SEATER BELIEVE SEATER SECTOR MARCH 21-26 · 2024 ·

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YEAR TWO • COMING-OF-AGE IN GENRE •

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WHAT WE WATCH

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LETTER FROM THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Whether we like it or not, movies help shape who we are. As kids, they teach us valuable lessons about morality and banality, good and evil, right and wrong. I learned more about loyalty, love, and friendship from watching *The Goonies* 1,000 times than I ever did from my classmates or the local news. And, though many kids are not allowed to indulge in darker genre cinema, those who are can develop emotionally in ways parents just can't handle. I wish more parents trusted their kids and allowed them to grow, both in the light and the dark.

Year Two of Make Believe Seattle is all about how we use genre cinema to help form who we become as adults – and, sometimes, whom we become while adulting. This selection of cinema from across the globe represents a particular rhythm... a wavelength that we hope forces you to touch base with your inner child – to laugh, to cry, to shiver, to shake, and to experience. We wanted to create an overall experience for the entire family – to explore the outer rims of what genre can do, and to help guide young people who love these types of films as they come of age.

If you're sitting around grumbling — "This isn't genre!" — you're missing the point. If you come in with an open mind, and a thirst for imagination — you're our kind of awesome.

-Billy Ray Brewton

STAFF

PROGRAMMING

Creative Director Billy Ray Brewton

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Festival Artwork Design **Ryan Spindell**

Festival Assistant Kaitlin Dargie

Opening Night Coordinator Angela Schmidt

Make Believe Bumper Ben Hethcoat

Lead Programmer Billy Ray Brewton

Guest Programmer Chris Thomas Devlin

Native American Showcase Colleen Thurston

Animation Programmer Hannah Baek

Queer Lens Programmer Timofey Pozhitkov

Programming Assistant Kristin Noriega

Shorts Leads Hannah Baek Betsy Cass Marcus Gorman Kristen Grote Ray Misra Timofey Pozhitkov Colleen Thurston

Programmers Ian Cunningham Lili DeBarbieri Jake Levitt Patrick McFarland Shannen Ortale James Rains



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VENUES

NORTHWEST FILM FORUM 1515 12th Ave. Seattle, WA 98122 Handicap accessible Street parking available

THE ERICKSON THEATRE 1524 Harvard Ave. Seattle, WA 98122 Handicap accessible Street parking available

GRAND ILLUSION CINEMA 1403 NE 50th St. Seattle, WA 98105 **NOT handicap accessible**

MAKE BELIEVE FILMMAKER LOUNGE Sponsored by Tito's Handmade Vodka In the lobby of The Erickson Theatre

VIP Passholders & Filmmakers drink for FREE

Hours of operation in the Schedule \rightarrow

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

3/26

*Program includes Q&A

	NORTHWEST FILM FORUM	ERICKSON THEATRE	GRAND ILLUSION CINEMA
WED 3/20			7:30 PM · Snick or Treat
THU 3/21		7:30 PM · Opening Night: Shari & Lamb Chop* 10:00 PM · Opening Night Yacht Rock Party	
FRI 3/22	5:45 PM · Queen of the Deuce* 6:00 PM · Silent Scream (Shorts)* 8:00 PM · <i>Centerpiece</i> : A Most Atrocious Thing*	 FILMMAKER LOUNGE OPEN: 5:45 PM-11:59 PM 6:00 PM · He Never Left* 8:15 PM · Masks We Wear (Shorts)* 10:00 PM · Dying is Easy, Empathy is Hard (Shorts)* 	
SAT 3/23	 1:45 PM · Drawn to Death (Shorts)* 2:15 PM · Gunfighter Paradise* 3:45 PM · Centerpiece: Bonus Track 4:00 PM · Make Believers (Shorts) 5:45 PM · Lost Soulz* 6:00 PM · The Lonely Man with the Ghost Machine* 8:00 PM · Monkeys & Monkeys 2: Fight for the Future* 8:15 PM · Bloody Bridget* 	 FILMMAKER LOUNGE OPEN: 11:45 AM-11:59 PM 12:00 PM · Kids' Matinee: Something Wicked This Way Comes 2:15 PM · I'm George Lucas: The Connor Ratliff Story* 4:15 PM · The George Lucas Talk Show 6:30 PM · Talkback: The Devil's Backbone 9:00 PM · For Night Will Come 	
SUN 3/24	1:45 PM · The Concierge 2:15 PM · Screen Drafts Podcast Live! 3:45 PM · Dickweed* 5:00 PM · Unknown Forces (Shorts) 7:00 PM · Gush 8:15 PM · Closing Night: Humanist Vampire Seeking Consenting Suicidal Person	FILMMAKER LOUNGE OPEN: 11:45 AM-7:00 PM 12:00 PM · Our Ancestors' Wildest (Shorts)* 2:15 PM · All You Need is Blood 4:30 PM · Albert Pyun: King of Cult Movies* 5:45 PM · Arcade 7:45 PM · American Meltdown*	
MON 3/25 Tue	1	an can	6:30 PM · Universal Fear (Shorts)* 9:00 PM · Property 6:30 PM · The Wheel of Heaven 9:00 PM · Weird, Wild, and Wonderful (Shorts)*

00

OPENING NIGHT FILM

WEST COAST PREMIERE SHARI AND LAMB CHOP*

THU. 3/21 7:30 PM ERICKSON THEATRE



Lisa D'Apolito · USA · 2023 · 92 mins

* Filmmaker Lisa D'Apolito will be in attendance

Coming-of-age can be difficult, but is always more bearable when you have someone who connects with you on a cellular level. Shari Lewis–like Fred Rogers, Jim Henson, and others–was one of those people. She was a dancer, singer, and magician, but was best known as the ventriloquist behind sock puppets Charlie Horse, Hush Puppy and, of course, Lamb Chop. This heartfelt and entertaining doc charts the life, loves, and career hits and misses of the spunky perfectionist who forever changed the face of children's television. Featuring ventriloquists she inspired and nostalgia-laden clips, this upbeat portrait brims, like Lewis, with warmth and charm. From director Lisa D'Apolito (Love, Gilda), *Shari and Lamb Chop* is the tonic we all need to reconnect with our inner children, and celebrate pure imagination.

Screens with Bird Drone

(Radheya Jang Jegatheva · Australia · 2023 · 9 mins) A lonely seagull looking for love struggles to accept that his newfound object of affection is a human-operated drone with a limited battery life.

