

# RAGTAG FILM SOCIETY



## TRUE/FALSE FILM FEST 2019 FEATURE FILMS

### **Amazing Grace | 2019; 87 min.**

At peak stardom, Aretha Franklin goes back to her family's gospel roots, live-recording at a Baptist church while backed by a famed community choir.

### **American Factory | Dir. Julia Reichert & Stephen Bognar; 2019; 115 min.**

Dizzying, hilarious, and devastating, *American Factory* is a landmark story of globalization.

### **APOLLO 11 | Dir. Todd Douglas Miller; 2019; 93 min.**

Our miraculous first trip to the moon is conjured through 70mm footage finally uncovered from the NASA vaults.  
*Presented by Veterans United Home Loans*

### **Caballerango | Dir. Juan Pablo González; 2018; 60 min.**

A haunted look into the soul of a rural Mexican town in the wake of the death of a horse wrangler.

### **Celebration | Dir. Olivier Meyrou; 2018; 73 min.**

A disquieting peek behind the wardrobe of Yves Saint Laurent, the most distinguished couturier of the last century.  
*Supported by the Cultural Service at the Consulate General of France in Chicago*

### **Chez Jolie Coiffure | Dir. Rosine Mbakam; 2018; 70 min.**

Conversations intertwine with hair-braiding at a Brussels hair salon, which serves as a safe haven for African refugees.

### **Chinese Portrait | Dir. WANG Xiaoshuai; 2018; 79 min.**

Over a decade, renowned director WANG Xiaoshuai records his country in upheaval.

### **Cold Case Hammarskjöld | Dir. Mads Brügger; 2019; 123 min.**

This engrossing gonzo film starts as a hell-bent investigation of the death of the U.N. secretary-general in 1961 then takes on long-lingering mysteries on the African continent.

### **The Commons | Dir. Suki Hawley & Michael Galinsky; 2019; 71 min.**

An intrepid film crew takes us inside an intense battle over a Confederate monument on UNC-Chapel Hill's public commons. Plays with "The Changing Same" (dirs. Michèle Stephenson & Joe Brewster; 2018; 21 min.)

### **Dark Suns | Dir. Julien Elie; 2018; 151 min.**

A towering investigation into decades of the disappeared in Mexico. *Supported by the Consulate General of Canada, Chicago*

### **The Edge of Democracy | Dir. Petra Costa; 2019; 120 min.**

Petra Costa's personal take on the coup that remade Brazil ignites a signal flare for those who live in so-called stable democracies. *Presented by The Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy*

**Finding Frances | Dir. Nathan Fielder; 2017; 84 min.**

Television host Nathan Fielder attempts to help an eccentric Bill Gates impersonator reunite with his long-lost love. *Supported by the Consulate General of Canada, Chicago*

**The Game | Dir. Marine de Contes; 2018; 53 min.**

Deep in the forests of southwest France, cult-like aficionados anticipate—and set traps for—the arrival of their quarry. Plays with "Crannog" (dir. Isa Rao; 2018; 15 min.) *Supported by the Cultural Service at the Consulate General of France in Chicago*

**The Grand Bizarre | Dir. Jodie Mack; 2018; 61 min.**

A colorful tour of the world's great textile traditions and a celebration of the pattern language of human inventiveness.

**Home, Sweet Home | Dir. ISE Shinichi; 2018; 110 min.**

A monumental achievement of long-term documentary filmmaking: 35 years in the life of Nao, whom doctors expected to die before she turned 20 years old. *Presented by Boone Supported Living*

**The Hottest August | Dir. Brett Story; 2019; 92 min.**

Brett Story's visionary look at New York City as it braces for an uncertain future. *Supported by the Consulate General of Canada, Chicago*

**Island of the Hungry Ghosts | Dir. Gabrielle Brady; 2018; 98 min.**

On far-off Christmas Island, therapist Poh Lin Lee counsels immigrants who are detained while millions of red crabs enjoy free rein during mating season.

**Knock Down The House | Dir. Rachel Lears; 2019; 85 min.**

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez headlines a group of insurgent politicians and tireless activists taking on The Establishment.

**Landless | Dir. Camila Freitas; 2019; 110 min.**

Facing an uncaring legal labyrinth, rebellious farmers in rural Brazil commandeer corporate-owned land.

**Let It Burn | Dir. Maíra Bühler; 2019; 82 min.**

A gritty observation of precarious romance, debauchery, and heartbreak between addicts living in a São Paulo hotel.

**The Magic Life of V | Dir. Tonislav Hristov; 2019; 85 min.**

Veera becomes the hero of her own story by using LARPing (live-action role-playing) to escape and transcend her difficult everyday life.

**Midnight in Paris | Dir. Roni Moore & James Blagden; 2019; 75 min.**

The intense anticipation of prom week lights up this warmhearted, sometimes cheeky look at the teenagers of Flint, Michigan.

