

2026

JAN 23rd
TO
FEB 1st

10th
ANNUAL

Chandler International Film Festival



WWW.CHANDLERFILMFESTIVAL.COM

WELCOME TO 10th ANNUAL CHANDLER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



Get ready, Arizona! CIFF is back—and bigger than ever! This year, we're taking the magic of cinema to three incredible cities: Chandler, Gilbert, and Tempe, with screenings at Pollack Cinemas, Regal Gilbert, and Chandler-Gilbert Community College. Over ten unforgettable days, experience a whirlwind of captivating films, thought-provoking documentaries, and award-winning screenplays from talented filmmakers around the globe.

Every day brings something new: exclusive Q&A sessions with directors and stars, hands-on workshops, and exciting events that put you right in the heart of the action. After the screens go dark, join us for lively after-parties at some of the Valley's most vibrant venues—because the festival doesn't stop at the cinema doors!

Don't miss your chance to be part of the action—walk the red carpet, rub shoulders with filmmakers, and immerse yourself in the ultimate cinematic experience. We can't wait to see you in Chandler, Gilbert, and Tempe!

At CIFF, we celebrate the power of storytelling to inspire, entertain, and connect communities. Whether you're a die-hard cinephile, a curious first-timer, or a filmmaker chasing your next big idea, there's something here for everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitesh Patel".

Mitesh Patel
Founder & Festival Director

OUR TEAM



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Friday, January 23th, 2026

6:00
PM

HOLLYWOOD *Style* Red Carpet

Pollack Cinemas | 1825 E Elliot Rd, Tempe, AZ 85284

Come one, Come all! Join us as we kick off the 10th annual Chandler International Film Festival

To open the festival we welcome you to walk the red carpet, get flashed by the paparazzi and become a "Hollywood Star" for an evening! This is your opportunity to meet and greet with filmmakers, actors, and all who support the film industry. Thank you to all!

Please wear your best formal wear.

8:00
PM

Lo Que Dice El Corazon (Feature Film)

Starring: Lorena E. Gonzalez, Jaime Aymerich, Sergio Valenzuela, Roberto Sosa, Veronica Montes, Jeff Fahey, Axel Ricco, Sonia Couoh

Directed by Rene Bueno | Run Time: 01:45:00, Mexico

For Tomás, nothing is more important than his son Kevin, a 12-year-old boy who sees the world in a unique way. His mother abandoned him shortly after he was born, unable to understand why her baby didn't respond like other children. The truth is that Kevin is autistic, and although caring for him has been an overwhelming responsibility for Tomás, it has also become his greatest reason for living.

Aware that his time is running out due to a terminal illness, Tomás faces his greatest fear: leaving Kevin alone in a world that may not understand him. But his son has a special gift: when he places his ear on someone's chest, he can feel the true essence of their soul. And now, more than ever, he will need that ability to find someone who can protect him when his father is no longer there.



10:00
PM

After Party @ Philly's Sports Grill

1805 E Elliot Rd Unit 105, Tempe, AZ 85284

Once the opening night feature film is complete the night is not over!

Please join us at Philly's Sports Grill for food, beverages and to meet some of the cast and crew.



Saturday, January 24th, 2026

8:00 AM

Coffee Connections

Great Harvest Bread Co.
1730 East Warner Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



Great Harvest Bread Co.

Join us for a delightful morning filled with coffee and meaningful connections! This event is specially curated for filmmakers like you to come together, share experiences, and build lasting connections within the vibrant filmmaking community. Exchange contact information, discuss potential collaborations, and leave with a network of like-minded filmmakers.

10:00 AM

Workshop - From Script to Screen

Pollack Cinemas
1825 East Elliot Road Tempe,
AZ 85284 United States



The AI Creative Pipeline" - PJ Way

This hands-on workshop demystifies artificial intelligence for traditional filmmakers, demonstrating how AI tools can enhance every stage of the creative process without replacing human vision. Participants will explore the complete filmmaking pipeline from initial concept development and scriptwriting through production design, sound creation, and post-production using accessible AI platforms like ChatGPT, Midjourney, Suno, and Runway ML.

Rather than theoretical discussion, this session emphasizes practical application: attendees will leave with exposure to AI-generated assets and materials they created themselves. Designed specifically for the Chandler International Film Festival, this workshop bridges the gap between traditional craft and emerging technology, empowering filmmakers to leverage AI as a collaborative tool that amplifies creativity while maintaining artistic control.

12:00 PM

Best AI Short Films

Pollack Cinemas
1825 East Elliot Road Tempe,
AZ 85284 United States



When the Emergency Alert Came

Ji-min, a journalist with five years of experience at a Korean news agency, boards a flight from Busan to Seoul. Just as the aircraft lifts off, a nationwide emergency alert suddenly appears on every passenger's phone. Cut off from all networks in midair, fear and confusion spread as passengers clash over what the message means. Even the captain hesitates between continuing or turning back. As tension builds inside the isolated cabin, Ji-min tries to restore order among the increasingly panicked crowd.

Premiere Status : US Premiere
Director : Taejin Ahn
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 16 minutes 0 seconds
Location : South Korea



Railbound

Railbound is a poetic film built directly from the photographs of the prolific American photographer, Mike Brodie. The film pushes the boundaries of generative AI, indistinguishable from live action footage. Told through the reflective voice of a father chasing the memory of motion — a youth spent riding the rails, living between places, before the world ever decided who he was.

Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : Jonathan Perry
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 10 minutes 0 seconds
Location : United States



Evil Mask

In 1920, a boy loses his parents and his sight to the demon Oni, brought into Joseon by the Japanese army to erase the nation's spirit. Years later, he is granted power by the gods of Joseon and becomes a blind shamanic sculptor, carving the forms of demons that emerge from the darkness with his fingertips. As folk faith is trampled, he prepares a final resistance — sealing the Oni through sacred masks. Though he loses everything, the solidarity of the people and the united strength of shamans across the land lead him to complete the ultimate ritual of Ak-tal, risking his life in a last exorcising ceremony for Joseon's fate.

Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : Wonjin Kim
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 14 minutes 30 seconds,
Location : South Korea

Saturday, January 24th, 2026

12:00
PM

Best AI Short Films



Pollack Cinemas
1825 East Elliot Road Tempe,
AZ 85284 United States



What Remains

What Remains is an apocalyptic mockumentary set in a dystopian near-future, constructing a stark portrait of the civilizational crisis unfolding in our world today. It is the present on the brink, where climate collapse, technological obsession, and social indifference converge in a scenario of self-destruction, all under the clinical gaze of an artificial intelligence documenting the process. Yet in the silence that follows the ruin, a fragile glimmer of hope emerges from the cracks of the system.

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere
Director : Vadim Lasca
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 7 minutes 16 seconds
Location : United States / Venezuela



August 32nd

Sejin, a boy on the verge of adolescence, is taken by his mother to spend the summer at his grandmother's secluded mountain home. In the languid stillness of the countryside, time seems to stretch without end—until a girl named Heemin suddenly steps into his world.

Premiere Status : North America Premiere
Director : Yunbin AN
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 15 minutes 0 seconds
Location : South Korea

12:15
PM

Feature Film



Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284, United States



I've Seen All I Need To See

Starring: Renee Gagner, Rosie McDonald, John R. Smith Jr., Nick Samson, Sydney McCarthy

After the sudden and violent death of her estranged sister, an actor leaves Los Angeles and returns to her hometown in search of answers.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Zeshaan Younus
Film Type : Feature Film
Run Time : 01:23:56
Location : United States

1:55
PM

Best Drama Short Films Block A



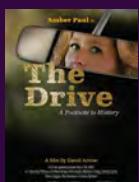
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Tempe, AZ 85284, United States



Echoes of Us

Echoes of Us is a short narrative fiction film that highlights the global issue of emotional neglect towards women in relationships. After the sudden loss of his wife (Iulia Vantur) , a man (Deepak Tijori) wanders the remains of a life once shared. As memory rises from silence, he must face not only his grief, but the love he overlooked, and the echoes of a woman left unheard.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Joe Rajan
Film Type : Drama Short Film
Run Time : 20 minutes 0 seconds
Location : India



The Drive

It's a warm November day in the early 1960s and Liz has just picked up the kids for her weekly carpool. Little does she know that this will be a drive she'll never forget.

Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : David Arrow
Film Type : Drama Short Film
Run Time : 12 minutes 21 seconds
Location : United States

1:55
PM

Best Drama Short Films Block A



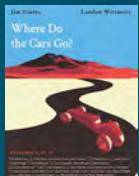
Too Late

Late at night, young Michael escapes to the rooftop, fleeing his parents' fierce arguments. There, he meets Ginny, a little girl who knows too well what family conflict feels like. While Michael finds shelter in Ginny's company, the storm downstairs is only beginning to escalate. Without giving too much away — the turning point comes at the very end, and brings the emotional or moral message full circle.



Maryjane Is One Word

A young adopted woman meets her biological mother for the first time.



Where Do The Cars Go?

When his favorite toy breaks, a child asks an old traveler his first existential question, sparking unexpected discovery.



You Don't Know What You're Talking About

A poet begins to question his decision to perform at an open mic when he is unexpectedly joined by the woman he's been (kind of) seeing.

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Tempe, AZ 85284, United States

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Artur Matveev
Film Type : Drama Short Film
Run Time : 15 minutes 0 seconds
Location : United States

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : John Liang
Film Type : Drama Short Film
Run Time : 12 minutes 46 seconds
Location : United States

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere

Director : David Margulis / Louis Giaquinto
Film Type : Drama Short Film
Run Time : 4 minutes 38 seconds
Location : United States

Premiere Status : US Premiere

Director : Darius Quinn
Film Type : Drama Short Film
Run Time : 13 minutes 8 seconds
Location : United States

2:30
PM

Feature Film

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284, United States



Looking at Madness

Starring: Christina Pinciotti, Kyle Dal Santo, Eve Moyar

A theatre actress in Chicago struggles due to the pressures of her career goals and deteriorating mental health.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Robby Brumfield
Film Type : Feature Film
Run Time : 01:20:00
Location : United States

4:00
PM

Best Comedy Short Films

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284, United States



Hail Mary

Two clueless best friends pose as priests to cash in on a desperate family's plea for an exorcism, only to find themselves in way over their heads when the possessed girl might actually be the real deal.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Zachary Fields, Carter Evan Coleman, Dylan Stanley
Film Type : Comedy Short Films
Run Time : 8 minutes 12 seconds
Location : United States

4:00
PM

Best Comedy Short Films



El Lloron

FELIPE is a professional mourner. He is compensated for lamenting and comforting grieving families during funerals.

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284, United States

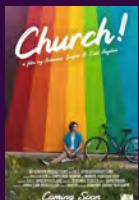
Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Rodrigo Moreno-Fernandez
Film Type : Comedy Short Films
Run Time : 16 minutes 55 seconds
Location : United States



Clean Getaway

THE ONLY CRIME IS A MESSY HOUSE. A meticulous thief breaks into a home and tidies up instead of robbing it.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Patricia Rigney
Film Type : Comedy Short Films
Run Time : 10 minutes 45 seconds
Location : United States



Chruch!

A carefree high school boy spends his free time working in a hardware store, but when his already strange days are interrupted by an even more peculiar girl making repeated visits into the store, he becomes determined to discover her intentions before her project is finished.

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere
Director : Cale Jayden Freeland
Film Type : Comedy Short Films
Run Time : 16 minutes 34 seconds
Location : United States



L'anniversaire

Returning home, Julien discovers that his friends have organized a surprise birthday party for his fortieth. He is delighted, but the evening quickly turns into a nightmare. A childhood trauma resurfaces, and Julien is determined to blow out his magical candles... Will he succeed?

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Thibault Mombellet
Film Type : Comedy Short Films
Run Time : 4 minutes 7 seconds
Location : France



Five Days to Live

After a terminal diagnosis, Lucas embarks on an unhinged mission to complete his absurd bucket list: drop lucky pennies, fake a heart attack, write an erotic novel, and maybe fall in love. A dark comedy about facing death with zero dignity.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Daryl Della
Film Type : Comedy Short Films
Run Time : 19 minutes 30 seconds
Location : United States

4:55
PM

Feature Film

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



Mr. Wonderful

Starring: Michael Madsen, Priscilla Barnes, Robert Miano, Brittany Underwood, Bobby Laenen, Erik Fellows, Lew Temple, Bradley Stryker, Kate Hodge

At once a comic and heart-wrenching family saga, MR. WONDERFUL, starring Hollywood icon, Michael Madsen, tells the story of three generations of Fenton men—a millennial on the run from a drug dealer; his father, a jaded professor desperately trying to keep his job; and a proud family patriarch fighting senility—all struggling to find meaning and purpose in life. Based on the novel, MR. WONDERFUL, by Daniel Blake Smith

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Mark David
Film Type : Feature Film
Run Time : 01:45:00
Location : United States

Saturday, January 24th, 2026

6:05
PM

Best Short Films Block A

▶ Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



Truncated Soul

In "Truncated Soul," the final thoughts of a sicario unravel in the moments before his soul becomes trapped in the in-between, a liminal space where regret, memory, and judgment collide.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Pedro Perez Nunez

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 12 minutes 48 seconds

Location : United States



Doll Family

A rookie homicide detective meets his girlfriend's family and finds a dysfunctional household where all the male members of the family are perfect--and inanimate.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Kathryn Berghoff / Zach Huber

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 16 minutes 21 seconds

Location : United States



Bubbe's Seaside Shiva

Two estranged cousins find that they are the only ones to attend their abusive grandmother's funeral. As the two struggle to dispose of the ashes at the beach, they slowly forge a connection.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Beo Lerman

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 18 minutes 54 seconds

Location : United States



Eyes Wide Open

A man and his motorcycle on a spiritual journey.

Premiere Status : US Premiere

Director : Jade Yurich

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 14 minutes 0 seconds

Location : Canada



Thank You For Your Time

In an unassuming HR office, April Moore sits down for her exit interview, determined to leave her job without rocking the boat. But when the interview veers into a surreal interrogation of her flaws, perceived and otherwise, the lines between reality and absurdity blur.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Ricki "Ricasso" Nelson

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 12 minutes 20 seconds

Location : United States



Reminisce

25 years younger than her husband, a woman's world is turned upside down when her husband's college classmates come to visit.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Leslie Morris

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 11 minutes 36 seconds

Location : United States



Bad Karma

An overbearing, loud mouth man who vows to be a better man after a close call during a flight, only to revert to his old ways after safely landing.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Laura A. Garcia

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 7 minutes 13 seconds

Location : United States

7:25
PM

Feature Film



The Kiss of the Grasshopper

Starring: Lenn Kudrjawizki, Michael Hanemann, Sophie Mousel

The writer Bernard lives in a magical-realistic world with a sheep and a turbulent relationship with his girlfriend Agata. A human-sized grasshopper appears. Bernard learns of his father's fatal diagnosis and has to come to terms with the fragility of life and the meaning of his own existence.

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Elmar Imanov
Film Type : Feature Film
Run Time : 02:08:00
Location : United States

8:25
PM

Best Horror Short Films



Beck and Call

A serial killer cop with an alter ego has to play twisted games to get back the corpse of his most recent victim, before someone else finds her, but the games will take him on a mind bending journey.