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

PACIFIC NORTHWEST PREMIERE HUMANIST VAMPIRE SEEKING CONSENTING SUICIDAL PERSON SUN. 3/24 8:15 PM NORTHWEST FILM FORUM



The vampire sub-genre has explored just about every angle imaginable, which makes the revelation of *Humanist Vampire*... all the more remarkable. Sasha, a 16-year-old vampire, hates the idea of killing people for their blood. When her supply is cut off by her parents, she enlists the help of Paul, a suicidal boy who agrees to being Sasha's victim as long as she spends a night helping him accomplishment everything he wants to do before he dies. This dark and redeeming coming-of-age picture takes everything you know and love about vampires, humanizes it, and presents a world unlike any we've seen in a film like this before. Sara Montpetit and Felix Antoine-Benard are truly inspired as "Sasha" and "Paul", and you won't believe just how impactful this little film feels in the end.

Screens with World to Roam

(Stephen Irwin · United Kingdom · 2023 · 12 mins)

A mother and father lay their child in his cot at the same time every night. However, one morning, only a shallow crater remains. The boy was destined to be a wanderer.

CENTERPIECES

WORLD PREMIERE

A MOST ATROCIOUS THING*

FRI. 3/22 8:00 PM NORTHWEST FILM FORUM



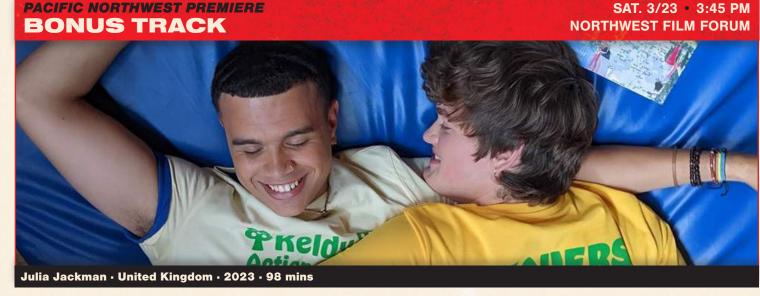
Christian Hurley & Ben Oliphint · USA · 2024 · 75 mins

* Filmmakers will be in attendance

When a group of young Chapman University students got creative during the pandemic, on a shoestring budget of \$5,000, something special was born. *A Most Atrocious Thing* is that 'something special,' a wild and blood-soaked thrill ride that feels as if the *Please Don't Destroy* gang got in bed with Troma (Lloyd Kaufman even makes a cameo). When a group of friends preparing to step out into adulthood get together for a wild weekend getaway, they make the tragic mistake of eating infected deer meat, thus turning them into crazed, bloodthirsty maniacs. But, while it's a grisly, feral, 'atrocious' affair, it's also riddled with ample amounts of humor and heart, a tricky tonal accomplishment for any filmmaker. *A Most Atrocious Thing* is a labor of love from a group of friends who understood the assignment. It's the type of film we love at Make Believe because it embodies everything we 'believe', and everything we are.

Screens with *The Warmest Color is Blue* (Kevin Ralston · USA · 2023 · 6 mins)

Rebecca comes home from work one day to find her TV is missing. Detective JW Bond arrives on the scene to find out what happened to Rebecca's TV. Together, they find more than what they bargained for. From Make Believe alum, Kevin Ralston (*Hubbards*).



Part *Heartstopper*, part *Sing Street*, and all coming-of-age charm, *Bonus Track* is a warm and tender portrait of young love and artistic adventure. George is 16 years-old, filled with musical aspirations, and discovering himself in his very small town. When the son of a famous musical duo arrives, the two form an unlikely bond as they prepare for the school talent show, awakening feelings and talents otherwise dormant. Produced by and co-starring Josh O'Connor (*The Crown*, *Challengers*), with Jack Davenport (*Smash, The Talented Mr. Ripley*), *Bonus Track* is a film for anyone who's ever had a dream... a crush... a burning desire to express themselves. We're not kidding when we say it's the loveliest film you'll see this year.

Screens with Aikāne

(Daniel Sousa, Dean Hamer, & Joe Wilson \cdot USA \cdot 2023 \cdot 14 mins) A valiant island warrior, wounded in battle against foreign invaders, falls deep into a mysterious underwater world. Everything changes when the octopus who rescues him transforms into a handsome young man.



ALBERT PYUN: A CELEBRATION

WEST COAST PREMIERE ALBERT PYUN: KING OF CULT MOVIES SUN. 3/24 4:30 PM ERICKSON THEATRE



Lisa D'Apolito · USA · 2024 · 55 mins

If you're a fan of 80s/90s genre cinema, the name Albert Pyun is not unknown to you. A stalwart of B-movie and direct-to-video thrill rides, Pyun's filmography includes *The Sword and the Sorcerer, Alien from LA, Cyborg, Captain America, Dollman,* and more! In this insightful and thoroughly entertaining doc, filmmaker Lisa D'Apolito follows Pyun as he works on his next project, while discussing his legacy with the likes of Christopher Lambert, Seth Green, Ice-T, Chad Stahelski, and Jean Claude Van Damme. And, while things didn't work out the way Pyun or the filmmaker expected, what emerged is the portrait of a true film lover whose enthusiasm and sheer joy for filmmaking was evident in everything he created. Immediately followed by a screening of Pyun's 1993 cult classic, *Arcade*.



SUN. 3/24 • 5:45 PM • ERICKSON THEATRE

ARCADE

Albert Pyun · USA · 1993 · 88 mins

Straight from the vaults of 1993 comes Albert Pyun's weird and wild collaboration with screenwriter David S. Goyer (*The Dark Knight* trilogy) and producer Charles Band (Full Moon Entertainment). When a troubled teenager mourning the loss of her mother discovers a new virtual reality game called "Arcade", she and her friends slowly start to realize the game might be more 'real' than they ever imagined. Starring Peter Billingsley (*A Christmas Story*), Seth Green (*Robot Chicken*), and a host of notable 90's B-movie support, *Arcade* is definitely both a product of its time, and somehow ahead of it.

