

CINEQUEST™

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CINEQUEST FILM & CREATIVITY FESTIVAL 2019 (Cinequest 2019) VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

Cinequest 2019 will enchant audiences with a lineup of truly awe-inspiring VR films designed by artists who also happen to be some of Silicon Valley's top innovators. Festival-goers and creators will have the opportunity to engage with virtual reality in a variety of intriguing ways, including VR Cinema Programs, Workshops, hyper-reality experiences, and an immersive VR Lounge. Cinequest VR continues to represent the biggest names in VR (including Oculus, Google, Samsung, HTC, Unity, Wevr, Baobab, Penrose) as well as many buzz-worthy up-and-comers.

The festival's 2019 virtual reality highlights include a workshop with Emmy nominated Jim Lima; a VR experience voiced by John Legend; and Cinequest's first hyper-reality installation, "Eclipse." Cinequest makes the virtual reality experience both accessible and wildly entertaining.

NOTABLE PREMIERES AT CINEQUEST VR (details & program section follow)

- Forest – World
- The Music Box – World
- Vegas - End of the World VR – World
- Walking with Rhinos – World
- Love Note – U.S.
- Nosferatu VR – U.S.
- Volt: Chaos Gem – U.S.
- VRwandlung – U.S.
- Thalu: Dreamtime Is Now – U.S.

VIRTUAL REALITY LOUNGE EXPERIENCES

The Cinequest VR Lounge (Rehearsal Hall, California Theatre) is the hot spot for immersive and interactive VR, as well as gaming and arcade experiences. Festival-goers will be given hand controllers enabling them to interact with objects and make decisions on which twists and turns to take in their virtual worlds. This year, the Cinequest VR Lounge is thrilled to feature its first hyper-reality installation, "Eclipse," an exhilarating experience where you team up with others

and zoom into space. In the VR Lounge, audiences can also connect and converse with their favorite VR artists. Here's the lineup of the exciting experiences you'll find at the VR Lounge:

- ***Caliban Below***. Explore an ancient abandoned labyrinth in which you will attempt to piece together your past...only to discover your fate is already sealed.
- ***Crow: The Legend VR***. From an old American Indian legend, follow the story of a few early animals who are introduced to their first winter. They must now change their lives in order to survive and bring back summer.
- ***Down the Pixel Hole***. Experience a free fall through space as you hurtle through massive plates, awesomely decorated with scenes of other galaxies, until you finally hit your final destination.
- ***Eclipse (Installation starting March 12th)***. An immersive four-player "hyper reality" collaborative experience. Enhanced by physical effects, full-body awareness and total freedom of movements...this is a glimpse of tomorrow's cinema.
- ***Forest***. A meditative visual and musical experience in a virtual hand-drawn landscape where you can control where you go. Go ahead and get lost in this interactive sacred space.
- ***Love Note***. Float through the heartbreaking story of lovers which repeats across time and space. Fully immerse yourself in the beautiful storytelling through dance and music.
- ***Lux Sine***. Explore two different underground caves through aerial navigation and video snippets. One is naturally created and filled with American Indian folklore; the other is manmade and used to study dark matter.
- ***Moss***. Control a tiny mouse through danger-filled hallways and labyrinths in this beautiful adventure game.
- ***The Music Box***. Create your own musical masterpiece to accompany the ballerina's graceful dance along with your magical friends that inhabit the enchanted music box.
- ***Re-Animated***. A magnificent reanimation of the now extinct Kaua'i 'ō'ō bird and its song, who called to a mate who was never there. Inhabit the distorted digital reconstruction of the Kaua'i 'ō'ō's original habitat on the Hawaiian Island of Kaua'i.
- ***Thalu: Dreamtime Is Now***. An indigenous mine site worker is transported to the spirit world, where he meets the spirits and custodians of the land and learns how they are connected to humankind—even as their sacred sites are under threat by the modern human world.
- ***Twilight Path***. A fantasy-puzzle adventure game that takes you on an otherworldly journey to meet wandering spirits, enchanted sentries, and mischievous gods.
- ***VEGAS - End of the World***. A surreal musical performance which winds up turning into a psychedelic dream.
- ***VRwandlung***. Wake up in the virtual world as Gregor Samsa. You may be concerned that you're late for work, but there are significantly larger issues happening with your body!

