

# CINEQUEST™

**create, innovate, empower**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **CINEQUEST FILM & VR FESTIVAL 2017 BAY AREA ARTISTS AND STORIES**

SAN JOSE, Calif. – January 25, 2017 – As a festival based and growing in San Jose and the San Francisco Bay Area, Cinequest is proud to present this year's incredible Bay Area film lineup with five feature films, seventeen short films, and twelve virtual reality experiences that aim to inspire and entertain all who watch. Screenings and events occur February 28 – March 12 in San Jose & Redwood City (Silicon Valley) at lavish venues.

### **Feature Films**

#### **Carrie Pilby**

*Director: Susan Johnson*

Bel Powly (*The Diary of a Teenage Girl*), Nathan Lane (*The Birdcage*), Vanessa Bayer (*Saturday Night Live*), and Gabriel Byrne (*The Usual Suspects*) traverse the landscape of life and love in this enchanting comedy. Based on the book by Caren Lissner, *Carrie Pilby* is a funny, tender look at why we're on the planet.

#### **Chee and T**

*Director: Tanuj Chopra*

Silicon Valley is a magical place where everyone has a successful career in technology, right? Wrong. Life is good for the two underachievers, Chee and T, until Uncle Rob tasks them with getting his nephew Mayunk ready for his engagement party. They think this'll be the easiest job of their careers, but soon discover that Mayunk is a nettlesome challenge Chee and T never saw coming.

#### **India in a Day**

*Director: Richie Mehta*

Produced by the Bay Area's own Google, *India in a Day* is an inspiring and uplifting journey as Google and executive producer Ridley Scott (*Alien*, *Blade Runner*) join forces to celebrate the culture, passion, and (1.3 billion) people of India.

### **Metamorphosis Junior Year (World Premiere)**

*Directors: Alec Cohen-Schisler, Arjan Mobin, Brandon Fu, Christina Polanen, Dylan Griffith, Juan Santos, Peter Gold, Sadie Fearon, Sam Cook*

Created by Palo Alto High School students, in collaboration with James Franco, *Metamorphosis Junior Year* is a beautiful coming-of-age tale that follows Ovid, an angst-ridden teenage boy trying to make sense of a perplexing vortex of life, love, sexuality, and friends.

### **The Valley (World Premiere)**

*Director: Saila Kariat*

Set in Palo Alto and pointing an unflinching mirror directly at our modern culture, director Saila Kariat's poignant and haunting *The Valley* addresses pressing issues about our values and humanity, through the story of a father's love as he tries to search for the hands that spilled the blood of his daughter.

## **Short Films**

### **Art of Courage (United States Premiere)**

*Directors: Kellee Marlow and Veronica Duport Deliz*

From San Francisco Directors Kellee Marlow and Veronica Duport Deliz, comes *Art of Courage*: a story about two internationally renowned artists who prepare their canvas for an aerial art exhibition during the International Climate Summit in the City of Light. When their plans change due to an unexpected, large-scale terrorist attack that suddenly paralyzes Paris, they are now challenged in how they will accomplish the vision that they set out for, in unifying and inspiring solidarity during the climate.

### **Coffee Virgin**

*Director: Hart Perez and Devon Perez*

Created by brothers Hart and Devon Perez from Alameda, California, *Coffee Virgin* explores the psychedelic experience of a young boy trying coffee for the first time.

### **Disaffected Youth (World Premiere)**

*Director: Patrick Mattes, San Jose State University*

A punk rock coming-of-age story about a young boy, Elvis, who idolizes his older brother, Tyler. Tyler seems like the perfect role model until he falls off the deep end into drug and sex addiction. Elvis must then figure out how to deal with his brother's descent, while at the same time try to become his own man.

### **It's Complicated**

*Director: Jade Graves*

In this animated love story with a surprising ending, San Jose's Jade Graves describes one relationship she just can't let go of.

### **The Final Show (World Premiere)**

*Director: Dana Nachman*

Director Dana Nachman, a Los Altos native, tells viewers the story of a woman who has lived a long life full of love and loss has to decide, based on all that she has learned, who to take along to eternity.