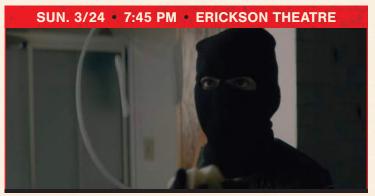
FEATURE FILMS



WEST COAST PREMIERE ALL YOU NEED IS BLOOD

Cooper Roberts · USA · 2023 · 100 mins

This playful homage to 1980's zombie flicks kicks off when a strange meteor lands in the backyard of a 16-year-old aspiring film director. After his deadbeat father is transformed into a brain-eating zombie, he must team up with his friends to create the ultimate student film. Part of growing up is discovering what you're meant to do and who you're meant to do it with, and *All You Need Is Blood* perfectly captures that energy and excitement when all the pieces come together and life finally starts to make sense. Think *Invaders from Mars* meets *One Cut of the Dead*, with some Amblin adventure vibes thrown in for an added kick. Starring Mena Suvari (*American Beauty*), Logan Riley Bruner (*Stranger Things*), and Eddie Griffin (*Soul Plane*).



PACIFIC NORTHWEST PREMIERE AMERICAN MELTDOWN*

* Filmmaker Andrew Adams will be in attendance

Andrew Adams · USA · 2023 · 82 mins

This self-described 'millennial coming-of-rage' picture is one of the strongest debut features of the past few months, thanks to a boiling sense of frustration that bleeds out of every frame. First time feature filmmaker, Andrew Adams, has crafted a crime story, a road movie, an indictment of American values, and a portrait of what it's like to be young and struggling in a country that couldn't care less. When Olivia, jobless and broke, befriends a pickpocket named Mari, she is convinced that the only way to make it in America is by committing petty crime. Winner of "Best Feature" at the 2023 Chattanooga Film Festival, this energetic and extremely topical debut has been scoring major points on the festival circuit for some time, and it's a privilege to help wind down its festival run at our weird little festival that could. **Screens with Too Slow (Stephen Vanderpool & Danielle McRae Spisso · USA · 2023 · 19 mins)**

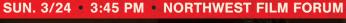


WASHINGTON PREMIERE BLOODY BRIDGET*

* Filmmaker Richard Elfman & star Anastasia Elfman will be in attendance

Richard Elfman · USA · 2023 · 80 mins

From the warped and genre-defining masterminds behind *Forbidden Zone* comes the latest from horror camp maestro, Richard Elfman, the wild and raucous, *Bloody Bridget*. Bridget O'Brian has a trailer park background and big aspirations. After a series of extremely abusive events, she meets the Haitian voodoo deity of life and death, and becomes empowered as a "valentine vampire". Bridget becomes the "Sword of Justice," defending women against the most evil and oppressive. Starring Anastasia Elfman as "Bridget" and with a score from Danny Elfman. *Filmmaker Richard Elfman and star Anastasia Elfman will be in attendance and producing a special musical burlesque performance before the screening*.





WEST COAST PREMIERE DICKWEED*

* Filmmaker Jonathan Ignatius Green will be in attendance

Jonathan Ignatius Green · USA · 2024 · 84 mins

Two people got kidnapped. One man lost his dick. No-one got any money. This heist-gone-horribly-wrong led one Newport Beach detective on an international manhunt for the most twisted criminal he'd ever hunted. In 2012, Michael, a local weed dispensary owner, got home from work and plopped down on the sofa like any other weeknight. Three hours later he was zip-tied and eating dirt as three men tried to beat him into admitting where he'd buried the million dollars. And he would have gladly told them rather than endure what happened next. The only problem was, he hadn't buried a million dollars, and after they tortured him and left him to die, he still had no idea who these men were.

SAT. 3/23 9:00 PM ERICKSON THEATRE



U.S. PREMIERE FOR NIGHT WILL COME EN ATTENDANT LA NUIT

Celine Rouzet · France · 2023 · 104 mins

The day they move into a new neighborhood, the Feral family plans to look as normal and friendly as possible. But their son, Philemon, is no ordinary teenager. When he gets closer to his new neighbor, Camila, his thirst for blood grows and his difference becomes impossible to hide. Following in the footsteps of classics like Let the Right One In, what separates *For Night Will Come* from the pack is the honest and complicated way it treats teenage emotions and the tornado of feelings that can erupt at any given moment. Yes, vampirism is a metaphor for impending adulthood, but it's tackled with a nuance and originality seldom seen.

Screens with You're On Your Own, Kid (Michael Matsui · USA · 2023 · 10 mins)

SAT. 3/23 • 2:00 PM • NORTHWEST FILM FORUM



WEST COAST PREMIERE GUNFIGHTER PARADISE

Jethro Waters · USA · 2024 · 93 mins

A hunter returns home to North Carolina with a mysterious green case. Following the death of his mother, he settles back into the family home where his mind begins to disintegrate. Stalked by divine voices and unholy visions—a cable man, a mummified cat, zealous neighbors, and a killer swirl through this darkly comic Southern gumbo. With *Gunfighter Paradise*, director Jethro Waters has crafted a gauzy, eerily romantic, and disquieting picture about loss, regret, and the dark and twisted capacities of the human mind. It's a riveting debut feature and the type of grass roots Americana that would make Altman and Lynch extremely proud. Featuring a memorable performance from the great character actress, Jessica Hecht (*Breaking Bad*, *Friends*).

Screens with Maize* (Corsica Wilson · USA · 2023 · 10 mins)

* Filmmaker Corsica Wilson & producer Kyle Lewis will be in attendance



PACIFIC NORTHWEST PREMIERE HE NEVER LEFT*

* Filmmakers will be in attendance

James Morris · USA · 2023 · 94 mins

Each year we search for the best indie slasher on the circuit, and *He Never Left* was the clear frontrunner from the beginning. After hearing strange noises coming from an adjoining motel room, a federal fugitive and his girlfriend inadvertently become targets of the notorious "Pale Face Killer," whose legend has consumed and haunted the local community for decades. After world premiering at FrightFest UK, the film has been devouring the genre festival circuit. An inventive new spin on the slasher genre, it features a host of memorable performances, surprising directorial choices, and has atmosphere to spare. You know what else? It's scary. **Screens with A Shining Example* (Clarke Wolfe · USA · 2023 · 16 mins)**

* Filmmaker Clarke Wolfe will be in attendance



WEST COAST PREMIERE I'M "GEORGE LUCAS": THE CONNOR RATLIFF STORY*

* Subjects Connor Ratliff, Griffin Newman, & Patrick Cotnoir will be in attendance

