Circuit Arts presents
THE 24th ANNUAL
MARTHA'S
VINEYARD
FILM FESTIVAL
MARCH 20-24, 2024











# THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD FILM FESTIVAL

# FILMS A-Z

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 10 AM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE SUNDAY, MARCH 24 | 10 AM | THE GRANGE HALL



#### **76 DAYS**

Dir. Joe Wein Documentary | U.S.A. | 2024 | 1 hr. 47 min.

Followed by a discussion with executive producer Robert Sennott and film subject Steven Callahan

On February 4, 1982, a whale collided with Steven Callahan's boat when he was just days into a solo voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. He was forced to abandon ship, without food or water, and spent more than two and a half months drifting over 1,800 miles in an inflatable raft. A tale of survival, invention, resilience, and seamanship, this gripping film is based on Callahan's bestselling book, Adrift: 76 Days Lost at Sea, and brings his remarkable experience to life by interweaving found 8mm footage with first-person recreation as he takes us, moment by harrowing moment, through his life-altering adventure.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 12:30 PM | STRAND THEATRE SUNDAY, MARCH 24 | 1:15 PM | THE GRANGE HALL



#### THE BODY POLITIC

Dir. Gabriel Francis Paz Goodenough Documentary | U.S.A. | 2023 | 1 hr. 30 min.

Followed by a discussion with director and producer Gabriel Francis Paz Goodenough and film subjects Erricka Bridgeford and Dante Johnson

The youngest mayor in Baltimore's history, Brandon Scott was elected in 2020, at age 36. Determined and passionate, he takes bold steps to confront chronic violence. Against the backdrop of nationwide unrest following the murder of George Floyd, this film follows Scott's mayoral campaign and first year in office, as he unveils an ambitious plan to lower his city's murder rate. When opposition mounts, his political future is put in jeopardy. Will his holistic approach lead to healing and serve as a blueprint for the rest of the nation?

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 | 4:15 PM | THE GRANGE HALL SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 3:15 PM | STRAND THEATRE



#### **ÀMA GLORIA**

Dir. Marie Amachoukeli Drama | France | 2023 | 1 hr. 23 min. | Kabuverdianu and French with English subtitles

Cléo, a six-year-old French girl, adores her nanny, Gloria. When Gloria must return to Cape Verde to care for her own children, Cléo is allowed to travel to the West African country and spend a last summer with her. Layered by issues of race, class, culture, and colonialism, this film delicately portrays both the plight of migrant women and the complex emotions of a child struggling to bid farewell to the person she loves and regards as mother.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 | 1:30 PM | THE GRANGE HALL SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 5 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE



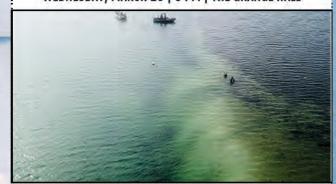
#### **CALL ME DANCER**

Dirs. Pip Gilmour and Leslie Shampaine Documentary | U.S.A. | 2023 | 1 hr. 24 min. | English and Hindi with English subtitles

Followed by a discussion with film subject Manish Chauhan

Manish, a street dancer from Mumbai, struggles against his working-class parents' insistence that he follow a traditional path. When he secretly attends an inner-city dance school he meets Yehuda, a curmudgeonly 70-year-old Israeli ballet master who recognizes the young man's talent and helps him realize his dream to be a professional dancer. This inspiring film has already won fifteen awards. Its MVFF '24 screenings are sponsored by Monina von Opel and Edward Miller.

#### OPENING-NIGHT PREMIERE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 | 6 PM | THE GRANGE HALL



#### **GREAT PONDS:** FINDING A BETTER BALANCE

Dir. Ollie Becker Documentary | U.S.A. | 2023 | 40 min.

Join us for the premiere of the second episode of Circuit Films' *Great Ponds* series. This film documents the continuing efforts to combat the effects of climate change and nitrogen pollution in Martha's Vineyard's coastal ponds, and urges public action to reduce carbon and nitrogen footprints.

