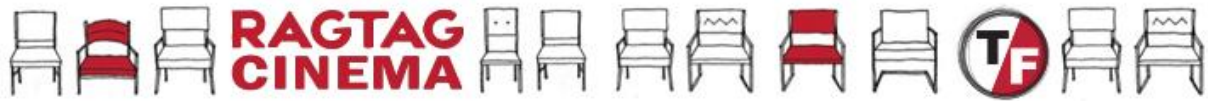


# RAGTAG FILM SOCIETY



## TRUE/FALSE FILM FEST 2023 FEATURE FILMS

### **Anhell69 | Dir. Theo Montoya; 2022; 72 min.**

Blurring the lines of reality, director Theo Montoya leads the viewer through a magical-realism journey to recover the memories of his friends and chosen family.

### **Art Talent Show | Dirs. Adéla Komrzý & Tomáš Bojar; 2022; 102 min.**

Through amusing and frustrating moments at a prestigious Czech art institute, professors set up an elaborate enrollment test for prospective students.

### **Bad Press | Dirs. Rebecca Landsberry-Baker & Joe Peeler; 2022; 98 min.**

A fearless indigenous journalist fights for independent media and democracy in her community. *Presented by Paytient*

### **Bobi Wine: The People's President | Dirs. Christopher Sharp & Moses Bwayo; 2022; 114 min.**

Activist-musician Bobi Wine runs for the presidency of Uganda daringly opposing a 35-year-long regime. *Presented by Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy*

### **Broca's Aphasia | Dir. SU Ming-Yen; 2022; 85 min.**

In a Taiwanese sex-doll hotel, glimpses of the workers' lives and a haunting disembodied monologue reverberate.

### **Dogwatch | Dir. Gregoris Rentis; 2022; 78 min.**

Armed guards, hired to protect ships from Somali pirates, restlessly live their everyday lives while constantly anticipating an attack.

### **Feet in Water, Head on Fire | Dir. Terra Long; 2023; 90 min.**

In California's Coachella Valley, miles of imported date palms, planted over generations, tell the story of a landscape and community in transition.

### **Forms of Forgetting | Dir. Burak Çevik; 2023; 70 min.**

A couple meditate on their long-past relationship while delving deeply into the recesses of the decay of time and memory.

### **Gigi La Legge | Dir. Alessandro Comodin; 2022; 102 min.**

Sleepy summer days unfold in this hybrid portrait of a gregarious local police officer on patrol through the Italian countryside.

**Going To Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project | Dirs. Michèle Stephenson & Joe Brewster; 2022; 102 min.**

An Afrofuturist exploration of renowned poet Nikki Giovanni's life, legacy, and hopes for the future.

**Going Varsity In Mariachi | Dirs. Alejandra Vasquez & Sam Osborn; 2022; 104 min.**

In Southern Texas, a group of talented young musicians and their formidable coach vie for a chance to win the state championship in mariachi.

**Guapo'y | Dir. Sofia Paoli Thorne; 2022; 72 min.**

Healing from the trauma of the Paraguayan dictatorship, Celsa uses herbs to mend deep wounds left from her imprisonment and torture.

**How To Have An American Baby | Dir. Leslie Tai; 2023; 117 min.**

A kaleidoscopic portrait of the birth tourism industry, following Chinese mothers in a Californian "maternity hotel".

**Hummingbirds | Dirs. Silvia Del Carmen Castaños & Estefanía "Beba" Contreras; 2023; 78 min.**

Two filmmakers find healing in their everyday joyful antics on the streets of Laredo, Texas.

**It Runs In The Family | Dir. Victoria Linares Villegas; 2022; 84 min.**

A revelation about her family connection to an influential Dominican director from the 1940s sets a filmmaker on her own playful path of self-discovery.

**Joonam | Dir. Sierra Urich; 2022; 103 min.**

A filmmaker attempts to break down language barriers with her Iranian grandmother to finally understand her relationship to her heritage.

**La Bonga | Dirs. Sebastián Pinzón Silva & Canela Reyes; 2022; 77 min.**

Decades after they were forced to flee their village in the Colombian jungle, a community makes a poetically rendered return home.

**Last Things | Dir. Deborah Stratman; 2023; 50 min.**

An experimental, science fiction-meets-science fact meditation on the evolution and extinction of human life from the point of view of rocks.

**Mafifa | Dir. Daniela Muñoz Barroso; 2021; 77 min.**

In this verité search for a late, legendary female conga musician, a filmmaker with progressive hearing loss seeks to find traces of herself.