Ryan Jacobi · USA · 2024 · 90 mins

If you're *not* familiar with "The George Lucas Talk Show", you're missing out. This underground live event has been building a devoted cult following for years, thanks to the increasing profiles of its creator, Connor Ratliff, and recurring guests like Griffin Newman ("Blank Check" podcast), and our seemingly never-ending fascination with all things *Star Wars* and *Star Wars*-adjacent. Five years into performing as renowned filmmaker George Lucas in the show, Ratliff questions the need for its continuation and his own drive for success and fulfillment in show business. Is it a mid-life crisis film? Sure. Is it a film about creating art with your friends? Absolutely. But, most fittingly, it's a picture that proves you're never too old to 'come of age'. *Directly followed by a live performance of "The George Lucas Talk Show" featuring Connor Ratliff, Griffin Newman, and Patrick Cotnoir.*





WORLD PREMIERE THE LONELY MAN WITH THE GHOST MACHINE*

* Filmmakers will be in attendance

Graham Skipper · USA · 2024 · 90 mins

After a global catastrophe, the last man on Earth finds himself questioning his purpose and sanity as both his deceased wife and a mysterious stranger confront him with his past, his present, and whatever future might remain in the wastes of a dead world. Part *I Am Legend*, part *A Christmas Carol*, and tinged with all the Lovecraft your cosmic hearts can handle, the latest from actor (*Suitable Flesh, The Leech, Mind's Eye*) and filmmaker (*Sequence Break*) Graham Skipper is a clearly personal endeavor that allows the director to test his metal in a claustrophobic environment, and the actor a complicated and emotionally ignited character that provides enough meat on the bone to feed a family of six. **Screens with Shadow Brother Sunday (Alden Ehrenreich · USA · 2023 · 15 mins)**

SAT. 3/23 • 5:45 PM • NORTHWEST FILM FORUM



WEST COAST PREMIERE

Katherine Propper · USA · 2023 · 95 mins

One of our biggest surprises of the year comes from the state of Texas and first-time feature filmmaker, Katherine Propper-the exuberant, poignant, and unforgettable *Lost Soulz*. A young rapper leaves everything behind and embarks on an odyssey of self-discovery, music, and friendship in the heart of Texas. Featuring inspired performances from a cast of mostly unknown actors, and music that won't leave your head for days, it's the sort of debut that signals great things on the horizon. It's impossible not to get swept up by the simple pleasures of this film, a coming-of-age story that doesn't shy away from the harsh realities of life. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll wish the soundtrack was instantly available. With any luck, it will be.

Screens with M.T. Nestor (John Schlag · USA · 2023 · 17 mins)

SAT. 3/23 8:00 PM NORTHWEST FILM FORUM



UNEARTHED: MONKEYS & MONKEYS 2: FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE*

* Filmmaker John McGuigan will be in attendance

John McGuigan · USA · 2002 · 120 mins

When filmmaker John McGuigan, then in high school, directed his magnum opus (*Monkeys*) and its sequel (*Monkeys 2: Fight the Future*), he could never have known that—years later—a weird, wild, and wonderful genre festival in Seattle would dust them off and showcase them to new audiences looking for something filled with love and passion. Every kid with a camera made movies like these, with their friends, starting from scratch and seeing where the story took them. Both of these forgotten gems are brimming with kinetic filmmaking zeal, and the kind of youthful exuberance that is already making our backs ache. For fans of *Avatar, Lawrence of Arabia, Remember the Titans, Lonesome Dove*, and *The Pelican Brief.* **Curated by special guest programmer, Chris Thomas Devlin.**





PACIFIC NORTHWEST PREMIERE **PROPERTY** PROPRIEDADE

Daniel Bandeira · Brazil · 2023 · 101 mins

To protect herself from a revolt by the workers on her family's farm, a reclusive woman locks herself in her own armored car. Separated by a layer of glass, two universes are about to collide. This claustrophobic and impossibly intense thriller deals with class and social hierarchy in a way that feels fresh and intoxicating, even as its palpable sense of dread permeates over every ounce of the viewing experience. The Brazilian film industry has long been producing stories that force you to face the harsh truths of economic prosperity and the lack thereof, but none so deftly and terrifying as *Property*. If you're not still thinking about this one a month after you've seen it, we're pretty sure you're from another planet.

Screens with a tree once grew here (Johnnie Semerad · USA · 2023 · 7 mins)





WASHINGTON PREMIERE THE WHEEL OF HEAVEN

Joe Baedon · USA · 2023 · 105 mins

Somewhere between an anthology film and kinetic fever dream lies *The Wheel of Heaven*, the latest from Louisiana filmmaker, Joe Badon. A woman caught up in predatory relationships is thrown into a multi-layered world of choices after she discovers a mystical book in a thrift store. It's a feature film that has a mini-series inside of it. And that mini-series is inside of a fake public access channel complete with credits and fake commercials between each chapter. All the while, the audience is also watching the behind-the-scenes footage on the making of the film. It's as meta as meta gets, and absolutely captivating from beginning to end. Badon is engaging in cinematic warfare and we are here for every single shot fired. **Screens with Crazy Lotus (Naween Noppakun · Thailand · 2023 · 15 mins)**

SAT. 3/23 12:00 PM ERICKSON THEATRE



KIDS' MATINEE! ALL AGES, PAY WHAT YOU CAN

SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES

Jack Clayton · USA · 1983 · 98 mins

Adults of a certain age will fondly remember Disney's tangent into darker, more frightening films aimed at children, and none stand out as much as 1983's *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, based on the novel by Ray Bradbury and starring Jason Robards as an ailing father who must overcome his sedentary ways to save his son and his best friend from the clutches of the sinister Mr. Dark (Jonathan Pryce), whose carnival isn't at all what it seems. This is gateway fantasy/horror for kids of all ages, and there's never a bad time to turn your child on to the absolute genius of Ray Bradbury. Featuring Pam Grier (*Foxy Brown*), Royal Dano (*Killer Klowns from Outer Space*), and Diane Ladd (*Chinatown*).

