

Presented By  
 **Bank of Hawaii**

# 2018 HONOLULU RAINBOW FILM FESTIVAL

IN MEMORY OF ADAM BARAN

**August 09-19, 2018**  
**Honolulu Museum of Art**

P R O G R A M   G U I D E

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## A Letter from Bank of Hawaii

As the sponsor of the Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival for eight years, Bank of Hawaii is proud to be a strong supporter and partner of the Honolulu Gay and Lesbian Cultural Foundation.

The powerful films selected for this year's festival are sophisticated and insightful, and showcasing these works of art promotes LGBTQ equality by creating, sharing and protecting LGBTQ stories for the screen. As with every year, the lineup reflects the tremendous diversity of the LGBTQ landscape, and through innovative filmmaking, serves as a launchpad for filmmakers who capture stories of transformative moments.

Bank of Hawaii is pleased to support the Honolulu Gay and Lesbian Cultural Foundation continue its important work. We stand as advocates for a welcoming and inclusive community in which everyone is encouraged to be true to who they are.

Mahalo,  
Peter Ho  
Bank of Hawaii

## WELCOME TO THE 29TH ANNUAL HONOLULU RAINBOW FILM FESTIVAL (HRFF29)!

Those who have lived in or visited Hawai'i know its social and cultural powers. It's a state full of color, character, and celebration. It thrives, and it strives – it's diverse... and it's inclusive! After twenty-nine years, the Honolulu Gay & Lesbian Cultural Foundation Board of Directors and Festival Team are pleased to continue to uphold these values and provide a safe space for all communities to come together and commemorate LGBTQ arts, activities, and achievements. We take pride in being one of the longest-running LGBTQ film festivals in the country, and this year, we tirelessly worked our 'okoles off to enhance your festival experience.

We're honored to have the Bank of Hawai'i return as our presenting sponsor along with alumni platinum sponsors: Aqua-Aston Hospitality, Hawaiian Airlines, Honolulu Museum of Art, and Hula's Bar & Lei Stand. We're also very fortunate to have our newest platinum sponsors: Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Honolulu Magazine and Velocity Honolulu.

This year, we offer you a total of 53 films from around the world, and discussions with over 20 special guests from these films—the most we've ever had in HRFF history! Also, our newest program partners ClexaCon will be hosting a day of women's programming and a mixer at Scarlet Honolulu on August 11; and the Asia Pacific Queer Film Festival (APQFFA) will be showcasing short films from notable festivals including ShanghaiPRIDE and Rainbow Reel Toyko on August 18. And let's not forget our signature Red Carpet Event, which is also on August 18. Please purchase your All-Access Festival Pass—it's the only way to experience everything HRFF29 has to offer!

Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance. All are welcome here. May I have the first dance?

Mahalo,  
Dylan Arrieta  
Festival Director // HRFF29  
Executive Director // HGLCF







WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT  
FILMS THAT FEED THE SOUL.



Proud sponsor of an event that celebrates creativity and diversity. **Bank of Hawaii**



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## TICKET + VENUE INFO

### FESTIVAL PASS

All-Access Pass // \$150

Experience everything HRFF29 has to offer with an All-Access Festival Pass – entry to all film screenings, receptions, and most importantly, our signature Red Carpet Event – estimated value of \$300.

Available for purchase online at [www.hglcf.org](http://www.hglcf.org)

### INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

Opening + Closing Night Films // \$20  
(Includes Reception)

Centerpiece + Spotlight + ClexaCon Films // \$15  
All Other Films // \$12

Available for purchase at the DDT Box Office or online at [www.honoluluuseum.org](http://www.honoluluuseum.org)

### THE FINE PRINT

There is a \$1.50 service fee per ticket for all online purchases.

Festival Passes and tickets are non-refundable.

Festival Pass holders DO NOT need tickets for film screenings, but must present their pass at the door.

A free RUSH LINE will be available for SOLD OUT shows. Empty seats will be offered to RUSH LINE customers 5 minutes before the film's scheduled start time. Festival Pass and ticket holders are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start time to guarantee a seat.

### VENUE

DORIS DUKE THEATRE  
HONOLULU MUSEUM OF ART  
900 S. BERETANIA ST.  
HONOLULU, HI 96814

### PARKING

1035 Kinau Street – just passed Victoria Street on the right. Free and open to the public:  
430 PM – 1100 PM Mon – Fri  
1030 AM – 1100 PM Sat + Sun





## IN LOVING MEMORY OF ADAM BARAN

The Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival is dedicated to the memory of Adam Baran. Adam was one of the world's first video jockeys and the winner of Billboard Magazine's first Video Music Awards. Honolulu was fortunate to be one of the cities to have enjoyed the video talents of Adam (along with San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York). Unfortunately, Adam was one of the first to succumb to AIDS 28 years ago. This dedication to Adam is a way of honoring all of the talented individuals whose lives have been cut short by HIV and AIDS.

See how a nation created an identity through art, design and technology.

# HO'OUULU HAWAII

## THE KING KALĀKAUA ERA

Opening September 13, 2018

This exhibition is made possible by the Ohuokalani Foundation, an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, Judy Pyle and Wayne Pitluck, Allison Holt Gendreau and Keith Gendreau, Laura and Donald Goo, Linda and Michael Horikawa, the Dolores Furtado Martin Foundation, and Jean E. Rolles.

Presenting sponsor First Insurance Company of Hawaii, major sponsors DAWSON and JCB International Credit Card Co., Ltd. and supporting sponsors Matson and Tori Richard., Ltd.

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Museum of Art

[honoluluuseum.org](http://honoluluuseum.org)  
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## SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR DAVID Y. IGE

In Recognition of the  
Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival  
August 9 - 19, 2018

On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, I send a warm aloha to the sponsors and attendees of the 29th Annual Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival, presented by the Honolulu Gay and Lesbian Cultural Foundation. This event is held in honor of Adam Baran, a video jockey pioneer for the Hawai'i Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community. Formerly known as the Adam Baran Honolulu Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, the Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival is one of the longest-running LGBT film festivals in the country. In addition to showcasing 17 films from around the world, this year's event will include a forum that focuses on women's programs and other special

events and exclusive appearances. The Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival strives to raise a sense of awareness and respect for LGBT culture, arts and lifestyle. As a platform for U.S. and international film premieres, the festival has presented hundreds of documentaries, feature films, shorts and animations from around the world with special consideration given to Hawai'i-based filmmakers.

Mahalo nui loa to Bank of Hawai'i, Hawaiian Airlines, Aqua-Aston Hospitality, Honolulu Museum of Art, and Hula's Bar and Lei Stand for sponsoring the 29th Annual Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival. A special mahalo to the Honolulu Gay and Lesbian Cultural Foundation for inspiring community and civic engagement through its programming and special events, fostering mutual respect within our society, and providing a unique and enriching experience.

