

# Virginia Film Festival

## Films of 2022

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### 2022 Late Night Wrap Party

Three Notch'd Craft Kitchen & Brewery

**Saturday, November 5 10:00 pm - 2:00 am**

**21+ Event** Before the credits roll on the 35th annual Festival, join us at the Late Night Wrap Party for an unforgettable evening. Enjoy delicious local beer and savory snacks and drinks provided by **Three Notch'd Craft Kitchen & Brewery**. Dance to rocking tunes of **DJ Melody Supreme & Phil Free** and try out the **The Photobooth Company** social photo booth. Mingle with filmmakers and fellow movie fans as you bask in the excitement and energy of VAFF.

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### 2022 Opening Night Gala

The Jefferson Theater

**Wednesday, November 2 9:30 pm**

**21+ Event** Join us for the start of the Virginia Film Festival at the Opening Night Gala. The Gala brings together visiting stars and Festival patrons in celebration of the magic and beauty of film. Dance to the delightful sound of **Dance Candy**, savor hors d'oeuvres from **Harvest Moon Catering**, take home memories from the evening with the **MoxBox** social photo booth, and enjoy delicious local beverages as we toast the Festival weekend to come.

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# A Suite of Short Films by Kevin Jerome Everson

Violet Crown 5

Friday, November 4 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

**Gospel Hill** (co-directed Claudrena Harold, 2023) has two Black University of Virginia hospital employees talking about the job site in a Albermarle County speakeasy. (5:25, b&w) **If You Don't Watch the Way You Move** (2023) consist of Dripp and ChoSkii of BmE composing and recording their latest composition, Shiesty, only to be interrupted by a John Cage score. (12:20, color) **Hough 66** (2023) has the talented Fuego Mansa Mufasa exhibiting the visuals of the 1966 Cleveland Ohio uprising. (7:18, b&w, silent) **The Daily Roster** (2023) is called into action at a Columbus Mississippi firehouse. (3:50, b&w) **Frankenstein Conquers the World Two** (2023) has Frankenstein freeing himself by using the sounds from the deleted final scene of the 1965 film by Ishir? Hondo, Frankenstein Conquers the World. (2:30, b&w) **First Team Offence** (2023) is made up of Bertha Everson's great grandchildren. (3:13, b&w, silent) **West Lounge** (2023) is about an unfortunate event in Columbus Mississippi told by an unreliable narrator. (5:16, color) **Patent 1,571,148** (2022) is Pleas 'Dinky' Everson tuning his vintage Pontiac with the 1924-26 patent pended Handee Wrench invented by late J. Sisolok of Mansfield Ohio. (4:40, b&w) **Northern Mockingbird** (2023) is a film about a birdwatcher looking for the state bird of Texas. (3:00, b&w) **Accidental Athlete** (co-directed Claudrena Harold, 2023) Paulette Jones Morant waxes poetically about being one of the first Black woman scholastic athletes at the University of Virginia. (7:11, b&w) **Discussion with directors Kevin Jerome Everson and Claudrena Harold, moderated by Julide Etem (UVA)**

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## After Sherman

Vinegar Hill Theatre

Sunday, November 6 7:45 pm - 9:45 pm

Filmmaker Jon Sesrie-Goff travels to his minister father's birthplace in Coastal South Carolina in the aftermath of a mass shooting at his church in Charleston in this beautifully layered and expressionistic documentary. Through a poetic patchwork of family home video, archival footage, and footage highlighting the region's natural beauty, Goff raises questions about what it means to be connected to a particular place while exposing the false promises that have forced so many Black residents away from their homes and land for centuries. Powerful and intimate conversations with family members and neighbors paint a fascinating picture of a specific community while examining the legacies of racial trauma and violence that reverberate across America. **Introduction by Ravi Respeto (United Way of Greater Charlottesville)**

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## Alcarràs

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Friday, November 4 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm**

**Official Oscar® Selection—Spain | Golden Bear Winner, 2022 Berlin Film Festival** For as long as the Solé family can remember, they have owned and operated a peach orchard in Catalonia. Each year they harvest fruit for local businesses in their small village, but now they face eviction, and this year's crop may be their last. Land development, ownership disputes, and modern technology threaten the family's orchard and livelihood, but not all the looming difficulties are external. The Solé family, once inseparable, struggles to stay unified in the face of increasingly complicated economic and legal woes, but find relief in their traditions. Director Carla Simón calls upon her own experiences of rural life growing up in the Catalan countryside to craft a multilayered film exploring the unpredictable temperament of nature and family life. **"Remarkable. Every moment feels real."** -Screen International, Fionnuala Halligan **"Beautifully observed and richly inhabited"** -Variety, Guy Lodge

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## All that Breathes

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Saturday, November 5 4:15 pm - 6:00 pm**

As masses of birds fall from the smog-filled skies of New Delhi amid environmental distress and social unrest, Nadeem Shehzad and Mohammed Saud fight to save the black kite, a majestic bird of prey that is crucial to the city's ecosystem. All That Breathes tells the story of the "kite brothers," Nadeem and Mohammed, who have devoted their lives to their makeshift basement clinic for injured birds. In this devastating yet hopeful documentary, Shaunak Sen explores the connection between the kites and the brothers who help cure them, chronicling a fascinating example of inter-species coexistence and giving audiences an honest look at the ecological crisis that our planet, and all of us who inhabit it, face. **Introduction by Samhita Sunya (VAFF) This film is part of the Environmental Film Series presented by Southern Environmental Law Center. This film is also part of the Middle Eastern and South Asian Series supported by UVA Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures.**

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# All the Beauty and the Bloodshed

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Saturday, November 5 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

**Golden Lion Winner, 2022 Venice Film Festival** Academy-Award winning documentarian Laura Poitras (Citizenfour) chronicles the internationally acclaimed art, complex life, and tireless activism of Nan Goldin, one of the truly groundbreaking artists/photographers of the late 20th century. This powerful and intimate film takes audiences behind the scenes of some of her most famous works and highlights her heroic efforts to protest the now infamous Sackler family, makers of the drug OxyContin, which has killed more than a half million Americans. Goldin, who nearly became a statistic herself following her own addiction to the drug, recently led an effort to protest the billionaire family and its philanthropic disguising of money to some of the world's leading museums, including many who collected and displayed her work. In addition, Poitras captures fascinating and life changing events the artist has gone through, including the loss of her sister to suicide following a forced institutionalization as a teen in the 1960's. **"Nan Goldin's remarkable life gets a towering film befitting it"** -IndieWire, Sophie Monks Kaufman **"I can't shake the feeling of being shook by it. I can't wait to see it again."** -Rolling Stone, David Fear

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# Bad Axe

Violet Crown 5

**Thursday, November 3 3:00 pm - 4:45 pm**

**Audience Award Winner, SXSW** At the start of the 2020 pandemic, documentarian David Siev left his life in New York City to return to his small conservative hometown of Bad Axe, Michigan, and spend the quarantine helping his struggling parents with their prominent local restaurant. With pandemic fears rising alongside racial tensions, the generational scars of surviving Cambodia's "killing fields" begin to haunt David's father as he fears the consequences of living as a Cambodian family in a predominantly Trump-supporting town. As the Black Lives Matter movement takes center stage in America, the family organizes a BLM protest in their conservative town, using their collective voice to speak out in their conservative community. What begins as a love letter to his hometown morphs into a testament to the power of putting family above all else. **Introduction by Shilpa Davé (UVA)**

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# Bardo, False Chronicle of a Handful of Truths

Culbreth Theatre

**Saturday, November 5 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

**Official Oscar® Selection—Mexico** The latest film from five-time Academy Award-winner Alejandro González Iñárritu (Babel, Birdman, Amores Perros) tells the story of Silverio, a journalist and documentarian living in Los Angeles who is scheduled to receive a significant industry award for his accomplishment. However, a few days before the ceremony, Silverio decides to return to his home country of Mexico for a seemingly simple trip. The experience, however, quickly drops Silverio into an existential journey as he navigates difficult memories, familial relationships, the history of his home country, and how to shape his personal identity amidst it all. This narrative mirrors much of director Alejandro González Iñárritu's own struggle to navigate the after-effects of great success and its impact on his ability to feel at home in any one place. **Presentation of Craft Award to Eugenio Caballero by Scot Safon (VAFF Board), followed by discussion between Eugenio Caballero and Carlos Aguilar (LA Times, The Wrap, AV Club). EUGENIO CABALLERO** Eugenio Caballero is the Academy Award-winning production designer of Guillermo del Toro's Pan's Labyrinth. He has also worked with Jim Jarmusch (The Limit of Control), Baz Luhrmann (Romeo and Juliet), Alfonso Cuarón (Roma), and Alejandro Iñárritu (Bardo). **This film is part of the The Highlighting Cinema of Mexico Focus supported by Mexican Cultural Institute in D.C. "Impossible to deny the strength of the startling array of thoughts and concepts which Iñárritu has brought to life." -Screen International, Fionnuala Halligan**

