VOICE FROM THE STONE
Wednesday, April 26 7:00pm

Director Eric D. Howell's gorgeous adaptation of Silvio Raffo's novel blends romance with a gothic touch for a haunting suspense thriller. Set in Tuscany during the 1950s, Voice from the Stone tells the story of Verena (Emilia Clarke, “Game of Thrones”), a determined young nurse with a talent for helping emotionally disturbed children who is hired by wealthy sculptor Klaus (Marton Csokas) to restore his son Jakob (Edward George Dlingo), who went mute shortly after the passing of his mother. The more Verena bonds with Jakob, the more Verena comes to believe that he has fallen under the influence of someone — or something — trapped within the villa’s ancient walls. Voice from the Stone will be released by Momentum Pictures on April 28th in theaters and VOD; in our area at Harkins Southlake Town Center 141 94mins. In attendance: director Eric D. Howell and producer Dean Zanuck.

DEATH BY DESIGN
Wednesday, April 26 7:15pm

This is the global story of devices that are designed to die. We have grown increasingly dependent upon our digital devices — our laptop computers, smart phones, tablets, and the seemingly endless array of gadgets that have become part of our daily lives over the past two decades. Soon, those devices will be in the hands of 70 percent of the world’s population. However, there’s a hidden price to the Digital Age which is revealed in filmmaker Sue Williams’ terrific documentary. And if you think this doesn’t affect us in the U.S., think again. Death by Design reveals the stories of young Chinese factory workers laboring in unsafe conditions, American families suffering from the after-effects of toxic practices, and activists and entrepreneurs who seek a more sustainable route to avoid further damage to our health and our environment. 72mins. FREE admission program.

HOLDING PATTERNS
Wednesday, April 26 7:00pm

Once a promising young chef, Charlie Brenner (Freddie Highmore in a great performance) is now an unromanticized 20-something-year-old who lives with his mother (Marg Helgenberger) and stepfather (Gary Ray Moore) while working as an assistant manager of a movie theater. His ennui begins to crumble when he finds himself unexpectedly falling for local barista Amber (Odsey Rush). Naturally, there’s a catch: she has a serious boyfriend (Taylor John Smith) and plans to move to New York. On top of that, Charlie’s estranged father (Christopher Meloni) unexpectedly re-enters his life just as he begins to take a long, hard look at where he’s going and who he wants to be. Holding Patterns is a completely charming comedy-drama from writer/director Jake Goldberger with a brilliant ensemble cast that also includes Haley Joel Osment, Jake Abel, and Carlton Byrd. 105mins. In attendance: writer/director Jake Goldberger.

OUR FRIENDS & MODERATORS HOSTING PROGRAMS THIS YEAR

Foster Nirsch is Professor of Film at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York and the author of sixteen books on film and theatre, including “The Dark Side of the Screen: Film Noir,” “Otto Preminger: The Man Who Would Be King,” and “A Method to their Madness: The History of the Actors Studio.” He is a frequent host/moderator at many venues including the Players Club, the Harvard Club, the Film Forum, the American Cinematheque, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He has lectured on film in India, China, Dubai, Israel, France, Germany, England and New Zealand. He is now at work on a history of Hollywood in the 1950s, to be published by Alfred Knoff. Foster will host the screening of THE BEST OF EVERYTHING with Diane Baker on Saturday.

Alonso Durable is Film Reviews Editor for TheWrap and Senior Programmer at Outfest. He has previously written about film for Movieline, Salon and MSNBC.com, among many other outlets. He also co-hosts the Linoleum Knife podcast and regularly appears on “What the Flick?” (The Young Turks Network). Durable is a pre-screener for the Sundance Film Festival, as well as a consultant for the USA Film Festival/Dallas, where he spent five years as artistic director. A former arts and entertainment editor at The Advocate, he was a regular contributor to “The Rotten Tomatoes Show” on Current. He is the author of two books — “Have Yourself a Movie Little Christmas” (Limelight Editions) and “101 Must-See Movies for Gay Men” (Advocate Books) — and an adjunct faculty member at Chapman University. Alonso will join us for various programs throughout the Festival.

Charlie Haid was born in Palo Alto, California and graduated from Paly High. He is a Vietnam vet and a 1968 graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University College of Fine Arts in Directing. He has acted in more than 70 films and television shows, including: “Hill Street Blues,” for which he received four Emmy nominations, “Criminal Minds,” “Nip/Tuck,” and “Who’ll Stop The Rain.” Charlie’s directing credits include 10 television pilots and more than 40 hours of episodic television, including: “ER,” for which he received an Emmy Nomination and a DGA award, and the pilot of “Murder One,” which earned him another Emmy nomination and a DGA Award nomination. Charlie also directed the feature films “Iron Will,” “Buffalo Soldiers” (which earned another DGA nomination), “Riders of the Purple Sage” and “Cooperstown,” for which he won the Humanitas Prize. Charlie will host the TRIBUTE TO RENE AUBERJONOIS on Saturday.