With warmest regards,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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# HRFF29 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY AUGUST 09

600 PM – 730 PM      OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION  
745 PM – 935 PM      IDEAL HOME

## FRIDAY AUGUST 10

500 PM – 650 PM      THE POET AND THE BOY  
715 PM – 905 PM      SHE IS THE OCEAN

## SATURDAY AUGUST 11

1200 PM – 150 PM      CLEXACON SHOWCASE I  
230 PM – 415 PM      CLEXACON SHOWCASE II  
500 PM – 630 PM      THE MISEDUCATION OF CAMERON POST  
700 PM – 1000 PM      WOMEN'S MIXER

## SUNDAY AUGUST 12

1200 PM – 215 PM      SHORTS SHOWCASE  
300 PM – 425 PM      WILD NIGHTS WITH EMILY  
500 PM – 700 PM      HARD PAINT  
745 PM – 930 PM      SHAKEDOWN

## FRIDAY AUGUST 17

300 PM – 500 PM      A MOMENT IN THE REEDS  
530 PM – 730 PM      REINVENTING MARVIN  
600 PM – 730 PM      CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION  
800 PM – 955 PM      FREAK SHOW

## SATURDAY AUGUST 18

1130 AM – 245 PM      APQFFA SHORTS SHOWCASE  
600 PM – 900 PM      RED CARPET EVENT

## SUNDAY AUGUST 19

230 PM – 420 PM      RETABLO  
500 PM – 700 PM      MARIO  
730 PM – 905 PM      SATURDAY CHURCH





# RED CARPET EVENT

SATURDAY AUGUST 18, 600 PM  
HYATT CENTRIC WAIKIKI BEACH

Bank of Hawaii presents the 29th Annual Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival Red Carpet Event, an evening-long affair with a hosted bar by Hula's Bar & Lei Stand, and tasty bites from Honolulu's most popular eateries including Agu Ramen, Basalt, Brilliant Ox, Fresh Box, Scratch and more. Come out for a great evening of entertainment, music and mingling with festival delegates, actors, filmmakers and film lovers.

Included in the All-Access Festival Pass or purchase your Red Carpet Event ticket at [www.square.com/store/hglcf](http://www.square.com/store/hglcf)

Presented By

 **Bank of Hawaii**

## WOMEN'S MIXER

HRFF29 + CLEXACON  
SATURDAY AUGUST 11, 700 PM  
SCARLET HONOLULU

Free for HRFF29 All-Access Festival Passholders  
and ClexaCon 1-Day Passholders

Get your Pass at [www.square.com/store/hglcf](http://www.square.com/store/hglcf)

\$15 at the door

#HRFF29

Scarlet Honolulu // 80 S. Pauahi St.



**scarlet**  
HONOLULU

## WOMEN IN FILM + MEDIA TALK STORY

HRFF29 + CLEXACON + HI FILMMAKERS COLLECTIVE  
SUNDAY AUGUST 12, 930 AM

### PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Creators Panel: "Getting Your Film Made... and Getting It Out There"

Actors + Casting Panel: "Breaking Through: Creating New LGBTQ+ Representations"

Open to all HRFF29 All-Access Passholders, ClexaCon 1-Day Passholders, and HFC members.

Limited seats. RSVP at [www.hglcf.org](http://www.hglcf.org)

HFC Studio // 3167 Waialae Ave.



# 2018 HONOLULU RAINBOW FILM



Opening Night Film

## **IDEAL HOME**

USA // 2018 // 90 MINS // DIR. ANDREW FLEMING

When his grandson shows up at a high class dinner party one evening, Erasmus Dickie Brumble (Steve Coogan, *THE DINNER*, *PHILOMENA*) and his filmmaking partner (Paul Rudd, *ANT-MAN*, *I LOVE YOU, MAN*) reluctantly take him in. The bickering couple face many challenges as they try to adapt to this new addition to their extravagant home. The boy won't cooperate, he will only eat Taco Bell and they don't even know his name! Written and directed by Andrew Fleming, this dramedy is a sweet and funny tale that explores what makes a family. With hilarious cameos from Allison Pill (*THE NEWSROOM*, *AMERICAN HORROR STORY*), Kate Walsh (*GREY'S ANATOMY*, *PRIVATE PRACTICE*) and Drew Droege (*THE CIRCLE*, *YOU'RE KILLING ME*), this film is sure to charm your pants off!

**THURSDAY AUGUST 09, 745 PM**

Preceded by MRS. MCCUTCHEON

**OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION**

HoMA Luce Pavilion // 600 PM

Centerpiece Film

## **SHE IS THE OCEAN**

USA // 2017 // 101 MINS // DIR. INNA BLOKHINA

Screening followed by Q&A with filmmaker and cast

In a unique documentary concept, director Inna Blokhina has selected women, from age 12 to 85, in order to create a cumulative mosaic portrait of a woman that devotes her life to the Ocean. Starting with a little girl who dreams of becoming a World Champion, to a marine biologist who teaches people 'shark language', to a woman who was the first to dive from the 23 meter platform, to a legendary surfer who rides the biggest waves in the world, to a woman who plunges into the deepest depths on a single breath, to a paramedic who is saving the lives others but can't save her own life, to a grandmother who has returned to ride the waves that took the life of her son many years ago, to a great woman who became a 'Hero of the Planet' trying to explore and save the Ocean. These inspiring women share one love – a deep affection for the Ocean.

Features Hawaii's own JEANNIE CHESSER, COCO HO, KEALA KENNELLY, ANDREA MOLLER, and OCEAN RAMSEY.

**FRIDAY AUGUST 10, 715 PM**

Preceded by CARE

 **Bank of Hawaii**

**HAWAIIAN**  
AIRLINES. 



# FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTED FILMS



Spotlight Film

## **WILD NIGHTS WITH EMILY**

USA // 2018 // 84 MINS // DIR. MADELEINE OLNEK  
Screening followed by Q&A with filmmaker and cast

The details of poet Emily Dickinson's personal life are scant. The little we do know, is from home-wrecker Mabel Todd - who seduced Emily's brother Austin away from his first wife Susan - and editor T.W. Higgins, who together, published Emily's poems after she died. Mabel recast Emily as the reclusive spinster - a delicate wallflower, too sensitive for this world. Likewise, the long held academic view of Emily as the heroine of American romance - disappointed in love, languishing alone and striking off poems on the birds and the bees - still remains too genteel... until now. This defiant, dramatic comedy by HRFF alum Madeleine Olnek (THE FOXY MERKINS, CODEPENDENT LESBIAN SPACE ALIEN SEEKS SAME) reclaims Emily Dickinson's identity and explores the rarely seen vivacious, irreverent side of Emily Dickinson (played by Molly Shannon, SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, OTHER PEOPLE [HRFF27], WET HOT AMERICAN SUMMER, SUPERSTAR) - most notably her passionate thirty-five-year romantic relationship with her brother's wife, best friend, and Muse, Susan Gilbert Dickinson.