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# Beautiful Beings

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Thursday, November 3 9:00 pm - 11:15 pm**

**2023 Oscar® Selection, Iceland** Addi, a teenage boy raised by a clairvoyant mother, is the nominal leader of a trio of misfits. Bored and aimless, the crew wander Reykjavik's back streets, scale its dramatic heights, pick fights, and crash parties. When Addi recruits a bullied classmate into the tightknit group, the boys' volatile dynamic is further destabilized—their small-time pranks escalate and become increasingly dangerous. Seeking a way out, Addi begins to tap into dream-like visions and a newfound intuition to guide his friends back to a safer path. Beautiful Beings explores the deep bonds of male adolescent friendships and how they are complicated in the face of aggression, violence, loyalty, and love. **"Finds tenderness in a cruel adolescent world" -Screen International, Wendy Ide**

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## Black Fiddlers

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Friday, November 4 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm**

The product of an intensive year's worth of uninterrupted field research, *Black Fiddlers* explores the legacy of African Americans who shaped the cultural landscape of American folklore. Director Eduardo Montes-Bradley traces the personal and family stories of violin players of African descent throughout the country, seeking common threads and throughlines. Notable performers such as David Roberts, Earl White, and Rhiannon Giddens share their individual journeys and music, and local historians and academics offer scholarly approaches that deepen and enrich an understanding and appreciation of American Folk music and culture. This compelling documentary aspires to provide the first comprehensive account of America's rich musical history as told by Black fiddlers today. **Introduction by Andrea Copeland (VAFF DEI Committee) Discussion with Director Eduardo Montes-Bradley and Subject Earl White, moderated by Kirt von Daacke (UVA)** This film is part of the Virginia Filmmaking Focus presented by Virginia Film Office.

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## Broker

Violet Crown 5

**Saturday, November 5 4:30 pm - 6:45 pm**

**2022 Cannes Film Festival Best Actor Winner, Song Kang-ho** Hirokazu Kore-eda presents a humanistic, humorous, and philosophical masterpiece in his followup to the Academy-Award winning *Shoplifters*. On a rainy night, an imposing red cross illuminates the Busan Family Church, where a young woman, So-young, arrives to anonymously surrender her newborn to the church. On the receiving end are Sang-hyun (Song Kang-ho, *Parasite*) and Dong-soo, church employees with designs on illegally selling the baby to their network of wealthy, adoptive parents. Their plans are complicated when So-young returns the following day to take her son back and, instead of turning the men in, decides to accompany them on a road trip to interview the baby's potential parents. *Broker* delicately balances difficult questions on ethics, the meaning of family, and motherhood. **Introduction by Hyeyon Moon (VAFF) "This masterful drama has Kore-eda's almost impossible grace and empathy in every scene"** -RogerEbert.com, Brian Tallerico **This film is part of the Korean Cinema Series supported by Korean Cultural Center – Washington, D.C. and UVA Korea Society.**

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## Clarissa's Battle

Violet Crown 5

**Friday, November 4 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

Clarissa Doutherd is a single Black mother and activist living in Oakland, California who, after becoming unhoused with her infant son Xavier, embarks on a crusade to champion childcare and preschool as a human right. Her tireless energy, enthusiasm, humor, and natural leadership skills draw mothers of all backgrounds to the growing movement, but ultimately contribute to the kind of personal health crisis seen so often in overtaxed working mothers, and especially women of color. These issues only multiply during the pandemic, causing Clarissa and her colleagues to double down on their efforts and pushing one of our nation's most pressing issues to the forefront. Tamara Perkins' documentary is an inspiring example of how one woman's battle can become a rallying cry across America. **Introduction by Ravi Respeto (United Way of Greater Charlottesville) Discussion with director Tamara Perkins, editor Sara Maamouri, subject Clarissa Doutherd, and Brian Johns (VA Organizing), moderated by Krysta Jones (Vote Lead Impact)**

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## Close

Culbreth Theatre

**Sunday, November 6 8:15 pm - 10:15 pm**

**Official Oscar® Selection—Belgium | 2022 Cannes Film Festival, Grand Prize Winner**

Thirteen-year-old neighbors Léo and Rémi share an enviously close friendship—an indescribable connection which comes under the scrutiny of their schoolmates. Crumbling under the intense surveillance of their peers, Léo pulls away to gain acceptance. Hurt by this, Rémi withdraws, and a once beautiful friendship is tragically torn apart. Close presents the rarely illustrated depths of a friendship between two young men, exploring themes of friendship, love, and identity in a world that is at times unwilling to recognize them for what and who they truly are. **Introduction by Bilal Qureshi (NPR) "Close is artistically ambitious. Like a cinematic symphony, a musical piece in perfect harmony, not a note out of place."** -National Herald, Namrata Joshi

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## Concerned Citizen

Violet Crown 4

**Sunday, November 6 1:45 pm - 3:30 pm**

Things are going well for Ben and Raz, a well-to-do gay couple from Tel Aviv. After buying a renovated apartment in a local migrant neighborhood, they begin to seek a surrogate to help them start a family. Their attempt to create a cozy life is disrupted when Ben plants a sapling on their corner, looking to beautify his new street. The tree is not welcomed by all, and soon becomes a source of conflict; when matters turn physical, Ben gets the police involved. The situation thrusts his internal prejudices to the surface, racking the liberally minded Ben with guilt, and forcing him to grapple with his own complicity in the systems of oppression surrounding him. This darkly comedic film exposes the grim realities of gentrification, and presents a nuanced and timely parable about the many forms that privilege can take. **Introduction by Asher Biemann (UVA). This film is part of the Jewish and Israeli Film Series presented by Congregation Beth Israel.**

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## Corsage

The Paramount Theater

Friday, November 4 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

**Official Oscar® Selection—Austria 2022 Cannes Film Festival, Winner: Un Certain Regard, Best Performance, Vicky Krieps** Empress Elizabeth of Austria is idolized for her beauty and renowned for inspiring fashion trends. But in 1877, 'Sissi' celebrates her 40th birthday and must fight to maintain her public image by lacing her corset tighter and tighter. While Elizabeth's role has been reduced against her wishes to purely performative, her hunger for knowledge and zest for life makes her more and more restless in Vienna. She travels to England and Bavaria, visiting former lovers and old friends, seeking the excitement and purpose of her youth. With a future of strictly ceremonial duties laid out in front of her, Elizabeth rebels against the hyperbolized image of herself and comes up with a plan to protect her legacy. **"A witty subversion of biopic and costume-drama clichés"** - Variety, Jessica Kiang

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## Dani's Twins

Culbreth Theatre

Thursday, November 3 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Dani's Twins follows the pregnancy and early parenting life of Dani Izzie, a Virginia resident who became one of the first quadriplegics to give birth to twins in 2020. Her unique pregnancy not only put her at risk of an array of serious medical risks, it also forced her to grapple with intense biases faced by women with disabilities. This eye-opening documentary challenges audiences to confront and overcome prejudices and assumptions about people with disabilities, and especially wheelchair users, while at the same time sharing a window into a remarkable couple's unconventional and beautiful journey to parenthood. **Discussion with producer Angie Gentile, subjects Dani Izzie, Rudy Izzie, and Dr. Robert Fuller, moderated by Eric Swensen (UVA Health)** This film will be presented with Open Captions and the on stage presentations will include ASL interpretation. **This film is part of the Virginia Filmmaking Focus presented by Virginia Film Office.**

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## Descendant

Violet Crown 5

Saturday, November 5 11:00 am - 1:20 pm

**2022 Sundance Film Festival, US Documentary Special Jury Award Winner** Three miles north of downtown Mobile, Alabama sits Africatown, a community of around 2,000 residents and home to most descendants of the Clotilda, the last known ship illegally carrying enslaved Africans to the United States. The illegally chartered expedition arrived in America nearly fifty years after the United States outlawed the international slave trade and promptly burned upon arrival to erase it from memory, leaving the Clotilda to exist only in secrecy and speculation. Now, more than a century later, the descendants of the Clotilda survivors come together to reclaim their ancestors' narrative and demand accountability in this striking documentary. **Discussion with subject Kern Jackson, moderated by Robert Daniels (indieWIRE)** **This film is part of the Environmental Film Series presented by Southern Environmental Law Center.**

