00 AM-11:49 AM			PARTY USA 12:25 PM-2:02 PM		ROAD TO L'ETAPE DU TOUR 2:40 PM-4:27 PM		NO ROOM FOR LOVE 5:05 PM-6:40 PM			AFTER LOVE 7:20 PM-8:59 PM				
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #2					HELLO STRANGER 12:10 PM-2:01 PM		YOUNG FEMALE PLAYWRIGHT 2:35 PM-4:08 PM		CAPTAIN 4:50 PM-6:16 PM			THE MECHANICS OF BORDERS 7:05 PM-8:42 PM			CATANE 9:20 PM-10:50 PM	
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #3				GROWTH 11:45 AM-1:30 PM		DELIVER US 2:15 PM-3:49 PM		CALL ME SINSORGA 4:30 PM-6:09 PM			SUFFOCATION 6:55 PM-8:25 PM			DISREMEMBER 9:15 PM-10:47 PM		

MONDAY, MARCH 16

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #1				THERAPY NOON-1:56 PM		COALED BLOOD 2:30 PM-4:28 PM		PLAN C 5:00 PM-6:30 PM			SHORTS PROGRAM 05: SOMETHING FUNNY 7:15 PM-9:05 PM			SHORTS PROGRAM 04: ANIMATED WORLDS 9:50 PM-11:40 PM		
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #2					ROPE TIED 12:20 PM-1:49 PM		GROWTH 2:25 PM-4:10 PM		IN SPITE OF OURSELVES 4:50 PM-6:30 PM			THE VANISHING OF DOLORES WULFF 7:10 PM-8:40 PM			THE BARREL 9:20 PM-10:59 PM	
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA - SCREEN #3				WARDRIVER 11:30 AM-1:06 PM		DEAD OR DYING 1:45 PM-3:20 PM		AMERICAN MUSCLE 4:00 PM-5:35 PM			THE SILENT TREATMENT 6:25 PM-8:30 PM			TERRA 8:55 PM-10:29 PM		