**Man On Earth | Dir. Amiel Courtin-Wilson; 2022; 97 min.**

Intimate observation and loving testimony are mixed with poetic moments in this thoughtful portrait of a terminally ill man who has scheduled his death.

**Milisuthando | Dir. Milisuthando Bongela; 2023; 128 min.**

Interrogations of the past fuse profoundly with investment in the future in this kaleidoscopic look at apartheid through its victims and the filmmaker's own self.

**A Moment Of Innocence | Dir. Mohsen Makhmalbaf; 1996; 78 min.**

An Iranian filmmaker seeks to reconcile through recreating the moment when he stabbed a police officer during a political rally. *Curated by Victoria Linares Villegas as part of the True Vision retrospective program.*

**Moosa Lane | Dir. Anita Mathal Hopland; 2022; 87 min.**

A biracial director meditates on identity, relationships, and home in this striking personal portrait shot over 15 years between Denmark and Pakistan.

**Natalia | Dir. Elizabeth Mirzaei; 2023; 76 min.**

A young woman pursues her faith, in the face of societal pressures, to become a nun.

**Our Body | Dir. Claire Simon; 2022; 168 min.**

Director Claire Simon follows doctors and patients at a gynecology ward in France. *Presented by Flow's Pharmacy*

**Paradise | Dir. Alexander Abaturov; 2022; 89 min.**

A Siberian village fights apocalyptic wildfires without help from Moscow. Institutional neglect vies with mythic elemental forces in this intimate portrait of a community.

**R 21 aka Restoring Solidarity | Dir. Mohanad Yaqubi; 2022; 71 min.**

Films about the Palestinian liberation struggle—housed in a Japanese archive—are interwoven to create an essay on transnational solidarity and cinema as propaganda.

**Ramona | Dir. Victoria Linares Villegas; 2023; 83 min.**

An actress interviews several pregnant teenage girls in preparation for playing a fictional film character, which raises questions over her suitability for the role. *Presented by Restoration Eye Care*

**Red Herring | Dir. Kit Vincent; 2023; 94 min.**

Diagnosed with a terminal illness, a filmmaker documents the power of family and friendship in the face of adversity.

**The Stroll | Dirs. Kristen Lovell & Zackary Drucker; 2023; 85 min.**

A filmmaker documents their personal connection to the rich history of the trans community in New York City's Meatpacking District.

**The Taste Of Mango | Dir. Chloe Abrahams; 2023; 75 min.**

In an attempt to salvage the long-strained relationship between her mother and grandmother, a filmmaker confronts traumatic family secrets with her camera.

**Tavuri | Dir. Dervis Zaim; 2022; 93 min.**

In this imaginative verité film an infamous scam artist, who is suffering with diabetes, is released from prison and given a last chance at redemption.

**Three Women | Dir. Maksym Melnyk; 2022; 85 min.**

As he documents life in a rural region of Ukraine, a filmmaker becomes part of village life himself. *Presented by Show Me Quality Consulting*

**Time Bomb Y2K | Dirs. Brian Becker & Marley McDonald; 2023; 80 min.**

An immersive, all-archival retelling of the “Y2K” millennium bug and the mass hysteria that changed the fabric of modern society. *Presented by Van Matre Law Firm*

**Xaraasi Xanne (Crossing Voices) | Dirs. Raphaël Grisey & Bouba Touré; 2022; 122 min.**

A textured range of archive material and testimony interwoven in this evocation of Somankidi Coura, an anti-colonial farming collective in Mali.

## TRUE/FALSE FILM FEST 2023 SHORT FILMS

**Alpha Kings | Dirs. Faye Tsakas & Enrique Pedráza-Botero; 2022; 14 min.**

Through intimate, observational moments, *Alpha Kings* follows a group of young men seeking quick wealth on OnlyFans. (Plays Before: *Broca's Aphasia*)

**Anima | Dir. Manuel Mateo; 2022; 19 min.**

Striking images of the lives and deaths of captive animals loom in the background of everyday humanity. (Plays in Shorts: Galileo)

**Aqueronte | Dir. Manuel Muñoz Rivas; 2023; 26 min.**

An eavesdropping observation through the mundanity, humor, and boredom of passengers on a ferry. (Plays in Shorts: Angiogram)

**Aralkum | Dirs. Daniel Asadi Faezi & Mila Zhluktenko; 2022; 14 min.**

As seen through haunting cinematography, a former fisherman sets sail on the barren Aral Desert, which was once a lush sea. (Plays in Shorts: Galileo)

**Away | Dir. Ruslan Fedotov; 2022; 28 min.**

Talented teenage Ukrainian refugees use art to create powerful statement pieces on the streets of Budapest. (Plays in Shorts: Angiogram)