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## Devil Put the Coal in the Ground

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Saturday, November 5 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**

Devil Put the Coal in the Ground creatively examines the historical impact of the extractive coal industry and corporate power, and the myriad ways it affected the people, communities, and the environment of West Virginia. From the realities of a crumbling economy, to the ravages of the opioid epidemic, to the irreparable environmental damage and its tragic impact on human health, this timely documentary is a cautionary tale of unfettered corporate power, and an elegy to a vanishing Appalachia. **Introduction by Scott Smallwood (Southern Environmental Law Center)**  
**This film is part of the Environmental Film Series presented by Southern Environmental Law Center.**

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## Devotion

The Paramount Theater

**Thursday, November 3 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm**

Set in the Korean War, Devotion captures the tale of the U.S. Navy's first Black aviator, Jesse Brown (Jonathan Majors), and his dedicated wingman Tom Hudner. Despite Jesse's status as a decorated first-rate pilot, he cannot dispel the prejudice and racist hostility that runs rampant in a recently desegregated military. When Tom joins the unit, Jesse is initially wary of his overly amicable nature. Yet, their intense dedication to their squadron allows them to forge an incredible bond of trust as they are sent into combat for the first time. Featuring a stunning backdrop of beautifully shot aerial sequences, this captivating narrative recounts a story of perseverance and courage, as two remarkable individuals make history while joining the ranks of the U.S. Navy's most celebrated wingmen. **Presentation of Breakthrough Star Award to Jonathan Majors by Jason George (VAFF Board) Discussion with actor Jonathan Majors, moderated by Tyler Coates (The Hollywood Reporter)** **JONATHAN MAJORS** Emmy, Critics' Choice, Independent Spirit, and Gotham award nominee Jonathan Majors rose to prominence with his starring role in The Last Black Man in San Francisco. Other highlights include standout performances in Da 5 Bloods, The Harder They Fall, and Lovecraft Country. In 2023, he is set to star in Creed III and Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania. Photo by Jeff Vespa/Shutterstock

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# Empire of Light

The Paramount Theater

**Sunday, November 6 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

**CLOSING FILM** Academy Award-winning Director Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*, 1999) presents a love letter to the magic of cinema with the aid of master cinematographer Roger Deakins (*No Country for Old Men*, *Sicario*) and a top-notch cast headlined by Olivia Coleman, Michael Ward, Toby Jones, and Colin Firth. Hilary works the front of house for a movie theater in the English seaside town of Margate in 1981. Each day she manages the grudgingly repetitive routine of opening the cinema, overseeing the concession stand, and fielding her manager's uncomfortable requests for illicit favors. When Stephen, a young Black man, joins the theater's staff, the two form a quick and unusual connection. As Hilary struggles to conceal her mental health issues and Stephen grapples with the racism rampant in 1980s England, the two lean on one another to escape their circumstances—but the impermanence of life itself soon begins to threaten their bond.

**Introduction by Jody Kielbasa (VAFF)**

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# EO

Violet Crown 5

**Saturday, November 5 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**

**Official Oscar® Selection—Poland** At age 84, legendary director Jerzy Skolimowski (*The Deep End*, *Moonlighting*) has directed one of his most evocative, visually accomplished, and moving films. A contemporary reimagining of Robert Bresson's 1966 film *Au Hasard Balthazar*, this unconventional narrative follows a self-aware donkey named EO as it experiences the best and worst humanity has to offer. EO navigates a series of treacherous, fantastical, darkly funny, absurd, and bitter turns resulting from whims of fortune, and human fecklessness. An unconventional and visionary look at the differences and similarities between humans and animals, our life cycles, and our lack of agency, EO is above all else daring and completely original work of cinema that demands to be seen and discussed. **"Beautifully photographed, sentimental and surreal in equal measure"** -Guardian, Peter Bradshaw

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# Eternal Spring

Violet Crown 4

**Saturday, November 5 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm**

**Official Oscar® Selection—Canada** In March 2002, the outlawed spiritual group Falun Gong hijacked a state TV station in China, attempting to counter the government narrative about their spiritual practice. In the aftermath of the incident, police raids sweep Changchun City, ultimately forcing comic book illustrator and Falun Gong member Daxiong to flee the country. Arriving in North America, Daxiong establishes himself as an acclaimed comic book artist, yet the events leading up to his exile remain at the front of his memory. Now two decades later, another surviving activist who managed to escape China challenges Daxiong's recollection of events. This animated documentary utilizes first-person recounts and beautifully drawn re-enactments to emphasize the courage and sacrifice needed in the face of religious and political persecution, regardless of the cost.

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## Fashion Reimagined

Violet Crown 4

**Thursday, November 3 5:00 pm - 7:10 pm**

For Amy Powney, the creative director of Mother of Pearl fashion brand, the fashion industry's contribution to global waste and pollution has long been unacceptable. Born and raised by environmental activists in rural England, Powney has attempted to redefine the world of fashion by curating a collection of sustainable clothing from field to final product. This illuminating documentary catches Powney at the height of her career as she sets off on a journey across the world, uncovering dark truths at every level of fashion production, and placing her on the front lines of the ethical fashion movement. Fashion Reimagined captures the story of an industry veteran getting dirty to revolutionize the fashion world at its roots. **Introduction by Roxana Hadadi (Vulture)** This film is part of the Environmental Film Series presented by Southern Environmental Law Center.

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## From Page to Screen—Screenwriter's Panel

Irving Theater, CODE Building

**Saturday, November 5 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

Oscar-winning Screenwriter Dustin Lance Black (Milk) and Oscar-Nominated Screenwriter Meg LeFauve (Inside Out) discuss the art and craft of writing for the big screen. Learn how two of the best in the business create characters, move plots, build cine-worlds, and develop scripts that power, structure, and animate some of the most unforgettable movies of the last 20 years.

**Moderated by John Lee Hancock (VAFF Board). This is a free, unticketed event. Please arrive fifteen to thirty minutes before the listed start time to find a seat.**

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## From Sudan to Argentina

Violet Crown 5

**Thursday, November 3 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

**World Premiere** When the construction of the Aswan High Dam threatened to destroy the Ancient Egyptian monuments of Nubia in the 1960s, archaeologists from around the world came together to save these precious pieces of history. One of those heroic researchers was Dr. Abraham Rossenvasser, a self-taught Egyptologist from a small, poverty-stricken Jewish colony in Argentina. While Rossenvasser's expedition rescued thousands of historical treasures from imminent destruction, his story is not often told. In From Sudan to Argentina, Charlottesville-based filmmaker Ricardo Preve rescues the legacy of this forgotten figure, and ensures his deeply impactful work can be celebrated. Told largely through the eyes of Rossenvasser's daughter, Dr. Elsa Rosenvasser Feher, this documentary shines a well-deserved spotlight on the remarkable efforts of a man who committed himself to preserving crucial parts of history for generations to come. **Discussion with Director Ricardo Preve, moderated by Roxana Hadadi (Vulture)** This film is part of the Virginia Filmmaking Focus presented by Virginia Film Office. This film is also part of the Jewish and Israeli Film Series presented by Congregation Beth Israel.