**SUNDAY AUGUST 12, 300 PM**



Closing Night Film

## **FREAK SHOW**

USA // 2017 // 91 MINS // DIR. TRUDIE STYLER

Billy Bloom (Alex Lawther, THE IMITATION GAME, THE END OF THE F\*\*\*\*ING WORLD) is one-of-a-kind: a fabulous, glitter-bedecked, gender-bending teenager whose razor-sharp wit is matched only by his outrageous, anything-goes fashion sense. When his glamorous mother (Bette Midler) is forced to send him to live with his straight-laced father, Billy finds himself a diva-out-of-water at his new ultra-conservative high school. Undaunted by the bullies who don't understand him, the fearless Billy sets out to make a big statement in his own inimitable way: challenging the school's reigning mean girl (Abigail Breslin, SCREAM QUEENS, LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE) for the title of homecoming queen. This proudly offbeat comedy is an irresistible ode to outsiders and nonconformists of all stripes. With Laverne Cox (ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK).

**FRIDAY AUGUST 17, 800 PM**

Preceded by ARRIVAL

## **CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION**

HoMA Luce Pavilion // 600 PM



**HONOLULU**<sup>®</sup>  
M A G A Z I N E

# HRFF29 // FEATURE FILMS



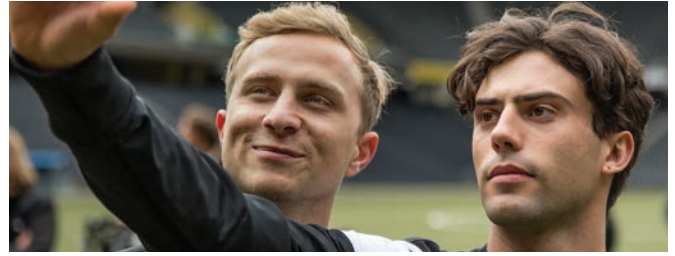
## A MOMENT IN THE REEDS

FINLAND // 2017 // 107 MINS // DIR. MIKKO MAKELA

Having moved to Paris for university, Leevi returns to his native Finland for the summer to help his estranged father renovate the family lake house so it can be sold. Tareq, a recent asylum seeker from Syria, has been hired to help with the work, and when Leevi's father has to return to town on business, the two young men establish a connection and spend a few days discovering one another during the Finnish midsummer. [Finnish with English Subtitles]

**FRIDAY AUGUST 17, 300 PM**

Preceded by HALF A LIFE

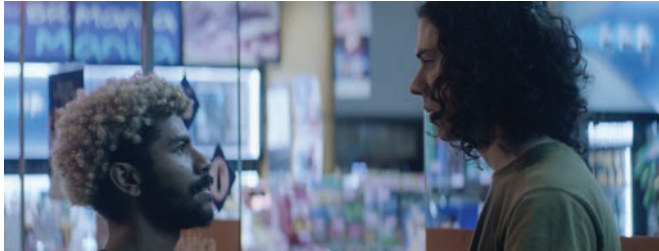


## MARIO

SWITZERLAND // 2018 // 120 MINS  
DIR. MARCEL GISLER

There's a ripple of disquiet in the locker-room when Leon, a new striker, joins the football team. Sharing a flat with rival Mario sets the scene for an unexpected love affair, but the path of gay love in this macho world is not an easy one. Mario is unwilling or unable to acknowledge the implications of what is happening. But pretend girlfriends don't fool everyone. With the prospect of a professional career a strong possibility, will Mario forsake the hope of emotional satisfaction for professional gain? [Swiss German with English Subtitles]

**SUNDAY AUGUST 19, 500 PM**



## HARD PAINT

BRAZIL // 2018 // 120 MINS  
DIRS. FILIPE MATZEMBACHER + MARCIO REOLON

Pedro earns a living in chat rooms. The image resolution may not be perfect but when Pedro transforms himself into NeonBoy in front of the webcam he still manages to create the desired impression. Slowly, this young man dips his fingers into pots of colored paint and glides them across his naked body. Glowing in the dark, NeonBoy follows his users' commands until he agrees to meet one of them in a private chat room for money. But things change when Pedro's sister Luiza moves out of their shared apartment and he notices that somebody is imitating his performances. He agrees to go on a date with his mysterious rival. This rendezvous will have far-reaching consequences. [Portuguese with English Subtitles]  
AUDIENCE ADVISORY: EXPLICIT CONTENT

**SUNDAY AUGUST 12, 500 PM**



## THE POET AND THE BOY

KOREA // 2017 // 110 MINS // DIR. KIM YANG-HEE

A married poet in his late 30s, who has lived in Jeju Island all his life, teaches an after school poetry writing class to elementary school students for a living. His greatest source of stress in life is another poet who always criticizes him for writing just pretty poems. Meanwhile, his wife, who runs a specialty product store, is desperate to have a baby and pushes the poet to make love when he is not in the mood. One day, the poet meets a teenage boy working at a donut shop and helplessly develops feelings he has never had before. The poet, his eyes opened to new emotions, matures as an artist, but struggles with his feelings for the boy and his reality. [Korean with English Subtitles]

**FRIDAY AUGUST 10, 500 PM**





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**M-S 5PM – 9PM**

**S-SU 7.30AM – 3PM**





### REINVENTING MARVIN

FRANCE // 2017 // 115 MINS // DIR. ANNE FONTAINE

Martin Clement, born Marvin Bijou, has escaped... a little village in the countryside, his family, his father's tyranny and his mother's resignation. He has escaped intolerance, rejection and the bullying he suffered from being singled out as "different." Against all odds, he has found allies. First, the middle school principal who introduces him to theater and whose name he later adopts as a symbol of his salvation. Then, his mentor and role model, who encourages him to tell his story on stage. Finally, Isabelle Huppert who helps him bring his show to life. Marvin/Martin will risk everything to create this show that represents so much more than success: it is his path to re-invention. [French with English Subtitles]

**FRIDAY AUGUST 17, 530 PM**

Preceded by THOUGHTS OF NIGHT



### SATURDAY CHURCH

USA // 2017 // 81 MINS // DIR. DAMON CARDASIS

Screening followed by Q&A with LUKA KAIN

Ulysses (Luka Kain), a shy and effeminate 14-year-old boy, finds himself coping with new responsibilities as "man of the house" after the unexpected death of his father. Living alongside his mother, younger brother, and conservative aunt, Ulysses is also struggling with questions about his gender identity. He finds an escape by creating a world of fantasy filled with dance and music. Ulysses' journey takes a turn for the better when he encounters a vibrant transgender community, who take him to "Saturday Church," a program for LGBTQ youth. Ulysses manages to keep his two worlds apart; appeasing his aunt and discovering his passion for the NYC ball scene, and voguing, until his double life is revealed.

