

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: September 19, 2022
Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Request for FilmFest Sponsorship by FilmFest Organizers

REPORT BY: Jeremy Allen, Media & Communications Manager
Isabelle Leduc, Assistant City Manager / Recreation & Community Services Director

SUMMARY

Albany FilmFest is a juried film festival that takes place each year in Albany. Since its inception in 2011, Albany FilmFest has been a City event organized by KALB and Recreation staff with the support of Albany resident volunteers. For the last several years, City staff and FilmFest volunteers have been in conversation on how to transition FilmFest from the City in order to allow FilmFest to continue to grow and flourish on its own. The pandemic pause has provided the opportunity for FilmFest volunteers to move forward independently, and in July of 2022 entered into a contract with Independent Arts & Media, an organization that supports media arts services. The action before the City Council is the consideration of a request from FilmFest organizers for a sponsorship amount of \$10,000 in support of the 2022 FilmFest.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. Consider the request for sponsorship from FilmFest organizers; and
2. Provide direction to staff on the sponsorship of the event with the adoption of Resolution No. 2022-102

BACKGROUND

Albany FilmFest is a juried film festival that takes place each year in Albany. The festival showcases original, creative, and compelling independent short films from emerging and established Bay Area, national, and global filmmakers.

FilmFest began in 2011 with a one-day screening held at the Albany Community Center and has grown organically over the last 12 years to include a varied mix of critically acclaimed programming. The event began with modest goals, envisioning a small, local film festival aimed at getting local residents excited about the idea of telling stories through film, but quickly grew in size and scope, partnering with Albany Library for an ongoing series of screenings throughout the year and finding a home at the Albany Twin Theater for the main annual event.

Since 2011, Albany FilmFest has been a City event organized by KALB and Recreation staff with the support of Albany resident volunteers. Many of the FilmFest volunteers were current and former members of the Community Media Access Committee and Albany Arts Committee. These volunteers have been instrumental in all aspects of planning and implementation of the event. KALB staff has been responsible for all technical aspects of the festival including audio-visual support for in-person and virtual events, maintaining the FilmFest website, video editing and playback of all FilmFest screenings. The City has funded the entire operation of the Albany Film Festival through the KALB and Recreation budgets. All partner donations, up until 2022, were received as donations to the City, and award payments to Filmmakers were made by the City.

For the last several years, City staff and FilmFest volunteers have been in conversation on how to transition FilmFest from the City in order to allow FilmFest to continue to grow and flourish on its own. The pandemic pause has provided the opportunity for FilmFest volunteers to move forward with this, and in July of 2022, FilmFest volunteers entered into a contract with Independent Arts & Media, an organization that supports media arts services. This allows FilmFest to transition to its own independent non-profit organization over the next couple of years.

The action before the City Council is the consideration of a request from FilmFest organizers for a sponsorship in the amount of \$10,000 to support the 2022 FilmFest to be held mostly in person in October 2022. A memo from the FilmFest organizers detailing the request has been submitted and is included as Attachment 1 to the staff report. A Resolution is also included as Attachment 2 that can be amended accordingly should Council take action on the sponsorship request.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

FilmFest organizers are requesting \$10,000 in sponsorship for the 2022 FilmFest. Due to the pandemic, the FY2022 & FY2023, 2-year City operating budget adopted by Council in June 2021 includes funding for a virtual event only in the amount of \$2,000 from the Recreation & Community Services Department special events budget.

Other funding sources that could be considered for the sponsorship request include Council Discretionary funds currently in the amount of \$20,000, or American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

In-kind support for FilmFest 2022 to be provided by staff is valued at approximately \$4,800 and includes the administration of the FilmFest website, curation of film content for in-person screening, virtual screening and distribution for judging, meeting with FilmFest organizers, and promotion of FilmFest in City resources. In addition, the City has paid this year's domain hosting and google workspace annual fees in the amount of \$504.

Attachments

1. Memo from FilmFest organizers
2. Resolution No. 2022-102

Request to Council

From: Albany FilmFest — Naomi Sigal, Jack Kenny, Ellen Toomey,
August 25, 2022

For the past twelve years the Albany Filmfest has been a much-loved community event connecting citizens, the arts, and business with the greater Bay Area and beyond. For the past two years the pandemic has meant that our usual in-person screenings and events have been on hold. We have taken this time to explore and plan, working to establish a sturdy organization that functions well now, and will continue to grow and thrive beyond participation of its founders.

We ask that Albany City Council members consider our request that the City fund a portion of the 2022 Albany FilmFest, as the City has done from the start. We also request the council continue its contribution to the Albany FilmFest in future years, so that the event can continue to flourish, benefiting lower Solano Avenue and other area businesses, and enriching the lives of local citizens. The City of Albany has been a stellar partner in our citizen-city team up, providing vital staffing, financial and other supports.

Our core mission is to build and strengthen community. We welcome a wide range of perspectives, featuring movies that are not readily available elsewhere, and voices that are often under-represented. We showcase original and compelling independent short films from emerging and established filmmakers.