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States

Premiere Status : US Premiere
Director : Dustin Ross
Film Type : Horror Short Film
Run Time : 29 minutes 23 seconds
Location : United States



Bad Omen

In the early 1800s, the inhabitants of a puritanical Tennessee farming village are plagued by mysterious disappearances that coincide with every full moon. The superstitious town folk are quick to suspect the newest resident, Christy, a young school teacher from New York. When Christy is invited to the home of a troubled student, suspicions turn to accusations - and accusations lead to a dark supernatural revelation that will shake the town to its core.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Connor Thomas
Film Type : Horror Short Film
Run Time : 10 minutes 20 seconds
Location : United States



The Stolen Future

On a stormy night, Myra, drunk and distraught, hits what appears to be a little girl on an empty road. But there's no body, only memories of a past crime she thought was buried. Drawn into an abandoned hostel, Myra encounters a mechanic who isn't who he seems, and a series of spectral figures: a teenager, a middle-aged woman, and an old lady in white. Together they reveal the truth: she once killed a child and hid the body, and these are the ghosts of her stolen future. Tormented by the ghosts and hunted by sewn-mouthed revenants, Myra is forced into the same fridge where she once left her victim to die. And the 'mechanic', who locks her in the fridge, turns out to be the brother of the girl Myra killed. A girl whose revenge is still incomplete. This supernatural horror short explores how unpunished crimes against children linger, not only as ghosts but as stolen possibilities, haunting both the guilty and the society that ignored them.

Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : Vedd V Rawtaani
Film Type : Horror Short Film
Run Time : 18 minutes 00 seconds
Location : India



Harvester

Footage is recovered from the camcorder of three friends headed for a camping trip who rolled into a nightmare that they never saw coming.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Eric Porta
Film Type : Horror Short Film
Run Time : 7 minutes 11 seconds
Location : Canada

10:30
PM

After Party @ Boston's Bar & Grille (Tempe)

1730 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



Boston's Bar & Grille

Join us after a full day of fantastic screenings! The fun doesn't stop as filmmakers and filmgoers can all meet and eat at Boston's Bar & Grille.

Sunday, January 25th, 2026

8:00
AM

Coffee Connections with Ramsay Wharton

Dunkin'
1830 East Warner Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



Ramsay Wharton (Filming in Arizona)

Join us for a delightful morning filled with coffee and meaningful connections! This event is specially curated for filmmakers like you to connect with Ramsay Wharton with Arizona Commerce Authority, share experiences, know the benefits of filming in Arizona, and build lasting connections within the vibrant filmmaking community. Exchange contact information, discuss potential collaborations, and leave with a network of like-minded filmmakers.

10:00
AM

Workshop "How to Stand Out to Casting"

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



A Step-by-Step Framework - Bella Hibbs

Auditions can feel overwhelming, especially when you're just starting out—but showing casting exactly what you bring to a role doesn't have to be confusing. In this workshop, you'll learn a simple 4-part framework designed to help new actors confidently communicate their strengths, stand out in the room, and leave a lasting impression on casting directors.

12:00
PM

Best Documentary Short Films

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



27 Minutes

On a frozen Ontario highway, first responders pulled a lifeless woman from a submerged car. Twenty-seven minutes underwater. No pulse. No breath. They'd seen this ending before—countless times. But this time, something was different. Ashlyn lived.

Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : Alexander Swoik
Film Type : Documentary Short Film
Run Time : 27 minutes 0 seconds
Location : Canada



A Promise of Paradise

In A Promise of Paradise, the quiet fields of Oklahoma become the backdrop for an unexpected moral awakening.

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere
Director : Thomas Machowicz
Film Type : Documentary Short Film
Run Time : 15 minutes 39 seconds
Location : United States

SUPPORT CIFF

We are a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization (Tax ID: 81-4637083)

Everybody loves exciting new artists and their movies, and we love you! Your generous support allows us to provide a unique platform for thousands of diverse individuals to meet, exchange ideas, network and enjoy hundreds of films from around the world. We really need your help to make this show amazing! Even small donations make a huge difference! Let everyone know about your charitable contribution to this educational event dedicated to the advancement and evolution of filmmaking. Please pledge your support by filling out the simple form below...it only takes a few clicks to make a difference!



Anywhere My Canvas

Youngsook and Mia are artists with immigrant backgrounds living in America. Their unique life experiences have deeply influenced their artwork in compelling ways. For both, painting is more than a craft—it holds a lasting, personal significance that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Sangsun Choi

Film Type : Documentary Short Film

Run Time : 7 minutes 25 seconds

Location : United States



The Invisible Patient

The Invisible Patient is an independent documentary film that examines the systematic failures of the Behavioral Healthcare industry in rural Colorado, and the consequential crises of addiction, homelessness, and criminality.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Henry Fuentes / Jaden Quan

Film Type : Documentary Short Film

Run Time : 28 minutes 0 seconds

Location : United States



Post Traumatic Growth: A Southwest Story

This documentary highlights the mental health costs to first responders, healthcare workers and public health workers in their desire to be of service to their communities. The documentary follows a cohort through a resilience training to increase improved self-care and hopefully keeping the "on the job."

Premiere Status : North America Premiere

Director : Michael Wm. Marks

Film Type : Documentary Short Film

Run Time : 38 minutes 49 seconds

Location : United States

12:15
PM

Feature Film

▶ Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



The Art of Telling Lies

Starring: Sara Hagn, Oris Erhuero, Syama Rayner, Declan O'Connor

Four strangers from Europe are invited to a special event at a secluded castle, only to discover they are being blackmailed for their past scandals. The gathering compels them to confront the harsh truths about themselves

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Pascal Payant

Film Type : Feature Film

Run Time : 01:30:00 seconds

Location : Canada

2:30
PM

Feature Film

▶ Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



Another German Tank Story

Starring: Johannes Scheidweiler, Meike Droste, Monika Lennartz, Roland Bonjour, Alexander Schuster, Gisa Flake, Susanne Bredehoft, Philipp Karner

While an American film crew shoots a war series in a former sugar factory in Germany, the residents of the nearby village of Wiesenwalde chase their personal dreams - until a sudden power failure threatens to disrupt all plans and a tank stands in front of the mayor's house.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Jannis Alexander Kiefer

Film Type : Feature Film

Run Time : 01:36:00 seconds

Location : Germany

2:55
PM

Best Drama Short Films Block B

▶ Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



Fragile Storm

A scared young woman goes to extreme measures to escape the clutches of a terrifying older man only to realize the shocking and heartbreak truth about why she's really there. A film about one of the deadliest issues of our time.

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere

Director : Dawn Fields

Film Type : Drama Short Film

Run Time : 10 minutes 0 seconds

Location : United States



Dinner With Quinn

A young woman who seemingly has everything drops a devastating bombshell on her sister over dinner.

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere
Director : Dawn Fields
Film Type : Drama Short Film
Run Time : 9 minutes 0 seconds
Location : United States



Homecoming Shenanigans

Ivan returns home after six years abroad in Barcelona, hoping for a joyful reunion with his vibrant family. However, what begins as a celebratory welcome quickly spirals into chaos as deep-seated secrets surface, revealing the hidden strains beneath the family's laughter. With his charismatic yet flawed father, Mr. B, his nurturing mother Pam, and his playful sister Fay all grappling with unspoken truths, Ivan finds himself navigating a complex web of love, loyalty, and betrayal. As the family confronts their past and each other, they must discover if the bonds of love can withstand the weight of their revelations—and if healing can truly begin amidst the shenanigans.

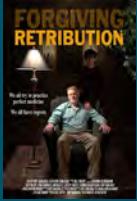
Premiere Status : US Premiere
Director : Sanelle Sibanda
Film Type : Drama Short Film
Run Time : 22 minutes 45 seconds
Location : Zimbabwe



For One Night Only

Six months after the loss of Quinn's childhood best friend Alex, Quinn returns home from college for the holidays. However, at a party, he meets a girl who could pass as Alex's doppelgänger, forcing Quinn to confront his unchecked grief.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Tobin Carter
Film Type : Drama Short Film
Run Time : 18 minutes 0 seconds
Location : United States



Forgiving Retribution

A man searches for the doctor who saved his life, only to find the aging physician dying and haunted by the ghost of a patient he believes he failed—forcing the survivor to return the favor and save the man who once saved him.