VIRTUAL REALITY CINEMA PROGRAMS

Cinequest's 20-minute virtual reality cinema programs (Rehearsal Hall, California Theatre) offer festival-goers the chance to embark upon exhilarating 360 experiences using our custom headsets. Here are the seven cinematic VR programs:

PROGRAM #1

- ***Blue Bird*** directed by Parnaz Rad. In this expressive animated piece, a bluebird struggles to escape the caverns of a withered heart and find its way through the history of a scarred life.
- ***RocketMan 360*** directed by Gabriela Hirit and Millo Simulov. A few minutes before taking off to Mars, an astronaut receives a nostalgic immersive video from his girlfriend with a surprise twist.

PROGRAM #2

- ***Sanctuaries of Silence*** directed by Adam Loftin and Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee. Silence just might be on the verge of extinction. Acoustic ecologist Gordon Hempton believes that even the most remote corners of the globe are now impacted by noise pollution.
- ***VOLT: Chaos Gem*** directed by Hyun Suk Lee. The battle to claim a mysterious substance called 'Flux' begins, as does a struggle between one who is trying to do the right thing and another, trying to survive. Who will be victorious?

PROGRAM #3

- ***China - Mist over Beijing*** directed by Robert Michael Fox. Beijing's air pollution is linked to development of lung cancer in a Chinese doctor. Although it may appear too late to recover for the doctor, he holds steadfast to his faith in his son and his generation.
- ***Send Me Home*** directed by Cassandra Evanisko. A portrait of Rickey Jackson, one of the longest-serving exonerees in U.S. history, in his surreal new life post-prison.

PROGRAM #4

- ***The Other Life*** directed by Ibai Abad. After her boyfriend Alex's accidental death, Laia returns home and tries to leave behind what happened, but something in the house apparently doesn't want her to move on.
- ***Nosferatu VR*** directed by Samuel Ivaska. A surreal experience that takes place deep in the Carpathian Mountains in 1922. When the last vampire awakens, he will seek to prolong the magic of his immortality for another century through the blood of a virgin.

PROGRAM #5

- ***Isle of the Dead*** directed by Benjamin Nuel. Beginning in an everyday apartment, you will embark on a timeless journey guided by Charon, ferryman of the Underworld, towards your final destination.
- ***The Green Line*** directed by Loannis Bekiaris and Alexis Mavros. Enter one of the most restricted areas on the planet, the UN Buffer Zone in Cyprus...closed to civilians since 1974.
- ***Walking with Rhinos*** directed by David Booth Gardner. Join two powerful female conservationists as they trek from sunrise to sunset among the last population of white rhinos in Zimbabwe's majestic Matobo National Park.

- **1inchVR** directed by Nam Koong Seok and Kim Yong Hwan. Inspired by the novel *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils*, a young boy finds a mysterious crystal which shrinks him down to the size of an insect...only to discover humans are not equipped to be that small!

PROGRAM #6

- **Breaking Boundaries in Science** directed by Matt Haselton. Immerse yourself in the life and times of famous figures like Jane Goodall, Marie Curie, and Grace Hopper in a VR celebration of some of history's most influential women in STEM.

PROGRAM #7

- **7 Miracles** by Rodrigo Cerqueira. A stunningly immersive adaptation of the seven miracles of Jesus from *The Gospel of John*.

WORKSHOPS: THE MAKING OF VIRTUAL & AUGMENTED REALITY

VR 2.0 is upon us—making this a particularly exciting time to be in the VR space. Cinequest's VR & AR-Making Workshops will provide the “nuts and bolts” of the entire process of creating dynamic virtual and augmented reality experiences. Whether you're an emerging artist who's never dabbled in these realms, or a seasoned pro looking to hone your craft, these workshops will give you the tools to execute your vision.