**SUNDAY AUGUST 19, 730 PM**

Preceded by WE LOVE MOSES

**Honolulu**

**Museum of Art**



### RETABLO

PERU // 2017 // 95 MINS

DIR. ALVARO DELGADO APARICIO

Segundo sees silence as his only option for dealing with his father Noé's secret. The 14-year-old lives with his parents in a village high up in the mountains of Peru. Noé is a respected artisan and Segundo's role model. With a loving eye for detail, he artfully crafts altarpieces for churches and homes, and is preparing his son to follow in his footsteps. But cracks form in their tight bond. The film takes an unflinching look behind the facades of a seemingly intact village community, in which patriarchal rules are imposed with unrelenting violence. [Spanish with English Subtitles]

**SUNDAY AUGUST 19, 230 PM**

Preceded by JUAN GABRIEL IS DEAD

**Honolulu  
Museum of Art**



### SHAKEDOWN

USA // 2018 // 82 MINS // DIR. LEILAH WEINRAUB

The story of Los Angeles' black lesbian strip club scene and its genesis. Owned and operated by women, Shakedown was a series of parties founded by and for African American women in Los Angeles that featured go-go dancing and strip shows for the city's underground lesbian scene. This intimate film chronicles the explicit performances and personal relationships of the party's dancers and organizers including Ronnie-Ron, Shakedown Productions' creator and emcee; Mahogany, the legendary "mother" of the community; Egypt, their star performer; and Jazmine, the "Queen" of Shakedown. More than just a strip club, Shakedown was one of the few spaces for lesbian subculture that brought together and galvanized a community of freaks and queers of color. AUDIENCE ADVISORY: EXPLICIT CONTENT





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to work with  
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## HRFF29 // WOMEN'S PROGRAMMING

### CLEXACON SHOWCASE I

SATURDAY AUGUST 11, 1200 PM

HRFF29 is proud to partner with ClexaCon, the first and largest multi-fandom media and entertainment convention for LGBTQ women and their allies. ClexaCon brings together diverse LGBTQ content creators from around the world with the aim of empowering LGBTQ female fans and media creators to produce and distribute more positive LGBTQ women content - to create stories they desire.

From imagined worlds to reality, this program of shorts and web series offers a glimpse into the lives of queer women from all walks of life.

(1) **MARICRUZ**

USA // 2017 // 17 MINS

DIR. CHRISTINE MCAULIFFE

Filmmakers in attendance.

When her devoutly Catholic mother walks in on her and her girlfriend, a 15-year-old girl is sent to the local church to undergo conversion therapy; while there, she discovers the priest who runs the program harbors a dark secret and fights to expose him.

(2) **PAPEROCK**

ISRAEL // 2016 // 11 MINS

DIR. HILLEL RATE

Leah is an ultra-orthodox teen visiting Jerusalem's old central bus station for a meeting with her estranged brother. Thinking he won't show up, Leah is just about to leave when she meets a mysterious woman who knows Leah by name.

(3) **APART FROM EVERYTHING**

CANADA // 2017 // 20 MINS

DIR. BEN LEWIS

After a two-year absence and a recent stint in rehab, Fran (Tatiana Maslany, ORPHAN BLACK) returns to face the emotional fallout of her disappearance and make amends with the girlfriend she left behind (Tattiawna Jones, THE HANDMAID'S TALE).

(4) **ZOE + ARI**

USA // 2017 // 10 MINS

DIR. RACHAEL MEYERS

Zoe and Ari, a couple of two years, pack their suitcases to fly to Zoe's sister's wedding in Portland. As they decide what to bring, Ari learns a devastating truth about what Zoe's family knows.

(5) **RILEY PARRA**

USA // 2017 // 12 MINS

DIR. CHRISTIN BAKER

Lead MAREM HASSLER in attendance.

Riley Parra is a good cop in a corrupt department who discovers a war between angels and demons is being waged in her city. Both sides have chosen mortal champions, and Riley is the only chance the Good side has of winning.

(6) **SWERVE**

CANADA // 2016 // 11 MINS

DIR. JASON ARMSTRONG

Cast in attendance.

Elise is a young woman who decides to escape her mundane life in search of something better. That choice takes her on an emotionally complex journey over the few weeks that follow. In episode 1, Elise has had it with her life so she decides to pack up and move on. Hitching a ride with Jen feels a bit like destiny.

(7) **SEEING GLORY**

USA // 2017 // 14 MINS

DIR. RICK HAMILTON

Gloria prepares a feast of the senses for the rapidly ailing Eva in an attempt to share a perfect evening and be seen for the woman she truly is. A bittersweet story of fine wine, dementia and the immortal words of Virginia Woolf.

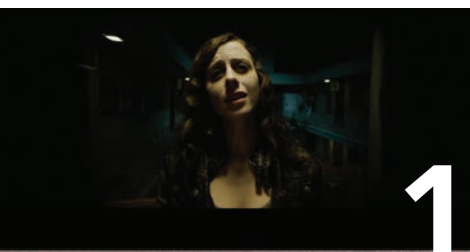
(8) **THE STREETS ARE OURS**

PAKISTAN // 2017 // 16 MINS

DIR. MICHELLE FIORDALISO

When Fawzia Mirza, an American actress meets Sabeen Mahmud, a world-renowned Pakistani activist and founder of a progressive cafe in Karachi, Mirza's life changes forever.

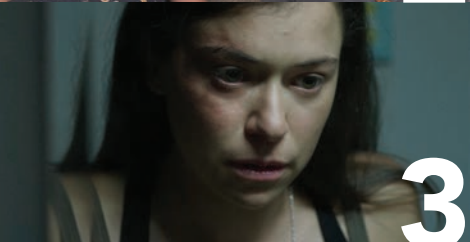




1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

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## CLEXACON SHOWCASE II

SATURDAY AUGUST 11, 230 PM

A lesbian actress fighting for the survival of her character, stories of first love told through cute, animal character animation, a married couple working out their relationship issues through ballroom dance, a bride ditching her groom for her bridesmaid, a Filipina coming out to her Catholic family ....

Let loose, laugh out loud, and just have fun with this non-stop, comedy romp of women's shorts and fangirl web-based series chock full of refreshingly positive representations by, of, for, and about LGBTQ women.

### (1) THE WORLD CAN WAIT

UK // 2017 // 8 MINS

DIR. DEBORAH ESPECT

Vic is a popular lesbian character in a hit television series. But when the TV Execs in charge of the show gather to decide her fate, she finds herself having to fight for her survival. Winner of the 2018 ClexaCon Film Festival Audience Award.

### (2) I LIKE GIRLS

CANADA // 2016 // 8 MINS

DIR. DIANE OBOMSAWIN

Charlotte, Mathilde, Marie, and Diane reveal the nitty-gritty about their first loves, sharing funny and intimate tales of one-sided infatuation, mutual attraction, erotic moments, and fumbling attempts at sexual expression. For them, sexual awakening comes hand-in-hand with discovering their desire for other women — and a joyful new self-awareness.

### (3) POP ROX

USA // 2017 // 12 MINS

DIR. NATE TRINRUD

Filmmaker in attendance.

Jesse, a 17-year-old Iranian-American girl, musters the courage to tell her high school best friend, Roxanne, that she's in love with her. But when Roxanne invites out new girl Evelyn, Jesse's perfect night takes an unexpected turn.