Screens with Angelman (Sacha Picard · France · 2023 · 12 mins)



MID-LENGTH FILMS



PACIFIC NORTHWEST PREMIERE THE CONCIERGE

Yoshimi Itazu · Japan · 2023 · 70 mins

In the grand Japanese tradition of Hayao Miyazaki (*The Boy and the Heron*) and Makoto Shinkai (*Your Name*) comes *The Concierge*, a warm and exhilarating fable filled with magic and charm to spare. Akino is a trainee concierge at the Hokkyoku Department Store, an unusual department store that caters exclusively to animals. Under the watchful eyes of the floor manager and senior concierges, Akino runs around to fulfill the wishes of customers with a myriad of needs and problems in her pursuit to become a full-fledged concierge. Adapted from Tsuchika Nishimura's beloved manga series, this delightful piece of anime from first-time feature filmmaker Yoshimi Itazu is filled to the brim with everything you expect from the genre, and is guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

Screens with Promise (Ha-yeon Song · South Korea · 2023 · 4 mins)



PACIFIC NORTHWEST PREMIERE QUEEN OF THE DEUCE

Valerie Kontakos · USA · 2022 · 75 mins

Some of the best documentaries of the past several decades have been focused on unknown individuals who led fascinating lives and contributed so much to the world of entertainment. Chelly Wilson was a Jewish grandmother and proud owner of a porn theater empire in 1970's New York. Through audio recordings, Chelly recounts her pre-war escape from Greece up through her unlikely motherhood and rise to wealth as a shrewd businesswoman on "The Deuce", aka NYC's infamous 42nd Street. Via WWII and NYC archival footage and insightful interviews with Chelly's family and friends, *Queen of the Deuce* is an engaging and entertaining examination of a truly unique character with chutzpah in spades.

Screens with Matinee Baby (Thom Hilton · USA · 2023 · 18 mins)



PACIFIC NORTHWEST PREMIERE GUSH

Fox Maxy · USA · 2023 · 71 mins

As experimental as it is fully-formed, Fox Macy's extraordinary debut feature makes a strong case for her being a filmmaker to watch. Pieced together from a decade's worth of personal archives, *Gush* delivers a kaleidoscopic look at horror and survival. The film weaves through a stream-of-consciousness meditation on the impact of sexual violence and healing through collective joy, speaking to its viewers on its own terms and demonstrating the radical possibilities of filmmaking. *Gush* blends an intimate collage of personal footage and fixations that—true to its director's form—creates its own cinematic language.

Screens with *This is TMI* (Subarna Dash & Vidushi Gupta · India · 2023 · 6 mins)



SHORT FILM PROGRAMS

DRAWN TO DEATH

Curated by HANNAH BAEK

Die, come alive, disintegrate, and reanimate all over again—get your animation adoration on with 2D, CG, hand-drawn, hand-painted, and stop-motion shorts galore!

REMOVE HIND LEGS BEFORE CONSUMPTION

Lukas Wind, Leslie Herzig, Finn Meisner -Switzerland - 2023 - 4 mins

In an insect farm, millions of crickets are being bred, frozen, and packaged. This everyday process in the farm is a one-time catastrophe for the crickets. Nevertheless, one cricket survives and escapes.

ALIVESTREAM

Olivia Fu · USA · 2023 · 4 mins

A young live streamer girl living through the zombie apocalypse fights through a hoarded mall to get the last pair on earth of limited-edition sneakers.

MIRACASAS

Raphaëlle Stolz, Augusto Zanovello · Switzerland · 2023 · 14 mins

Carried in a makeshift hammock by two thugs, Ernesto moves towards his destination: a strange village that just popped out of the ground in the far reaches of South America.

ABOUT A COW

Pavla Baštanová · Czech Republic · 2023 · 13 mins An imaginative collage of small stories from around the world, in which cows experience both the positive and the negative realities of life with humans.

LA PERRA

Carla Melo Gampert \cdot Colombia, France \cdot 2023 \cdot 14 mins

In Bogota, a bird-girl leaves behind the family home, her domineering mother and faithful dog to go and explore her sexuality.

DONA BEATRIZ ÑSÎMBA VITA

Catapreta - Brazil - 2023 - 20 mins Kimpa Vita fulfills the prophetic mission of leading her people in a racist, unequal society. Set in contemporary Brazil, and inspired by the true story of the 17th-century Congolese religious leader.

ON THE 8TH DAY

Agathe Sénéchal, Alicia Massez, Elise Debruyne, Flavie Cari, Théo Duhautois · France · 2023 · 8 mins It took seven days to create the world, it only took one to disrupt its balance.

SAT. 3/23 1:45 PM NORTHWEST FILM FORUM

ASHKASHA

Lara Maltz · Spain · 2022 · 6 mins

Ashkasha is a living being guided by curiosity. This causes her to lose her head and get trapped in the depths, where is submerged on a discovery journey.

A KIND OF TESTAMENT

Stephen Vuillemin · France · 2024 · 17 mins

A young woman comes across animations on the Internet that have clearly been created from her private selfies. A stranger with the same name confesses to identity theft. 2024 Oscars shortlist for Best Animated Short.

MÉTÉORES

Agnès Patron, Morgane Le Péchon · France · 2023 · 5 mins

On a cool summer night, animals leave the forest to venture into the alleys of a suburban neighborhood. Four children sneak out of their beds, and stars begin to fall from the sky.

DYING IS EASY, EMPATHY IS HARD

"Horror's not about extreme sadism. It's about extreme EMPATHY." — Joe Hill

SPLINTER

Marc Bernardin · USA · 2023 · 15 mins

Benjamin has spent most of his ten years on an airplane that almost never lands. But when a mid-air collision forces the plane out of the sky, it falls to his caretakers Morgan and Chris to deal with the fallout.

JIMPARDY

AlysshaRose Jordan-Bird - USA - 2023 - 8 mins

Jimmy Keebs, a jaded former child star, forces a jock, an influencer, and his therapist to play a twisted version of Jeopardy after an unflattering video of him working out goes viral.

SCRATCH

Michael Trainotti · USA · 2023 · 24 mins A Father/Son weekend adventure becomes a terrifying fight for survival.

DON'T LOOK IN THE CLOSET

Skylar Patterson · USA · 2023 · 4 mins After spending a debaucherous night out, Tommy arrives home to find his wife missing...

THE FLEDGLING

Joe Gietl · USA · 2023 · 10 mins

A coming-of-age vampire tale that follows a teenage orphan who finds out her father is alive and sets out on a cross-country road trip to find him.

FRI. 3/22 • 10:00 PM ERICKSON THEATRE

THE PERFECT PLACE TO CRY

Shane Bannon · USA · 2023 · 7 mins Late at night, deep in the woods, a woman cries in her car. A light flickers through the trees. At the edge of her headlights' reach, she can just make out the shape of a man. He's coming closer.