**Midnight Traveler | Dir. Hassan Fazili; 2019; 87 min.**

Armed only with cellphone cameras, Hassan Fazili and his family flee from the Taliban, capturing every step of their high-stakes search for a new home. 2019 True Life Fund Film. *Presented by The Crossing*

**Mike Wallace is Here | Dir. Avi Belkin; 2019; 86 min.**

The epitome of the brash, merciless investigative reporter, Mike Wallace ("60 Minutes") lived his life on air.

**Mr. SOUL! | Dir. Melissa Haizlip & Sam Pollard; 2018; 115 min.**

An electric exploration of "SOUL!"—the revolutionary unsung classic of American television that spotlighted soul legends and shattered conventions.

**The Naked Room | Dir. Nuria Ibáñez Castañeda; 2013; 70 min.**

This minimalist wonder from True Vision recipient Nuria Ibáñez Castañeda empathetically observes tormented children in therapy sessions.

**N/N: Atman | Dir. Pirjo Honkasalo; 1997; 76 min.**

A devout Hindu man whose legs have been paralyzed since childhood heads on a 3,000-mile pilgrimage up the Ganges river in honor of his recently deceased mother. *Screens for free as a part of the Neither/Nor Film Series. Neither/Nor is presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.*

**N/N: Mysterion | Dir. Pirjo Honkasalo; 1991; 94 min.**

Set in a polluted corner of Estonia, Pirjo Honkasalo's first documentary feature lovingly explores the lives of Russian Orthodox nuns who spend their days working the land and praying to the heavens. *Screens for free as a part of the Neither/Nor Film Series. Neither/Nor is presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.*

**N/N: Tanjuska and the 7 Devils | Dir. Pirjo Honkasalo; 1993; 80 min.**

When a 10-year-old girl stops speaking, her family desperately turns to an intimidating priest who claims she has seven demons inside her. *Screens for free as a part of the Neither/Nor Film Series. Neither/Nor is presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.*

**No data plan | Dir. Miko Revereza; 2018; 70 min.**

The American road movie is renewed by a director whose undocumented mom carries two phones, one solely for calls regarding immigration. Plays with "I Signed the Petition" (dir. Mahdi Fleifel; 2018; 10 min.).

**'Now something is slowly changing' | Dir. mint film office; 2018; 105 min.**

Spiritually adrift Dutch turn to therapy and coaches in this puckish, provocative look at self-help culture.

**One Child Nation | Dir. Nanfu Wang & Jialing Zhang; 89 min.**

Nanfu Wang uncovers her own revelatory history within China's far-reaching one-child policy.

**Our Time (Nuestro Tiempo) | Dir. Carlos Reygadas; 2018; 177 min.**

Maverick director Carlos Reygadas' latest, filmed at his Mexican ranch, offers an audacious fiction about an open marriage that goes sour.

**Over the Rainbow | Dir. Jeffrey Peixoto; 2019; 71 min.**

Director Jeffrey Peixoto meets active members of the Church of Scientology in a mesmerizing exploration of our attraction to radical religion.

**Reason | Dir. Anand Patwardhan; 2018; 235 min.**

Legendary director Anand Patwardhan puts his life on the line in this tenacious, incisive response to the rise of Hindu nationalism.

**Segunda Vez | Dir. Dora García; 2018; 94 min.**

This radical reimagining of the biopic re-enacts the "happenings" and "anti-happenings" of Argentinian psychoanalyst Oscar Masotta.

**Shorts Program: Tea 65 | 65 min. various directors**

Dark, private spaces are illuminated in these five standout films. *Supported by the Consulate General of Canada, Chicago*

**Shorts Program: Tequila 62 | 62 min. various directors**

Filmmakers repurpose archival remnants and interrogate social status in these four short films.

**Shorts Program: & Tonic 67 | 67 min. various directors**

The difference between what is seen and unseen drives these five films, from which our eyes will never recover.

**The Tightrope | Dir. Nuria Ibáñez Castañeda; 2009; 80 min.**

A bare-bones outfit of five family members tours Mexico in a ramshackle traveling circus. By 2019 True Vision Award recipient Nuria Ibáñez Castañeda.

**Treasure Island | Dir. Guillaume Brac; 2018; 97 min.**

Brimming with thrill-seeking discovery and nostalgia, this barmy delight captures all of the summer fun at a suburban Parisian water park. *Supported by the Cultural Service at the Consulate General of France in Chicago*

**Untitled Amazing Johnathan Documentary | Dir. Ben Berman; 2019; 91 min.**

A magician's final tour triggers a twisty-turny, cat-and-mouse, hall-of-mirrors, inside-out, funhouse game between subject and filmmaker.