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**(4) FOXY TROT**

USA // 2018 // 15 MINS

DIR. LISA DONATO

Filmmaker and cast in attendance.

A married couple are unexpectedly faced with their relationship issues when they take ballroom dance lessons.

**(5) TWENTY**

USA // 2017 // 12 MINS

DIR. LILY RICHARDS

Filmmakers in attendance.

This web series follows the story of Maya; a gay musician in her early twenties as she attempts to navigate love, career, and life's endless surprises alongside a group of wildly eclectic friends.

**(6) NASTY HABITS**

USA // 2017 // 12 MINS

DIR. CHRISTINA DE LEON

Nasty Habits is a slice-of-life anthology series featuring characters partaking in addictive habits. In episode 2.4, "Something Borrowed," Becca and Jenny (Claudia Doumit, TIMELESS) deal with the consequences of ditching Becca's groom and running away together. Is their love strong enough to hold the weight of all those selfish and rash decisions?

**(7) SALAMAGAN**

USA // 2017 // 13 MINS

DIR. ELISA OH

Filmmaker in attendance.

Ana loves her Filipino Catholic family. But does she want to come out to them? No freaking way. But when Ana's hoarder Auntie needs help cleaning out her home, she enlists her girlfriend for the job. Tensions rise between her and her family until Ana's two worlds collapsing into one.

**(8) THANK YOU, COME AGAIN**

USA // 2018 // 21 MINS

DIR. CHELSEA STEINER

Uptight academic Riley starts a new job at an upscale sex shop the Pleasure Chest, where the colorful, queer team of misfits introduce her to the irreverent world of the sex toy industry. The employees work together to improve the sex lives of their diverse clientele – and their prudish new coworker.



ClexaCon Feature Film

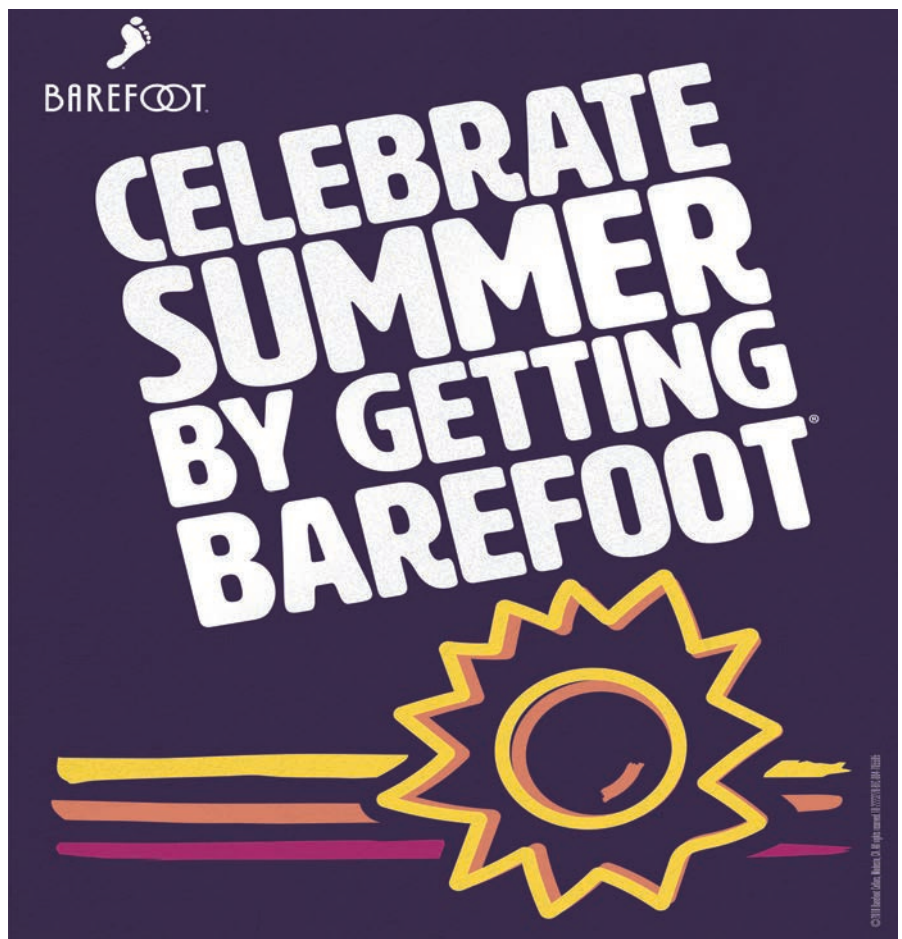
**THE MISEDUCATION OF CAMERON POST**

USA // 2018 // 90 MINS // DIR. DESIREE AKHAVAN

Cameron Post (Chloë Grace Moretz, LET ME IN, KICK-ASS, CARRIE) looks the part of a perfect high school girl. But after she's caught with another girl in the back seat of a car on prom night, Cameron is quickly shipped off to a conversion therapy center that treats teens "struggling with same-sex attraction." At the facility, Cameron is subjected to outlandish discipline, dubious "de-gaying" methods, and earnest Christian rock songs – but this unusual setting also provides her with an unlikely gay community. For the first time, Cameron connects with peers, and she's able to find her place among fellow outcasts. Balancing out inherent drama with understated humor, THE MISEDUCATION OF CAMERON POST looks at a teenage girl grappling with pain and loss, but at the same time, she is creating a family on her own terms and learning what it means to empower herself by having confidence in her own identity.



**SATURDAY AUGUST 11, 500 PM**





# HRFF29 // SHORTS SHOWCASE

**SUNDAY AUGUST 12, 12 PM**

Coming out as millennial queer teens, a young trans woman's physical transition as the beginning rather than an end point and the tender bond of her shared vulnerability, the pitfalls and swoon of an awkward first crush and a chance reunion after high school, bruised masculinity and comically fumbling (hetero)sexuality, growing old and alone and making peace with the past...

Laugh, cry and immerse yourself in our hilarious, uplifting, intimate, and heartfelt program of must-see, award winning shorts from the world's leading film festivals, as we celebrate the LGBTQ experience.



## (1) ARE WE GOOD PARENTS

USA // 2017 // 9 MINS // DIR. BOLA OGUN

When Lauren and Bill's 14-year-old daughter says she's going to her first dance with her classmate Ryan, they question their preconceived notions of her sexuality and their openness as parents.

## (2) LILY

IRELAND // 2017 // 22 MINS

DIR. GRAHAM CANTWELL

Together, best friends Lily and Simon navigate the treacherous waters of school life, but when a misunderstanding with the beautiful and popular Violet leads to a vicious attack, Lily is faced with the greatest challenge of her young life. Winner of the Youth Award at the 2017 Iris Prize Festival.

## (3) FOR NONNA ANNA

CANADA // 2017 // 13 MINS // DIR. LUIS DE FILIPPIS

As a young trans woman cares for her Italian grandmother, she discovers a tender bond in their shared vulnerability. Making huge strides for trans filmmakers and trans representation, Canadian transgender and non-binary filmmaker Luis de Filippis won the 2018 Sundance Special Jury Short Film Award.