### **Notes from Buena Vista (World Premiere)**

*Director: Elizabeth Lo*

Presented by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, *Notes from Buena Vista* highlights the last working-class mobile home park in Palo Alto, the residences for 100 working class families.

### **The O-doring Orange**

*Director: Rebecca Uddin*

High school student director, Rebecca Uddin of Campbell, California brings us *The O-doring Orange* – a story of a girl's secret admirer and how she falls in love, even if it's not with who she expected it to be.

### **One**

*Director: Aaron Gove*

Hailing from Sunnyvale, California, Aaron Gove's *One* shares the story of one person's reaction to an intruder and how he is affected.

### **The Plunge**

*Director: Nicole Sim*

From De Anza College student, Nicole Sim, *The Plunge* is a story of a talented and dedicated swimmer who ironically finds herself struggling with getting into the water after having been sexually assaulted at the pool.

### **The QUARE in There**

*Director: Taryn Lee Crenshaw*

Set in Oakland, where the city is as much as a character as the participants themselves, the value of complexity and self-definition are the nexus for social transformation. With words, music, and eye-arresting style, TQIT pays homage to those who transcend the multiplicity of oppressions, taking charge in the telling of their own stories.

### **Real Artists (World Premiere)**

*Director: Cameo Wood*

Sophia, a young animator is offered what should be her dream job. But when she discovers the truth about the modern "creative" process, she must make a difficult choice about her passion for film. Set in an unsettling tomorrow, *Real Artists*, is the new sci-fi short film from the Bay Area's award-winning director/screenwriter Cameo Wood (*Dukha in Summer*), based on the short story by Ken Liu (*The Grace of Kings*).

### **Remembrance (World Premiere)**

*Director: Madison Campione*

A heart-pounding dramatic thriller from San Jose director Madison Campione, where a resourceful young woman uses her breakthrough memory recall technology to solve the mystery of her twin sister's disappearance.

### **Salvation (World Premiere)**

*Director: Jason Outenreath*

After Mariela, an undocumented Mexican immigrant is diagnosed with kidney failure, her daughter Jenni and husband Leo must safely smuggle her into Mexico in order for her to receive the dialysis treatments she needs for her survival. Director Jason Outenreath of San Rafael brings us a story of love and the importance of family.

## **swiPed**

*Director: David Chai*

Directed by San Jose State University's David Chai, swiPed explores just how much technology is affecting our world today. More connected than ever, but more distant by the day. Is humanity being swiped away?

## **Terroir (World Premiere)**

*Director: Christopher McGilvray*

Cupertino's Paul Draper is one of the world's most respected winemakers. This engaging documentary tracks the winemaking philosophy that is at the center of some of the world's most unique and cherished wine.

## **We Real Cool**

*Directors: Alec Cohen-Schisler and John Dai*

In this video adaptation of the poem, Palo Alto students Alec Cohen-Schisler and John Dai show us the stories of two different teenage boys and how their lives collide.

## **With Children (World Premiere)**

*Director: Lissette Feliciano*

Cecilia is a single mother living in San Francisco in 1978. Recently separated from her baby's father and living in a shelter, Cecilia is determined to provide a future for her newborn. When she attempts to buy a home, she quickly discovers the systemic barriers associated with her unmarried status.

## **Virtual Reality**

### **Asteroids!**

*Baobab Studios*

Mac and Cheez are back with their robot sidekick Peas, this time on a dangerous, deep space mission. Disaster strikes as they are attacked by teeth-gnashing space bugs careening asteroids.

### **Collisions**

*Jaunt VR*

Collisions, directed by artist/filmmaker Lynette Wallworth, is a virtual reality journey to the homeland of indigenous elder Nyarri Morgan and the Martu tribe in the remote Western Australian Pilbara desert. The Martu lived largely untouched by Western culture until the 1960's.

### **Dear Angelica**

*Oculus Story Studio*

*Dear Angelica* takes viewers on a journey through the magical and dreamlike ways we remember our loved ones. Entirely painted by hand inside of VR, *Dear Angelica* plays out in a series of memories that unfold around you. An immersive, illustrative short story starring Geena Davis and Mae Whitman.

## **Eagle Flight**

*Ubisoft Games*

VR Eagle Flight sends you to the skies of Paris to experience the freedom of flying like never before! As an eagle, you soar past iconic landmarks and dive through narrow streets in order to fight opponents and protect your territory.