Cameron Smith is a seven-time nominee and 2011 winner of the Smooth Jazz Broadcasters of the Year as well as the CBS Radio X Award winner in Dallas in 2014. He is currently Senior Account Director at CBS Radio in Dallas, the Artistic Director of the Bishop Arts Jazz Series at The Bishop Arts Theater Center in Oak Cliff, Texas and Warren Hill’s Cancun Jazz Festival. He also serves as co-host of the Dave Koz and Friends at Sea cruise each year, as host and curator of the Java Jazz Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia, and as artist in residence at the Bishop Arts Modern Gallery. Cameron will host the BILL EVANS/TIME REMEMBERED screening with director Bruce Spiegel on Saturday. The program is co-presented with Arlington Jones and our friends at Sammons Jazz and the Sammons Center for the Arts.

ARlington Jones received a bachelor’s degree from Texas Tech University and a Master’s degree from Southwest Texas State University in music, composition, arranging, performance, theory, and jazz studies. Over the years, Arlington has distinguished himself as a successful independent recording artist, composer, and producer under his label Zamarla Records. He has years of experience as an educator, clinician, adjudicator, and guest lecturer in all levels of elementary, secondary, and higher education. Arlington is currently the Artistic Director for the Sammons Jazz Program at the Sammons Center for the Arts in Dallas, Texas and helped to spearhead the Dallas Jazz Appreciation Month committee. He serves on the Advisory Committee for the Cedar Valley College Music Department and is devoted to the enrichment and empowerment of musicians and their families through master classes, clinics, workshops, and literature. Arlington will help host the BILL EVANS/TIME REMEMBERED screening on Saturday.

Mary Quiceno received her medical degree from the University of Miami in Florida and then completed her internship in Internal Medicine and residency training in Neurology at UT Southwestern followed by a fellowship concentrating on the diagnosis and treatment of dementias. She is board certified in Neurology by the American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology and certified in Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry by the United Council on Neuropsychology Subspecialties. Dr. Quiceno is director of the Cognitive & Memory Disorders Clinic and Education Core Leader of the NIA-funded Alzheimer Disease Center at UT Southwestern. She serves on the board of directors for the Greater Dallas Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association and is active in clinical research and teaching. Mary will be in attendance at the screening of writer/director John Puck’s wonderful film THE FATHER AND THE BEAR on Saturday. The program is co-presented with our friends at the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Dallas Chapter and the City of Dallas Office of Senior Affairs.

Pre-Opening Night – A VERY SORDID WEDDING (at The Texas Theatre)
The Sordid saga continues! Writer/director Del Shores is a master at using sassy Southern comedy to talk about important issues such as equality and respect — something he did so successfully with his play and film SORDID LIVES that the film now receives a much-anticipated sequel — 17 years later! We loved presenting Sordid Lives at our 30th Festival program, and we are pleased to partner with The Texas Theatre to present A VERY SORDID WEDDING as a prelude to our 47th program. The new film brings back an all-star ensemble cast of characters rooted in the Southern Baptist world of Winter, Texas, in the weeks following the U.S. Supreme Court’s same-sex marriage equality ruling where not everyone is ready to accept it. 109 mins. Writer/director Del Shores and producer/actor Emerson Collins in attendance.

The April 21st screening is SOLD OUT, but don’t panic — The shows on Sunday, April 23rd at 7:30pm and Tuesday, April 25th (7pm & 9:20pm) with Del Shores and Emerson Collins in attendance are still available. To purchase tickets for the April 23rd or 25th A VERY SORDID WEDDING shows only, visit www.thetexastheatre.com - The Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd., Dallas.
PREMIERES AND PROGRAMS
THURSDAY, APRIL 27

UNLEASHED
Thursday, April 27 7:00pm
A charming, clever, farcical romantic comedy of the likes which you’ve never seen. Written and directed by Finn Taylor, Unleashed stars Kate Micucci (Gina on Ernie &. and Iain De Caestecker (who plays Lucifer on Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.) as the leads. Trawling a wayward software designer Emma, who flees to San Francisco with her pets after her boyfriend (Josh Brener) betrays her. Things take an unexpected turn when a cosmic event turns her dog Summit (Steve Howey) and cat Ajax (Justin Chatwin) into two perfect guys. The result is equal parts (Steve Howey) and cat Ajax (Justin Chatwin) into two perfect guys. 

THE DATING PROJECT
Thursday, April 27 7:00pm
For the first time in history, more than fifty percent of America is single, and the way that people find love has changed so radically that dating has become outdated -- most of the kids profiled in this fascinating documentary don’t even know how to interact with each other beyond the casual hook-up. Director Jonathan Cipiti follows five single people age 18 to 40 from New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, and Santa Monica as they search for love at a time when the rules for dating have drastically changed. Each try to figure out how to balance their needs with their fears and insecurities to be able to meaningfully connect and communicate with another person in today’s hook-up culture. 80mins. In attendance: executive producer Chris Donahue. FREE admission program.

MEGAN LEAVEY
Thursday, April 27 7:00pm
Megan Leavey is based on the true life story of a young marine corporal (Kate Mara) whose unique discipline and bond with her military combat dog saved many lives during their deployment in Iraq. When she is assigned to clean up the K9 unit after a disciplinary hearing, Leavey identifies with a particularly aggressive dog, Rex, and is given the chance to train him. Over the course of their service, Megan and Rex completed more than 100 missions until an IED explosion injures them, putting their fate in jeopardy. Directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite (Blackfish) from a screenplay by Pamela Gray and Annie Mumolo & Tim Lovelace, the film also stars Edie Falco, Ramon Rodriguez, Bradley Whitford, and Common. Megan Leavey will be released by Bleecker Street Media on June 9th. 116mins. In attendance: producer Mickey Liddell.