From our start in 2011, the Albany FilmFest has possessed a magic of its own, quickly growing into a vital annual event bringing together local community, filmmakers, and audiences from near and far, for film viewing and discussion. Film screenings and the Awards Gala were held at the Community Center our first three years. When we outgrew that location, film screenings moved to the Landmark Albany Twin Theatre, and the Gala to a rotating mix of local restaurant and business locations. The popular Saturday Kid's Matinée stayed at the Community Center.

Two weeks before we were set to roll out our 10th Anniversary event in March 2020, pandemic shutdowns meant pivoting to a scaled-back, online AFF2020. Since then, we've been considering and exploring what's next, as the entire world has been learning and adjusting to our new reality. We learned in early 2021, that pandemic budget adjustments meant the City would no longer act as fiscal sponsor, prompting us to move ahead with plans for establishing an independent, complimentary entity. We sought out and secured a great-fit fiscal sponsorship with [Independent Arts & Media](#), to handle financial transactions, required filings, and other supports and structure while we work to establish a robust organization for the long term.

For years we've been in conversation with people in local arts and civic organizations, about how best to structure our filmfest for the near and long term. People who have generously shared their expertise and advice include founders / development directors of Berkeley Rep, the SF Jewish Film Festival, Berkeley Film Foundation, and others.



The Berkeley Film Foundation represents a potential model; an independent film organization partnered with, and receiving funds from the City of Berkeley. This funding is in the City's annual budget. Abby Ginzberg, BFF Board President, award-winning filmmaker, and Albany citizen, has shared information about their set-up and structure, along with suggestions and encouragement.

Late last year we decided, with City approval, to plan for AFF2022 in October. Film submissions were opened in January of this year. (The multi-month lead time is a film festival requirement.) Conversations with the City about roles and supports continued, with an upshot in April of learning that AFF would not be receiving any financial supports for this year, without a direct appeal to the City Council.

Current status

- Our sense is that 2022 will be a transition year — a scaled-down, in-person event plus an online component, as we continue to put things on a more stable footing for future years. We are raising funds to cover this year's expenses, as we have in the past, and have several sponsors on board so far.
- We've just finalized plans with the Albany Twin Theatre. This year's fest will be two consecutive week-day evenings of shows, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, October 4, 5, 6 and 11, 12, 13.
- Our Awards Gala will be held on Friday, October 14. We're in conversation with a couple of Albany establishments, as potential Gala venues.
- We see AFF as an integral part of the Albany community, partnering with the City, businesses, schools, and other community members, for mutual enrichment and benefit. We aspire to bring diversity of age, ethnicity, and life experience to the running of the Albany FilmFest, and are learning and getting supports to move in this direction.

We request an amount of \$10,000 from the City of Albany for Albany FilmFest 2022. We are seeking funds that will offset a portion of operating expenses, described in more detail on the next page. We believe this investment will bring benefits — in both tangible and less-quantifiable but essential connection that makes for health community — well in excess of this amount.



Our first years.

While we intend to continue fundraising, as we have from the start, our tiny “staff” has limited ability to do adequate outreach and promotion at the same time as putting together a film festival (a massive time commitment), connecting with businesses for team ups, announcing the event via all potential media channels such as banners, advance programs shared around town, social media, and advertising in local publications. The more we’re able to do the outreach and promote the event, the more ticket revenue we receive, the more Albany businesses benefit by audiences to the area, and so on. In past years we’ve done outreach inviting participation from area schools, something we’d like to do again, when we have the band width.

We invite you to join us at the Awards Gala, which some consider the most-fun part of the festival, where participating filmmakers (from near and far, and of all ages) meet up and chat with sponsors, our AFF judges, City staff and elected officials, other area pols (Nancy Skinner made a presentation one year, Keith Carson’s staff member presented an award another year, Barbara Lee has RSVP’d yes more than once and we know she’ll actually make it one of these years), plus AFF “staff”, alumni “staff”, media, and other film literati.

Albany does not have a city symphony, or sports team, or art museum. We do have a filmfest.

Here is a sampling of typical expenses, to give you a sense of requirements:

- **Promotion** is essential to film festival success. Fundraising requires sponsor outreach and then high-visibility recognition. Event promotion draws the audience for theater ticket purchases and visits to the lower Solano business district. We have a track record of good results with very modest expenditures, relative to other small film festivals. Our budgets are a fraction of those of other area film festivals. We are very trustworthy with fund expenditures.

Basic essentials include: banners \$700, posters \$500, advertising \$1,000, and an advance program \$2500. Publicity \$3000, booklet programs \$6,000, tee shirts for volunteers and for sale \$800.

- **Filmmaker Awards** \$2000
- **Technical support including** photographers, sound people, videographers \$2000
- **Rental of the Albany Twin Theatre** \$5,400. While we’ve covered that amount and then some via ticket sales in past years, it would be useful to not need to fund raise that amount in advance of signing a contract.

We would also like to secure a plan that includes:

- **Specific technical support** (or funds to cover, if we need to hire persons in future years) Jeremy has done a heroic job from the start, preparing films received in an array of formats and conditions, to screen online and in theater.
- **Use of the Community Center**, in future years, including projection & sound equipment, and Com Ctr chairs, for the Saturday Kids’ Matinee

We invite you to view our Strategic Partnership Deck and our program from Albany FilmFest 2020 (that didn’t transpire as planned). And we invite your participation in this year’s and future years’ events!