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## Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery

The Paramount Theater

**Wednesday, November 2 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm**

**OPENING NIGHT FILM** Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery is the thrilling, star-studded standalone sequel to Rian Johnson's Knives Out (2019). Set in the early days of the pandemic, the story brings Daniel Craig's Southern sleuth Detective Benoit Blanc to Greece where tech billionaire Miles Bron has invited his wealthy pals to a murder mystery party. When a guest turns up dead, Benoit is quickly on the case and learns there is no shortage of suspects among the elite partiers. With a star-studded cast including Ethan Hawke, Kate Hudson, Edward Norton, and Janelle Monáe, Rian Johnson's standalone sequel is sure to keep audiences guessing and laughing along with the madcap mysterious proceedings. **Introduction by President Jim Ryan (UVA) and Jody Kielbasa (VAFF)**

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## Godland

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Sunday, November 6 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm**

**San Sebastian Film Festival Winner, Zabaltegi-Tabakalera Jury Award** Upon arrival to the Danish colony of Iceland in the late 19th century, Lucas, a young priest, attempts to build a parish and integrate into the isolated community. Prior to his departure, his bishop warns him to heed the local guides, encouraging Lucas to remain adaptable to the circumstances Icelanders face. Not adhering to this warning, Lucas arrives riddled with pride, inexperience, and ignorance, making it clear how unprepared he is for this assignment. When he meets the head guide Ragnar, a rugged older man of the land, these flaws are even more apparent, and a hostile relationship develops. Director Hlynur Pálmason's inquisitive narrative explores the roles of religion and colonialism in Iceland's history while examining the power of humanity and nature to divide us as well as to tie us together. **"An outstanding drama. Magnificently shot. A story of natural wonder, elemental beauty and human folly"** - LA Times, Justin Chang

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## Good Night Oppy

Culbreth Theatre

**Thursday, November 3 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

In 2003, NASA sent Opportunity, a robotic rover, to Mars for a planned 90-day mission. Fifteen years later, the ambitious robot, nicknamed "Oppy," was still defying the odds with its perseverance, scientific value, and vitality. Tasked with searching out signs of life across the surface of the Red Planet, "Oppy" created a remarkable connection with the renowned scientist on the ground, from its inception and launch to its final transmitted message: "My battery is low, and it's getting dark." Narrated by Angela Bassett and featuring CGI technology by Amblin Entertainment, this is a lovely and moving journey that uncovers the true heart of scientific exploration. A heartwarming documentary for the whole family, and sneakily offers what could be the best soundtrack of the Virginia Film Festival. This film will be presented with Open Captions and the on stage presentations will include ASL interpretation. **"An exciting, educational and entertaining film, set to instil wonder in audiences of just about any age"** -POV Magazine, Jason Gorber

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## Hard Shell, Soft Shell

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Saturday, November 5 1:30 pm - 3:15 pm**

Az is a hopelessly romantic (or just hopeless?) twenty-something oyster farmer, plying his trade in the southeastern France's port city of Sète. When his mollusk-themed proposal to girlfriend Jess goes hilariously awry, his world is shattered, and in time-honored fashion, our hero retreats to eat chocolate in bed, and wallow in his heartbreak. His childhood pals are having none of his moping. The goofy assortment of self-styled tough guys, and Lila, a dancer just returned from Paris, rally around their crestfallen friend, scheming to help him out his pathetic doldrums. Gently upending our well-worn rom-com genre expectations, Hard Shell, Soft Shell is a fun ride throughout, offering up equal doses of comic relief, sizzling dance numbers, and lessons of the heart, set against a stunning Mediterranean backdrop. **Introduction by Harry Chotiner (VAFF).**

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## Hazing

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Friday, November 4 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm**

Byron Hurt explores the history and culture of hazing, a widespread, far-reaching practice that has long pervaded college campuses and that is increasingly, and tragically finding its way into our headlines. Hurt, a one-time fraternity member himself who has admittedly been on both sides of the hazing equation, explores the roots of the practice, ranging from systemic racism, toxic masculinity, and groupthink culture within Greek life, making a connection between the practice and race, gender, class, and where one goes to school. Hurt looks at the issue from all angles, including the heartbreaking perspective of families who have lost loved ones, helping to put faces and names to the life-changing implications and tragic loss that hazing causes. **Introduction by Steve Humble (VPM) Discussion with director Byron Hurt and film subject James Vivenzio, moderated by Angie Miles (VPM) Presented in partnership with the The University of Virginia's Gordie Center**, which works to end hazing and substance misuse among college and high school students nationwide through evidence-informed, student-tested resources that share the lessons from Lynn "Gordie" Bailey Jr.'s tragic death as a result of a hazing-related alcohol overdose. Visit the Gordie Center website for additional educational resources and campaigns.

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## Headwaters Down

Culbreth Theatre

**Sunday, November 6 5:30 pm - 7:15 pm**

Once considered the most polluted waterway in the United States, the James River is no stranger to the manmade damages inflicted to commoditize natural resources. Told through the lens of five friends, this adventure-filled documentary captures a 250-mile journey down the James River, beginning in the Blue Ridge Mountains and finally arriving at the Fall Line in the group's hometown of Richmond, Virginia. Throughout the 13-day journey, the crew masterfully captures the river's troubled past while breathing new life into the body of water, highlighting its innate resilience along the way. **Introduction by Nate Benforado (Southern Environmental Law Center) Discussion with directors, producers, and subjects Will Gemma, Dietrich Teschner, and Justin Black, moderated by Paul Wagner (UVA) This film is part of the Environmental Film Series presented by Southern Environmental Law Center. This film is also part of the Virginia Filmmaking Focus presented by Virginia Film Office.**

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## Heaven: To the Land of Happiness

Violet Crown 4

**Friday, November 4 8:45 pm - 10:30 pm**

Nam Sik, a meek hospital worker, desperately needs a costly medicine to treat his terminal illness. Unable to afford the expensive medication, he moves from hospital to hospital, stealing the drug. Meanwhile, Prisoner 203 is approaching release after a five-year embezzling conviction, but after a hospital visit for headaches and seizures, he is diagnosed with an inoperable, terminal brain tumor. With less than two weeks to live, Prisoner 203 decides to escape, and Nam Sik joins as his accomplice. The mismatched duo launches on an unexpected journey in which they must learn to work with each other through perilous and often zany encounters. Director Im Sang-soo effortlessly captures the mundane beauties of everyday life in this endearing narrative. **Introduction by Hyeyon Moon (VAFF) This film is part of the Korean Cinema Series supported by Korean Cultural Center – Washington, D.C. and UVA Korea Society.**

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## Hot off the Presses: New Books on Cinema from UVA

### Professors

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Sunday, November 6 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Three UVA professors with newly published books on international cinema share short presentations about their scholarship. Paul Dobryden, assistant professor in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, presents *The Hygienic Apparatus: Weimar Cinema and Environmental Disorder*; Chris Gratien, Assistant Professor of History presents *The Unsettled Plain: An Environmental History of the Late Ottoman Frontier*; and Samhita Sunya, Assistant Professor of Cinema in the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures, presents *Sirens of Modernity: World Cinema Via Bombay*. **This is a free, unticketed event. Please arrive fifteen to thirty minutes before the listed start time to find a seat.**

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## Huesera

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Saturday, November 5 9:15 pm - 10:45 pm**

**Best New Narrative and Nora Ephron Prize Winner, 2022 Tribeca Film Festival** After years of trying to conceive, Valeria and her husband Raúl are overjoyed to learn that they are finally about to become parents. But Valeria's elation soon turns to dread, as terrifying visions lead her to believe she has been cursed by a sinister entity, "La Huesera." As her picture-perfect life begins to splinter around her, her search for answers takes her back to a rebellious past and experimentation with the occult—embracing the dark magic that threatens to consume her might be the only way to rid herself of this spirit and safeguard her family's future. Director Michelle Garza Cevera manages a daring balancing act in this intimate and accessible fable, which morphs from family drama, to thriller, and horror, while provocatively deploying folklore and witchcraft to explore the anxieties of early motherhood. **This film is part of The Highlighting Cinema of Mexico Focus supported by Mexican Cultural Institute in D.C.**

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## Imagining the Indian: The Fight Against Native American Mascoting

Violet Crown 5

**Sunday, November 6 2:30 pm - 4:15 pm**

Imagining the Indian: The Fight Against Native American Mascoting chronicles the movement to end the use of Native American logos, mascots, slurs, and names in the competitive sporting world and in society at large. The documentary details the uprising against appropriation of Native American culture in a time of reckoning about racial injustice in the United States, particularly following the removal of Confederate imagery, removal of statues of figures like Christopher Columbus, and the pressure that was placed on the Washington, D.C. NFL team to change its controversial name. Imagining the Indian explores what motivates those who have fought to erase these harmful stereotypes from the sports world and the impact that racial and exploitative stereotypes of Native Americans have had on members of Native communities. **Discussion with director Aviva Kempner and subject Rhonda LeValdo, moderated by Adriana Greci Green (VAFF) This film is part of the Indigenous Cinema of the Americas Series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.**

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## Karaoke

Violet Crown 5

**Thursday, November 3 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm**

Karaoke follows Meir and Tova, a middle-class couple in their 60s who are getting tired of their sleepy life in a Tel Aviv suburb. When Itzik, a young bachelor from Miami, moves into their building and starts to run karaoke nights, the couple becomes obsessed with him as they compete with their neighbors for affection. The new wrinkle in the couple's lives sends them on an entertaining journey that causes them to revisit their seemingly traditional attitudes towards marriage, social status, and class identity. This bittersweet, comedic film puts a refreshing new twist on the coming-of-age genre, emphasizing the parallels between the vulnerable, transformative years of youth and the years following retirement. **Discussion with actor Sasson Gabay and director Moshe Rosenthal, moderated by Joe Fab (VAFF) This film is part of the Jewish and Israeli Film Series presented by Congregation Beth Israel.**