SHORT FILM JURORS 2017 - Awards Program on Saturday
Award-winning director, writer, actress Christina Beck began her career as a punk rock teenager acting in cult films such as Suburbia, Boys Next Door, and O dusted all directed by Penelope Spheeris. She studied at Playwrights Horizons in New York City forming an all-female theatre company, POW (Power of Women) productions, and wrote, produced and starred in From the Heart the Samuel Beckett Theatre along with several other of Broadway plays. After writing, directing and acting in numerous Los Angeles theatre productions, Christina wrote and starred in her first short film, “Disco Man,” followed by the noir comedy ”Blow Me,” which screened in the New York, Chicago, and Seattle Underground Film Festivals. Christina was one of the few women accepted into Fox Searchlight’s new director’s program, Search Lab, where she directed, wrote and starred in the short film version of her feature film script, “Blo,” which screened in Cannes. Her other short works include “So Hot For You,” which played in the Focus on Females directory program; “The Opalina Project,” which can be seen on the feature screening “Black and White on the ropes” of the IFP market, selected for the IFP rough cut lab in New York, winner of The Adrienne Shelley female directing grant, and chosen to be the IFP’s Spotlight Screening of the year attended by Terrence Malick and Spike Lee. Perfection on the festival circuit where Christina won Best Actor and Best Narrative feature at the Oxford Film Festival and screened at the San Francisco International Women’s Film Festival, the USA Film Festival, The Rio Cinema in London, The Quad Cinema in NYC, and Lawrence’s Monica Film Center in Santa Monica, CA. Christina is co-founder of The Female Filmmaker Collective; a member of Film Fables; a member of Women in Moving Pictures- Los Angeles; and an instructor at The New York Film Academy. Christina’s upcoming projects include Expecting Grace, a dark romantic comedy set in Marcelines, France, and “Hacker #2,” a short film starring Bernard Rose, Jonathan Bough and Christina Beck happily premiering at the 47th Annual USA Film Festival. Christina has sat on the juries for The Feminist Film Festival, London, The USA Film Festival, The South Eastern European Film Festival and The 100 Word Festival in Charlotte, NC.

DeVaughn Nixon began his career at a very early age playing Danny Dyson in Terminator 2: Judgement Day and Whitney Houston’s son in The Bodyguard. With a career spanning over 20 years in the industry, DeVaughn has appeared in numerous television and film roles. His movie credits include a lead role in Disney’s Prom and director Bradford May’s Groomzilla. His credits also include a variety of TV roles including a supporting role on ABC Family’s “The Secret Life of the American Teenager” and Disney Channel’s “Sonny with a Chance,” MTV’s “The Hard Times of RJ Berger,” USA Network’s “JAG,” CBS Television’s “The Unit,” BET’s “The Game,” and ABC Family’s “Family.” Last month, he filmed a pilot for Syfy called “The Hauntlist” in a role opposite Lyndsy Fonscuva and Steve Kazee, which is expected to go to series this Fall.

Diane Baker  -  Please see TRIBUTES page for Diane’s bio.

John Putch is often referred to as an independent film “real McCoy.” One of his first indie efforts, Valerie Plack, landed him the 98 Sundance Film Festival and was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award. Experienced in both Drama and Comedy, John’s other notable films include, Pursuit Of Happiness, Bachelorman, the award-winning Alive Mobile Phone Booth, The Route 30 trilogy of films which were shot in South Central Pennsylvania, and his latest drama The Father and the Bear. On the studio front, John has directed big-budget comedies for Universal, including American Pie Presents: The Book Of Love, Beethoven’s Christmas Adventure, and Atlas Shrugged, Part 2. For TV, he has directed episodes of “American Housewife,” “Black-ish,” “No Tomorrow,” “APB,” “Rush Hour,” “Cougars Live,” “Body of Proof,” “Ugly Betty,” “Scrubs,” “My Name Is Earl,” and “The Middle”; multiple TV movies for Hallmark Entertainment; and NBC’s epic mini-series, “The Poseidon Adventure.” When John isn’t working for the studios, he enjoys making micro budget movies with a select group of cast and crew that he has collected on his travels. Prior to becoming a filmmaker, John was an accomplished actor who started in the theater, then enjoyed a successful TV and film career before making the switch to directing.

Rosson Crow was born in 1982 in Dallas, Texas. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts in 2004 and a Master of Fine Arts from Yale University in 2006. As an artist, her solo gallery exhibitions include Honor Fraser Gallery in Los Angeles, Galerie Nathalie Obadia in Paris, Deitch Projects NYC, and White Cube in London. One-person exhibitions of her work have been presented at Musée Régional d’Art Contemporain de Sérignan, France (2014); Le Meilleur des Mondes, Musee d’Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg, Luxembourg (2010); New York Minute, Macro Future Museum, Rome, Italy (2009); and Out of Storage I -- Painters Choose from the Collection, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (2009). Rosson’s work has been included in thematic exhibitions such as Contemporary Magic: A Tarot Deck Art Project, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA (2011); Summer Exhibitions, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK (2010); Le Meilleur des Mondes, Musee d’Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg, Luxembourg, (2010); New York Minute, Macro Future Museum, Rome, Italy (2009); and Out of Storage I -- Painters Choose from the Collection, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (2009). Rosson’s first short film was “Boyfriend,” multiple TV movies for Hallmark Entertainment; and NBC’s epic mini-series, “The Poseidon Adventure.”