**Up The Mountain | Dir. ZHANG Yang; 2018; 126 min.**

The charismatic painter Shen Jianhua's remote mountain studio hosts a group of unconventional students, eager to learn more about his eye-popping, hyperreal approach to art and life.

**A Wild Stream | Dir. Nuria Ibáñez Castañeda; 72 min.**

Two fishermen eking out a living on the Sea of Cortez form an ambiguously close relationship in this majestic work from the 2019 True Vision Award recipient Nuria Ibáñez Castañeda. *Presented by Restoration Eyecare*

## SHORT FILMS

**Black 14 | Dir. Darius Clark Monroe; 2018; 14min**

An archival sociological study examining media coverage of a 1969 racial protest by members of the University of Wyoming football team. *(Plays in Tequila 62)*

**The Changing Same | Dirs. Michèle Stephenson & Joe Brewster; 2018; 21 min.**

Every year in the Florida Panhandle, Lamar Wilson runs 13 miles retracing the terror of the 1934 lynching of Claude Neal. *(Plays before The Commons)*

**Crannog | Dir. Isa Rao; 2018; 15 min.**

Alexis Fleming tends to all creatures great and small in a storybook sanctuary, an animal hospice two hours south of Glasgow. *(Plays before The Game)*

**Djo | Dir. Laura Henno; 2019; 12 min.**

A man named Smogi professes his profound love for a wild dog. *(Plays in Tea 65)*

**Dramatic and Mild | Dir. Nastia Korkia; 2018; 6 min.**

After waiting in a long line to get into the the exhibition of a Kandinsky painting that has finally been returned to Moscow, would-be viewers are surprised by a peculiar security guard. *(Plays in & Tonic 67)*

**Due | Dir. Riccardo Giacconi; 2017; 17 min.**

A nightmarish exploration of Milano Two, a “ghetto for the rich” created by disgraced former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi as an early experiment in mind control. *(Plays in & Tonic 67)*

**every dog has its day | Dir. Alison Nguyen; 2019; 6 min.**

Cult-produced media and religious iconography crash in this heterogenous essay film. *(Plays in Tequila 62)*

**Fainting Spells | Dir. Sky Hopinka; 2018; 11 min.**

The ethnopoetic journey of an imagined myth for the Indian Pipe Plant used by the Ho-Chunk to revive those who have fainted. *(Plays before a TBA audio documentary)*

**Ghosts of Sugar Land | Dir. Bassam Tariq, 2019; 21 min.**

A group of Southeast Asian Muslim friends from Sugar Land, TX, outside of Houston, gets rocked by a young convert named Mark. *(Plays in Tea 65)*

**Goodbye Thelma | Dir. Jessica Bardsley, 2019; 14 min.**

A chilling stunner about the fear of men and the outdoors, transforming the 1991 movie *Thelma & Louise* for its own purposes. *(Plays in Tea 65)*

**The Harvesters | Dir. Derek Howard; 2017; 6 min.**

Three Maasi men from Kenya show us how to stage and harvest honey from a tall tree in this collaborative ethnography. *(Plays in Tea 65)*

**I Signed the Petition | Dir. Mahdi Fleifel; 2018; 10 min.**

After agonizing over his act of signing a petition asking Radiohead not to play in Tel Aviv in support of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement against Israel, the director calls an acerbic and honest friend for advice. *(Plays before No data plan)*

**Lasting Marks | Dir. Charlie Lyne, 2018; 14 min.**

A group of gay men and their consensual acts in an abandoned watch tower become a cause celebre in 1980s England. *(Plays in Tequila 62)*

**The Lost Head and the Bird | Dir. Sohrab Hura; 2018; 10 min.**

Celebrated photographer Sohrab Hura combines a uncanny short story with an ingeniously paced edit of his own photographs and salvaged images of India's rising violence. *(Plays in & Tonic 67)*

**The Men Behind the Wall | Dir. Ines Moldavsky; 2018; 28 min.**

A surprising series of portraits of Palestinian men from an Israeli director who found her subjects through Tinder. *(Plays in Tequila 62)*

**Vesuvius at Home | Dir. Christin Turner; 2018; 14 min.**

A fantastical spiral of time from the filmmaker's re-enactment of a false Pompeii, from her twenty five year fascination. *(Plays in & Tonic 67)*

**Vever (for Barbara) | Dir. Deborah Stratman; 2018; 12 min.**

Pioneering woman filmmaker Maya Deren's voice, texts, and thoughts merge with an unfinished film from Barbara Hammer, through the hand of Deborah Stratman. *(Plays in Tea 65)*

**Walled/Unwalled | Dir. Lawrence Abu Hamdan; 2018; 20 min.**

A piercing performance that takes down the impenetrability of walls and borders through sound. *(Plays in & Tonic 67)*