We are committed to promoting the Albany FilmFest everywhere we go.



Jack in New York



and in Argentina



Naomi in Venice



Ellen in Tasmania

Albany **FILM** FEST

Strategic Partnerships 2022





The Power of Cinema

The Albany FilmFest's core mission is to build and strengthen community. We welcome a wide range of perspectives, featuring movies that are not readily available elsewhere, and voices that are often under-represented. We showcase original and compelling independent short films from emerging and established filmmakers.

From our start in 2011, we've nurtured an atmosphere that encourages filmmakers and audiences to connect and engage on film subjects. We receive film submissions from SF Bay Area filmmakers and from around the world.

We aim to foster connections that kindle hope, optimism, and inspiration, and to create dialogs to advance understanding and inspire change.



We're back!

After a two-year hiatus, your favorite local filmfest is on again, in October 2022.

We're rebuilding our organization for the present and for the long term.

We invite you to participate in our local celebration of film and community.

"Wonderful variety of films!"

"Creative, fun, local – inspired!"

"Fabulous festival! Great job!"



Our Audience

While most of our wonderful audience comes from Albany and the greater San Francisco Bay Area, every year filmmakers and attendees join us from points beyond — around the U.S. and from other countries.



From Albany and around
the SF Bay Area

60%

34-65 age bracket

77%



Individual income
over \$100,000

44%

Cool and interesting

100%





Join us!

Choose a plan that fits you,
or ask us about custom
sponsor packages and
branding opportunities.

Jack@albanyfilmfest.org
albanyfilmfest.org

Sponsorship Opportunities & Benefits	Movie Mogul	Gala Patron	Super Star	Screening Patron	Star	Celebrity	Super Fan
	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$500	\$300
Onstage recognition	All events	All events		Sponsored screening			
Logo on step & repeat	•	•					
Logo on banners and posters around town	•	•	•	•	•		
Logo/name in program	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
On-screen logo at theater and Gala	Full Screen	Full Screen	•	•	•	•	•
Logo/name on our website	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tickets to Gala	10	8	6	4	4	4	2
Passes to festival screenings	10	8	6	4	4	4	2
Thanks by name in our year-round e-newsletters	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

We Love Filmmakers

And the feeling is mutual. We're gratified that filmmakers consistently praise Albany FilmFest as friendly, warm, and well-organized, calling our event "one of the best festival experiences I have had."

Art

The vision and voice of artists is essential to a vibrant society and world. This is truer than ever in these challenging times. Each year's film submissions reflect the zeitgeist, as well as a wide-ranging mix of subject matter reflecting their makers' passions.

Nurturing the Next Gen

Film submission entry categories include two age brackets for youth. Typically our week-long festival includes a beloved young kids' show, followed by free media workshops. This year's youth submissions will be screened as part of the FilmFest, but sadly, in this transitional-rebuilding year, and with pandemic challenges, we aren't able to host a Kids' Matinée. We will bring it back!



"A very friendly,
well-attended festival."

*"Super friendly and lovely
people, both the organizers
and the public."*

"Thank you for a wonderful
festival experience in Albany."

Community

Situated in the culturally rich and ethnically diverse San Francisco Bay Area, Albany's location gives us a fortunate perch in offering a platform to voices and subjects that are under-represented in mainstream media, and to screen films not easily seen elsewhere — core goals from our start in 2011.

Albany FilmFest 2022 is honored to introduce a new annual award to be presented to the film that best represents the themes of social justice and racial equity. The McCord Award was created by the family and friends of the late Joseph Andre McCord, who loved and supported our filmfest from the start, traveling here for the event every year from his home in Chicago. He believed in the power of film to change society.

Albany FilmFest is honored to launch the McCord Award in 2022.

This prize will be given annually to the film that best represents the themes of social justice and racial equity.

Created by his family, the award is in honor of the late Joseph Andre McCord.

Mr. McCord loved and supported the Albany FilmFest from its beginning, traveling here for the event each year from his home in Chicago.

He believed in the power of film to change society.

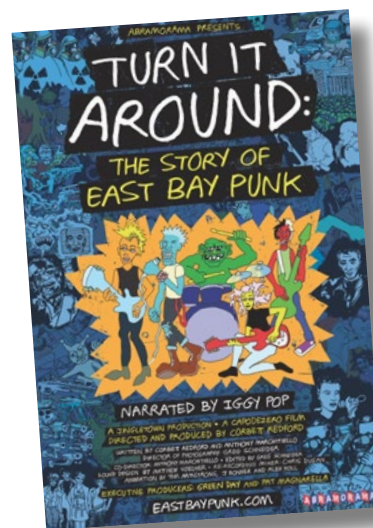


More Community

In collaboration with the **Albany Library**, we present free monthly film screenings of topical films year-round, often with filmmakers in attendance, for a popular audience Q&A.

Also core to our community focus is support and promotion of local businesses and community organizations, via partnerships of mutual benefit. We feature these businesses and groups in our event promotions, and use our year-round media and communication channels to amplify and connect.