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# Klondike

Violet Crown 5

**Sunday, November 6 11:30 am - 1:30 pm**

**Official Oscar® Selection—Ukraine | Best Director Award Winner, 2022 Sundance Film Festival** Klondike tells the story of a Ukrainian family living on the border of Russia and Ukraine during the start of the Donbas war in 2014. On July 17 of that year, the crash of Malaysia Airlines flight 17 shocks the world and causes further distress for Irka and Tolik, who are anxiously anticipating the arrival of their first child. Irka refuses to evacuate their family home, even as the village gets captured by armed forces. The lingering rubble of the flight and the seemingly endless procession of mourners emphasize the pain and distress of the moment. Shot in elaborately choreographed long takes, Klondike is a feat of intricate staging, and Er Gorbach uses unity of space to illustrate the ever-growing divisions among her characters. Tense, haunting, and tragic, this is a truly powerful work of art. **Introduction by Stephen Mull (UVA)**

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# Lady Chatterley's Lover

The Paramount Theater

**Saturday, November 5 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm**

Lady Chatterley (Emma Corrin, *The Crown*), a wealthy young woman born into a life of immense privilege, realizes that her marriage to an upper-class former soldier has grown stale. As she grows increasingly physically and emotionally frustrated with her husband, Chatterley falls into a passionate affair with Oliver Mellors, a man working on their English estate. Soon she discovers more intimacy than she thought was possible and must weigh the costs of breaking tradition to start a new life with her lover. A reimagining of D. H. Lawrence's controversial 1928 novel, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* is a wildly sensual tale that explores issues of women's societal roles, and possibilities for true autonomy. **Introduction by Roxana Hadadi (Vulture) "Emma Corrin and Jack O'Connell offer scorching sexuality in a film that finds new tones in an oft-adapted story"** -The Wrap, Tomris Laffly

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# Light House Studio Shorts

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Thursday, November 3 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm**

For over 20 years, Light House Studio has helped Charlottesville youth tell their stories through film. With an award-winning Summer Film Academy and year-round partnerships with other local nonprofits, Light House works with hundreds of students every year. This one-hour program highlights some of the best student work of 2022, from elementary school through high school, from public health PSAs to zombie movies. Some of these projects have something important to say about our community; some of them have amazing special effects; all of them are from the distinct creative minds of Charlottesville's young people. Once again this year, the VAFF is proud to showcase the work of the students at Light House Studio in Charlottesville with a selection of short films. **All Ears** by Conrad Heins, Jack Davis & Susie Davis **The Masked Murderer** by AJ Grabowski, Claire Gu, Reed Measells, and Eli White **Hank** by Grady Rajagopalan, Ira Lianez, Orly Smith, and Rose Brennan-Wilkinson **The Haunted House** by students at Southwood Boys and Girls Club **Zombie Serum** by Brody Russell, Wyatt Young, and Evelyn Graham **Grand Theft Sandwich** by Parker Root, Morgan Doerr, and Van Wagley **The Cheese Touch** by Austin Koshansky, Elzie Heyward, Alex Thiele, Kelsey Koontz and Wallis Hrabec **Here Comes the Sun** by Brooks Middleton and Reece Harris **Keeping Up With the Kool Kids** by Julia Glass, Seamus Brown, Anika Wanchek, Robin Baranowski and Drake Sellman **The Red Fox Fur Coat** by Mackenzie Schultheis **C3: Transportation PSA** by Asadullah Faqirzada, Logan Martin, Sadeja Williams, Tamana Khaydan, Ezahar Zahid, and Iraj Lahig **Nightmare** by Liam Anderson, Camerin Kith, Dylan Fox, Gray Dessert, Tatum Daves, Naomi Kim, and Graham Holub **Cold Love** by Stella Butler, Dylan "DD" Duke, Robin Baranowski, and Wren Keighley **Jealousy** by Liam Anderson, Zaharra Colla, Camerin Kith, and Emma Kaufman-Horner **Spike-Zilla** by Thomas Solla, Shep Sieg, and Lux Wayland **Living Dead** by Brooks Middleton, Wiley Mason, Chris Van Vleet, and Minna Smith **Invasion of the Bush Beast** by Devin Kuhn, Liam Crowley, Zack Middleton, and Jude Venteicher **Nicotine Helps Plants, Not People** by Caja Edwards, Christian Anderson, Claire Curry, Cydney Jackson, Dominic Jackson, Kaylan Alexander, Nilab Sultan, Sephira Ainsworth, and Terrell Moore **The Bathroom** by Henry Spillman **The Body** by Ben Berthy, Eli Lerda, and Chloe Rodriguez-Thomas **This is a free, unticketed event. Please arrive fifteen to thirty minutes before the listed start time to find a seat.**

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# Liquor Store Dreams

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Friday, November 4 5:30 pm - 7:15 pm**

Preceded by short film GOOD BOY. Liquor Store Dreams follows director So Yun Um and her friend Danny, both self-titled "Liquor Store Babies," children of Korean immigrant parents who operate liquor stores in Los Angeles. As second-generation immigrants, So and Danny are on their own journeys to fulfilling their creative dreams. So sets out to be a filmmaker (to her father's bemusement), while Danny works his dream job at Nike. Their aspirations and family lives are presented in a larger context of Korean-Black relations in Los Angeles, indelibly linked to the 1991 murder of Latasha Harlins in a Korean convenience store, and the 1992 uprisings sparked by the police brutality against Rodney King and ensuing looting of Korean businesses. Refreshingly honest and eye-opening, gently comical, and universally empathetic, Liquor Store Dreams is a fascinating personal narrative mapped onto a painful chapter in American history. **Introduction by Ty Cooper (VAFF)**

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# Living

The Paramount Theater

**Sunday, November 6 3:15 pm - 5:15 pm**

The year is 1953. London is still rebuilding from the devastation of World War II, and William, a veteran civil servant, is living a remarkably mundane life. Buried in paperwork, deadlines, and bureaucracy, his quiet world is suddenly upended by a devastating medical diagnosis. Determined to find fulfillment, William embarks on a journey to discover meaning and adventure before it's too late. Along the way, he meets the lively Margaret and the idealistic new coworker Parker who help William create his legacy. Directed by Oliver Hermanus, Living is a reimagining of Akira Kurosawa's 1952 film Ikiru. Starring Billy Nighy, Aimee Lee Wood, Alex Sharp, and Tom Burke, Living is a powerful story that asks audiences to consider what it truly means to live.

**Introduction by Joe Fab (VAFF)** This film will be presented with Open Captions and the on stage presentations will include ASL interpretation. **"Sentimental but never cloying, Living is an elegant elegy, a reminder to take little in life for granted"** -The Atlantic, Shirley Li

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## Lowndes County and the Road to Black Power

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Sunday, November 6 4:30 pm - 6:45 pm**

Emmy Award-winning directors Sam Pollard and Geeta Gandbhir combine first-hand accounts with striking archival footage to tell the story of a brave group of citizens in the 1960s who put their lives on the line to change history in rural Lowndes County, Alabama. Eighty percent Black with no Black voters, the county served as a launching pad for a movement that brought together men and women, Black and White, the quiet warriors, and the crusaders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), among others. Pollard and Gandbhir shine a light on this often overlooked chapter in American history that, in many ways, foreshadowed the Civil Rights movement to come in a film that illustrates strong parallels to events in our nation today.

**Presentation of Chronicler Award to Director Sam Pollard by Glenn Williamson (VAFF Board) Discussion with Sam Pollard, moderated by Robert Daniels (IndieWire) SAM**

**POLLARD** Oscar®-nominated producer and director Sam Pollard is widely acknowledged as one of foremost documentarians focused on the African American experience—highlights include *Two Trains Runnin'*, *MLK/FBI*, and *Citizen Ashe*. Prior to directing, Pollard edited and co-produced several of Spike Lee's most celebrated films, including *4 Little Girls*, *Jungle Fever*, *Clockers*, and *Bamboozled*.