**Before It Breaks | Dir. Swetha Regunathan; 2022; 7min.**

The dance and alchemy between the choreography of glassblowing and the connection to the human form. (Plays in Shorts: Angiogram)

**Caballo de Espuma | Dir. Juanjo Rueda; 2022; 20 min.**

Assembling the filmmaker's writing, storyboards, family archives, and haunting outdoor shots, *Caballo de Espuma* leads to an exploration of memory that blends the lines of reality. (Plays Before: *Mafifa*)

**Echo | Dir. Ross McClean; 2023; 13min.**

In Northern Ireland, an older man with damaged vocal chords seeks out connections over the radio airwaves. (Plays in Shorts: Galileo)

**The Empty Sphere | Dir. Stéphanie Roland; 2022; 19min.**

Through starkly beautiful black and white images, the viewer journeys from the depths of space to the core of the earth. (Plays in Shorts: Galileo)

**Example # 35 | Dirs. Lucía Malandro & Daniel D. Saucedo; 2022; 6 min.**

Footage from Cuba's judicial archives weaves an untold perspective of the nonconformists. (Plays in Shorts: Serotonin)

**The Feeling of Being Close to You | Dir. Ash Goh Hua; 2022; 12 min.**

Through a lyrical combination of archival footage and phone calls, director Ash Goh Hua depicts the tense relationship between them and their mother. (Plays Before: *The Taste of Mango*)

**I was born in 1988 | Dir. Yasaman Baghban; 2022; 9 min.**

An Iranian filmmaker is haunted by the fact that they were born at the same time that massacres of political prisoners began in Iran. (Plays Before: *Guapo'y*)

**Jill, Uncredited | Dir. Anthony Ing; 2022; 18 min.**

A lively investigation into British background actor Jill Goldston's prolific filmography. (Plays in Shorts: Angiogram)

**Language Unknown | Dir. Janelle VanderKelen; 2022; 6 min.**

In this animated experimental film, plants blossom through the foundation of a home and overtake human spaces. (Plays in Shorts: Galileo)

**love at first byte | Dirs. Felizitas Hoffmann & Theresa Hoffmann; 2022; 6 min.**

With security camera footage obtained via data request, this short distorts reality to embody a missed connection for a lovelorn surveillance machine. (Plays in Shorts: Serotonin)

**Margie Soudek's Salt and Pepper Shakers | Dir. Meredith Moore; 2022; 12 min.**

A filmmaker and VFX instructor uses footage of her grandmother's intricate and unique collection of salt and pepper shakers in a film that bends time and space. (Plays in Shorts: Angiogram)

**Moomin | Dir. Zach Dorn; 2022; 5 min.**

A filmmaker's lovesick voiceover narrates a cellphone journey to reconnect with a distant love over an online claw machine game. (Plays in Shorts: Serotonin)

**Moune Ô | Dir. Maxime Jean-Baptiste; 2022; 17 min.**

Dissecting footage of his father in Alain Maline's *Jean Galmot, Aventurier*, Maxime Jean-Baptiste breaks down the colonial gaze. (Plays Before: *La Bonga*)

**No Elements | Dir. Barbara Vojtašáková; 2022; 25 min.**

A former couple reflects on 16mm film footage they shot together revealing the intricacy and challenges of their relationship. (Plays in Shorts: Serotonin)

**Tension Envelopes | Dir. Robert Greene; 2023; 9 min.**

A voiceless narrator imagines life inside the walls of an envelope factory. (Plays Before: *Forms of Forgetting*)

**That Day on the River | Dir. Lei Lei; 2023; 39 min.**

An intimate conversation between father and son paired with archival footage offers a glimpse into childhood memories of home. (Plays Before: *Last Things*)

**Tierra de Leche | Dirs. Milton Guillén & Fiona Hall; 2022; 12 min.**

An interrogation of capitalism and the American dream through migrant labor, GPS, and dairy cows. (Plays in Shorts: Galileo)

**Visão do Paraíso | Dir. Leonardo Pirondi; 2022; 16 min.**

Bridging colonialism and modern machinery, *Visão do Paraíso* offers a stark critique of the evolution of technology. (Plays in Shorts: Galileo)

**While the Night Falls/Mientras Anochece | Dir. Amir Aether Valen; 2023; 18 min.**

With stunning black and white cinematography, an elderly couple living on an isolated rural farm move through their daily routines. (Plays in Shorts: Serotonin)

**You Are Not Here | Dir. Nastia Korkia; 2022; 16 min.**

The chapters of a Russian funeral procession offer a meditation on ritual and loss. (Plays in Shorts: Serotonin)