

CINEQUEST™

create, innovate, empower

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CINEQUEST FILM & CREATIVITY FESTIVAL 2019 BAY AREA FILMS

The Bay Area has become a juicy hub of innovative filmmaking, and Cinequest is honored to support its local artists by featuring their masterful works at the 2019 Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival. This year's highly anticipated Bay Area film lineup will captivate audiences through complex dramas, thought-provoking documentaries, 14 dynamic short films across all genres, an engaging virtual reality experience voiced by John Legend, and stirring live events. Screenings and events will occur throughout the March 5th to 17th festival in San Jose and Redwood City, California.

Feature Films

Bring Me an Avocado (Drama)

Directed by Maria Mealla

Robin and George are a loving couple raising two lovely daughters. On Robin's birthday, the family's life is suddenly thrown in turmoil when Robin is shot by a robber. George desperately tries to maintain a normal life for the daughters, while Robin's sister, Greece, and best friend, Jada, step in to help. Everything runs smoothly for a while, but as the time goes by George's frustration—and a series of miscommunications—begin to complicate and sour relationships.

Lucky Fifty (Drama)

Directed by Pari Mathur

Two struggling young actors, Jay and Monica, are brought together by happenstance, and after finding \$50 on the street, they spend a day together loving life and forgetting their troubles. They share simpatico, yet the next day discover how far apart their current lives actually are.

Documentary

Circles

Directed by Cassidy Friedman

Eric Butler, a Hurricane Katrina survivor, settled in Oakland, California where he counsels vulnerable Black and Latino teenagers and facilitates grief circles to overcome the effects of homicide and violence in Bay Area schools. Butler nurtures these troubled youth and works to keep them in school. The film reaches a critical juncture when Eric's son is arrested and beaten in jail, and Eric begins to question his methods and his ability to function as a father.

The Edge of Success

Directed by Liza Meak and Kathryn Basiji

Since 2009, 11 high school students—in one of the most affluent and achievement-focused high schools in the world—have taken their own lives. *The Edge of Success* looks at the phenomenon, and why so many Palo Alto, CA teens find themselves on the edge. Told through intimate interviews with students, parents, teachers, and community members, this documentary shows the realities of being a teenager today, and the increasingly treacherous path to adulthood.

Short Films

The 17

Directed by Alyssa Carter

Based on a true story, a young and pregnant Salvadorian woman finds herself handcuffed to a hospital bed after losing her child to miscarriage.

Hook Up 2.0

Directed by Dana Nachman

A sorority girl figures out a way to eliminate all risk from the late-night ritual that is the college hook up. Now all she needs is to find a guy to test out her idea on... and with.

Your Friend

Directed by Anthony Nikolchev

A man isolated from society lives a simple life, until an update for predictive tech goes dangerously awry.

49 Mile Scenic Drive

Directed by Bradley Smith

This is the compelling and amusing story behind one of San Francisco's most visually-arresting signposts, and the design change that tarnished a legacy.

Bones

Directed by Paul Burke

An artist carves a piece of marble and contemplates the personal cost of bringing his work to life.

Shades

Directed by Casey Beck

A lively and diverse group of people discuss emojis and their feelings about the emoji-choices of others.

Swan

Directed by Jean-Philippe Dorbin

Enjoy a beautiful performance with dancer Duane Gosa of Ballet Trockadero.

When an Egg Meets a Tomato

Directed by Zheng Yuan

On a lonely night, a heartbroken man writes a poem about a tomato and egg.

My Mother, Myself, and I

Directed by King Yaw Soon

Four vignettes feature four mother-son moments...and one unspoken truth.

Love for Food

Directed by Raphael Mallari

An Asian immigrant uses food and technology to deal with being separated from her family.

In Our Heads

Directed by Madison Campione

Two lovable college students meet at a party and struggle to move on from relationships that are all "in their heads."

The Fringe Class

After clashing with her mother, teenaged Thena starts living with a pack of runaways who show her acceptance and love. But the choices she makes after bonding with Sabrina, (who's entangled with a Romeo pimp), force her to face the harsh realities of street life.

Lunch Lady

Directed by Matthew Riutta

When a lunch lady is bullied by a high school student, she takes matters into her own hands.

American Muscle

Directed by Nick Martinez

An overlooked driver exploits her brother's reputation in the underground world of drag racing to finally get a shot at proving herself in the street.

Virtual Reality

CROW; THE LEGEND (U.S. Premiere)

Directed by Eric Darnell

From an old American Indian legend, follow the story of a few early animals who are introduced to their first winter. They must now quickly change their lives in order to survive and bring back summer. Voiced by John Legend, Constance Wu (*Crazy Rich Asians*), Diego Luna (*Rogue One*), Oprah Winfrey, Liza Koshy (*Freakish*), and Tye Sheridan (*Ready Player One*).

Live Events

POETS N' FILM NIGHT

The Hammer Theatre, Thursday, March 7th at 7:15pm

Enjoy live poetry readings by masterful writers, including California Poet Laureate Dana Gioia, Kimy Martinez, Bill Cozzini, Robert Pesich, Venus Jones, SevenKelee Lucky 7 Boulton, Claire Hawkins, Lane Berger, and Santa Clara Poet Laureate Mighty Mike McGee.

Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival 2019 occurs March 5 – March 17, 2019 in San Jose and Redwood City (Silicon Valley).

Complete lineup, passes, and tickets at www.cinequest.org

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](#).

Cinequest 2019 Partners

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