“Love seeing the local community,
and enjoying wonderful, original films”



Featuring “famous and infamous punk bands,” this film by local filmmakers focused on the nearby Gilman Street music venue, screened at AFF 2018. It was one of our most popular shows ever.

Past Sponsors



ALAN KAPLAN



EAST BAY EXPRESS



ALBANY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



10th ANNUAL
Albany



10
YEARS!

March 21-29, 2020

Albany FilmFest Week! March 21–29

Sunday March 29

At the
Twin

All shows are at the Albany Landmark Twin Theatre, unless noted otherwise
1115 Solano Avenue, Albany CA 94706

**ALL DAY
SHORTS!**

Albany **FILM FEST**

Saturday, March 21

1–3pm KIDS’ MATINÉE
A fast-paced, family-friendly show! 4–5
Albany Community Center 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany

Monday, March 23

7:30pm POWERFUL ART & ACTIVISM
Ai Weiwei: Yours Truly, Come & Take It 6

Tuesday, March 24

7:30pm TRADITION!
Behind the scenes of Fiddler on the Roof 6

Wednesday, March 25

7:30pm REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RECOVERY
Five short films on environment/recycling 7

Thursday, March 26

7:30pm OUTRAGEOUS ANTICS
Animation Outlaws: All About Spike & Mike 8

Friday, March 27

7pm NOIRS & NOIR
Maltese Falcon & Vin Noir 8
Presented with City of Albany & Albany Library
Albany Community Center 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany

Six Great Shows

- 9:50am SHOW 1: WE ARE FAMILY**
Four short films about growing older in America 9
- 12 noon SHOW 2: CONNECTIONS**
Reaching out 10-11
- 2pm SHOW 3: THINGS CHANGE**
Nothing stays the same 12-13
- 4pm SHOW 4: FAMILY MATTERS**
Getting along, not getting along, making your own 14
- 6pm SHOW 5: STAYING ALIVE**
Variations on the art of living 15-16
- 8pm SHOW 6: IT CAME FROM ALBANY**
Celebrating 10 years of Albany filmmakers 17-18

Bring your friends! See you there!

Tickets, info, and schedule:

www.albanyfilmfest.org

Tickets also on sale at Albany Twin box office

Films are
not rated. Some
content may be
inappropriate for
children.

Welcome!

Albany FilmFest celebrates year 10 with a great lineup of thought-provoking, original, and entertaining films from independent filmmakers in the Bay Area, the US, and around the world. Each year submitted films serendipitously reflect the world we live in, its challenges, and changes we hope to see. Our weeknight shows include two powerful documentaries about art and activism (*Ai Weiwei: Yours Truly* and *Come and Take It*), five short films that explore the spectrum of what it means to steward life on earth, and two short features that go behind the scenes of pure entertainment (*Fiddler!*, *Miracle of Miracles* and *Animation Outlaws: All about Spike & Mike*).

Our All-Day Sunday Shorts this year—a rich mix of drama, comedy, documentary, and animation—celebrate and explore stories of diversity, identity, asylum seekers, aging, and human connection. As always, we are grateful to all the filmmakers who have allowed us to share their work with us, and with you. **Enjoy the show!**

KIDS' MATINÉE Saturday, March 21 1-3pm

At the
Albany
Community
Center

Enjoy a family-friendly show of new films made by and for kids and some of our favorite winners of the past ten years

An audience Q&A with filmmakers of all ages follows the screening.



FLUFFY • Jackson Julien, Dashiell Cronin & Athos Argue-Hassanein (Youth 6-12, 2:58) A boy goes in search of his lost pet. Shot on Solano Avenue in Albany and Berkeley. *Best Tiny Movie Albany FilmFest 2013*



BOUGHT SOME CHEESE • GeeFwee Boedoe & Coralie (Animation, 1:46) By Academy Award-winning animator Boedoe (*Finding Nemo*, and many more) and his young daughter, based on her song and art. *World Premiere Albany FilmFest 2013*.



DINO DRIVE-BY!! • Graham Morgan, David Castrillion (Tiny Movie, Youth 6-12, 0:42) A dinosaur war ends quickly.

KIDS' MATINÉE Saturday, March 16 1-3pm (doors open 12:30)



PYSKA *People You Should Know About* • Cornell School Room 30 Film Crew (Youth 6-12, 4:55) People you might not know about, but should.



SCOOTER PROGRESSION • Harris Reydon (Documentary, Youth 6-12, 2:58) A boy and his friends scootering around Albany over a one-year period and how they progress.



LITTLE POINT RICHMOND • Jane Selle Morgan (Documentary, 8:00) An artist creates dozens of tiny fairy houses that emerge from tree trunks, flower boxes, and front yards in Point Richmond.



MAD CHASE • Ben Ragasa (Youth 13-17, 2:06) Our valiant heroes can't catch the outlaw. But never fear! Here comes a much cooler officer of the law. *Albany FilmFest 2016*



CROSS ROADS • Sammy Destin, Chris Ponicki, Kiana Sipes (Narrative, Youth 6-12, 2:52) Three close friends find that friendship will always bring them back together again.