- **The Unexpected Revival:** Past to the future—VR's long journey and the lessons learned. From pioneering the first 360 film to using the latest tools and equipment, discover how progress has made creating VR content easier.
- **VR and AR's Bright Future:** In a future where wearables explode digitized information over everyday objects, and VR experiences blend in real world objects, creatives can use AR and VR platforms to make art digitally anywhere—which can be played back in a fixed spatial location. How can immersive film and game industries take advantage of these platforms and prepare for developing successful content now?
- **VR Workflow:** Find out some of the top tips and tricks to making immersive 3D and 360 films. Review current cameras, their benefits and drawbacks, as well as leading software tools for content creation.
- **Effective Storytelling in VR:** Compelling storytelling is required for all mediums, and VR is no exception. Find out how to engage viewers more intensely and make the viewer part of the story (instead of a passive participant). Discuss how film and VR will overlap in the future.
- **Successful VR Business Models:** From funding to distribution, find out what makes successful VR applications and teams, and how to be profitable in the process. Discuss the uniqueness of modern VR with LBE (Location Based Experiences), tetherless 6DOF (six degrees of freedom), and how that opens huge new markets.

CINEQUEST 2019 VR AWARDS

Cinequest's highly sought-after virtual reality awards will be presented as part of the Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival's Closing Night festivities. Cinequest's 2019 Award Winners are:

- **BEST VR FILM**
 RocketMan 360
Directed by Gabriela Hirit / Millo Simulov
- **BEST IMMERSIVE**
 Eclipse
Directed by Jonathan Astruc and Aymeric Favre
- **BEST EXPERIENCE**
 Jurassic World VR Expedition
Directed by VRC
- **BEST GAME**
 Moss
Directed by Tam Armstrong, Danny Bulla, Chris Alderson, Polyarc
- **BEST PUZZLE GAME**
 Twilight Path
Directed by Derek Young, Charm Games
- **BEST SCI-FI VR**
 Volt: Chaos Gem
Directed by Hyun Suk Lee
- **BEST DOCUMENTARY/EMPATHY**
 Send Me Home
Directed by Cassandra Evanisko, Lonely Leap
- **BEST HORROR**
 Caliban Below
Directed by Blackthorn Media
- **BEST ANIMATION**
 1inchVR
Directed by Nam Koong Seok / Kim Yong Hwan, M2S Korea
- **BEST EDUCATIONAL**
 Breaking Boundaries in Science
Directed by Matt Haselton, Filament Games
- **BEST STUDENT**
 Blue Bird
Directed by Parnaz Rad
- **BEST VR DIRECTOR**
 Crow: The Legend VR
Directed by Eric Darnell

- **BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY**
Love Note
Directed by Guanlin Chen
- **BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN**
Re-Animated
Directed by Jakob Kudsk Steensen
- **BEST SOUND DESIGN**
Sanctuaries of Silence
Adam Lofton & Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee

About Cinequest

The story and legacy of Cinequest is bringing together the Silicon Valley's technologies and spirit of innovation with the arts to empower great creations—and connecting audiences, youth, artists, and innovators with these creations and with each other, improving our lives and our future. Cinequest's uniqueness and impact result from being ahead of the curve in the powerful integration of creativity and innovation. Cinequest does this through the Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival (Voted Best Film Festival by *USA Today* Readers) and Picture The Possibilities by Cinequest. Please watch [The Story of Cinequest](#) video.

Cinequest 2019 Partners:

Cinequest Partners: Applied Materials (NYSE: AMAT), HP (NYSE: HPQ), Kaiser Permanente, ZOOM, Bank of America (NYSE: BAC), Harmonic (NYSE: HLIT), Canon (NYSE: CAJ), IMDb an Amazon Company (AMZN), Seagate (NYSE: STX), Panasonic (OTCMKTS:PCRFY), Tito's Handmade Vodka, Google (NYSE: GOOG), Red Digital Cinema, Samsung, Hint Water, Kaleidescape, Comerica Incorporated (NYSE: CMA), Agile Ticketing Solutions, NBC Bay Area, Metro, El Observador, KQED, SF Media Co., Telemundo, Cinemark (NYSE: CNK), Fairmont San Jose, Marriott San Jose (NYSE: MAR), Hotel De Anza, Barco, VTA, Caltrain, SamTrans, Eddie Lira, SV Creates, San Jose Downtown Association, Team San Jose, and the City of San Jose.

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