Premiere Status : US Premiere
Director : Curt Samlaska
Film Type : Drama Short Film
Run Time : 22 minutes 55 seconds
Location : United States

4:55
PM

Feature Film

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



Eastern Western

Starring: Igor Galijasevic, Leonardo Galijasevic, Duncan Vezain, JD Ham, Walter Runningcrane Jr., John Budge

On the cusp of the 20th century, a widowed Eastern European immigrant and his young son journey westward with an American cowboy and his family, forging a lasting bond on the Western frontier.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Biliana Grozdanova / Marina Grozdanova
Film Type : Feature Film
Run Time : 01:48:00
Location : United States

5:00
PM

Best Short Films Block B

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



Invasion

A trio of criminals gets more than they bargained for when they invade the home of an unusual family.

Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : Geno Marx
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 14 minutes 45 seconds
Location : United States



NO LEFT TURNS

After receiving traumatic news about her brother, a recovering addict is thrust into crisis. Her friends desperately try to talk her out of relapse in this story of separation and connection, and of how far people will go to protect the ones they love.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Douglas Ryan
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 31 minutes 36 seconds
Location : United States



Inciting Incident

A short dramatic film about a screenwriting professor who has a meltdown in the middle of class and goes off on his students – all captured on cellphone video – then attempts to use his three rules of screenwriting to create a better ending for himself.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : William Pace
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 21 minutes 0 seconds
Location : United States



A Letter of Last Resort

A man who hand-built a bomb shelter deals with the grief of losing his wife and child to nuclear warfare.

Premiere Status : North America Premiere
Director : Timmy Hanlon / Justice Love
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 7 minutes 7 seconds
Location : United States



Mumbai X - The Prelude

From a troubled child raised in the slums by an abusive father to now an arrogant international soccer sensation, becomes a target of a bizarre X-crime that ages him 30 years overnight, jeopardizing his life long dream of playing in the World Cup

Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : Rahul Dhirman
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 11 minutes 3 seconds
Location : United States

7:05
PM

Best Suspense/ Thriller Short Films

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States



Alone Together

Following a rapture-esque apocalypse, EDDIE traverses the desolate Earth searching for other survivors. After nearly a year of searching on his lonesome, he finds TONY. Initially the two are fast friends, however as time progresses, the two's friendship quickly deteriorates into something toxic and perverse. As Eddie considers his options, he must decide if it's better to be alone, or with someone who makes you miserable.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Tobin Carter
Film Type : Suspense Short Film
Run Time : 24 minutes 1 seconds
Location : United States



Tonight, I Believed You

Struggling actor Jimmi Sparrow has just completed a one night performance as the lead understudy in his friends play when he's invited to dinner by audience member and recluse billionaire, H. Stanley Greenleigh. After their private dinner, Jimmi's career begins to climb, all the while Mr. Greenleigh's shadow hangs over him. Jimmi begins to question not only his talent, but his own mind.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Tanner J. Perry
Film Type : Suspense Short Film
Run Time : 37 minutes 57 seconds
Location : United States



Sunday Bloom

Sunday Bloom is a 1950 psychologic thriller written by and starring Maria Patti. Set in an oddly quaint flower shop, Bloom Richards enacts revenge on the local townspeople who mistreat her and her flowers.

Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : Joy Ludwig
Film Type : Suspense Short Film
Run Time : 14 minutes 28 seconds
Location : United States



WAKE

As Jackie mourns her husband's death at his own wake, her best friend Gwen is on hand to console her amidst an unforgiving family as Jackie discovers the truth behind his untimely death.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Andrew Patrick Torrez
Film Type : Suspense Short Film
Run Time : 11 minutes 0 seconds
Location : United States



The Nature of Death

When an eccentric park ranger crosses paths with a grieving hiker, he offers his help in finding the perfect spot to scatter the hiker's father's ashes. As they venture deeper into the remote wilderness, the ranger's true intentions begin to blur.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Sean Cruser
Film Type : Suspense Short Film
Run Time : 16 minutes 29 seconds
Location : United States

7:30
PM

Feature Film



Bellyache

Starring: Marianne Rendón

A grieving witch escapes to a cabin alone to give birth. While secluded, she chronicles her story in a journal for her unborn child. But as the delivery nears, mysterious events and visions alter her perceptions of love and sacrifice.

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States

Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : Van Ditthavong
Film Type : Feature Film
Run Time : 01:31:00 seconds
Location : United States

9:30
PM

Documentary Feature Film



My Life Between The Reins

Starring: Paige Baylis, Susie Reinauer, Marilyn Swick, Andy Baylis, Kevin Dukes, Melissa Dukes

My Life Between The Reins, an inspirational true-story feature documentary of a young girl with cerebral palsy and her equestrian journey through adulthood as she faces challenges with the help of her family, faith, persistence, and determination to follow her goals & dreams.

Pollack Cinemas: 1825 East Elliot Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere
Director : Marilyn Swick
Film Type : Documentary Feature Film
Run Time : 01:18:20 seconds
Location : United States

10:30
PM

After Party @ Zipp's Sports Grill



Zipp's Sports Grill (Tempe)

Join us after a full day of fantastic screenings! The fun doesn't stop as filmmaker and filmgoers can all meet and eat at Zipp's Sports Grill (Tempe).

Zipp's Sports Grill
1860 East Warner Road
Tempe, AZ 85284 United States

MUSIC ON A BUDGET -

without the Hollywood Price Tag!

A large portrait of Christopher Caliendo, a man with short, light-colored hair, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt. To his right is a vertical stack of logos for various media companies: SONY PICTURES, CBS, TCM, CN, 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS, and Warner Bros.

- Emmy-Nominated... CBS
- 2x Heritage Award Winner
- Scores for SONY* 20th Century Fox *
- Warner Bros. * CBS

Saturday, Jan 31 | 10AM-12PM

Festival Panel! Congrats CIFF on 10 years!

- Real indie scoring BTS docs!
- Key Questions to Vet Composers!
- Budget System for any film scale!

Christopher Caliendo

Questions? Email before the event!
info@ChristopherCaliendo.Com

Monday, January 26th, 2026: ANIMATION DAY

5:30
PM

Animation Feature Film



Sultana's Dream

Starring: Miren Arrieta, Mary Beard, Asier Hormaza, Olatz Ganboa, Paul B. Preciado

In a library in Ahmedabad, India, young artist Inés comes across "Sultana's Dream," a science fiction short story written in 1905 by Begum Rokeya Hossain. The story revolves around Ladyland, a feminist utopia where women possess knowledge and rule the country, while men have no access to education, live in seclusion, and take care of the household. Fascinated by the short story, Inés embarks on a journey through India to search for Ladyland and traces of the author Begum Rokeya Hossain. "Sultana's Dream" criticizes patriarchy, war, industrialization, and the exploitation of natural resources, addressing the problems of our world today in an unexpectedly visionary way.

Chandler Gilbert Community College
(Performing Arts Center):
Pecos Campus: 2626 East Pecos Road
Chandler, AZ 85225 United States

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Isabel Herguera
Film Type : Animation Feature Film
Run Time : 01:20:00
Location : Germany

7:30
PM

Animation Feature Film



Dog of God

Starring: Armands Bergis, Kristians Karelins, Agate Krista, Einars Repse, Jurgis Spulenieks, Regnars Vaivars

Rotoscoped animation depicts a 17th century witch trial in Livonia that uncovers a werewolf within a devout community.