CREATURES OF THE HIDDEN REALM • Alexia Salingaros (Animation, Youth 13-17, 1:21) Fantasy creatures come to life from the imagination of a girl who is desperately trying to write a story. *Albany FilmFest 2015*



MAKE IT A GREAT DAY • Joshua Jones (Animation, 6:40) When a batch of newborn chicks hatches, one heads out for a very different life. *Best Short Animation, Albany FilmFest 2013*



HEARING THE OCEAN • Satyel Amerelo, (Youth 6-12, Narrative, 1:43) A girl wanders under the sea. *Best Youth 6-12, Albany FilmFest 2019*



THE MAYOR OF PT. ISABEL • Joshua Green (Tiny Movie, 2:15) Pamplemousse is a French bulldog who barks softly and carries a big ball. Can she win her bid for mayor? *Albany FilmFest 2016*

Kids!
Stay after
for hands-on
demos by film
professionals

POWERFUL ART & ACTIVISM

Monday, March 23 7:30pm

Albany
Twin
Theatre

Art and protest, changing lives, changing the world



COME & TAKE IT • P. J. Raval and Ellen Spiro (Documentary, 25:00) Jessica Jin's transformation from a student protester into one of America's most irreverent anti-gun violence leaders, creating what some people are calling The Great Texas Dildo Revolt.

EAST BAY PREMIERE

Q & A with
filmmakers
after show



AI WEIWEI: YOURS TRULY • Cheryl Haines, co-director Gina Leibrecht (Documentary, 76:00) With the remarkable exhibition *@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz*, the outspoken artist-activist transformed the former island penitentiary into an artistic platform, engaging nearly 900,000 visitors in a conversation about prisoners of conscience around the world. By its end, 90,000+ postcards had been sent to featured prisoners. Then something even more astonishing began to happen.

EAST BAY PREMIERE

Thanks to Arkin-Tilt Architects for underwriting this screening.

TRADITION!

Tuesday, March 24 7:30pm



FIDDLER: A MIRACLE OF MIRACLES • Max Lewkowicz (Documentary, 97:00) Behind-the-scenes drama of one of Broadway's most enduring musicals, *Fiddler on the Roof*, from its beginnings in early 1960s New York to its continuing life in productions around the world. Featuring archival footage and interviews with creators including composer Jerry Bock, lyricist Sheldon Harnick, writer Joseph Stein, and original producer Harold Prince, plus scholars and others including Joel Grey, Stephen Sondheim, and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RECOVERY

Wednesday, March 25 • 7:30pm

Albany
Twin
Theatre

Celebrating the natural world, prompting us to be effective stewards



IN THE LAND OF MY ANCESTORS • Rucha Chitnis (Documentary, 8:30) The living legacy of Ann Marie Sayers, a beloved Ohlone elder, who reclaimed her ancestral land in the Indian Canyon— now a sanctuary to indigenous peoples who don't have traditional lands for ceremonies.



ALL THAT REMAINS • Eva Rendle (Documentary, 20:00) A year after wildfires ravaged Northern California's Wine Country, its vulnerable population of farmworkers, and others find themselves in a heightened state of insecurity and inequality. A portrait of the second responders and vineyard workers still dealing with the aftermath, long after the media has turned away.



SOUND OF A WILD SNAIL EATING • Elisabeth Tova Bailey (Documentary, 15:00) When a woman is bed-ridden by a mysterious pathogen, a forest snail unexpectedly takes up residence on her nightstand. Together, they share an intimate journey of survival and resilience. An intimate and surprising live action story. Adapted from the award-winning nonfiction memoir of the same title.



DIRTY BUSINESS • Yutao Chen (Documentary, 12:10) Welcome to Minh Khai, Vietnam, where residents wrestle with the blessings and curses of an empire built on recycling plastic trash.



VERASPHERE: A LOVE STORY IN COSTUME • Robert James (Documentary, 20:00) During the height of the AIDS epidemic, two men discover an unlikely joy through the creation of Mrs. Vera, an outrageous costumed character made from found materials. What began as an art project and a way to pass the time while they faced health challenges took on a life of its own.

Thanks to East Bay Regional Park District for underwriting this screening.

OUTRAGEOUS ANTICS

Thursday, March 26 **7:30pm**

Albany
Twin
Theatre

Two hippies walk into an animation festival



Q&A with
filmmakers
follows the
show

ANIMATION OUTLAWS: ALL ABOUT SPIKE & MIKE • Kat Alioshin (Documentary, 67:00) The amazing and colorful story of Spike & Mike and the festival that changed animation as we know it. Known as much for the breakthrough animation it presented as the outrageous antics of the founders, Craig “Spike” Decker and Mike Gribble, it helped launch the careers of John Lasseter, Peter Lord, Will Vinton, Bill Plympton and Mike Judge to name just a few. Featuring animation (of course) and interviews with Seth Green, “Weird Al” Yankovic, Pete Docter, Nick Park, and others.

East Bay Premiere

NOIRS & NOIR @ THE CENTER

Friday, March 27 **7pm**

At the
Albany
Community
Center

@THE CENTER: NOIRS & NOIR

Pairing pinot noir with John Huston’s 1941 noir masterpiece, **THE MALTESE FALCON**. Detective Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart), a beautiful client (Mary Astor), and a mysterious man (Peter Lorre) become entangled in a dark web of intrigue as they search for a mysterious statue. Spoiler alert: “It’s the stuff that dreams are made of.” John Huston’s directorial debut.