Jorge Gutierrez was born in Mexico City and raised in Tijuana, Mexico. In 1997, Jorge received his Bachelor’s of Fine Arts from CalArts and later went on to receive his Master’s of Fine Arts in Experimental Animation, graduating in 2000. His CalArts thesis, “Carmelo,” won the Student Emmy and was shown at the student showcase at the Cannes Film Festival in 2001. That same year, Jorge created his first web series, “El Macho,” for Sony Pictures. In 2005, Jorge co-created with (with wife Sandra Echeverria) “D Tigo, The Adventures of Money River,” for Nickelodeon, which won seven Emmys and an Annie for best show with over 24 episodes made. In 2014, he released The Book of Life of Reel FX and 20th Century Fox – which he directed, co-wrote and character designed. This film, produced by Guillermo del Toro, was nominated for five Annie awards, the Critics Choice Award, Producer’s Guild Awards and the Golden Globe for best animated feature. Jorge has been nominated for seven Annie Individual Achievement Awards (winning two) in character design for TV and Film, writing (TV) and directing (Film). He is currently at Reel FX in Dallas developing a new animated feature and directing a VR short for Google Spotlight Stories.

Dedication

Bill Paxton was a great friend to USAFF attending our program many times over several decades, with films in which he performed, produced and directed. Lupita Tovar was the most charming of guests when we presented the Spanish-language Dracula with her thirty years ago. Actress Charmian Carr was such a doll attending our KidFiilm program to present a sing-a-long version of The Sound of Music – all the kids wanted “Liesel’s” autograph. Producer Dan Ireland joined us to present his directing debut The Whole Wide World in 1996, which he shot in Texas. Filmmaker and film professor Andy Anderson screened his locally made feature Positive ID with us in 2001. Film historian, TCM ambassador and world-class host Robert Osborne was a wonderful colleague to all of us who love and support classic films. We also remember long-time USAFF Member and friend Ruth Anne Mardock whose wit and kindness are much-missed. We dedicate this year’s program to these wonderful friends and filmmakers.
USA FILM FESTIVAL 2017
FRIDAY, APRIL 28

SENSITIVITY TRAINING
Friday, April 28  7:00pm

Misanthropic microbiologist Dr. Serena Wolfe (Anna Lise Phillips) is tolerated by her colleagues – until her verbal abuse goes too far. In order to get the research grant she needs, she must endure the guidance of her polar opposite: an impossibly upbeat sensitivity coach, Caroline (Jill Alexander), who’s thrilled to tackle something other than sexual harassment seminars for a change. The feature film debut from writer/director Melissa Finell, winner of the Samuel Goldwyn Writing Award, is a hilarious, acerbic, and poignant “odd couple” comedy featuring terrific performances by the co-leads. The film also stars Amy Madigan, Quinn Marcus, Finnegan Haid and Charles Haid. 87mins. In attendance: writer/director Melissa Finell, actor Finnegan Haid, and executive producer/actor Charles Haid.

IN SEARCH OF FELLINI
Friday, April 28  7:00pm

In this beautiful coming-of-age adventure, Lucy (Ksenia Solo), a sheltered small-town girl from Ohio, discovers the delightfully bizarre films of the legendary Italian filmmaker, Federico Fellini and sets off on a journey across Italy to find him. Lucy’s Italian journey includes love, heartbreak and fantastical encounters and parties that could have come straight out of one of the Maestro’s films. In Search of Fellini is a 30-year-labor-of-love based on co-writer/executive producer Nancy Cartwright’s fascination with and journey to find Fellini herself. The film stars Maria Bello as Lucy’s over-protective mother and Mary Lynn Rajskub as her tough realist sister. The film is co-written/produced by Peter Kjenaas and directed/produced by Taron Lexton. In Search of Fellini will be released by AMBI Group. 93mins. In attendance: co-writer/executive producer Nancy Cartwright, co-writer/producer Peter Kjenaas, actress Mary Lynn Rajskub, and producer Motrica Gil.

ELLA BRENNAN: COMMANDING THE TABLE
Friday, April 28  7:00pm

Academy Award- and Emmy-nominated director Leslie Iwerks’ (The Pixar Story, Citizen Hearst) documentary Ella Brennan: Commanding The Table details the incredible story of Ella Brennan, the “Queen of Cuisine”, who rose from obscurity in New Orleans in the 1940s to become one of the most influential forces in American cuisine – and even more amazing, she isn’t even a chef and she didn’t follow any established rule book! After a rocky start, Brennan created the elaborate New Orleans breakfasts and jazz brunches that are now a common feature, introduced innovative Creole cooking into the mainstream, and played a hand in launching the celebrity chef phenomenon. Told via verité footage and interviews with renowned chefs, restaurateurs, food critics, as well as family and friends, Ella Brennan: Commanding The Table is an intimate and inspirational portrait of an amazing, creative woman with a first rate palate, strong work ethic and keen business skills developed at a time when women weren’t exactly encouraged in that arena. Narrated by Patricia Clarkson and featuring Emeril Lagasse, Julia Reed, and the late Paul Prudhomme. In attendance: director Leslie Iwerks and Ella Brennan’s daughter and co-proprietor of the Commander’s Family of Restaurants Ti Martin.