MARBLES

Kyle Hatley · USA · 2023 · 30 mins

When a grief-stricken man with strange abilities opens up to his bereavement group about the death of his sister, he discovers that his curse becomes a gift to his fellow mourners.

BREAKING IN

Andrew Essig, Matthew Winters \cdot USA \cdot 2023 \cdot 8 mins

A struggling actress auditions for a movie role that turns out to be more deadly than she ever imagined.

SAT. 3/23 4:00 PM NORTHWEST FILM FORUM

MAKE BELIEVERS Curated by BILLY RAY BREWTON Five distinctly personal stories about

loss, obsession, and equality. The subjects featured in these imaginative works of nonfiction are searching for... something; whether it's familial closure, justice, discovery, or self-acceptance.

BOB'S FUNERAL

Jack Dunphy • USA • 2023 • 18 mins Searching for the root of generational trauma, filmmaker Jack Dunphy sneaks a camera into his estranged grandfather's funeral.

AMERICAN SANTA

Avi Zev Weider · USA · 2023 · 24 mins As Americans head to the mall in preparation for the Christmas season, a haunting shadow threatens to unravel the season's true spirit.

OBJECT 817

Olga Lucovnicova · Belgium · 2023 · 22 mins A poetic journey into the Urals, where the discovery of an alien creature uncovers a haunting secret.

MERMAN

Sterling Hampton IV · USA · 2023 · 11 mins A 58 year-old black queer man speaks about his life as an emergency nurse, leather title holder, and civil rights advocate.

DEMON BOX

Sean Wainsteam · Canada · 2023 · 14 mins After festival rejections, a director revises his

MASKS WE WEAR (QUEER LENS)

Indulge in and experience the MASKS WE WEAR: Make Believe's curation of genre shorts focused on queer themes. From filmmakers around the world, the program consists of seven shorts, exploring and

THE HAUNTED BABY CARRIAGE FROM HELL JT Seaton • USA • 2023 • 9 mins

Spencer and Cameron move into a new house that just so happens to be haunted by an old baby carriage. As the carriage endeavors to scare the couple, the attempts ultimately fail because the couple just doesn't care... like... you know... at all.

AC UNIT

Grace Godvin - USA - 2023 - 13 mins

Hilton and Drew are two best friends living in Brooklyn during the height of a heatwave. One day, when installing an AC unit, disaster turns their world on its head and the future becomes incredibly unclear.

DO DIGITAL CURANDERAS USE EGGS IN THEIR LIMPIAS?

Roberto Fatal · USA · 2023 · 14 mins

A struggling Latinx healer considers abandoning the physical world for promises of a digital utopia.

TELLERVO

Lindsey Tenaglia \cdot USA \cdot 2023 \cdot 7 mins

Tasked with hunting the mysterious Tellervo, creature of the forest, huntress Lemminkäinen is caught in a love story with the girl she is supposed to hunt.

FRI. 3/22 • 8:15 PM ERICKSON THEATRE

KILLER IN A SMALL TOWN

Clinton Cornwell · **USA** · 2023 · 18 mins True crime super-fan, Will Wesley, has seen it all, but tonight a face in the dark may outsmart him.

FRIEND CRUSH

Alexandria Sherman · USA · 2023 · 12 mins Maggie, a young New Yorker, is exploring her identity amidst a new relationship when she is asked for an unusual favor.

THE NIGHT PRACTICE

Bogdan Alecsandru · Romania · 2023 · 16 mins The new goalkeeper in a junior soccer team is greeted with hostility by the other boys. Robert, the only friendly teammate, develops an obsession with him. While the two grow closer, Robert reveals his strange lust for human blood.

OUR ANCESTORS' WILDEST (NATIVE AMERICAN SPOTLIGHT) SUN. 3/24 • 12:00 PM Curated by Colleen Thurston ERICKSON THEATRE

Time is not linear, and legends shape reality. The experiences of your ancestors are alive today, while your own dreams, imaginings and nightmares create a world of possibilities — for better or for worse.

DEAR STEPHEN KING, INSTEAD OF USING INDIAN BURIAL GROUNDS IN YOUR BOOKS, HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF USING EUROPEAN BURIAL GROUNDS?

Joey Clift • USA • 2023 • 2 mins

An open letter to Stephen King asking him why he's so scared of Native American people. I mean, come on. Paris is built on a literal mountain of human bones. That's way scarier than anything Native people do! *Episode 5 of the animated comedy digital series "Gone Native!"*

THE ORIGINAL SHAREHOLDER EXPERIENCE

Peter Xyst · USA · 2024 · 13 mins

An Indigenous telepresenter confronts her moral credibility against her career when her superiors ask her to sell a genocidal product on live television.

WINYAN YAMNI: THREE DREAMS Kite · USA · 2023 · 14 mins

An investigation of a possible Lakota filmic gaze, based on the dreaming methodologies of the Double Woman. The Double Woman or Winyan Nunpa design refers to a mythic and supernatural figure that inspires bead workers through dreams.

METAL BELT

Blackhorse Lowe · USA · 2023 · 13 mins

A Peyote Western set in 1860s New Mexico territory, *Metal Belt* recounts a story about the American Indian slave trade in the southwest and one Navajo woman's fight for freedom and her spiritual journey home.

THE HANDSOME MAN

Misty & Hope Shipman · USA · 2023 · 16 mins When River meets a stranger who calls himself "The Handsome Man," on the borders of her reservation, she invites him home, and commotion ensues. Can Grandpa restore balance to the family and heal a generations' old curse? *Starring Lily Gladstone*.

OZIGWAN

Cole Forrest • USA • 2022 • 7 mins A grandmother-grandson fishing trip unleashes

serpent people living at the bottom of the lake.

TA'I

Mii Taokia · USA · 2023 · 3 mins

Tai lives in a world that is beautiful and dangerous. The Pacific islands that were once teeming with life are now being destroyed by the island eaters. These machines are towering beasts that consume everything in their path, leaving nothing but barren wasteland in their wake.

DEAD BIRD HEARTS

Ryan RedCorn · USA · 2022 · 22 mins An Indigenous post-apocalyptic love story between an incompetent man and his dog.

SILENT SCREAM

Curated by KRISTEN GROTE

The true universal language... IS FEAR! An eclectic collection of dialogue-free shorts that will leave you speechless.

PERFECT CITY: THE BRAVEST KID

Shengwei Zhou - China/USA - 2023 - 6 mins Chased by his nightmare knife hand, the paper boy has to confront his real fear.