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## Making It – Film Industry Career Panel

Irving Theater, CODE Building

**Saturday, November 5 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

Three early mid-career filmmakers with very different paths to success in the film industry share their personal journeys, along the way giving insight into what a modern career in the entertainment business looks like. Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Jamie Sisley (*Stay Awake*) shares the stage with Emmy and two-time Peabody Award-winning documentarian Erin Bernhardt (*Refuge*) and TV writer Lyle Friedman (*Wrecked, Younger*). **Moderated by Scot Safon (VAFF Board) This is a free, unticketed event. Please arrive fifteen to thirty minutes before the listed start time to find a seat.**

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## Mama Boy

Violet Crown 4

**Thursday, November 3 8:00 pm - 9:45 pm**

Xiao-hong, a painfully shy, almost thirty-year-old fish store employee, lives alongside his control-freak mother, Meiling, who seemingly calls all the shots in his life. After a catastrophic blind date set up by Meiling, Xiao-hong's cousin decides to take him to a sleazy local hotel that houses an underground prostitution business, hoping Xiao-hong can gain some experience with women. Although Xiao-hong's first experience leads him to run away in a panic, he eventually develops a meaningful yet unconventional relationship with Sister Lele, an older woman who runs the escort business. *Mama Boy* offers a comedic tale of delayed first love, and the unconventional journey to find it.

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# Mama's Boy with Dustin Lance Black

Culbreth Theatre

**Sunday, November 6 11:00 am - 1:30 pm**

Adapted from Black's memoir *Mama's Boy: A Story from our Americas*, this retrospective documentary chronicles the life story of Dustin Lance Black, Academy Award-winning screenwriter of the 2008 film *Milk*, the 2011 film *J. Edgar*, and FX series *Under the Banner of Heaven*.

Beginning with Black's early life, the film examines his childhood roots, identity as a gay man, and close relationship with his mother, Anne. No stranger to hardship, Anne grew up a conservative Mormon from the American south while plagued by various medical ailments—her own story of perseverance serving as emotional support for Black and inspiring his fervent activism. Director Laurent Bouzereau weaves archival photographs and candid memories from friends and family to create a promising tale of resilience and reconciliation. **Presentation of Changemaker Award to Dustin Lance Black by Glenn Williamson (VAFF Board) Discussion with subject Dustin Lance Black, moderated by Bilal Qureshi (NPR) DUSTIN LANCE BLACK** Director, Writer, Producer and LGBTQIA+ activist Dustin Lance Black won a Best Screenplay Oscar Award® for *Milk*. Other career highlights include *J. Edgar* (screenplay) and producing, directing, and writing *Under The Banner of Heaven*. He is a founding board member of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, and was a key leader in overturning California's Proposition 8.

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## Mom

Market Street Park

**Friday, October 21 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

Preceded by short film *THE SKY IS VERY PRETTY* **US Premiere | Pre-Festival Event | Free Program - No Tickets Needed** *Mom* is a documentary exploring the emotionally turbulent conversation between a son and his estranged mother. Mexican Tzotzil director Xun Sero resents his mother for his upbringing, significantly marked by his father's absence. Through a conversation between the two, unspoken truths are confessed, repressed emotions unleashed, and mother and son truly see each other for perhaps the first time. The revelation of the abuse faced by his mother uncovers Sero's own violent tendencies towards women, the first being his own mother. The documentary addresses issues of violence and strives to stimulate a social conversation regarding the shame that keeps victims silent. **This film part of the Mobile Cinema Series is presented by UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for the Arts. This film is also part of the Indigenous Americans in Film Series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. This film is also part of the Highlighting Mexican Cinema series supported by Mexican Cultural Institute in D.C.**

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# My Father's Dragon

The Paramount Theater

**Saturday, November 5 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**FAMILY CENTERPIECE SCREENING** Based on the beloved 1948 Newberry Award-winning children's book, *My Father's Dragon* is the story of Elmer Elevator, a young boy so disenchanted with his move to the city that he runs away to Wild Island to find Boris, a young dragon in need of a rescue. Directed by two-time Oscar nominee Nora Twomey (*The Breadwinner*), co-written by Meg LeFauve, the Oscar-nominated co-writer of the Pixar hit *Inside/Out*, and produced by VAFF Advisory Board Member and UVA alumnae Julie Lynn, this gorgeously animated feature is a fantastical tale filled with exotic creatures, wild adventures, and fearless fun. **Presentation of Screenwriting Achievement Award to Meg LeFauve by John Lee Hancock (VAFF Board) Discussion with director Nora Twomey, producer Julie Lynn, screenwriter Meg LeFauve, and supervising sound editor Zach Seivers, moderated by Carlos Aguilar (LA Times, The Wrap, AV Club) MEG LEFAUVE** Meg LeFauve is the Oscar®-Nominated writer of Pixar's *Inside Out*, and Golden-Globe nominated writer of Pixar's *The Good Dinosaur*. She was a mentor at Meryl Streep's writer's lab, and has written for live-action and animated features for TV and Film.

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# Nosferatu

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Thursday, November 3 8:00 pm - 9:45 pm**

**100th Anniversary Screening w/Live Music** A genre-defining film for the ages, *Nosferatu* celebrates its 100th anniversary at the Virginia Film Festival with a special screening featuring live musical accompaniment by Matt Marshall and the Reel Music Quartet. From world-renowned director F.W. Murnau, this classic piece of German cinema demonstrates the limitless possibilities of storytelling. Dare to enter Count Orlok's castle, where the macabre takes human form and feasts on the innocent. Follow Thomas Hutter as he travels to the secluded Transylvanian castle and witnesses a nightmare come to life in the shape of a vampire. When the Count develops a craving for Hutter's wife, Hutter must race against the clock to protect her from falling victim to Orlok's desires. One of the first breakthroughs in gothic horror, *Nosferatu*'s chilling tale continues to haunt audiences even a century after its release. **Centennial screening with live musical accompaniment by Matt Marshall (UVA) and The Reel Music Trio featuring Bob Ducharme (Viola), Elizabeth Leverage-Hilles (Violin), and Madaline Marland (Bass Clarinet). Discussion with Matt Marshall and Stanley Stepanic (UVA) Presented by Light House Studio**

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# Orlando

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Friday, November 4 2:15 pm - 4:00 pm**

**30th Anniversary Screening | 30th Anniversary Celebration of Sony Pictures Classics** Sally Potter's bold re-working of Virginia Woolf's classic novel endures as a remarkable love story and an incisive tour through English history, while deftly addressing issues gender and identity. Shortly before the death of Elizabeth I, an innocent aristocrat, Orlando (Tilda Swinton, in a profoundly subtle performance), is promised a generous fortune by the Queen provided that he "not grow old." He then goes on to live for centuries, first as a man, and then as a woman. Orlando has had a long and unbroken presence in world cinema since its original release in 1992, when it garnered more than thirty international awards, including two Oscar nominations and Best Young Film in the European Film Awards. It has become a standard teaching tool in film, media and literature courses worldwide and is frequently used as a 'how to' model of adaptation of a classic work. It is also repeatedly cited as the first example of a successful and uncompromising European co-production, now a standard way of making films, but at the time a groundbreaking form of international collaboration. **SONY PICTURES CLASSICS** Founded in 1992 by former Orion Classics heads Michael Barker, Tom Bernard and Marcie Bloom, Sony Pictures Classics is widely regarded as one of the top distributors of specialty and arthouse film in the U.S. and internationally. The company has released 37 Academy Award-winning films, and garnered 155 Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture nominations for The Father, Call Me By Your Name, Whiplash, Amour, Midnight in Paris, An Education, Capote, Howards End, and Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. Other Sony Pictures Classics films in the 2022 VAFF lineup include Living, Salvatore: Shoemaker of Dreams, The Son, and Turn Every Page: The Adventures of Robert Caro and Robert Gottlieb

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# Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Saturday, November 5 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm**

Director Nancy Svendsen captures the inspirational and ultimately tragic tale of Pasang Lhamu Sherpa's journey to becoming the first Nepali woman to summit Mount Everest in 1993. As an uneducated Hindu woman living in a traditional patriarchy, Sherpa battles began long before her feet touched the frozen ground, pitting her against her family, climbers from around the world, and her own government, not to mention formidable forces of nature. The remarkable story of her quest for glory and justice plays out against the backdrop of her nation's fight for democracy, and she remains revered in Nepalese society to this day. **This film is part of the Environmental Film Series presented by Southern Environmental Law Center.**

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## Portraits From A Fire

Violet Crown 4

**Saturday, November 5 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

Tyler, an eccentric and lonely teenager, spends his days Vlogging (video blogging) his Indigenous community and hanging out with his grandparents. Despite being physically present, Taylor's father remains emotionally absent from Taylor's life for reasons he doesn't understand. But when Tyler meets Aaron, a mysterious, charismatic, and influential figure, things change as Aaron encourages Tyler to share his most personal film, about his mother's disappearance, with the community. This coming-of-age drama follows Tyler as he embarks on a journey to heal the wounds from the past while weaving together the strong, sacred bonds of family. **Introduction by Adriana Greci Green (VAFF) This film is part of the Indigenous Cinema of the Americas Series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.**