Followed by a discussion with director Ollie Becker, Vineyard Conservation Society executive director Samantha Look, Great Pond Foundation executive director Emily Reddington, and others

A reception with refreshments will follow. Tickets for this MVFF '24 opening-night screening are \$125 each, and proceeds will support the continuation of this environmental docuseries.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 7:30 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE SUNDAY, MARCH 24 | 7 PM | THE GRANGE HALL



#### BABES

Dir. Pamela Adlon Comedy | U.S.A. | 2024 | 1 hr. 49 min.

After becoming pregnant from a one-night stand, aggressively single Eden (Ilana Glazer) leans on her married best friend and mother of two, Dawn (Michelle Buteau), to guide her through gestation and beyond. The feature directorial debut of Pamela Adlon, creator and star of the television series Better Things, this smart comedy was co-written and produced by Glazer, a creator and star of the series Broad City. Oliver Platt, Sandra Bernhard, Hasan Minhaj, John Carroll Lynch, and the Lucas Brothers are among the supporting cast.

# SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 1 PM



#### **DOCUMENTARY SHORTS**

1 hr. 1 min.

Followed by a discussion with director Andrew Nadkarni and producer Minoo Allen

Between Earth and Sky
Dir. Andrew Nadkarni | Documentary | U.S.A. | 2023 | 25 min.

Seeds of Change
Dir. Maximilian Armstrong | Documentary | U.S.A. | 2023 | 26 min.

Winding Path

Dirs. Alexandra Lazarowich and Ross Kauffman | Documentary | U.S.A. | 2023 | 10 min.

Each of these short documentary films provides unique insight into the transformative power of nature. Through compelling and heartfelt stories, they illuminate the essential relationship between people and the environments in which they live.

# THURSDAY, MARCH 21 | 7 PM MARTHA'S VINEYARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



#### THE FORGOTTEN KINGDOM

General-admission tickets for this special MVFF '24 performance are \$25, and \$15 for students and faculty of the Martha's Vineyard public schools

A tale woven through dreamlike sand animation, narration blending memoir and poetry, and a riveting musical score reframing Ottoman Jewish women's song, this show by the Guy Mendilow Ensemble renders a mother's letter to her daughter, bringing to life the vibrant Mediterranean world that existed before wars splintered the Ottoman Empire. Its music draws on Tango, Arabic percussion, and vocal harmonies layered on Western classical music's harmonic roots. The ensemble is a cutting-edge, international group of Boston and New York-based musicians, composers, visual artists, writers, and theatrical designers which produces live, original multimedia performances that explore the choices people make in times of personal or societal upheaval.

# FRIDAY, MARCH 22 | 4:45 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE SUNDAY, MARCH 24 | 3:30 PM | STRAND THEATRE



#### IRFIIN

Dir. Benjamin Ree Documentary | Norway | 2024 | 1 hr. 41 min. | Norwegian with English subtitles

The winner of directing and audience awards at this year's Sundance Film Festival, this film is the tale of Mats Steen, a young Norwegian gamer who died from a degenerative muscular disease at age 25. His parents mourned what they thought had been a lonely, isolated life—until they started receiving messages from his global network of online friends. Through a blend of reconstructed animated gameplay and interviews, Ree creates a vivid portrait of Ibelin, Steen's avatar within the World of Warcraft community, illustrating how Steen was able to transcend the limits of the physical world.

# SUNDAY, MARCH 24 | 6:30 PM



#### THE MONKEY HOUSE

Dir. Avi Nesher Comedy / Drama | Israel / Italy | 2023 | 2 hrs. 1 min. Hebrew and Italian with English subtitles

In this witty literary thriller set in the 1980s and nominated for eleven Israeli Film Academy awards, a formerly bestselling novelist, Amitay Kariv (top Israeli standup comedian Adir Miller), makes a desperate bid to reignite his career and win the affection of a childhood love. He devises an audacious scam, enlisting a daring actress and training her to assume the somber identity of a graduate student. The narrative takes a wide turn, swinging from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Rome, and back, when a young documentary director arrives to make a film about the discrepancy between Israeli and Palestinian authors.

# FRIDAY, MARCH 22 | 7:30 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 8 PM | THE GRANGE HALL



#### GHOSTLIGHT

Dirs. Kelly O'Sullivan and Alex Thompson Drama / Comedy | U.S.A. | 2024 | 1 hr. 55 min.