THE PIT

Adam Navas • USA • 2023 • 9 mins

Two women connect over the magic and mystery of a bottomless pit in this short folk horror film allegorizing the terrors of poverty in America.

GOOD NIGHT

Francisco Landin, Jr. · USA · 2023 · 8 mins A small boy caring for himself and his cat hides a dark secret behind closed doors.

GARBO PARTY

Squidems • USA • 2023 • 2 mins Trash loving critters spend a wild night in a dumpster of fun.

HOME PLANET

Andie Madsen · USA · 2023 · 3 mins Shot on 16mm and developed by hand, *Home Planet* is a meditation on love, the mind, and film itself.

BLOODERCREAM

Elise Valderrama · USA · 2023 · 9 mins Boy meets girl. Girl meets cake demon. Love conquers something.? Anyway, at least there's cake.

PIGEONHOLED

Courtney Chapman · USA · 2023 · 3 mins A pigeon gets wrapped up in a world of noir when he enters a secret jazz club in the city's storm drain.

FRI. 3/22 • 6:00 PM NORTHWEST FILM FORUM

ETHEL

Beatrice Jäggi · Switzerland · 2023 · 8 mins Ethel discovers boxes with glittering clothes of her late mother, who was a figure skater.

AMYGDALA

Oskar Johansson · Sweden · 2023 · 12 mins A mother and her daughter move into an old family house. The daughter has difficulty adjusting to the house begins having intense dreams of the sea.

KING OF SEA

Stéphane Berla · France · 2023 · 5 mins On the coast of the Finistère department, a sailor

On the coast of the Finistère department, a sailor bids farewell to his family. Soon he must go back to sea and this time he will not return.

SIREN

Scott Fowler · Netherlands · 2023 · 7 mins A short experimental dance film, utilizing dance to explore the non-binary/trans experience.

UNIVERSAL FEAR

Curated by BETSY CASS

While many fears are unique outgrowths of the cultures that created them, others know no borders. From change to stagnation, the encroachment of technology, dread of the unknown and the grief of loss, this genre-hopping, globe-trotting block explores the fears that unite us all.

THE PROSPECT

Carmela Sandberg · Argentina · 2023 · 10 mins Danila works as a realtor in a real-estate firm. She has arranged a meeting with Luis, a potential buyer for a historic house in the city's center. The rigid walls, the labyrinthian space, and the echoing silence altogether with Luis' visit awaken a state of alert in Danila, turning her job into a potential trap.

BYE BYE. BOWSER

Jasmin Baumgartner - Austria - 2024 - 20 mins Punk singer Luna rebels against the indifference of her artsy friends by writing a song about Laugo, the construction worker from across the street.

SINCOPAT

Pol Diggler · Spain · 2023 · 14 mins

Ona, a creative executive of a large company, is about to launch the latest technological revolution into the market: a device that allows listening to music directly inside the brain.

THE BLACK WIDOW (LA VEDOVA NERA)

Fiume & Julian McKinnon · France · 2023 · 20 mins Cycling through the streets of Marseille, Alfredo, a young Italian, crashes his bike. Seeking help, he heeds a strange call from a porn cinema from another time.

MON. 3/25 6:30 PM **GRAND ILLUSION CINEMA**

A KIND OF TESTAMENT

Stephen Vuillemin · France · 2024 · 16 mins A young woman comes across animations on the Internet that have clearly been created from her private selfies. A stranger with the same name confesses to identity theft. 2024 Oscars shortlist for Best Animated Short.

WHENEVER YOU WANT TO COME BACK

Guido Lilo Bovina - Argentina - 2023 - 20 mins Agustina returns to her mother's house at noon after a wild New Year's Eve. Her grandfather, deteriorated by the disease, and her mother take her to an overdose of pills that will bring her an unexpected encounter.

UNKNOWN FORCES (BLACK LENS)

These six shorts depict various iterations of the Black experience. Some comedic. some horrific, and some tangibly profound, these works showcase the incredible creativity in the genre world from Black artists, as well as the stories they feel driven to tell.

VALLEY OF SOULS

Edileuza Penha de Souza, Santiago Dellape -Brazil · 2023 · 15 mins

A black family tries to defend their land against invaders but gets caught between a mischievous witch and a tortured spirit eager for revenge.

CUT ME IF YOU CAN

Svlvain Loubet, Nicolas Polixene · USA · 2023 · 20 mins

Knowing they're always the first ones to die as per the cliché horror movie formula, two Black characters decide to reject their fate and rebel against the script. They must outwit the serial killer and escape the theatre in order to survive, but the film has other plans.

UNITED IN GRIEF

Desmond Levi Jackson · USA · 2023 · 13 mins Suffering debilitating grief from the passing of his best friend who introduced him to the world of dance. Derrick must confront a monster that seeks to separate him from everything he loves.

SUN. 3/24 • 5:00 PM **NORTHWEST FILM FORUM**

NOSFERASTA: FIRST BITE

Adam Khalil · USA · 2023 · 30 mins

Christopher Columbus uses his undead powers to create his "New World," where he sucks the blood out of his colonial project for centuries. Complicit in this is Oba, a shipwrecked African slave who, once bitten, becomes Columbus's subject and collaborator. When Oba discovers Rastafarianism, his allegiance changes.

HULI

Daniel Croix · USA · 2024 · 12 mins

After a Black biracial boxer flees from New York to Hawai'i, a friendship with his native Hawaiian coach expands his awareness of identity, purpose, and power. Created on the island of O'ahu Hawai'i.

WEIRD, WILD, AND WONDERFUL **Curated by MARCUS GORMAN**

Your home for the most wickedly clever, baffling, hilarious, and unexpected stories that burrow their way into your subconscious, refusing to remain silent.

DIDN'T THINK I'D SEE YOU THERE

Dylan Guerra · USA · 2023 · 13 mins Rory thinks he might be haunted by a ghost when

his shower turns on by itself.

THE GOURD. THE BRAD. AND THE GHOSTLY

Jillian Terwedo-Malsbury - USA - 2023 - 10 mins After causing a Halloween pumpkin accident, Brad's guilty conscience begins to haunt him as he takes the elevator down to the scene of the crime. Is this elevator taking him to the lobby ... or straight to hell?