## **Experience Reggie Watts Live in AltspaceVR**

*Altspace VR*

Comedian, beatboxer, and musician Reggie Watts performed in AltspaceVR and set the world record for most people in VR.

## **Found**

*Found VR*

Found is an interactive short film experience whose story speaks to the connection and lack thereof between nature, technology and fellow travelers as you make your way through a fantastical yet familiar world.

## **Google Earth VR**

Explore the world from totally new perspectives. Stroll the streets of Tokyo, soar over Yosemite, or teleport across the globe.

## **Pearl**

*Google Spotlight Stories*

Set inside their home, a beloved hatchback, Pearl follows a girl and her dad as they crisscross the country chasing their dreams. It's a story about the gifts we hand down and their power to carry love. And finding grace in the unlikeliest of places.

## **Special Delivery**

*Google Spotlight Stories*

Find yourself following the adventures of a humble caretaker, who is disturbed by a mysterious stranger on the roof. Who's there? And the chase begins... room to room... up and down... somehow, mysteriously, just out of sight. But the elusive stranger is always one step ahead, leaving behind only a trail of gifts...

## **A Tango with San Francisco**

*360 Pro Films*

Pascal Molat spent 14 years as a principal dancer at the San Francisco Ballet. Join him for one final act as he tells you about his love and life in San Francisco.

## **Tiltbrush**

*Google Tiltbrush*

Paint life-size three-dimensional brush strokes, stars, light, and even fire. Experience painting as you have never before.

## **Travel Around the World in 15 Minutes**

*Ascape*

Enjoy unreal 360° videos, scenic virtual tours, and superb visual content. Tilt your smartphone around to look in any direction. Have a journey to the parts of the world that you've never been!

**Cinequest Film and Virtual Reality Festival 2017 will occur February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup> in San Jose and Redwood City (Silicon Valley).**

Join us for Maverick Spirit events with Jane Lynch (*Glee*) and Jason Reitman (*Juno*); 129 World and U.S. Premiere Films (featuring stars like Amanda Seyfried, Shirley MacLaine, Jessica Chastain, Oscar Isaac, Nathan Lane, James Franco, Ben Mendelsohn, Michiel Huisman, Sir Ben Kingsley, Michelle Rodriguez, Sigourney Weaver, Rooney Mara, and Christian Bale); 800+ presenting artists and innovators; spectacular virtual reality experiences; and fabulous celebrations. Complete lineup, passes, and tickets at [www.cinequest.org](http://www.cinequest.org)

**About Cinequest**

A vanguard organization set in the Silicon Valley, Cinequest's uniqueness and impact result from being ahead of the curve in the powerful integration of creativity and technology. Cinequest fuses the world of the filmed arts with that of Silicon Valley's innovation to empower youth, artists, and innovators to create and connect – driving transformations and a better tomorrow. Cinequest does this through Cinequest Film & VR Festival, Picture The Possibilities (PTP), and its sister company Cinequest Mavericks Studio. (Voted **Best Film Festival** by *USA Today* Readers.)

Cinequest 2017 Partners: Applied Materials (NYSE: AMAT), Kaiser Permanente, Harmonic (NYSE: HLIT), Unity Technologies, Canon (NYSE: CAJ), IMDb an Amazon Company (AMZN), Panasonic (OTCMKTS:PCRFY), Stella Artois (NYSE: AHBIF), Tito's Handmade Vodka, Google (NYSE: GOOG), AMD Radeon (NYSE: AMD), RED, Samsung (KSE:KS005935), Hint Water, Comerica Incorporated (NYSE: CMA), Agile Ticketing Solutions, NBC Bay Area, Metro, KQED, SF Media Co., Telemundo, Cinemark (NYSE: CNK), Fairmont San Jose (NYSE: FHR), Hyatt Place San Jose Downtown (NYSE: H), Hilton San Jose (NYSE: HLT), Marriott San Jose (NYSE: MAR), Hotel De Anza, Wiivv, Barco (EBR:BAR), VTA, Caltrain, SamTrans, Eddie Lira, SV Creates, San Jose Downtown Association, Team San Jose, and the City of San Jose

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