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## Powerlands

Violet Crown 4

**Friday, November 4 6:00 pm - 7:45 pm**

Ivey Camille Manybeads Tso is a young Navajo filmmaker investigating the displacement of her ancestors and the devastation of the land where she was born by major chemical companies. Traveling to La Guajira in rural Colombia, the Tampuan region of the Philippines, and the Tehuantepec Isthmus of Mexico, as well as to the protests at Standing Rock, she comes across like-minded Indigenous women who battle life-threatening stakes to preserve their culture, their home, and our Earth to avoid looming catastrophe. **Discussion with Director Ivey Camille Manybeads Tso, moderated by Adriana Greci Green (VAFF) This film is part of the Indigenous Cinema of the Americas Series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. This film is also part of the Environmental Film Series presented by Southern Environmental Law Center.**

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# Refuge

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Saturday, November 5 5:00 pm - 6:45 pm**

Deep in the American South, Clarkston, Georgia, is a small rural town reminiscent of a United Nations refugee camp. People from all corners of the world live here, seeking safety and opportunity for a better life in America. Clarkston is also home to Chris Buckley, a military veteran and former Klansman harboring a hatred for Muslims since 9/11. Chris is forced to face his prejudice when contacted by Dr. Heval Kelli, a Kurdish cardiologist with a mission to challenge the looming presence of white nationalism threatening his community. Southern-grown directors Erin Bernhardt and Din Blankenship follow Chris and Dr. Kelli as they must face some of the darkest deep-rooted beliefs etched into the country's foundation. Refuge is a battle between stubborn hate and patient compassion. When the dust settles, and an unexpected relationship develops, Refuge reveals the real threat to America and what could happen if it isn't stopped.

**Discussion with Directors Din Blankenship and Erin Bernhardt, and Executive Producer Katie Couric, moderated by Stephen Mull (UVA) Presenting partners include UVA School of Architecture and Welcoming Charlottesville**

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# Saint Omer

Violet Crown 5

**Sunday, November 6 5:15 pm - 7:25 pm**

**Grand Jury Prize Winner, 2022 Venice Film Festival** The groundbreaking narrative debut from acclaimed documentarian Alice Diop (*We*) is powerful and subtly devastating courtroom drama. Traveling to the northern French town of Saint Omer to research her new book, Rama observes the trial of a Senegalese woman accused of infanticide; Laurence has confessed to the crime but maintains her innocence, arguing that she was under the influence of powerful sorcerous magic at the time. The disturbing facts of the case, trigger in Rama a cascading flood of memories and revelations about her immigrant mother, anxieties about her impending motherhood, and the painful effects of racism and emotional manipulation on Black women in French society.

**Introduction by Alison Levine (UVA) "A stunning film which stirringly builds a confessional out of the stones in the hands of merciless executioners."**-Little White Lies, Rafaela Sales Ross **"An enthralling narrative debut."** -The Hollywood Reporter, Lovia Gyarkye

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# Salvatore: Shoemaker of Dreams

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Sunday, November 6 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

In the early 20th century, a young, impoverished Italian cobbler sailed from Naples to the United States to build a better life. Salvatore: Shoemaker of Dreams tells the humble origins of the famed shoemaker Salvatore Ferragamo, tracing his journey from his childhood in Bonito, to his days as an apprentice shoemaker in Naples, his experience as an owner of the Hollywood Boot Shop in Santa Barbara, California, and his return to Italy, where he founded his namesake luxury shoe brand in Florence. Narrated by Michael Stuhlbarg with commentary from Martin Scorsese and Christian Louboutin, this documentary chronicles Ferragamo's life story, including exclusive images and stories from the members of the Ferragamo family and tales of his lasting impression not only on Hollywood but on the entire fashion world. **Introduction by Harry Chotiner (VAFF)**

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# Scarlet

Violet Crown 4

**Sunday, November 6 11:00 am - 12:50 pm**

In a time of dramatic change, World War I veteran Raphaël returns to his village in rural France to find his wife has died and left him to raise Juliette, the daughter he never knew existed. Along with her maternal caretaker, who offers Raphaël housing and work, the trio assumes the form of an unconventional family. However, when a magician foretells that scarlet sails will one day carry Juliette far away from the village, she spends the next decade entranced by the prophecy. While both father and daughter are unwilling recluses in a hostile community, the film captures the quiet tenderness that permeates the relationship and allows it to evolve beyond their small town. Director Pietro Marcello's (Martin Eden) feature French debut radiates an enchanting tone that will resonate with those who dream of a better future. **"A daydream believer makes her own magic in lovely French romance"** -Variety, Peter Debruge

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# She Said

Culbreth Theatre

**Friday, November 4 8:00 pm - 10:30 pm**

From Director Maria Schrader comes an ode to investigative journalism in one of the most well-reported scandals of the century. She Said follows New York Times reporters Megan Twohey and Jodi Kantor as they expose Harvey Weinstein's years-long history of sexual misconduct. Through the collective input and power of journalism, the two women pursue survivors and witnesses whose courage and conviction led to his firing. As the story begins to break, a nationwide discussion is launched that would lead to a long overdue spotlight on the issue and a call for action. **Introduction by Roxana Hadadi (Vulture)**

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## Short Films: All You Need Is Love

Violet Crown 4

Friday, November 4 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Program followed by Q&A with filmmakers and subjects from **Tuning René Marie** (Polina Buchak, Rachel Kessler, René Marie). **Freedom Swimmer** 2021. Australia. 15 min. **Director:** Olivia Martin-McGuire. The story of a grandfather's perilous swim from China to Hong Kong parallels his granddaughter's own quest for new freedom. **Blind Angels: Richmond Virginia** 2022. USA. 9 min. **Director:** Umbreen Butt. **Featuring:** Zakia McKensey. In Richmond, Virginia, Zakia McKensey works as an advocate to increase HIV testing and awareness access. **Little Berlin** 2021. Germany, France. 14 min. **Director:** Kate McMullen. **Featuring:** Christoph Waltz. When the Iron Curtain cuts his tiny German village in half, Peter the bull separates from his 36 cows—based on a true story and narrated by Christoph Waltz. **Tuning René Marie** 2022. USA. 14 min. **Director:** Rachel Kessler. **Featuring:** René Marie. The extraordinary life story of René Marie, Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist told old through a series of animated vignettes over 16mm plates. **The Originals** 2022. USA. 10 min. **Director:** Cristina Costantini, Alfie Koetter. **Featuring:** Bryn Mooser, Kathryn Everett, Walter Woodman, Alfie Koetter, Cristina Costantini. Matty "Square" Ruggiero and his childhood friends tell their story of what it was like to grow up in South Brooklyn, where money was tight but friendships were tighter. **A Haircut for the Hina Doll** 2022. Japan. 30 min. **Director:** Minoru Mizoguchi. **Featuring:** Riku Tanaka. An assistant hairstylist makes an effort to keep his promise by cutting his first love's hair as his first customer.

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## Short Films: It Only Takes Two

Violet Crown 4

Thursday, November 3 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Program followed by Q&A with filmmakers from **Home of the Brave** (Ian Michael Welfley), **Father Figure** (Benjamin Willis-Teff), and **Tug** (Mia Gualtieri), and **Me + Lee** (Claire Ozah). **Me + Lee** 2021. USA. 15 min. **Director:** Giorgio Miraflor. **Featuring:** Giorgio Miraflor, Johnny Manibusan, Nick Alexander Payne Current recluse Theo strikes up a conversation that he didn't realize he needed with his pizza delivery guy. **Tug** 2022. USA. 10 min. **Director:** Mia Gualtieri. **Featuring:** Boomie Pedersen, Dinah Pehrson When Jenny and Victoria meet outside of their apartment building, they find out they have more in common than a street address. Their budding relationship is challenged after the discovery of a missing package. **Home of the Brave** 2021. USA. 20 min. **Director:** Ian Michael Welfley. **Featuring:** Isaac Nevria, James Edward Becton In a quiet bar on a late summer's eve, a chess match ensues between Liam Walker and Omar Richardson; two scarred veterans of America's foreign wars. **Deerwoods Deathtrap** 2022. USA. 9 min. **Director:** James Gannon. **Featuring:** John W. Gannon, Elizabeth Gannon 50 years ago Jack and Betty were hit by a train and survived. This is their story. **Father Figure** 2022. USA. 9 min. **Director:** Benjamin Willis-Teff. **Featuring:** Phillip Andre Botello, Bryan Patrick McCulley, Jude Friedman, Melissa Drew Left alone with his stepfather on the Fourth of July, a reluctant boy awaits his father's return in hopes of watching fireworks together. **Ousname** 2022. USA. 25 min. **Director:** Jorge Camarotti. **Featuring:** Kloë-Cassandre Bell, Issaka Sawadogo, Nadine Jean, Paul Batah, Marie-Ginette Guay, Rahul Gandhi, Marie-Louise Bell Feeling uprooted and looking for a purpose, Ousmane, a newly arrived Burkinabé immigrant living in Montreal, has his life take a turn when he meets an elderly, disoriented lady, Edith, at the end of a long workday.