Chandler Gilbert Community College
(Performing Arts Center):
Pecos Campus: 2626 East Pecos Road
Chandler, AZ 85225 United States

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Lauris Abele/Raitis Abele
Film Type : Animation Feature Film
Run Time : 01:32:00
Location : Latvia

10:00
PM

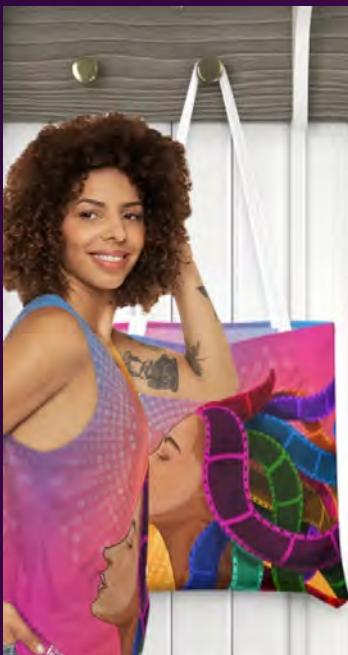
After Party @ Fat Willy's (Gilbert)

Fat Willy's Williams Field Rd & Gilbert Rd
151 East Williams Field Road
#D112 Gilbert, AZ 85295 United States

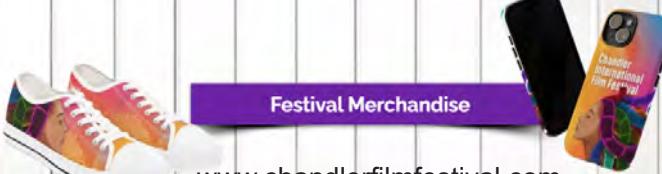


Fat Willy's (Gilbert)

Join us after a full day of fantastic screenings! The fun doesn't stop as filmmaker and filmgoers can all meet and eat at Fat Willy's (Gilbert).



BUY OFFICIAL CIFF 2026
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Festival Merchandise

www.chandlerfilmfestival.com



Tuesday, January 27, 2026: FAITH/ FAMILY DAY

5:30
PM

Faith / Family Feature Film



My Heart Remembers

Starring: **Abigail Kornblum, Hannah Tee, Robert Kemp**

Set in 1903, *My Heart Remembers* tells the story of Isabelle Standler, a young woman whose life is upended when her adoptive brother reveals she is not biologically part of the Standler family. Cast out and stripped of her inheritance, Isabelle faces rejection from her fiancé and the social standing she once knew. Relocating to the small town of Shay's Ford, she struggles to rebuild her life while grappling with her identity.

Chandler Gilbert Community College
(Performing Arts Center):
2626 East Pecos Road Chandler,
AZ 85225 United States

Premiere Status : US Premiere
Director : Stephen Folker
Film Type : Feature Film
Run Time : 01:23:43 Seconds
Location : United States

7:25
PM

Faith / Family Feature Film



Our Crossroads

Starring: **Eddie Kaulukukui, Maddy Curley, Michael Learned, Titus Young Wolverton, Pat Boone, Tom Wopat, Dale Raoul**

“Our Crossroads” is an inspiring true story of a young couple with two young children in 1969 rural Ohio who are called by their faith to petition for guardianship of six recently orphaned siblings (ages 4 – 18). They struggle to keep the orphans together and create a new family in the face of great obstacles. Decades later, in present day Arizona, a photographer taking the family’s picture, learns of their story. Initially struggling with his own troubled relationship with God, the photographer ultimately sees the young couple’s actions as a testament to selflessness, charity and the power of faith.

Chandler Gilbert Community College
(Performing Arts Center):
2626 East Pecos Road Chandler,
AZ 85225 United States

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Neil H. Weiss
Film Type : Feature Film
Run Time : 01:49:00 Seconds
Location : United States

10:00
PM

After Party @ MVP Sports Bar & Grill

MVP Sports Bar and Grill
980 East Pecos Road
#Suite 5 Chandler, AZ 85225 United States



MVP Sports Bar & Grill (Chandler)

Join us after a full day of fantastic screenings! The fun doesn't stop as filmmaker and filmgoers can all meet and eat at MVP Sports Bar and Grill (Chandler).

Selected Screenplays

- **The Situationship by Lizzy Esau**
- **Good Looking Bachelors: The Musical by Brady Stanley**
- **Theater 8 by John P Martinez**
- **Kick Rocks by Peter Herlan**
- **The Devil's Cut by Eric Lotter**
- **V.E.N. — Awaken. Align. Ascend. by Ofelia Abi-Ad**
- **The Wind Chimes by Millie West**
- **Hurt People, Hurt People by Stephen A Kessen**
- **Shadow Self by Tom Zimmerman**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026: INDIAN DAY

5:30
PM

Indian Feature Film



Andhela Ravamidhi

Starring: **Indrani Davaluri, Vikram Kolluru, Adhitya Menon**

A poignant tale of resilience and empowerment, Pavani explores the transformative power of art and culture in redefining roles within a patriarchal society, making it a celebration of courage, tradition, and the enduring spirit of femininity.

Chandler Gilbert Community College
(Performing Arts Center):
2626 East Pecos Road Chandler,
AZ 85225 United States

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Indrani Davaluri
Film Type : Feature Film
Run Time : 01:33:00 Seconds
Location : United States/India

7:35
PM

Indian Feature Film

Chandler Gilbert Community College
(Performing Arts Center):
2626 East Pecos Road Chandler,
AZ 85225 United States



Tumbbad

Starring: **Sohum Shah, Ronjini Chakraborty, Anika Radhakrishnan, Harish Khanna**

A mythological story about a goddess who created the entire universe. The plot revolves around the consequences when humans build a temple for her first-born.

Premiere Status : Special Screening
Director : Rahi Anil Barve
Film Type : Feature Film
Run Time : 01:48:00 Seconds
Location : India

10:00
PM

After Party @ Copper Still Moonshine Grill (Gilbert)

Copper Still Moonshine Grill - Gilbert
2531 South Gilbert Road
#101 Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



Copper Still Moonshine Grill (Gilbert)

Join us after a full day of fantastic screenings! The fun doesn't stop as filmmaker and filmgoers can all meet and eat at Copper Still Moonshine Grill(Gilbert).



Special Guests 2026



Thursday, January 29, 2026: ASIAN DAY

5:30
PM

Asian Feature Film



Swallowtail and Dragonfly

Starring: **Vanessa Yao, Vivian Dawson, Russell Wong**

Based on the true story of one courageous woman's journey from glittering stardom as a gifted artist in glamorous 1930's Shanghai, through the ravages of war and revolution and back again, sustained by her exquisite gift for beauty and an epic love that would not die...

Chandler Gilbert Community College
(Performing Arts Center):
2626 East Pecos Road Chandler,
AZ 85225 United States

7:50
PM

Asian Feature Film



Song of the Fireflies

Starring: **Johanne Morissette Daug Amon, Rachel Jingco Alejandro, Krystal Brimner, Noel Comia, Jr.**

Set in 1970s Bohol, Song of the Fireflies follows young teacher Alma Taldo, who overcomes her insecurities to lead a small-town children's choir to national recognition, despite setbacks and competition from a classically trained rival. Based on a true story, the film celebrates determination, personal growth, and the extraordinary, homegrown talent of a choir that would go on to achieve worldwide acclaim

Chandler Gilbert Community College
(Performing Arts Center):
2626 East Pecos Road Chandler,
AZ 85225 United States

10:00
PM

After Party @ Singing Pandas Asian Restaurant & Bar (Chandler)

Singing Pandas Asian Restaurant & Bar
757 E Chandler Blvd,
Chandler, AZ 85225 United States



Singing Panda's (Chandler)

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Friday, January 30, 2026: LATINO DAY

5:30
PM

Latino Feature Film



El Desaire

Starring: **Vico Escorcia, Joshua Okamoto, Guillermo Alonso, Karen Martí, Irene Arcilla y Gabriela de la Garza**

Rosa, a beautiful young fatherless girl, works selling flowers at a stall to help her mother financially. Rosa had to abandon her studies, but she gets a scholarship and returns to school. Her boyfriend Juan, therefore, shows his jealousy and excessive possessiveness, which worsens when another man starts courting her. Things get complicated for Rosa who is not willing to leave her dreams behind.