## (4) MARGUERITE

CANADA // 2017 // 19 MINS

DIR. MARIANNE FARLEY

An aging woman and her nurse develop a friendship that inspires her to unearth unacknowledged longing and thus help her make peace with her past.

## (5) MEN DON'T WHISPER

USA // 2017 // 22 MINS // DIR. JORDAN FIRSTMAN

After being emasculated at a sales conference, gay couple Reese and Peyton decide the only way to regain their confidence and prove their masculinity is to sleep with some women. When they meet fellow conference attendees and pleasure seekers Beth and Dominique, it seems like a perfect match. Unfortunately sealing the deal is easier said than done.

## (6) THE DARE PROJECT

USA // 2005 + 2018 // 32 MINS

DAVID BRIND + ADAM SALKY

In the original, award winning DARE (2005), high school teens Ben and Johnny share one slightly dangerous, very sexy, boundary pushing night in a swimming pool. In the fan-demanded sequel (2018), Ben and Johnny are now in their early 30's, and they fortuitously run into each other at a party in LA after not seeing each other since high school. They find their original magnetic connection is still strong, but what can they do about it?





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# HRFF29 // APQFFA SHORTS SHOWCASE

**SATURDAY AUGUST 18, 1130 AM**

To disprove the enforced unimportance of Asian characters in media, and the general marginalization of Asian sexuality, HRFF is proud to present its inaugural Asia Pacific Queer Film Festival Alliance Shorts Showcase – featuring outstanding and diverse short films from APQFFA member festivals from across Asia.

Founded in 2015 in Taipei, APQFFA is a collective of 17 regional festivals with a shared love of queer cinema, that aims to support and promote films and filmmakers from across the region and pushes for greater visibility for Asia Pacific queer cinema.



**(1) CHROMOSOME SWEETHEART**

JAPAN // 2017 // 5 MINS // DIR. HONAMI YANO

Some people face each other at a café, others sucking on hair, streets passing by, a girl walking along the riverbed. There are all sorts of people in the world, and there are all shapes of love. This short is a brilliant, poetic, and original meditation on the complexity of love and relationships between women.

Courtesy of Rainbow Reel Tokyo

**(5) SISAK**

INDIA // 2017 // 15 MINS // DIR. FARAZ ANSARI

Set on a bustling Mumbai commuter train, this first-of-its-kind silent film tells the touching story of a romance which develops slowly, through wordless gestures and universal expressions of affection between two strangers. This short has garnered 34 festival awards in addition to being named a 2017 Iris Prize Finalist!

Courtesy of Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival

**(2) BEFORE I GOT FAMOUS**

USA // 2017 // 20 MINS // DIR. GIOVANNA SARQUIS

What do both Hollywood and the LGBTQ world have in common? They tend to underrepresent and marginalize Asian American men! Meet budding Chinese actor Alex - gay son, friend, dreamer - as he tries to make his acting dream a reality in Hollywood whilst also tackling the overt racism and discrimination that Asian American actors face while looking for work. Laugh with Alex as he encounters ridiculous stereotypes in this comical two-part sampler of the ten-episode web series.

**(3) THE FISH CURRY**

INDIA // 2017 // 12 MINS // DIR. ABHISHEK VERMA

28-year-old Lalit is about to come out, and a special occasion calls for a special dish – Maacher Jhol, a Bengali-style fish curry. But will Lalit's curry be delicious enough to win the heart of someone special? Named a 2017 Iris Prize Finalist, and awarded Best Indian Short Narrative Film at the Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival.

Courtesy of Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival

**(6) COCOON**

CHINA // 2017 // 25 MINS // DIR. LIYING MEI

1997 China is a place of transitions. 11-year-old Qingqing is also in a place of transition. On the cusp of adolescence, she lives with her mom in the peaceful city of Wuhan. Her father, who works in Shenzhen comes home only once a month. When Qingqing discovers her mom's oddly close relationship with a female friend, she starts stalking them, only to discover a secret that will unravel her peaceful family life, and all her burgeoning conceptions about love, sex, and female desire. Named a 2017 Iris Prize Finalist, and awarded Best Film in the Chinese Short Film Competition at the Shanghai Pride Film Festival.

Courtesy of Shanghai Pride Film Festival

**(7) THE END OF OUR YOUTH**

TAIWAN // 2016 // 30 MINS // DIR. XIN HE

Liu and Tseng met in high school and became friends. Before graduating, Tseng confesses his love to Lin. After the two become lovers, the relationship between them begins to get awkward. On the eve of graduation, Liu writes a letter and decides to give it to Tseng on the day of ceremony.

Courtesy of Taiwan International Queer Film Festival

**(4) UNINVITED**

SOUTH KOREA // 2017 // 20 MINS

DIR. SEUNG YEOB LEE

Jungho is not comfortable with his mom's unplanned, sudden visit.



**(8) FIRST LOVE**

SOUTH KOREA // 2016 // 29 MINS  
DIR. JI-SOOK KANG

Based on a true story from South Korea – two young girls fall in love, and even though they're not out to the world, their relationship endures for forty years. They live a harmonious life until, one day, something happens that challenges their long-term bond.

**(9) AFTER ERECTION**

HONG KONG // 2017 // 20 MINS  
DIR. MAN KEI MAGGIE LEUNG

Alan and Ben meet at a break up party and click right away – so well they decide to leave to get a room. Being that it's a Saturday night, all the hotels are fully-booked throughout town. They flirt as they wander the streets and alleys of Hong Kong looking for a hotel. From thinking about lust to talking about love, they grow to know each other more, which begs the question: does it really matter to have sex or not?

Courtesy of Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

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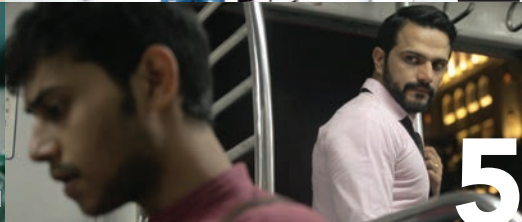
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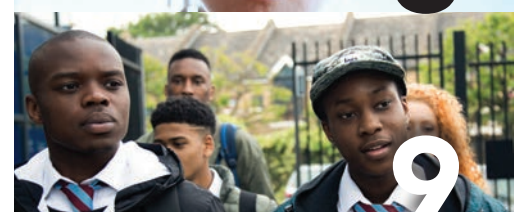
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# HRFF29 // PRECEDING SHORTS

## (1) ARRIVAL

USA // 2016 // 22 MINS // DIR. ALEX MYUNG

This traditionally animated film tells the journey of how a young boy's personal discovery affects the long-distance relationship he keeps with his mother and delves into the often-unexamined ripple effect that hiding your true self has on loved ones around you.