Dan, a melancholic, middle-aged Chicago construction worker, is grieving a family tragedy. Disconnected from his wife Sharon and fiery teenage daughter Daisy, he falls in with a troupe of charming, quirky misfits when he unexpectedly joins a community production of the Shakespeare play *Romeo and Juliet*. He doesn't believe in therapy, but in the process of rehearsing and acting he confronts his personal loss and grief. This moving film, by the duo who created the award-winning indie favorite *Saint Frances*, is a tribute to the healing power of art and the magic of theater.

# SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 1 PM | THE GRANGE HALL SUNDAY, MARCH 24 | 12:45 PM | STRAND THEATRE



#### **INTERPRETERS WANTED**

Dir. Robert Ham Documentary | U.S.A. | 2023 | 1 hr. 23 min. | English and Pashto with English subtitles

Followed by a discussion with director Robert Ham and film subject Ismail Haqmal

Saifullah Haqmal and his brother Ismail, educated Afghans turned interpreters for the U.S. military, form a lasting bond with American soldier Robert Ham. When his deployment in their country ends, they remain, facing increasing threats from the Taliban. Desperate for Special Immigrant Visa approval from the U.S., they endure years of perilous waiting while communicating urgently with Robert. This film tells their story, from the Soviet-Afghan war in their youth, to Ismail's final daring mission to escape as U.S. forces withdrew from Afghanistan in 2021.

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 22 | 5 PM | STRAND THEATRE SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 10:15 AM | THE GRANGE HALL



#### NAME ME LAWAND

Dir. Edward Lovelace Documentary | U.K. | 2022 | 1 hr. 31 min. | Kurdish, British Sign Language, and English with English subtitles

Followed by a prerecorded discussion, via Zoom, with director Edward Lovelace

Lawand, a young Kurdish boy, has been deaf since birth. After he and his family make a treacherous journey and spend a year in a French refugee camp, a deaf volunteer helps bring them to the English city of Derby, where Lawand joins the Royal School for the Deaf. As he grows older, the film follows his dramatic progress learning British Sign Language, revealing a bright, charismatic, and inquisitive child who discovers friendship and a new way to express himself.

# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 | 6 PM | THE GRANGE HALL SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 3:15 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE



#### **GREAT PONDS:** FINDING A BETTER BALANCE

Dir. Ollie Becker | Documentary | U.S.A. | 2023 | 40 min.

Followed by a discussion with director Ollie Becker, Vineyard Conservation Society executive director Samantha Look, Great Pond Foundation executive director Emily Reddington, and others

In the second episode of Circuit Films' *Great Ponds* docuseries, Martha's Vineyard's coastal ponds continue to be adversely affected by the rising sea-level and temperatures of climate change, and an influx of nitrogen from septic systems and landscaping runoff. In response, the Great Pond Foundation, the Vineyard Conservation Society, the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group, the Wampanoag Environmental Laboratory, and others make vital and cooperative efforts to revive the herring, shellfish, and eelgrass populations.

# FRIDAY, MARCH 22 | 7 PM | THE GRANGE HALL SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 8 PM | STRAND THEATRE



#### **LUTHER: NEVER TOO MUCH**

Dir. Dawn Porter Documentary | U.K. / U.S.A. | 2024 | 1 hr. 41 min.

Followed by a discussion with director Dawn Porter

American soul and R&B singer, songwriter, and record producer Luther Vandross started out as a backing vocalist for everyone from Diana Ross and Stevie Wonder to David Bowie and Bette Midler. In his solo career, he had many hits and sold over forty million records worldwide. Celebrating his life and work while also revealing his personal struggles, this is the latest film by documentarian par excellence Dawn Porter (*The Lady Bird Diaries*). It includes testimonials from Dionne Warwick, Jamie Foxx, Roberta Flack, Clive Davis, and Mariah Carey.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 10 AM STRAND THEATRE



#### **NARRATIVE SHORTS**

39 min.

Dir. Jonathan Thomas Coleman | Comedy | U.S.A. | 2023 | 9 min.
The Masterpiece

Dir. Alex Lora Cercos | Drama | Spain | 2024 | 20 min. What's Up with the Sky?

Dir. Irene Iborra | Animation | Spain | 2022 | 10 min.