Chandler Gilbert Community College
(Performing Arts Center):
2626 East Pecos Road Chandler,
AZ 85225 United States

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Gabo Ramos
Film Type : Feature Film
Run Time : 01:45:00
Location : Mexico

7:45
PM

Feature Film

Chandler Gilbert Community College
(Performing Arts Center):
2626 East Pecos Road Chandler,
AZ 85225 United States



Legally Blonde

Starring: **Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair, Matthew Davis**

Elle Woods has it all. She wants nothing more than to be Mrs. Warner Huntington III. But there is one thing stopping him from proposing: She is too blonde. Elle rallies all of her resources and gets into Harvard, determined to win him back.

Premiere Status : Anniversary Screening
Director : Robert Luketic
Film Type : Feature Film
Run Time : 01:36:00 Seconds
Location : United States

10:00
PM

After Party @ Old Chicago's Pizza & Taproom (Chandler)

Old Chicago Pizza + Taproom
2950 East Germann Road
Chandler, AZ 85286 United States



Old Chicago's Pizza & Taproom (Chandler)

Join us after a full day of fantastic screenings! The fun doesn't stop as filmmaker and filmgoers can all meet and eat at Old Chicago's Pizza & Taproom (Chandler).

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Saturday, January 31, 2026

8:00
AM

Coffee Connection with City Leaders of Chandler & Gilbert

Black Rock Coffee Bar
875 South Gilbert Road
#105 Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



Meet Mayor Hartke (Chandler) & Vice Mayor Bongiovanni (Gilbert)

Join us for Coffee Connection, a relaxed morning conversation with Chandler **Mayor Kevin Hartke** and Gilbert **Vice Mayor Chuck Bongiovanni**, hosted as part of our film festival programming. This special gathering brings together city leadership, filmmakers, creatives, and community members for open dialogue over coffee. It's a unique opportunity for filmmakers to connect with local leaders, explore the role of film and creative industries in our cities, and engage in meaningful conversations that help shape vibrant, film-friendly communities in Chandler and Gilbert.



10:00
AM

Workshop - Music on a Budget

Regal Gilbert
1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



Christopher Caliendo

Directors! Learn how your indie film can have a big-budget sound without breaking the bank. Emmy-nominated, 2x Heritage Award-winning composer Christopher Caliendo will take you behind the scenes of his indie projects—Natural Selection, Snow Bunnies (animation), and fanfares composed in the style of John Williams—showing exactly how he creates professional, emotionally powerful scores on a limited budget.

Through live discussion with a moderator and exclusive documentary footage, you'll discover how to hire and collaborate with an experienced composer, ask the right questions—even if you're not musically trained—and maximize the impact of your music. Walk away inspired and empowered to give your film a soundtrack worthy of the big screen.

12:00
PM

Best Student Filmmaker Short Films

Regal Gilbert
1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



GRIM

An amateur Grim Reaper struggles to find a balance between his heart and his work.

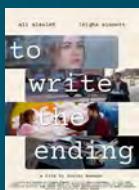
Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : Nathaniel Demuth/ Ben Scott/ Brad Waugh
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 13 minutes 40 seconds
Location : United States



No Harissa

Born with a rare intolerance to Harissa in a society that reveres it, Tunisian Taher faces rejection and shame, especially after his girlfriend leaves upon learning his secret. As he questions his identity and place in the world, Taher discovers a hidden community of Tunisians like him. No longer alone, he embarks on a journey not to blend in, but to embrace who he is and find peace in a culture that made him feel like an outsider.

Premiere Status : US Premiere
Director : Saifeddine Lahmar
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 17 minutes 8 seconds
Location : Tunisia



To Write The Ending

When a street poet finds a typewriter that allows him to write the future, he uses it to try and find love.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Shaler Keenum
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 15 minutes 43 seconds
Location : United States



American Degradation

The host of The Morning Now struggles to defend her integrity and reputation in the face of financial pressures.

Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : Tally Thompson
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 12 minutes 28 seconds
Location : United States



Aberrant

As the graduation season nears its end, Isaac Martinez, a college student fraught with anxiety and uncertainty, receives eerie voice messages that burden him with a chilling prophecy: the impending death of his crush, Christina.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Marco Leung

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 15 minutes 7 seconds

Location : United States



Transference

Inside a pristine, high-tech house, a young woman's carefully controlled life begins to fracture as her body betrays her—and the presence of something, or someone, hidden beneath the surface begins to emerge.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Brady P. Hayes

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 12 minutes 02 seconds

Location : United States

12:15 PM

Documentary Feature Film



Regal Gilbert
1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



This is Not A Draft

Starring: **Shawn Banzhaf, Cheryl Rinehart, Grant Ross, Eric Staton, Cris Gibson, Karen Cruz, Melvin Cruz, Danny Pierce, Becky Blais, Jay Moreno, Jack Blair**

This documentary is about Veterans who signed up to serve after 9/11. It's a 3 act documentary which focuses on these Veterans motivations to serve, and then the price of their service

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Jack Blair

Film Type : Documentary Film

Run Time : 01:40:00

Location : United States

2:15 PM

Best Arizona Short Films



Regal Gilbert
1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



The Zip-Up Man

Young Matthew learns from an early age that he has the ability to disappear into a magical zip-up bag when times get tough. As he grows up, he begins to use the bag more and more, but soon realizes that showing up is what really counts in life.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Celeste Luccitti

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 21 minutes

Location : United States



Terminal

Attending a regular support group for the terminally ill is difficult enough, but when one member goes above and beyond for another, it shows how selfless humans can be.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Diane M. Dresback

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 8 minutes

Location : United States



BEBO Was Here!

He's always been the good one—gentle, trusting, and easy to overlook. But when Bebo is wronged, his loud, fractured family surprises everyone by coming together to fight for what's right.

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere

Director : Freddy Caro

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 14 minutes 33 seconds

Location : United States



Medusa Jones

A night out turns into a wake-up call for a spoiled Indian-American tech heiress. Shana wanted a night out with her friend instead of a match-making dinner with her traditional parents. What she got, was a lonely night in a club after losing her BFF Kaitlyn to the pulsating dance floor. Shana gets a dose of reality when she leaves the club. Stumbling out to her car, she has a chance encounter with a lone homeless woman who makes more of an impression than it seems. Her night only gets worse when she fails a field sobriety test. She expects her family to show up for her even when she's refused to show up for them. Facing serious consequences, she gets exactly what she wanted when her parents, in turn, refuse to help bail her out of trouble.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Barbara Davis

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 10 minutes 51 seconds

Location : United States



Lautner's World

A day in the life of Hollywood heartthrob, Taylor Lautner.

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere

Director : Connor K Wynne

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 17 minutes 28 seconds

Location : United States



The Americano

Set against a mafia-tinged backdrop, a young waiter unknowingly steps into a lesson he won't forget.