Enjoy complimentary wine, small bites, and rampant noir clichés as we savor the film version of Dashiell Hammett’s 1930 detective novel, set in a noir San Francisco.

Presented by City of Albany,
Albany Library and Albany FilmFest.

\$5
suggested
donation

No advance tickets / Doors open 6:30pm

ALBANY COMMUNITY CENTER 1249 Marin Avenue, Albany CA 94706

9:50AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 • ALBANY TWIN

Show
1

WE ARE FAMILY

Four short films about growing older in America



A GREAT RIDE • Deborah Craig (Documentary, 30:00) Older lesbians, pioneers in the movement, face the next daunting challenge: growing old as determined role models for aging.



CARRY TIGER TO MOUNTAIN • Rajiv Shah (Narrative, 28:50) A terminally ill jazz trumpeter cannot reconcile the differences between the two people he loves most: his compassionate caregiver and his neglected daughter who fights to get closer to him.



ALL THIS TIME • Monica Mai (Narrative, 7:06) An elderly woman attempts to confess her feelings to her friend in the hospital.



TOGETHER • A. W. Scott (Narrative, 16:57) Carver and Ella have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and are trying to decide where to go on their “trip of a lifetime,” but instead face a different decision.

Thanks to Belmont Village for underwriting this screening.

Filmgoers are invited to the ACF **Filmmakers’ Lounge**

Cross the street to the casual FilmFest “lounge” at 1120 Solano, kitty-corner to the Albany Twin Theatre. Open Monday–Thursday 3/23–26, starting at 6:30pm until evening films start and again after the films until 10:30pm. Just show your ticket, lanyard, or this AFF 2020 program to enter, for film schmoozing—start or continue conversations. (Thank you to Adham Nasser and Albany Community Foundation!)

Souvenir Coffee, 1114 Solano, open 8am to 5pm, is offering 15% off coffee drinks to filmgoers filmfest week.

Show
2

CONNECTIONS

Reaching Out

Q & A with
filmmakers
after show

NO TRICKS • Douglas Werby (Narrative, 10:55)
A chance encounter between two men from different worlds brings change and some unexpected wisdom.



YESTERDAY, SEVEN YEARS AGO (HIER IL Y A SEPT ANS) • Harold Hutter (Narrative, 11:27) When old friends reunite, an old rivalry comes to the surface.
FRANCE, subtitles



TENDER STREETS • Adam Geiser (Documentary, Y13-17, 5:36) The voices of homeless people on the streets of San Francisco.



CAMP ALEC • Christopher Stoudt (Documentary, 17:45) At Camp ALEC, children whose disabilities have made it impossible to speak learn to express themselves through devices that translate their composed messages into audible speech.

Make plans to join us after the last show on **Sunday, March 29** at **Little Star Pizza 9:30–11 pm** — at our **Filmmaker/FilmFest Partner Thank You party. Pizza, well drinks, wine, and beer.** Happy Hour menu and prices will also be in effect for our group.
AFF raffle winners will be drawn at this party.

Show
2

CONNECTIONS

Reaching Out



A STORY OF REGRET • Colin Wang (Documentary, Youth13-17, 7:30) A filmmaker finds a truth in life in the making of an intimate documentary about his grandparents' past, along with his own.



CENTRAL MAGMA • Deniz Sertkol (Tiny Movie, 2:25) Two tango dancers move together on a rooftop in downtown Brooklyn.



FLORENCE • Emanuele Daga (Narrative, 16:27) Florence goes through her days without letting anyone into her world, until someone slips a love letter into her pocket.

Albany FilmFest Choose-Your-Own-Prize Raffle

\$5 PER TICKET OR 3 FOR \$10

Your chances of winning something you really must have just went way up! Choose the prize you want to win: Months of fitness fun at the Albany Y... dinner and food offerings from multiple venues including nearby stellar Juanita & Maude restaurant, top-rated Bull Valley Roadhouse in Port Costa, friendly Ocean View Brew Works, dinner at restaurants up and down Solano Avenue... and much, much more. Winners announced at the end of Albany FilmFest Week.

A chance to buy tickets at all FilmFest events from March 21–29.

2PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 • ALBANY TWIN

Show 3

THINGS CHANGE

Nothing Stays the Same



INTERVIEW (ENTREVUE) • Christopher Guyon (Narrative, 5:18) An actress answers questions from a journalist as part of the promotion of her latest film. *FRANCE, subtitles*



KNOCKING DOWN THE FENCES • Meg Shutzer (Documentary, 12:00) A. J. Andrews, the first woman to win a Rawlings Gold Glove, "best fielder in National Pro Fastpitch softball," and one of the best softball players in the world still struggles to make it as a professional female athlete.



HOW TO FIRE SOMEONE (WITH JULES AND JONAS) • Mike Lars White (Narrative, 4:42) Jonas turns to his sister Jules for advice on how to fire someone.



GAIL • Katie Lemon (Narrative, 10:00) A recently widowed woman who used to take partner dancing classes with her husband must decide whether to remain stifled by her grief or find the courage to dance on her own.