This short-film program explores human connection in a variety of contexts. From comedic exchanges between an older homeowner and younger homebuyers, to addressing climate change through lighthearted animation, all of these films underscore the importance of empathy in navigating life's challenges and differences. Two also won awards at this year's Sundance Film Festival, including the jury prize for best short film.

# SUNDAY, MARCH 24 | 10 AM



#### THE OLD OAK

Dir. Ken Loach Drama | U.K. / Belgium / France | 2023 | 1 hr. 53 min. English and Arabic with English subtitles

In 2016, the year of Brexit, desperation and resentment have overtaken a village in the northeast of England. When Syrian refugee families arrive in the former coal mining community, xenophobia rears its head at the Old Oak, the local pub where the regulars drink and vent, but its owner becomes friendly with one of the newcomers and they devise a plan to bring everyone together. A plea for compassion and solidarity in times of division and strife, this is the latest film by the acclaimed director of the British social realist dramas *I*, *Daniel Blake* and *Sorry We Missed You*.

# FRIDAY, MARCH 22 | 7:30 PM | STRAND THEATRE SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 3:30 PM | THE GRANGE HALL



#### A SECRET SCREENING

1 hr. 40 min.

Followed by a discussion, via Zoom, with one of the film's directors

Join us for a death-defying documentary film you won't forget!

# SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 6:30 PM



#### A TATTOO ON MY BRAIN

Dirs. Kate Davis and David Heilbroner Documentary | U.S.A. | 2023 | 32 min.

Followed by a discussion with directors Kate Davis and David Heilbroner

In 2006, neurologist Daniel Gibbs first noticed early signs of Alzheimer's disease in himself. This documentary, based on his book of the same name, details how he transitioned from healer to patient when he detected these changes in his own cognitive health. Meticulously monitoring his mental state, he illustrates how individuals can potentially mitigate memory loss and embrace the profound joy of living, even in the face of this challenging condition.

# SATURDAY, MARCH 23 | 5:30 PM



#### **TUESDAY**

Dir. Daina Oniunas-Pusić Fantasy | U.K. / U.S.A. | 2023 | 1 hr. 51 min. | Rated R

In this fantastical feature directorial debut, a terminally ill teen, Tuesday (Lola Petticrew), is bedridden in London, mostly attended by a nurse because Zora, her single mother (Julia Louis-Dreyfus), is off in the park, avoiding reality. But when Death finally comes calling, in the form of a shapeshifting, talking parrot, it leads them on a wild, strange adventure. A contemporary fairytale, this film is a heartrending yet playful exploration of the ways people confront mortality and grief.

# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 | 4 PM THE GRANGE HALL



#### **UNDERWATER PROJECTS**

Dirs. dream hampton and Liz Havstad Documentary | U.S.A. | 2024 | 28 min.

Followed by a discussion with co-director dream hampton

Home to the world's largest naval base, Norfolk, Virginia, is sinking. It is more vulnerable than even New Orleans. The insufficient flood walls end where a housing project and a historic African American community begins. This film mixes animation with live action, to profile the area's local leaders as they rush to create climate resilience plans while facing an uncertain future.

# SUNDAY, MARCH 24 | 4:15 PM



#### **VINEYARD SHORTS**

30 min.

Followed by a discussion with directors J. Michael Hayes and Zack O'Connor, director of photography Emerson Mahoney, and film subject Alex Palmer

Golf Ball Guy

Dir. Simon Werdmüller von Elgg | Documentary | U.S.A. | 2024 | 9 min.

Submerge

Dir. J. Michael Hayes | Fantasy | U.S.A. | 2024 | 6 min. White Nose

Dir. Zack O'Connor | Documentary | U.S.A. | 2024 | 11 min.

This program's three thought-provoking short films showcase the diverse voices and creativity of Martha's Vineyard's filmmaking community.

# To purchase tickets and passes, visit tmvff.org or scan



We believe the arts should be accessible for everyone, so almost all of our tickets are pay-what-you-can!



# THERE'S MORE THAN MOVIES AT

# THEGRANGEHALL

The Grange Hall is once again MVFF headquarters, and this year we're excited to partner with chef Nina Levin of Stoney Hill Pizza. She will be serving up lunch and dinner Friday to Sunday, and bringing her new pastry trailer, Ophelia's, for those with a sweet tooth. Live music will add to the conviviality during dinner, and we are also offering a drop-in animation workshop and photo booth!