WITCH-HUNT
Friday, April 28  9:00pm

A group of young women gather for a birthday party in this super-natural thriller that deals with friendship, old wounds, and the Satanic Panic of the ’80s and ’90s. They’ve come together, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, to play “Witch-Hunt,” a vintage, out-of-print card game complete with an instructional audio cassette, designed to simulate all the paranoia of the Salem Witch Trials. As the night unfolds, buried secrets reemerge, hidden motives are revealed, strange events transpire, and the game itself takes on a sinister tone – leading the players to suspect that one of them may actually be a witch in Philip Schaeffer’s riveting, twisty thriller produced by Evan Daughtery - both from Dallas. 80mins. In attendance: writer/director Philip Schaeffer, executive producer Evan Daughtery and actors Erin Curtis, Melina Chadbourne and Robyn Pucay.

APOCALYPSE ROAD
Friday, April 28  9:00pm
TEXAS FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE

Written and directed by Brett Bentman and filmed in Texas, this harrowing road movie is the story of sisters Natalie (Katie Kohler) and Sarah West (Ashlyn McIvers), who scavenge and struggle to survive a global depression of apocalyptic proportions. Their determination is put to the test when they are separated and forced to survive without one another while being pursued by a bounty hunter sent by the ruthless General (Nellie Scutitto). Sarah joins a gang of brutal killers, while Natalie is aided by a traumatized young man, Derek (Ben Riggs Jr.). Evocative of The Road, Bentman’s tale is a taut pulp drama with a first rate performances and beautiful cinematography by Michael Ray Lewis. 88mins. In attendance: writer/director Brett Bentman, cast and crew.

REVENGEANCE
Friday, April 28  9:00pm

Iconic animator Bill Plympton teams with Los Angeles-based underground cartoonist Jim Lujan for this irreverent, strange, and anarchic animated adventure. Lujan’s best-known creation, the low-rent bounty hunter known as Rod Rosse the One-Man Posse, tangles with danger, religious cults, wrestlers, biker gangs, and assorted mercenaries when Senator Deathface hires him to find the girl who stole a valuable package. Violence and mind-blowing weirdness ensues in what could be described as Inherent Vice by way of Ed “Big Daddy” Roth with a punk rock soundtrack. 71mins.
BILL EVANS/TIME REMEMBERED
Saturday, April 29 4:00pm
This incredible documentary produced by Bruce Spiegel dives deep into the turbulent life and music of Bill Evans (1929-1980), the legendary jazz pianist who once declared “jazz is the most central and important thing in my life.” As one of the influential figures of jazz in the 1960s, Evans’ rise was marred by drug addiction and the deaths of loved ones. Featuring commentary from some forty people from Evans’ life interviewed over a seven year period (including Tony Bennett, Dr. Billy Hart, Jon Hendricks, Bill Charlap, Paul Montian, Chuck Israels, and Larry Willis) as well as various rare photos and archival footage — including his first televised appearance, a performance of ‘Come Rain or Come Shine’ in 1958. 90mins. In attendance: producer Bruce Spiegel. Presented in partnership with Sammons Jazz and the Sammons Center for the Arts. FREE admission program.

THE BEST OF EVERYTHING
SALUTE TO DIANE BAKER
Saturday, April 29 7:00pm
If you’re watching the TV series ‘Feud’ and are in the mood for more Joan Crawford of the period — and honey, we are — then join us for The Best of Everything with special guest Diane Baker. Dubbed the original Sex in the City, this CinemA Scope adaptation of Rona Jaffe’s wildly popular novel is a campastic classic. Raddcliffe-educated Caroline Bender (Hope Lange) takes her first job in the secretarial pool of a Park Avenue publishing firm that offers its employees “the best of everything.” She finds herself alongside women similarly biding their time before selecting either marriage or a career, including new roommates: aspiring actress and actress Diane Baker.

HIGH SCHOOL SHORT FILMS
Saturday, April 29 3:00pm
Once again we present a collection of class projects short films from Garland High School International Baccalaureate (IB) film students in the Reel Owl Cinema program, which teaches students the art of filmmaking with an emphasis on narrative storytelling. FREE admission program.

THE FATHER AND THE BEAR
Saturday, April 29 3:30pm
Wil Love stars as Byron Temple, a retired character actor struggling with the onset of dementia who wants to perform at his beloved summer theater one last time. Against the wishes of his over-protective daughter (Dendrie Taylor), he accepts a role from the newly installed Artistic Director (David DeLuise), who is unaware of his condition. Byron fights to overcome his limitations (with some amusingly creative help from his theater colleagues). Writer/director John Putch’s beautiful, highly personal work is a masterful portrait of aging, dignity and the camaraderie of the theater. 85mins. In attendance: writer/director John Putch. Presented in partnership with our friends at the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Dallas Chapter and the Office of Senior Affairs, City of Dallas, as we prepare to celebrate Older American’s Month. FREE admission program.