THE RETREAT

Tommy Heffernan · USA · 2023 · 7 mins

David is brought along by his boyfriend Anthony to what seems like a week-long retreat hosted by Anthony's boss, Krystal, and her husband. He quickly learns that things are not what they seem.

NO FLIES ON ME

Lars Magnus Holmgren · Australia · 2023 · 3 mins Swatting at dirty winged desire... perpetual bondage to Samsāra. The flames of wisdom lick the wounds of ignorance clean to the bone.

WANDER TO WONDER

Mary, Billybud, and Fumbleton are three miniature, human actors who perform in an eighties kids TV series called "Wander to Wonder". After the creator of the series has died, they are left alone in the studio. With their slowly decaying costumes and growing hunger, they continue to make increasingly strange episodes for their fans.

SUCKS TO BE THE MOON Tyler March, Eric Paperth, Rob Tanchum · USA ·

2023 · 11 mins

Jealous of the Sun's stardom, the Moon journeys into space, searching for a planet that actually cares about him. Will he find his place in the universe, or is he destined to be a lonely loser forever? Featuring Jack Quaid (The Boys).

TUE. 3/26 9:00 PM **GRAND ILLUSION CINEMA**

Kevin Ralston · USA · 2023 · 3 mins

An evil agent has stolen a valuable piece of gold from its owner. The Spank Patrol is called in to retrieve the gold and dish out justice ... in the form of numerous spanks to the butt.

THREE HOUSES DOWN

Ty Huffer · USA · 2023 · 7 mins

On Christmas Eve, Tiffany learns that being on the naughty list means more than a lump of coal in your stocking when she encounters a malevolent Imp under the Christmas tree. Now she must fight for her family's lives against the elven intruder.

OLIVIA

Ben Joyner · USA · 2023 · 5 mins Music video for the song "Olivia" from the band,

Wolves of Glendale.

SHE (SNAKE)

Renee Zhan · United Kingdom · 2023 · 16 mins Fei Li is the top violinist in her elite youth orchestra. When another Chinese violinist arrives to challenge her place, Fei's internalized racism and anxieties grow to take monstrous physical form. They whisper to her, urging her to be the best, no matter the cost.

SPANK PATROL

Nina Gantz · Belgium · 2023 · 13 mins

In the stranger

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EVENTS

WED. 3/20 • 7:30 PM • GRAND ILLUSION CINEMA



SNICK OR TREAT

If you grew up in the 90's, Saturday nights were your jam. Why? One word – SNICK. Saturday nights, Nickelodeon presented a two-hour block where they featured teen-oriented shows that remain their most beloved to this day. *Ren & Stimpy* got its start there. So did *All That.* We have curated four of our very favorite Halloween episodes from some of the most memorable SNICK-era shows: "Zeke the Plumber" from *Salute Your Shorts*; "Haunted House" from *Clarissa Explains It All*; "Halloweenie" from *The Adventures of Pete and Pete*; and "The Tale of the Midnight Madness" from *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*. Join us as we dive into a time before smartphones, before cat cafes, before Timothée Chalamet. We encourage you to wear your pajamas and enjoy complimentary Rice Krispy treats while we – Gen X and Gen Y – slip back into the days when programming aimed at teens really *meant* something. Wear your PJ's and enjoy some sodas and snacks!



OPENING NIGHT YACHT ROCK PARTY

The high seas await you... sort of... as we celebrate all things yacht, yacht rock, and yacht-adjacent goodness. Whether it's Christopher Cross, Bertie Higgins, or Ambrosia – it's the only music that matters – nay, the only *lifestyle* that matters. Join us for an evening of soothing music, delicious tiki-inspired cocktails, and lots and lots of shrimp. Wear your best yacht rock-inspired attire and prepare to be transported to a time when shirts barely buttoned, wind always blew through your hair, and cocaine fell from the sky like rain. Tito's Handmade Vodka will have a "Build Your Own Ascot" station, and DJ Trent Von will be dropping the beats that will whisk you away to Margaritaville. It's your own damn fault.

SAT. 3/23 • 4:15 PM • ERICKSON THEATRE



TICKET BUYERS OF I'M GEORGE LUCAS RECEIVE \$3 OFF.

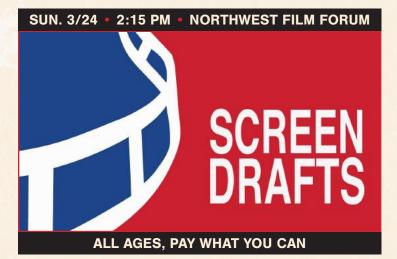
THE GEORGE LUCAS TALK SHOW

A show for Star Wars fans and non-fans alike invades Make Believe Seattle for its 2nd year! Comedian Connor Ratliff ("Dead Eyes", "The Marvelous Mrs Maisel") appears as George Lucas, the creator of Star Wars, and interviews guests like a "normal talk show". He is joined by sidekick Watto, played by Griffin Newman ("Blank Check", "The Tick"), and show producer Patrick Cotnoir ("ASSSSCAT", "Marvel", "The Chris Gethard Show"). The show has been running since 2014 and was a regular show at the UCB Theatre in New York City for years. It has been streaming on Twitch since 2020. Previous guests include Seth Meyers, Weird Al, Whoopi Goldberg, Jon Hamm, Kevin Smith, Tony Hale, Aimee Mann, and more. Directly following the screening of *I'm George Lucas: A Connor Ratliff Story*.



THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE: A CHRISTIAN APPRECIATION OF HORROR W/ JOSH LARSEN

Filmspotting's Josh Larsen joins us for a special screening of Guillermo del Toro's masterpiece, *The Devil's Backbone*, as Larsen promotes his new book, "Fear Not! A Christian Appreciation of Horror." Josh will share his insights into both the film, and the horror genre, as it relates to faith and religion. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for an intimate discussion with one of the most thoughtful and eloquent film critics working today (and co-host of one of the most beloved and influential film podcasts since the advent of film podcasts), and a chance to see *The Devil's Backbone* as it was meant to be seen — on the big screen.



SCREEN DRAFTS LIVE!

Returning for year two of Make Believe. Experts and enthusiasts competitively collaborate in the creation of screen-centric "best of" lists. Hosted by draft commissioners Clay Keller and Ryan Marker and featuring a who's who of Screen Drafts veterans including Clarke Wolfe, Billy Ray Brewton, Chris Thomas Devlin, and Graham Skipper!

"Most impeccable taste in guests." -Entertainment Weekly

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