**FRIDAY AUGUST 17, 800 PM**

Plays with FREAK SHOW

## (2) CARE

USA // 2016 // 8 MINS // DIR. APRIL A. WILSON

At an assisted living facility, the last thing Bea and Rose expect, is to fall in love but in doing so redefine expectations of life, love, and commitment. HAWAII TIES – Writer Donna Choo is originally from Honolulu and works in the film industry in Los Angeles. Directing Consultant Destin Daniel Cretton (best known for writing and directing the feature film SHORT TERM 12 starring Brie Larson) is a 1996 Maui High graduate and grew up in Haiku.

**FRIDAY AUGUST 10, 715 PM**

Plays with SHE IS THE OCEAN

## (3) HALF A LIFE

EGYPT // 2017 // 12 MINS

DIR. TAMARA SHOGAOLU

After a traumatic encounter, a young, gay Egyptian joins the LGBT rights movement. When his safety is jeopardized, he must choose whether to stay in the country he loves or seek asylum elsewhere as a refugee. This short documentary pairs intimate narration with stylized animation, bringing the streets of Cairo to life through first-hand account.

**FRIDAY AUGUST 17, 300 PM**

Plays with MOMENT IN THE REEDS

## (4) JUAN GABRIEL IS DEAD

MEXICO // 2018 // 15 MINS // DIR. TAVO RUIZ

Best friends Beto and Daniel spend most of their time together. Daniel struggles with his gender identity just to hide his feelings for Beto. On the day famous Mexican singer Juan Gabriel dies, Daniel imagines how his day would be if he were a girl. Maybe this way his feelings toward Beto would be seen as normal.

**SUNDAY AUGUST 19, 230 PM**

Plays with RETABLO

## (5) JUCK [THRUST]

SWEDEN // 2017 // 18 MINS // DIRS. ULRICA

BANDEIRA, JULIA GUMPERT + OLIVIA KASTEBRING

This hybrid documentary-dance-fiction short film depicts the all-female Swedish dance group JUCK that made its breakthrough in a 2013 viral video that pushed the boundaries of how we are used to seeing the female body.

**SUNDAY AUGUST 12, 745 PM**

Plays with SHAKEDOWN

## (6) MRS. MCCUTCHEON

USA // 2017 // 16 MINS // DIR. JOHN SHEEDY

Having always felt he was born in the wrong body, 10-year-old Tom chooses the name Mrs. McCutcheon rather than the name he was given at birth; he also prefers the flow of a dress rather than the cut of a pant. Now at his third school, Tom is having trouble settling in and finding acceptance from his newfound peers – except for Trevor, a tough little charmer who also suffers prejudice due to his Aboriginal heritage. With the school dance only days away Tom is thrust on a journey of self-discovery and sacrifices in a quest to find his place in the world.

**THURSDAY AUGUST 09, 745 PM**

Plays with IDEAL HOME

## (7) THOUGHTS OF NIGHT

HAWAII // 2018 // 5 MINS // DIR. KAVEH KARDAN

Filmmaker and cast in attendance.

A woman wanders the streets at night reflecting on a recent loss and searching for a reason to go on. Written and shot entirely in Waikiki.

**FRIDAY AUGUST 17, 530 PM**

Plays with REINVENTING MARVIN

## (8) U

HAWAII // 2017 // 4 MINS // DIR. LALA OPENI

Filmmaker and cast in attendance.

Through spoken word, we follow Openi — an introverted, introspective, Chinese-diasporic queer — as they reflect on the nuances and intricacies of the relationship between their lover and them self. This autobiographical self-portrait explores themes of lust, idealism, non-attachment, and the notion of soul-mates. Written and shot entirely in Honolulu's Chinatown.

**SUNDAY AUGUST 12, 745 PM**

Plays with SHAKEDOWN

## (9) WE LOVE MOSES

UK // 2016 // 15 MINS

DIR. DIONNE EDWARDS

When Ella was 12, she had her first fight. And when she was 12, she discovered sex. Years later, Ella reflects on how her obsession with her brother's best friend Moses left her with a secret she still carries.

**SUNDAY AUGUST 19, 730 PM**

Plays with SATURDAY CHURCH

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# HRFF29 // VIP DELEGATES



## AARON AMAL

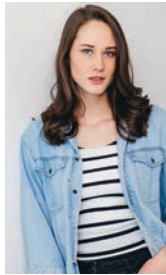
SCREEN WRITER // MARICRUZ

A Los Angeles-based writer with a focus on science fiction and fantasy, his guiding principle, "Same stories, different faces," takes familiar stories that resonate with audiences and populates them with characters that are not traditionally represented in mass media. MARICRUZ represents this principle in its purest form.

## SHARON BELLE

ACTRESS // SWERVE

Born and raised in Ontario, Sharon has been in numerous web series including Streamy-nominated COUPLE-ISH, three seasons of Canadian Screen Award-winning CARMILLA as well as her recent original project STEP SISTERS. She is best known for her starring role of Elise in the series SWERVE, where she recently took on the role of producer.



## INNA BLOKHINA

DIRECTOR + PRODUCER // SHE IS THE OCEAN

Acclaimed Russian writer, director and producer of Russia's first full-length surf documentary ON THE WAVE, which became a phenomenon in Russia, selling out theaters from Moscow to St. Petersburg. SHE IS THE OCEAN is the second chapter in her trilogy of documentaries

## JEANNIE CHESSER

HERO // SHE IS THE OCEAN

Mother to big wave surfer Todd Chesser (who died tragically in 1997), Jeannie herself was Hawaii State Amateur short board women's champion several times. She's also a well-known local artist who has been airbrushing boards since the 1970s.



## WINNY CLARKE

ACTRESS // SWERVE

Based in Toronto, Winnie has had lead roles in various episodes of television series such as WEB OF LIES, MOTIVES AND MURDERS and MURDER U. You can find Winnie's latest film NOBODY FAMOUS on various VOD platforms. She's excited to film the third season of SWERVE this year.

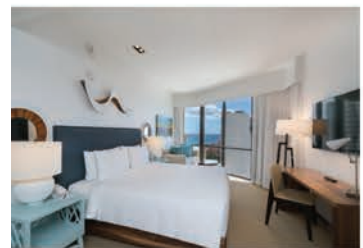
## CAITLIN COMBE

PRODUCER // TWENTY A WEBSERIES

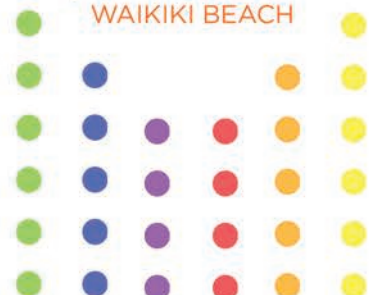
Born in Ireland but raised in South East Asia, Caitlin graduated from Emerson College in December 2016 with a B.A. in Film Production. She is currently working on producing two features, a documentary on Rwanda and a few shorts with her partner in crime, Lily Richards.