NICE CHINESE GIRLS DON'T • Jennifer Abod (Documentary, 20:00) An immigrant from Hong Kong becomes a groundbreaking poet, activist, writer, artist and body builder in 1970s San Francisco feminist and lesbian liberation movements. Kitty Tsui recounts her remarkable saga through poems and stories.

2PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 • ALBANY TWIN

Show 3

THINGS CHANGE

Nothing Stays the Same

Q & A with filmmakers after show



TELLTALE • Fu Yang (Animated Short, 3:09) Letting go of secrets.



PRAISE AND BLAME • Shane Book (Narrative, 19:54) When an internationally acclaimed poet from Belarus (Costas Mandylor, Sex in the City, SAW movies) with a frozen waffle obsession encounters a Honduran immigrant, a secret from the poet's past threatens to engulf both men. CANADA

Local Merchant Discounts! Show this AFF program March 21– April 4 at these Albany establishments to enjoy food, drink, and discounts!



Boss Burger
1187 Solano
15% off total



Chez Mansour 1369 Solano
complimentary mezza plate



Duo Grill House 1491 Solano
1 dessert & 2 fountain drinks free with \$25 or more lunch or dinner



Zaytoon
1133 Solano 15% off total



Bua Luang
1166 Solano 20% off total



Rendez-Vous Café Bistro
1111 Solano 50% off 2nd entrée



Ocean View Brew Works
627 San Pablo
\$1 off pints of beer



Souvenir Coffee
1114 Solano
15% off coffee drinks and bags of coffee



LITTLE STAR PIZZA

Little Star Pizza
1181 Solano
15% off total



Mr. Dewie's
1116 Solano
\$1 off any item



Royal Ground Coffee
1157 Solano
\$.50 off any drink

Discounts offered March 21-April 4, 2020 during regularly scheduled business days & hours of each establishment.

4PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 • ALBANY TWIN

Show 4

FAMILY MATTERS

Getting Along, Not, Making Your Own



THE TURNER EXHIBIT • Matthew Gregory Bainbridge (Narrative, 24:48) Over the course of three holiday gatherings, tensions between brothers Alex (David Costabile, *Billions*, *Breaking Bad*) and Anthony Turner (JD Cullum, *Leatherheads*) boil over into jealousy, deception and betrayal.



AMATERASU • Christine Papalexis (Animation, 14:02) Marionettes made of found objects bring to life this ancient Japanese tale about the sun goddess, Amaterasu, and her stormy relationship with her brother, Susanowo.



THE LETTER • Hayden McComas (Narrative, 4:06) Angelica's letter to her husband does not have the effect she intended.

Q & A with filmmakers after shows



TROUBLEMAKER • Olive Nwosu (Narrative, 10:50) On a hot day in Eastern Nigeria, a young boy learns that actions have consequences.



MY BODY FOR BOK CHOY • David Mai (Tiny Movie, 3:03) A daughter contemplates her mother's struggle to survive as a Chinese immigrant and woman in San Francisco in 1906.



COLORS RUN • Olivia Carter (Narrative, Youth 13-17, 16:41) The unlikely friendship of a broken old soul and an imaginative young girl.

6PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 • ALBANY TWIN

Show 5

STAYING ALIVE

Variations on the Art of Living



CREDIBLE FEAR • Caron Creighton, Walker Dawson (Documentary, 20:45) The struggles of West African asylum seekers on their way to the United States through Latin America.



TABBIGAIL'S COMPLAINT • Mark Glaeser (Animation, 4:43) A surreal look at today's world.



FINAL DESTINATION • Deniz Akyurek (Tiny Movie, Y13-17, 2:40) A boy experiences the worst possible first date, before it has even started.



BEGGAR MY NEIGHBOR • Bruno Hare (Narrative, 15:25) A music-loving gangland fixer, a banker, and what crime and finance have in common. UK



SIX DAY BACK • Scott Cierski (Animation, 3:40) Three bodybuilders sing about a revolutionary new workout regimen.

Show 5 program continues next page

Enter the Albany FilmFest On-Solano Trivia Challenge and win \$100 or \$50 cash!

You'll find AFF trivia questions in the window of 20 participating businesses on Solano.

Entry details available at www.solanoavenueassn.org

Show
5

STAYING ALIVE

Variations on the Art of Living



Show 5 program continued from previous page

SKY DANCE • Max Stein (Documentary, 6:40) A young Syrian refugee in Jordan dreams of moving abroad and opening a studio that teaches other refugees what saved his life: dance.



THE NIGHT SHIFT • Max Mollring (Documentary, 4:49) A glimpse into the life of Angelo as he collects recycling in order to survive.



UNTITLED (SANS TITRE) • Clément de Dadelsen (Narrative, 24:04) When Jules can't find the right title for his first novel, the greatest title writer offers to find him one for free. The old man finally accepts but offers him a very strange deal. *FRANCE, subtitled*



The City of Albany is a small City with big sustainability goals. The City aims for a 70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, and carbon neutrality by 2045.