# DROP-IN ANIMATION WORKSHOP



Join Circuit Arts
Filmmaker and Creative
Director Danielle
Mulcahy for a directanimation workshop,
using 16mm film, at the
Grange Hall from 12 PM
to 1 PM on Saturday and
Sunday, March 23 and 24.
No experience is
necessary.



### **MUSIC AND MORE**

Enjoy live music during dinners, and take photos with Ike's Atomic Photo Booth, all weekend long!

Friday: David Stanwood 5:45-7 PM

Saturday: The MVRHS Jazz Trio 5:30-6:30 PM

Sunday: David Stanwood 5:45-7 PM

# LUNCH



### Friday 3/22 12-1:30 PM

LOCAL HOT DOG BAR
Nip 'n' Tuck beef hot dogs
Japanese milk bread buns
assorted toppings
winter potato salad
Beetlebung Farm greens salad

\*Gluten-free bread available\* \$22

#### Saturday 3/23 12-1 PM

#### ITALIAN HOAGIES

cut-to-order Italian sandwiches (veggie or meat) Italian chopped salad fresh chips \$21

#### Sunday 3/24 12-1:15 PM

CHICKEN OR VEGGIE POZOLE Mexican stew and all the fixings

# DINNER



#### Friday 3/22 5:45-7 PM

#### **CRISPY CHICKEN KATSU**

steamed rice and quick pickles
\*Gluten-free/veggie option available\*
\$22

#### Saturday 3/23 5:30-6:30 PM

#### LASAGNA

layered pork with bechamel frisée salad \*Gluten-free/veggie option available\* \$24

# Sunday 3/24 5:45-7 PM

#### **BEEF STEW**

buttery mashed potatoes gremolata bitter greens salad \$25

# **OPHELIA'S DESSERTS**



#### Available All Weekend

**Oatmeal Cream Pie** 

\$7

**Chocolate Chip Cookie** 

\$5

Jelly Roll Cake Slice

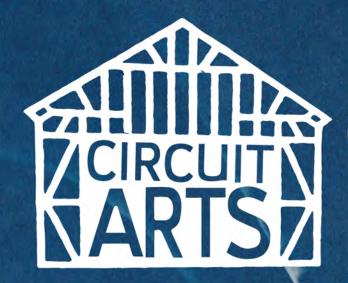
\$10

Sea Salt Brownie

¢7

**Peanut Butter Bonbons** 

\$8



Circuit Arts is dedicated to building community through accessible, meaningful, and diverse film and performing arts experiences, year round and Islandwide

# IT IS THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD FILM FESTIVAL AND...



## YEAR-ROUND EVENTS AT THE GRANGE HALL

We have film, theater, and music events all year long at our newly renovated theater upstairs at the historic Grange Hall in West Tisbury. You can also rent the theater for your own movie night or party.



# CIRCUIT FILMS

We create engaging and authentic films about and for our community, and produce original documentaries as well as marketing and fundraising videos for dozens of Island nonprofit organizations and businesses.



# CIRCUIT STAGE

We produce theater and music events at the Grange Hall and around the Island. This year we are presenting a music series, commissioning readings of two original plays, producing three theatrical shows, and hosting improv and comedy nights.



# THE VINEYARD'S DRIVE-IN AT THE YMCA

In conjunction with the YMCA of Martha's Vineyard, we created the Island's only current drive-in. Now entering our fifth season, we play classics and family films for all to enjoy. All proceeds from these pay-what-you-can screenings support both nonprofit organizations.



# PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Each winter and spring we teach filmmaking in every Island school, creating 13 short films. During the summer we produce the fun, inclusive Martha's Vineyard Children's Theater Camp and Cinema Circus—both immersive experiences for the littlest among us.

DONATE TODAY TO SUPPORT CIRCUIT ARTS AND HELP CONNECT COMMUNITY AND CULTURE





# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS







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COFFEE



DESIGNED WITH LOVE























THE SWEET LIFE

Additional funding for the Martha's Vineyard Film Festival is provided by