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## LISA DONATO

DIRECTOR + WRITER // *FOXY TROT*

A writer, director, and activist, her first feature film, *SIGNATURE MOVE*, world-premiered at SXSW and won the Grand Jury Prize for Best US Narrative Feature at Outfest 2017. Lisa's short films have won many awards on the festival circuit, including Best LGBTQ Short at Cannes: Emerging Filmmaker Showcase for *SPUNKLE*. She was one of 35 short film directors shortlisted for the prestigious UK Iris Prize for *THE NEWS TODAY*.

## KEIKILANI GRUNE

ACTRESS // *THOUGHTS OF NIGHT*

A Honolulu-based actress and model, Keikilani has had lead roles in the independent films *THOUGHTS OF NIGHT* and *MORE THAN LOVE* and appears in feature films *ALOHA* and *SNATCHED*. She has held principal roles in numerous local and national commercials such as Panasonic, Michelob Ultra, Disney Aulani, Toyota Hawaii and First Hawaiian Bank.



## MAREM HASSLER

ACTRESS // *RILEY PARRA*

Born in Switzerland to artistic parents, her mother is a sculpture and her father a film director. Marem did a lot of acting work in London before going to acting school in New York. She moved to LA to pursue her career as an actress and filmmaker. She is an actress and producer, known for *DUO* (2015) and *RILEY PARRA* (2017).



## LUKA KAIN

ACTOR // *SATURDAY CHURCH*

Born in Hollywood to parents in the industry, Luka started in the business at 9 months old, appearing in print ads for Disney and Baby Gap. After moving to New York, he made his Broadway Debut in *South Pacific* at the age of 7. He has been acting ever since and is a senior at the famed LaGuardia High School Drama department.



## KAVEH KARDAN

DIRECTOR + WRITER // *THOUGHTS OF NIGHT*

A filmmaker and portrait photographer based in Honolulu, Kaveh has been involved in software development, computer generated imagery, and visual effects for the past 30 years. He moved to Honolulu in 1997 to work on the CG feature *FINAL FANTASY: THE SPIRITS WITHIN* and then taught at UH Manoa Academy for Creative Media. He spent three years in New Zealand working on *THE HOBBIT* films, and is now back in Honolulu pursuing a career as an independent filmmaker.



## KEALA KENNELLY

HERO // *SHE IS THE OCEAN*

Professional surfer, DJ, and actress. Keala spent 11 years competing at the highest level on the ASP World Championship Tour and has won three XXL Big Wave Women's Overall Performance awards. In 2015 she shattered boundaries by towing into one of the biggest waves ever ridden at Teahupoo in Tahiti and again in 2016 when she became the first woman to win the Barrel of the Year Award at the XXL Big Wave Awards.







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### ALYSSA LERNER

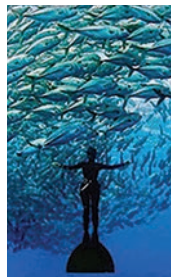
WRITER + PRODUCER // POP ROX // SALAMAGAN

A Filipino-Jewish recovering ballerina heralding from Poway - a part of San Diego no one wants to visit. Growing up with enough internalized homophobia to invent many fake boyfriends, Alyssa now writes authentic queer stories to heal herself and her community. She is the winner of the Inside Out 2018 Pitch Competition, her scripts have won best pilot at the LA Comedy Film Festival, and her produced work has been officially selected at the Berlinale International Film Festival, the NBCUniversal Shorts Fest Finals, and Outfest Film Festival.

### CHRISTINE MCAULIFFE

DIRECTOR + CO-WRITER // MARICRUZ

Writer, director and editor, Christine received her M.F.A. in Film Production from Loyola Marymount University in 2016 where she wrote, directed, produced and edited four films, including her thesis film, MARICRUZ, which embodies her passion for crafting inclusive narratives that also showcase the most engaging aspects of genre film.



### ROSE MOLINA

HERO // SHE IS THE OCEAN

A ballet and modern dance prodigy, once a darling of the European dance community, Rose walked away from dance performance to pursue freediving. Combining her commitment and disciplines she has taken her artistic experience from the stage to the deepest depths of human survival.

### ANDREA MOLLER

HERO // SHE IS THE OCEAN

Based in Maui, this Brazilian-American competitive canoeist, surfer and paramedic, started her SUP career in 2005 when she crossed the Ka'iwi Channel competing amongst the men. Today Andrea holds the world record in winning and crossing this channel and has achieved numerous titles in long distance competitions.



### JACKIE MONAHAN

ACTRESS // WILD NIGHTS WITH EMILY

A comedian, actor, writer, and producer who is setting comedy stages on fire with her fearless brand of humor. Jackie starred in THE FOXY MERKINS and CODEPENDENT LESBIAN SPACE ALIEN SEEKS SAME. Professionally trained at UCB and Groundlings, she won "Time Out New York Joke of the Year" and was voted "Comic to Watch" by Esquire magazine who said, "Jackie has the looks of your friend's hot older sister, with the jokes of a deranged serial killer. She will kill you and you will be smiling."

### MADELEINE OLNEK

DIRECTOR + WRITER // WILD NIGHTS WITH EMILY

A New York City-based playwright and filmmaker, Madeleine graduated from NYU and went on to earn an MFA in playwriting from Brown University as well as an MFA in film from Columbia University. She has had four films at Sundance, including her first two features, CODEPENDENT LESBIAN SPACE ALIEN SEEKS SAME (named Best Feature Film at HRFF22) and THE FOXY MERKINS which earned an Independent Spirit Award nomination.





**LALA OPENI**  
DIRECTOR // U

A mixed-media artist, designer and filmmaker exploring narratives of identity in an introspective conversation on the ever-shifting cultures of both self and space. Lala strives to do right by the stories that need to be told, heard, and shared.



**OCEAN RAMSEY**

HERO // SHE IS THE OCEAN

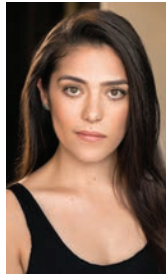
A scientist, marine biologist, and oceanic defender, Ocean has dedicated her life to studying and saving sharks. She gained international media attention for free diving with 32 species of sharks around the world - including the great white shark.



**LILY RICHARDS**

DIRECTOR + WRITER // TWENTY A WEBSERIES

A Los Angeles-based actress, writer, and director, Lily's acting credits include I MARRIED A MURDERER, TOXIC, THE JACKET, THE BUNKER, and UNDER THE BED. When she is not creating content, she can be found fawning over cute dogs on the sidewalk.



**LAURA ZAK**

ACTRESS // FOXY TROT

An Emmy-nominated and Peabody Award-winning writer, actor, and producer, Laura co-created and starred in the Gotham Award-winning series HER STORY and is a writer and voice actor on Amazon's DANGER & EGGS as well as on Netflix's upcoming TWELVE FOREVER.



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and Japanese authenticity are preserved at each branch by great managers, dedicated employees and, of course, Uehara himself.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

In addition to two new branches in Frisco, Texas, and Cupertino, California, slated to open sometime in October, Uehara will also be launching AGU Express, the quick-dining concept of his Kalihi location, into major international airports, beginning with SFO, LAX and ATL.



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