We invite community members to actively participate:

www.carbonfreealbany.org

Show
6

IT CAME FROM ALBANY

Celebrating 10 years of Albany Filmmakers



CAT STEPS OUT • Benjamin Ragasa (My Own Private Albany, 1:30) A cat wanders around Albany during the Solano Stroll. *Best My Own Private Albany, AFF 2017*



LITTLE POINT RICHMOND • Jane Selle Morgan (Documentary, 8:00) An artist creates tiny fairy houses that emerge from tree trunks, flower boxes, and front yards in Point Richmond.



THE TRUTH ABOUT ME • Emmett Loverde (Narrative, 9:00) A disillusioned teenager wants to expose the shallowness of his classmates by interviewing the popular girl in his high school.



LA LETTRE • Emma Horner, Michelle Lou, Jasper Matriciano-Horowitz (AHS Music Video, 1:35) *AFF 2017*



WILD ART, WILD HEARTS: THE ALBANY BULB • Mark Sommer (Documentary, 15:23) A look at wild nature and art at the Bulb, revealing this intriguing outdoor museum *AFF 2017*

Show 6 program
continues next page



BALLET SUITE • Stephen Spies, Tasha Isolani (My Own Private Albany, 7:30) A ballet performed on the Albany Bulb—filmed completely in Albany. *Best My Own Private Albany, AFF 2015*

IT CAME FROM ALBANY

Celebrating 10 years of Albany Filmmakers



Show 6 program continued from previous page

BONES AND SKINS • Linda Reeves (My Own Private Albany, 6 min) An Albany family solves a crime—in Albany! An all-Albany film. *AFF 2016 Albany Spirit Award*



LONDON • Duncan Robson (Albany Filmmakers Showcase, 4:27) Wait—is it Albany, or London? Music Video for the UK band Hope and Social. *AFF 2017*



NAME • Terry Lamb (Narrative Short, 8:13) A young American man who appears Middle Eastern is interrogated in an airport when a knife is discovered with his possessions. *AFF 2017*



SOMETHING IMPORTANT • Thomas Lee (Tiny Movie, 2:11) Is the monster really unstoppable?

Did you know the Albany Library and the Albany FilmFest team up to show great movies at the Community Center throughout the year?

To learn more and to stay current with Albany FilmFest events year-round, check in at www.albanyfilmfest.org and sign up for our newsletter.

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, KID!

It takes a village

Albany FilmFest Team

Festival Coordinator & Programming: Naomi Lucks Sigal
Partnerships Director: Jack Kenny
Planning & Development Director: Ellen Toomey
Volunteer Coordinator: Jen Gripman
Arts Committee Liaison: Peter Goodman
Video Marketing & Social Media: Ari Sigal
Curator-at-Large: Emmy Scharlatt
Technical & Planning Director/City of Albany Staff: Jeremy Allen
Gala Coordinator: Maggie Forti

Albany FilmFest 2020 Jury Panel

Waylon Bacon
GeeFwee Boedoe
David Eisenmann
Emmy Scharlatt
Rick Tejada-Flores
Raul Varela
Stephanie Watanabe
Laura Weiss

Raffle Donors

Albany Twin Theatre • Albany YMCA • Akemi Restaurant • Bua Luang Restaurant • Bull Valley Roadhouse • Carbon-Free Albany • 5 Little Monkeys • Juanita & Maude • Little Star Pizza • Morningtide • Ocean View Brew Works • Oaktown Spice Shop • Rendez-Vous Cafe Bistro • Solano Avenue Association • Stone Bridge Press • Supple Skincare

In-Kind Partners

Albany Community Library • Albany Recreation Department • Alliance Graphics • Berkeley Film Foundation • Creatrix Matrix • Duvateen Sound • Event Magic • Friends of the Albany Library • Kermit Lynch Wine Merchants • Little Star Pizza • Ocean View Brew Works • Raul Varela Videography • Rialto Cinemas Cerrito & Elmwood • Sierra Club Bay Chapter • StopWaste • Telegraph Bee Co • Trader Joe's

Huge thank you to our legion of volunteers — we couldn't do it without you!

Roll out the red carpet for our awesome partners and supporters!



ALAN KAPLAN



Albany FilmFest's mission is to encourage diversity, originality, creativity, and open communication, connecting business, community, and the arts. Thanks for your help in supporting the free flow of communication and creative expression in our community and across borders.

Albany FilmFest is presented by the City of Albany and is a production of KALB, with assistance from the Community Media Access Committee and Arts Committee, and other volunteers. Many thanks to the Albany Library for co-hosting Albany FilmFest Presents throughout the year, and to our generous partners in Albany and beyond.

1 with Independent Arts & Media, an organization that supports media arts services allowing
2 FilmFest to transition to its own independent non-profit organization over the next couple of
3 years; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the FilmFest 2022 organizers have submitted a request to sponsor the
6 event; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, in-kind support for FilmFest 2022 to be provided by staff is valued at
9 approximately \$4,800, in addition, the City has paid this year's domain hosting and google
10 workspace annual fees in the amount of \$504.
11

12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albany City Council hereby
13 sponsors the 2022 FilmFest by supporting the event with an allocation of up to \$10,000 from
14 funding source(s) to be determined.
15
16

17 _____
18 PRESTON JORDAN, MAYOR
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