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere

Director : Nolan Tondreau

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 6 minutes 41 seconds

Location : United States



Grunge

In 1992, the rising rock band "Le Slouch" is on the verge of stardom. With a scorching new single lighting up the airwaves, and their debut music video premiering on MTV's "Headslammers Bash," everything seems to be falling into place—until disaster strikes. Following a sudden and tragic turn of events, the band is thrust into a violent psychedelic spiral, leading them down a blood-soaked path of death and destruction.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Rene R Rivas

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 14 minutes 57 seconds

Location : United States

2:40
PM

Feature Film

Regal Gilbert
1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



Pravas

Starring: Vishal Thakkar, Komal Panchal, Jay Pandya, Nishma Soni, Nayan Chatrariya, Ansh Chokshi, Nitya Dave, Vatshal Doshi, Manisha Narkar

A village boy in Gujarat dreams of seeing Ahmedabad. When his school plans a trip there, financial hardship prevents him from going. As friends leave, he navigates through disappointment and finds resilience.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Vipul Sharma

Film Type : Feature Film

Run Time : 01:43:00

Location : India

4:35
PM

Best Woman Short Films

Regal Gilbert
1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



Ownership

When an innocent invitation to an antiques reality show uncovers shameful skeletons between two families --one black, one white -- three multi-generational women are forced to take painful ownership of their present reality.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Yvonne Huff Lee

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 30 minutes

Location : United States



Pandaal

A female pimp, dispensing her own brand of justice by pimping out abusive men, must confront her darkest secrets when a new case brings her haunting past to light.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Shaily Sanghvi

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 16 minutes 3 seconds

Location : United States



Kind Mother

An estranged mother arrives at the silent retreat that her daughter is attending. When the two women engage in an unusual - and fantastical - power struggle, limits are tested, generational trauma is brought to light, and together they must grapple with mortality and forgiveness.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Clare O'Connor

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 14 minutes 58 seconds

Location : United States



Music To Her Ears

Desperate to pay rent, Emily, a broke, rookie videographer, must outmaneuver a stingy music producer's attempts to stonewall her.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Noémi Santo

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 10 minutes 11 seconds

Location : United States



Reverse

Every year, the female divine power Durga is worshipped for her triumph over all evil, yet reality paints a completely different hypocritical picture as women live with consistent suffering and horror of rape, murder, and injustice. This hand-drawn animated short film highlights the stark contrast between the grand celebration of women's power and the horrific reality faced by women in India.



Symptoms

A middle-aged woman is determined to win the biggest deal yet for a mindfulness app company, but brain fog, her erratic period and a douchebag boss upend her day.



The Hideaway

Sophie, an up and coming actress, is suing the production company of her failing franchise claiming a "toxic Set". The night before the lawsuit begins she meets up with Beckah, a once production assistant who has since worked her way up to producer who is testifying against her. Through their conversation true intentions and unresolved feelings are laid bare, revealing a more complex and morally grey choice underneath.

5:10 PM

Feature Film



Miles Away

Starring: Luis Guzman, Andre Royo, Salina EsTitties, Jessica Pacheco, Henri Esteve, Alberto Frezza, Jennifer Bartels, Noel Gugliemi, Jessica Sarah Flaum, Eddie Martinez, Norma Maldonado, Jackie Quinones

Jess, a socially awkward rideshare driver with Hollywood dreams, navigates eccentric passengers and relentless family chaos, only to realize she's become the spectator of her own unraveling life.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Kaustav Mukherjee

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 5 minutes 20 seconds

Location : United States

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Eliza Gibson, Todd Eric Valcourt

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 13 minutes 56 seconds

Location : United States

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Rachel Wender, Alison Faye Shelley

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 13 minutes 33 seconds

Location : United States

7:05 PM

Best Short Films Block C

Regal Gilbert

1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



Margaret the Brave

A recently-divorced professor of mythology tries to inspire his teenage daughter with a fairy tale on the night she leaves home to live with her mother, but considering the state of the world- it will take more than fantasy to reach her.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Jackie Quinones

Film Type : Feature Film

Run Time : 01:20:26 Seconds

Location : United States



I Wish I Were Pretty

An insecure Korean-American woman struggles with old resentments against her beautiful best friend, exposing the impossible beauty standards that caused them.

Regal Gilbert

1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Danny Chandia

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 27 minutes 0 seconds

Location : United States



Omyra

Set against the quiet pulse of a Caribbean town, OMYRA follows a woman whose inner world begins to unravel as she confronts loss, guilt, and the haunting silence of unanswered prayers.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Hanah Chang

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 19 minutes 58 seconds

Location : United States



3 Minutos

Under the time pressure of a potentially life changing test, a young couple unexpectedly takes a quick but meaningful look at their past, present and potential future.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Elijah Anatole

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 25 minutes 4 seconds

Location : Saint Lucia

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Douglas Ryan

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 5 minutes 0 seconds

Location : Canada



A Bottle's Echo

Sophia's journey of self-destruction comes to a pivotal moment when she wakes up in a stranger's bathroom after a night of heavy drinking. Jason, the homeowner, discovers her and confronts her in the aftermath of a chaotic party at his rental property. Through their intense and emotional encounter, Sophia's facade begins to crack, revealing the depth of her struggles with addiction.

Premiere Status : North America Premiere

Director : Ronny Law

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 20 minutes 0 seconds

Location : United States

7:15 PM

Feature Film

Regal Gilbert

1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



Bears

Starring: Isabel Monk Cade, Audrey Shapiro, Collin Linnville, Greyson Horst

Following the death of a young writer, her estranged friends gather to grant her last wish: performing a poorly-written play about their last days together.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Scott Woods

Film Type : Feature Film

Run Time : 01:17:00 Seconds

Location : United States

9:30 PM

Best Action Adventure Short Films

Regal Gilbert

1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



The Final Equation

A scientist must save his kidnapped daughter while trying to keep a secret that could change the world.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Adolpho Navarro

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 9 minutes 34 seconds

Location : United States



Hunted

Two sisters are fleeing from corrupt police officers intent on their destruction. Sofia possesses something highly sought after, and the officers are determined to obtain it, no matter the cost.

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere

Director : Eleazar Valenzuela

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 4 minutes 37 seconds

Location : United States



Dante's Inferno - The Ascension

Dante, a regretful ex-military contractor and his companion, his horse, search for his missing wife and daughter in the remnants of civilization decimated by thousands of malevolent entities known as 'Reapers'.

Premiere Status : US Premiere

Director : Sofian Francis

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 29 minutes 6 seconds

Location : United States



Frank Barnett in "Love's Long Shadow"

Frank Barnett, a San Francisco private detective, is pulled into a twisted case in West Texas as he tracks a mythical vial said to hold the secret to true love. As Frank digs deeper, he confronts his past, including a complicated relationship with his fiancée, Lena Mercer, and an unexpected tie to his old friend, Bruce Cummings, Librarian Extraordinaire. With danger closing in and betrayal at every turn, Frank must navigate a web of lies that threatens everything he holds dear. A gripping neo-noir filled with twists, emotion, and suspense

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Daryl Della

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 26 minutes 19 seconds

Location : Canada



Eye For An Eye

A scavenger in a post-apocalyptic combine attempts to flee their tyrannical leader's control, but will her sister (their leader) let her?

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Ashley Bowers

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 22 minutes 0 seconds

Location : United States



Blood Mist

Modesto, an escaped and desperate convict, now finds himself at the center of a hostage situation and must try to talk his wife out of divorcing him and overcome his murderous rage.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Darwin Reina

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 9 minutes 13 seconds

Location : Spain

10:30
PM

After Party @ Desert Monks Brewing (Gilbert)

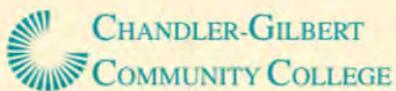
Desert Monks Brewing
1094 South Gilbert Road
#101 Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



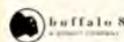
Desert Monks Brewing (Gilbert)

Join us after a full day of fantastic screenings! The fun doesn't stop as filmmaker and filmgoers can all meet and eat at Desert Monks Brewing (Gilbert).

PARTNERS & SPONSORS:



BLACK ROCK COFFEE BAR



Sunday, February 01, 2026

8:00
AM

Coffee Connections with Chuck Bongiovanni

Liberty Market
230 North Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85234 United States



Meet Vice Mayor Chuck Bongiovanni (Gilbert)

Chuck Bongiovanni, Vice Mayor of Gilbert, brings a strong commitment to community growth, economic development, and creative collaboration. At this special Coffee Connection during the film festival, Vice Mayor Bongiovanni looks forward to engaging with filmmakers, artists, and local leaders to discuss how film, storytelling, and creative industries can positively impact cities like Gilbert.

10:00
AM

Workshop: "Inside the Independent Film Ecosystem"

Regal Gilbert
1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



Stephen Mastrocola & Adam Harris Engelhard

As the independent film market rapidly evolves, early-stage filmmakers must rethink how they finance, produce, and position their projects for long-term sustainability.