NON-FICTION SHORT FILMS
Saturday, April 29 4:15pm
Meet two truly incredible men who overcame terrible events. Patricia Kelikian’s DETERMINATION IS MINE follows Malek Mohammad’s journey as a 15-year-old Afghan boy who lost both legs to landmines, and his travels to America for treatment, to his eventual return - walking with prosthetics - home to Afghanistan; and Mike Dorsy’s HAPPY, which follows the amazing life of Larry “Happy” Powell, a WWII fighter ace who was badly burned in a crash, who survived to build a successful second career as an assistant director for numerous Hollywood classic films. 75mins. FREE admission program.

STICKMAN: THE ROOSEVELT WILKERSON STORY
Saturday, April 29 7:30pm
Stickman is the incredible story of Roosevelt Wilkerson’s journey off the streets of Dallas and the transformative — and unlikely — friendships he makes along the way. Art enthusiast Carol Brewer befriended Roosevelt and their relationship became the genesis of an art program for the Dallas homeless. Susan Nowlin, a Texas sociologist, became his benefactor and assisted him in selling his hand-carved sticks and managing his finances. With Susan’s help, Roosevelt’s carvings become sought-after, reach the White House, and one is eventually gifted to Pope Benedict by then president George W. Bush. Stickman demonstrates that love and compassion hold no economic or racial boundary. 63mins. In attendance: director Margaret Galbraith.

STUDENT SHORT FILMS
Saturday, April 29 9:00pm
Join us for a non-thematic showcase of U.S. and international student works including Ji Hyeon Kim’s moving AMBIENCE: Paulina Bugenberg’s relatable THE HOMECOMING; Kelly Pike’s shattering ONEW; Tian Xie’s riveting PROMISE; Camille Hamade’s quicky powerful STRAIN; and Justin Spray’s offbeat TOOTH FAIRY. 92mins. FREE admission program.

ANIMATION SHORT FILMS
Saturday, April 29 9:30pm
Journey to fascinating animated worlds with a brave security dog in Bill Plympton’s hilarious COP DOG; a lonely corkscrew who attempts to rescue trapped lightning bugs in Tyberius Primoch’s GIBBERISH; an elderly man who cannot recall what previously occurred in Victor Velasco’s THE OTHER SIDE; four female patients who choose sleep over life in a futuristic world in Joe Luebben’s THE SLEEPERS; and a woman who struggles to escape her own self in Phillip Chibbesb’s WITHOUT THE LIGHTS. 62mins. FREE admission program.

EXPERIMENTAL SHORT FILMS
Saturday, April 29 9:30pm
This collection of shorts features media used in interesting ways including a mother and daughter in conflict so universal that conventional language hold no economic or racial boundary. 63mins. In attendance: director Margaret Galbraith.

SHOWCASE SHORT FILMS
SALUTE TO RENE AUBERJONOIS
Hosted by Alonso Duralle & Charles Haid
Saturday, April 29 7:00pm

STUDENT SHORT FILMS
Saturday, April 29 9:00pm
Join us for a non-thematic showcase of U.S. and international student works including Ji Hyeon Kim’s moving AMBIENCE: Paulina Bugenberg’s relatable THE HOMECOMING; Kelly Pike’s shattering ONEW; Tian Xie’s riveting PROMISE; Camille Hamade’s quicky powerful STRAIN; and Justin Spray’s offbeat TOOTH FAIRY. 92mins. FREE admission program.

USA FILM FESTIVAL 2017
SATURDAY, APRIL 29
USA FILM FESTIVAL 2017
SUNDAY, APRIL 30

NARRATIVE SHORT FILMS II
Sunday, April 30 7:00pm
This delicious collection of dark-hearted and comedic narrative shorts includes two failed filmmakers who stream live exorcisms in Damien LeVeck’s THE CLEANSING HOUR (starring Heather Morris and Sam Jaeger); an at-odds couple in the midst of a divorce in Elisabeth Gray’s GOD’S GOOD MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING RECLINER (starring Amy Sedaris); a couple on their first tinder date before it takes an unexpected turn in DISAPPEARING RECLINER (starring Amy Sedaris); a couple auditioning for the small role of a hooker in Christina Beck’s SMALL PLATELET DINING; a middle-aged actress on their first tinder date before it takes an unexpected turn in DISAPPEARING RECLINER (starring Amy Sedaris); a couple who try to bond with a frightened young woman as they fearfully wait in Christiano Dias’ HURRICANE; and a lonely man who tries to embrace a future that many refuse to see as hers. Her grand-father, a caring but distant tribal chief Koro (Wariri Paratene), is haunted by the memory of Paikea’s twin brother who died during childbirth – and as firstborn, was meant to succeed him. Overlooked as his heir, Paikea decides to seize her destiny on her own and shakes up her village in the process. Effective but un-sentimental, Whale Rider is an unforgettable film featuring a beautiful ambient score by Lisa Gerrard and stunning photography by Leon Narhey. USAFF screened the film in 2002 and we are pleased to give the modern all-ages classic film the big-screen treatment it deserves prior to its 15th Anniversary Edition release on DVD and Blu-Ray (for the first time) by Shout Factory on August 22nd. 94mins. FREE admission program.

OLD MAN FOOTBALL
Sunday, April 30 7:00pm
TEXAS FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE
High school football is as Texan as longhorn cattle, pickup trucks, and the Alamo. In this heartfelt documentary by Luke Coffee, Jee Ellis, Will Graham, and Andrew Hudson, Old Man Football takes a look into several personal stories of a diverse group of Corpus Christi’s Carroll High School alumni (now in their 30s and 40s) as they return to the gridiron to play against younger graduates in their teens and 20s. These older players and cheerleaders seek to reclaim past glory, undo their regrets, and honor the memory of a fallen teammate murdered at a young age by strapping on helmets and pads in their attempt to relive their glory days on their South Texas high school football field. 85mins. In attendance: director/producer Luke Coffee, executive producer Jee Ellis, producer Will Graham, and associate producer Andrew Hudson.