This workshop breaks down how independent films have traditionally been financed, how soft-money incentives and projected value have shaped budgets, and where those models are actively shifting. We'll explore what is realistically achievable for emerging filmmakers over the next five years, and how expectations around budgets, sales, and distribution are changing.



Using real-world case studies from recent films, we'll examine outside-the-box fundraising strategies, early career-appropriate financing structures, and emerging areas of growth and opportunity. The session is designed to demystify the business side of filmmaking and help filmmakers make smarter, more strategic decisions as they move into the next phase of their careers.



12:00
PM

Best International Short Films

Regal Gilbert
1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



Penguins In Paris.. A Love Story?

A romantic drama about two lovers -- an American woman and a French man -- deciding whether to stay together and have a child or to split, allowing the man to follow his dream, to voyage to Antarctica to study penguins, which are at risk because of global warming.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere
Director : Kenny Hargrove
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 12 minutes 30 seconds
Location : United States



What's Happening

With his mom out shopping and his dad fast asleep, Kinan's ordinary day at home turns into an unforgettable adventure full of imagination and surprise.

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere
Director : Omar Hashem
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 8 minutes 30 seconds
Location : Saudi Arabia



Madre

When Sybi Woerland wakes on the cold bathroom tiles, her body battered by her husband Karl's violence, she knows she must act quickly. With her daughter Mina, loyal dog Madre, and even Mina's beloved fish Teddy, Sybi makes a desperate escape.

Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : Karen Craigie / Christopher Daw
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 19 minutes 30 seconds
Location : Australia



Invincibles

This film is a dinner party behind closed doors. Hannah is hosting a dinner party at her house with her grandmother, her old school teacher, one of her classmates, and her brother, who lives with her. The classmate seems unaware of what he's doing there, the school teacher tries to be as discreet as possible, and the brother keeps coughing. The atmosphere at dinner is heavy, as if everyone is superfluous, and the room is increasingly filled with unease...

Premiere Status : World Premiere
Director : Shana Rosolio
Film Type : Short Film
Run Time : 24 minutes 53 seconds
Location : France



Follower

A livestream and random chat take a disturbing turn when a prank goes too far. As the line between audience and participant blurs, playful interaction slips into something unsettling in a world where everyone is both follower and followed.

Premiere Status : US Premiere

Director : Ryan Park

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 14 minutes 27 seconds

Location : United States



Everything Will Change

Sarah and Alex live with their parents in Lebanon and enjoy escaping into their imaginary world. One day, the family receives unexpected news that will change their lives forever.

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere

Director : Celine Nassar

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 11 minutes 25 seconds

Location : Canada

12:15 PM

Feature Film



Regal Gilbert
1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



LOVE and TAX\$

Starring: Jake Reiner, Alexis Abrams

Love and Tax\$ is an innovative "one-shot" feature film that defies traditional cinematic boundaries. Set in the 1970s during the sexual revolution, the film follows Donald, an ambitious CPA, (Jake Reiner) and Belinda, a free, spirited waitress, (Alexis Abrams) as they navigate a dense emotional minefield. Without the safety net of cuts or edits, the film demands total immersion, forcing the audience to experience every heartbeat and hesitation in real-time.

Premiere Status : Phoenix Premiere

Director : Ken Feinberg and Craig D. Tollis

Film Type : Feature Film

Run Time : 01:25:05 Seconds

Location : United States

2:20 PM

Best Short Films Block D



Regal Gilbert
1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



Through Water

When a young girl's sister drowns in a sudden accident, blame and grief tear a family apart—until the surviving sister realizes that forgiveness may be the only way to stay afloat.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Brady Hayes

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 9 minutes 22 seconds

Location : United States



DEI

An angry man finds himself in an unlikely body on Dia de los Muertos.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Jill V. Dae

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 22 minutes 50 seconds

Location : United States



NO NATION

In a future shaped by climate ruin, Diane, a quiet young woman, makes a fatal choice within a deadly tribal ritual, forcing her to confront grief, tradition, and a bond with her father that cuts deeper than it should.

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Jeffrey Elmont

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 17 minutes 0 seconds

Location : Netherlands/United States



Morphic

Sami, an actor preparing for the role of a teacher who survived a school shooting. He develops a mysterious growth on his back that triggers painful memories of his childhood in a war zone in Baghdad. With his health and career at risk, he must confront his past to heal before it's too late.

Premiere Status : North America Premiere

Director : Malik Maliki

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 16 minutes 0 seconds

Location : Iraq



Cameron was a Red Wings fan

After the passing of their estranged father, a group of siblings reunite. As old wounds reopen and tensions escalate, the eldest brother, Gary, makes a heartfelt effort to mend their relationship by revisiting the movies they loved as kids, especially one unforgettable day that forces them to ask the question: "Who do you love?"

Premiere Status : Arizona Premiere

Director : Gabriel Veenendaal

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 20 minutes 0 seconds

Location : United States



Man of the Gun

A ruthless bandit is confronted by a courageous pioneer woman, and 30 years later, is tempted by his violent past once again.

Premiere Status : World Premiere

Director : Aaron Wilson

Film Type : Short Film

Run Time : 9 minutes 37 seconds

Location : United States

2:25
PM

Feature Film



Regal Gilbert
1012 South Gilbert Road
Gilbert, AZ 85296 United States



The Dutchman

Starring: André Holland, Kate Mara, Zazie Beetz, Stephen McKinley Henderson, Aldis Hodge, Lauren E. Banks

A successful black businessman, haunted by his crumbling marriage and identity crisis, is drawn into a psychological game of cat and mouse with a mysterious white woman on the subway.

Premiere Status : Special Screening

Director : Andre Gaines

Film Type : Feature Film

Run Time : 01:28:00 Seconds

Location : United States



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Newsletter

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**5:30
PM**

Closing Night: VIP GALA DINNER

Chandler Center for the Arts
250 N Arizona Ave, Chandler, AZ 85225

VIP Gala Dinner & Red Carpet

Mark your calendars for February 1st as we bring the 10th annual Chandler International Film Festival to a spectacular close. Get ready for an evening of unparalleled elegance, cinematic celebration, and the opportunity to meet Hollywood celebrities in an unforgettable star-studded event.

Event Highlights Include: Red Carpet Entrance, VIP Gala Dinner, Celebrity Appearances, Inspiring Filmmaker Speeches, Prestigious Award Presentations, Celebrate the extraordinary achievements of filmmakers, actors, and industry leaders as we honor their contributions to the art of storytelling.

**8:00
PM**

GRAND AWARD CEREMONY!

Chandler Center for the Arts
250 N Arizona Ave, Chandler, AZ 85225

Join us for the CIFF Grand Awards Ceremony as we celebrate the filmmakers, screenwriters, and stories that defined this year's festival. The evening honors outstanding achievements across all categories, culminating in the announcement of our top awards. It's a night of recognition, inspiration, and cinematic excellence.



**10:00
PM**

AFTER PARTY @ CCA Lobby

Chandler Center for the Arts (Lobby)
250 N Arizona Ave, Chandler, AZ 85225

After the awards ceremony, head to the after-party in the lobby of the Chandler Center for the Arts. Network with fellow attendees, capture memorable moments on the red carpet with the winners, and exchange contact information to stay connected.

**11:45
PM**

AFTER AFTER PARTY @ La Ristra

La Ristra New Mexican Kitchen
140 North Arizona Avenue
Chandler, AZ 85225 United States



La Ristra New Mexican Kitchen (Chandler)

Don't head home just yet—the party continues! Join us for the official After-After Party at La Ristra in Chandler, where filmmakers and filmgoers stick around to celebrate, network, and keep the festival fun going late into the night. Great food, drinks, and conversation await—this is where the magic of CIFF really keeps rolling!

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