TEXAS SHORT FILMS
Sunday, April 30 7:00pm
TEXAS FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE
Join us for a program of dramatic, comedic and supernatural shorts by Texas filmmakers. Julia Barnett’s CHASING GRACE follows a young woman who discovers the truth about the events of a wild 70’s summer that drove her and her father apart; in Dave Thomas’s FAR FROM THE TREE a mother struggles with her relationship with her son and a past sexual assault that continues to haunt her; Blake Calhoun’s HOME features a tormented woman who believes she is receiving a cosmic message from her distant interstellar home; Andrew Greco’s and Tyler Cates’ LUCID follows a man alone in a cabin being terrorized by an unseen force; in Lee Trull’s THE SERVICE ELEVATOR two women with clashing personalities become stuck in the elevator. 60mins. In attendance: Filmmakers Julia Barnett, Mayra Vazquez, Cheryl Allison, Blake Calhoun, Andrew Greco, James Cates, Kyle Roark, Andrew Brietzke, Nor Seyedmorteza and Sarah Adams.

Note: These are the Short Film titles confirmed at press time; additional Short works may appear in the line-ups.

USA FILM FESTIVAL 2017
SUNDAY, APRIL 30

WHALE RIDER (2002)
15th Anniversary screening
Sunday, April 30 4:00pm
This year marks the 15th anniversary of the film that sparked the careers of writer/director Niki Caro (North Country, The Zookeeper’s Wife) and star Keisha Castle-Hughes (“Game of Thrones,” Star Wars: Episode III). Ancient legends and contemporary worldviews collide when a Maori girl, Paikea, attempts to give the modern all-ages classic film the big-screen treatment it deserves prior to its 15th Anniversary Edition release on DVD and Blu-Ray (for the first time) by Shout! Factory on August 22nd. 94mins. FREE admission program.

SHORT FILM AWARDS PROGRAM
39th Annual International Short Film Competition
Sunday, April 30 4:00pm
2017 National Jurors
Christina Beck, De’Vauhng Nixon, Diane Baker, John Putch, Rosson Crow and Jorge Gutierrez
Join our National Jurors for announcements and screening presentations of this year’s winning films. Awards are given to the top picks in Fiction, Animation and Non-Fiction categories as well as awards for student achievement and more.
USAFF prize winners who were recognized early in their careers include Alexander Payne, Todd Haynes, Wes Anderson, Bill Plympton, Michael Almereyda, John Lasseter, and a couple of our returning filmmakers this year – Eric Howell and Chris Donahue!
FREE admission program.

In attendance:
- director/writer Niki Caro
- cast members Keisha Castle-Hughes, Cecilia Taitiri, Miriama Smith, Koro Paratene, Paikea Arahura, Janine Bikel, Hollie Smith, James Pohuta, Vatukarere Wai, and Mitiari Pihima
- the Alamo

Sunday, April 30 7:00pm
NARRATIVE SHORT FILMS I
Join us for a showcase of some of our competing fiction works which includes a failed athlete who tries to bond with a frightened young woman as they fearfully wait in Christiano Dias’ HURRICANE; and a lonely man who tries to embrace a future that many refuse to see as hers. Her grand-father, a caring but distant tribal chief Koro (Wariri Paratene), is haunted by the memory of Paikea’s twin brother who died during childbirth – and as firstborn, was meant to succeed him. Overlooked as his heir, Paikea decides to seize her destiny on her own and shakes up her village in the process. Effective but un-sentimental, Whale Rider is an unforgettable film featuring a beautiful ambient score by Lisa Gerrard and stunning photography by Leon Narhey. USAFF screened the film in 2002 and we are pleased to give the modern all-ages classic film the big-screen treatment it deserves prior to its 15th Anniversary Edition release on DVD and Blu-Ray (for the first time) by Shout Factory on August 22nd. 94mins. FREE admission program.

OLD MAN FOOTBALL
Sunday, April 30 7:00pm
TEXAS FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE
High school football is as Texan as longhorn cattle, pickup trucks, and the Alamo. In this heartfelt documentary by Luke Coffee, Jee Ellis, Will Graham, and Andrew Hudson, Old Man Football takes a look into several personal stories of a diverse group of Corpus Christi’s Carroll High School alumni (now in their 30s and 40s) as they return to the gridiron to play against younger graduates in their teens and 20s. These older players and cheerleaders seek to reclaim past glory, undo their regrets, and honor the memory of a fallen teammate murdered at a young age by strapping on helmets and pads in their attempt to relive their glory days on their South Texas high school football field. 85mins. In attendance: director/producer Luke Coffee, executive producer Jee Ellis, producer Will Graham, and associate producer Andrew Hudson.

Note: These are the Short Film titles confirmed at press time; additional Short works may appear in the line-ups.
Son of a Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist and grandson of a legendary Swiss painter, actor René Auberjonois has maintained his family’s artistic tradition through his triumphs as one of this generation’s most prominent performers of stage, film and television. Ever since his first professional acting job—at the age of 16, he was hired as an apprentice for John Houseman’s theater company—Auberjonois has made an indelible impact. He won a Tony Award (in his Broadway musical debut, opposite Katharine Hepburn in “Coco”) before winning fame and acclaim with several generations (and demographics). You might know him from his unforgettable collaborations with Robert Altman (in films like McCabe & Mrs. Miller and MASH); from his distinctive character turns on “Benson,” “Star Trek: Deep Space Nine” and “Boston Legal”; or perhaps even his gastronomically enthusiastic rendition of “Les Poissoms” in “The Little Mermaid,” but you definitely know his work. (His distinctive voice has made him a favorite among fans of animation, video games and audiobooks.) Not to mention his work in a variety of popular series, including “Frasier,” “Bored to Death,” “The Good Wife,” “Madam Secretary,” “Criminal Minds” and “Grey’s Anatomy”—and a memorable appearance in Kelly Reichardt’s acclaimed 2016 indie film Certain Women. The 74-year-old Auberjonois remains as busy as ever. And rest assured that the family name will continue to be associated with the arts for generations to come—his children, actresses Tessa Auberjonois and Remy Auberjonois, are currently creating their own impressive legacies.

Karen Allen is an actress who has made a name for herself in a variety of roles spanning multiple mediums. She is known for her stage work, film appearances, and her philanthropic endeavors. Her career highlights include her work in Broadway productions such as “A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud.” and “The Best of Everything.” Allen has also produced films and executively produced “Hello, Dolly!” (starring Barbra Streisand). In the film world, her credits include “Conrad: A Tale of Manhattan” and “Buckskin.” She has also been involved with various film festivals and events, including the USA Film Festival. 

Karen will be in attendance for the SHORT FILM SHOWCASE program on Saturday, April 29th, 7:00pm.
Help us out – Order your tickets in advance – It makes everything easier on show day, for you and for us.

- **TICKETS AT THE BOX OFFICE**
  - (Day of show only; Cash sales only)
  - Tickets will be available at the Angelika Film Center upstairs sales desk, for day of show only, beginning at 3:00pm on Saturday and Sunday, and 6:00pm all other days.
  - **ADVANCE TICKETS - only until April 23rd!**
    - Available exclusively through Ticketmaster – On sale April 12th!

- **TICKETS ONLINE** (additional service fees apply)
  - Log on to www.ticketmaster.com and search USA Film Festival event name
  - Tickets sold by individual program or show title (as listed at left in grid).

- **TICKETS BY TELEPHONE**
  - Call the TM Fine Arts Line at 214-631-ARTS (2787) or 800-982-2787.
  - Say “buy tickets” and respond “USA Film Festival” to the prompt; then say “operator.” You will be transferred to a live operator who will take your order.
  - Note: You need to speak with a LIVE Operator to order multiple event tickets.
    - (Telephone order fees = $4.00 flat fee per call; no individual ticket fees)

- **SOLD-OUTS – Order in advance to avoid sell-outs!**
  - After April 23rd tickets are only available at the Festival box office for DAY OF SHOW ONLY.
  - Advance tickets for all shows are available exclusively through Ticketmaster.
  - Advance tickets are available until April 23rd.
  - After this date, all tickets will be available at the theater box office, day of show only beginning at 6pm weekdays and 3pm weekends.

- **ADVANCE TICKETS will be picked up at the upstairs theater lobby; “Will Call” only.**
  - No tickets will be mailed out.

  - Note: Please be patient when ordering tickets by telephone from our friends at Ticketmaster.
    - The 5-day, multi-festival ticket is an unusual event for them to handle and the messages the operators see on their screen look radically different from the information in your flyer.

- **Trouble-shooting** – The information in the flyer is correct. If your operator is not able to locate a show, etc. listed in the flyer, simply obtain the operator’s name and kindly request that you speak with a Ticketmaster Supervisor who will cheerfully assist.

- Check with the Festival’s UPSTAIRS SALES DESK, day of show after the appropriate time, to inquire about ticket availability. PLEASE INQUIRE IN PERSON. DO NOT CALL THE THEATER to request this information – The person answering the theater telephone is located in a different area and cannot tell you how many Festival tickets may be available for any particular program.

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**SCHEDULE & TICKET INFO.**

**ANGELIKA FILM CENTER**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 26**

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**THURSDAY APRIL 27**

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**FRIDAY APRIL 28**

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**SATURDAY APRIL 29**

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**SUNDAY APRIL 30**

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**FREE SHORTS!**

Thanks to underwriting from friends of the USAFF, individual members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences and past Winning Filmmakers, several of our Short Film Programs are made available at NO ADMISSION COST!

**NOTE:** Tickets for the FREE admission programs are available on day of show only at the theater, beginning one hour before showcase. (Free tickets are not available via Ticketmaster)

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An early Opening Night! A VERY SORDID WEDDING

Tickets to the April 21st show are SOLD OUT. However, tickets for the shows on April 23rd (7:30pm) and April 25th (7pm and 9:20pm) with Del Shores and Emerson Collins in attendance are STILL AVAILABLE. To purchase tickets for these shows only, please visit www.thetexastheatre.com

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- **USA FILM FESTIVAL**

- **214-821-FILM www.usafilmfestival.com**