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## Short Films: Oh, The People You'll Meet!

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Sunday, November 6 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Program followed by Q&A with filmmakers from **Runaway** (director Eric Hurt, producer Jack Steinberg, producer Ty Cooper) and **Mary** (director Michelle Renee Jackson). **Night Ride** 2020. Norway. 16 min. **Director:** Eirik Tveiten. **Featuring:** Sigrid Husjord, Ola Hoemsnes Sandum. A cold night in December. Ebba waits for the tram to go home after a party, but the ride takes an unexpected turn. **The Duel** 2021. USA. 18 min. **Director:** Vlad Kozlov. **Featuring:** Chris Dennis, Franco Nero. Christopher Dennis is a Hollywood Superman working on Hollywood Blvd for over 25 years. **Stranger at the Gate** 2022. USA. 30 min. **Director:** Joshua Seftel. **Featuring:** Bibi Bahrami, Dr. Saber Bahrami, Dana McKinney, Emily McKinney, Richard "Mac" McKinney, Jomo Williams. A United States Marine plots a terrorist attack on a small-town American mosque. His plan takes an unexpected turn when he comes face-to-face with the people he sets out to kill. **Mary** 2022. USA. 15 min. **Director:** Michelle Renee Jackson. **Featuring:** Paige Annette, Antavius Ellison, Meghan Carrasquillo. While speaking the actual words transcribed from Mary Armstrong's 1930s U.S. Federal Writer's Project interview about her experience with slavery as an African-American enslaved woman who loved to dance, a modern-day and taciturn Custodian trails a Ballet Mistress and her company dancers' rehearsals until his true identity is revealed. **Runaway** 2022. USA. 18 min. **Director:** Eric Hurt. **Featuring:** McKinley Belcher, Chris Bailey. The year is 1859, Jacob, a young white man who's out of his league as a slave catcher is taking Barbour, an educated escaped slave from Pennsylvania back to South Carolina. Barbour has no intention of going back.

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## Smooth Talk

Violet Crown 5

**Friday, November 4 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

Suspended between carefree youth and the harsh realities of the adult world, a teenage girl experiences an unsettling awakening in this haunting vision of innocence lost. Based on Joyce Carol Oates celebrated short story, *Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?*, the narrative debut from Joyce Chopra features a revelatory breakout performance by Laura Dern as Connie, the fifteen-year-old black sheep of her family, whose summertime idyll of beach trips, mall hangouts and innocent flirtations is shattered by an encounter with a mysterious stranger (a memorably menacing Treat Williams). Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance, *Smooth Talk* captures the thrill and terror of adolescent sexual exploration, and it transforms the conventions of a coming-of-age story into something altogether more troubling and profound. -Film note from the Criterion Collection **Introduction by Tyler Coates (The Hollywood Reporter) Discussion with Director Joyce Chopra, moderated by Paul Wagner (UVA)**

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## Songs About Love

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Thursday, November 3 6:20 pm - 8:00 pm**

**US Premiere** A bittersweet black-and-white film about a young musician searching for his path in life, and a young waitress with a beautiful voice trying to build up the courage to perform. After a chance encounter, they fall in love and both face the same choice—between love and ambition. Robert is an aspiring musician who can't earn the respect of his father, a famous actor. Alicja is a waitress whose remarkable vocal talent barely registers due a crippling stage fright. Loosely based on the director's own experience, *Songs About Love* is a poetic and lyrical tale, shot in a fluid style reminiscent of the French New Wave, and harkening back to the aching romance of Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová in the beloved musical *Once*. **Introduction by Joe Fab (VAFF)**

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## Stay Awake

The Paramount Theater

**Friday, November 4 8:00 pm - 10:15 pm**

Ethan and Derek are two brothers who are on the cusp of adulthood, yet leaving home seems to be on permanent standby. Trapped in the constant cycle of rehabilitating their pill-addicted mother, their needs are pushed aside in the hopes that one day she will get clean. Nothing seems to change, though, as each new relapse impedes Ethan's dream to attend college and Derek's chances of pursuing an acting career beyond low-budget TV commercials. The film illustrates scenarios familiar to households struggling with addiction through a sympathetic but watchful lens. Writer/Director (and Virginia native) Jamie Sisley delivers a moving drama that subverts audience expectations of addicts. **Introduction by Peggy McNaull (UVA Health) Presentation of Governor Gerald L. Baliles Founder's Award to director Jamie Sisley Discussion with director Jamie Sisley, actor Chrissy Metz (via live video conference), and actor Wyatt Oleff, moderated by Brian Truitt (USA Today) This film is part of the Virginia Filmmaking Focus presented by Virginia Film Office. JAMIE SISLEY** Jamie Sisley is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker. *Stay Awake*, his narrative debut, premiered at the 2022 Berlin Film Festival, where it won the AG Kino Gilde Auteur Award. Sisley also received an Emmy Nomination for his feature documentary, *Farewell Ferris Wheel*. Sisley is a graduate of the University of Virginia.

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## Straighten Up and Fly Right

Violet Crown 4

**Sunday, November 6 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm**

Kristen (Kristen Abate) is a 20-something New Yorker, dreams of being a writer while making ends meet walking dogs. Her life is anything but easy as she lives with Ankylosing Spondylitis, which causes her spine to fuse and leaves her permanently hunched over. When she is evicted from her apartment, her professional and personal dreams seem farther away than ever until she meets Steven, a new client also living with AS. The two learn, together, that they are far more than their disabilities, as Steven (Steven Tannenbaum) helps her learn to live life to the fullest, even in the toughest of circumstances. The film, directed by Abate and Tannenbaum, is a true-to-life story of resilience, hope, and growth and has been delighting audiences on the festival circuit this year. This film will be presented with Open Captions and the on stage presentations will include ASL interpretation.

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## Ten Months

Violet Crown 4

**Saturday, November 5 9:00 pm - 10:30 pm**

Mirae seemingly has everything going for her. She is a game engineer for an ambitious start-up, has a loving boyfriend, and lives a generally carefree life. That is until she finds out she is pregnant. A wave of ambivalence consumes Mirae as denial and panic make their course. With abortion still illegal in South Korea and her boyfriend insistent on keeping the baby, Mirae's life takes a hard left turn. Reality and the weight of adult responsibility bear down on Mirae, and no one seems to mind that her goals and interests are overlooked by the expectations of being a new mother. As the weeks towards the inevitable delivery progress, her personal and professional life fall into shambles. In a light-hearted look at present day struggles, Ten Months is a relevant piece that shows how people are sometimes forced to cope with the unexpected consequences life throws at them. **Introduction by Hyeyon Moon (VAFF) This film is part of the Korean Cinema Series supported by Korean Cultural Center – Washington, D.C. and UVA Korea Society.**

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## The Cow Who Sang a Song Into The Future

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Sunday, November 6 8:00 pm - 9:45 pm**

Following the disappearance of thousands of fish in a river in southern Chile, a several decades-deceased woman Magdalena, arises from the polluted body of water. When her widowed husband sees her on the street, the surprise gives him a heart attack, prompting their daughter Cecilia to return to the family's dairy farm to care for him. Magdalena's resurrection naturally sparks shock, fear, and curiosity amongst her family, ultimately forcing a reckoning between themselves and the natural world. Director Francisca Alegría constructs a fantastical tale of environmentalism while tackling the intricacies of familial relationships. **This film is part of the Environmental Film Series presented by Southern Environmental Law Center.**

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## The Five Devils

Violet Crown 5

**Saturday, November 5 8:00 pm - 9:45 pm**

Joanne and Jimmy live in a small, foggy village in the French alps with Vicky, their young daughter who possesses a supernatural ability to replicate any scent she discovers. With this gift, she builds a collection of scent jars, most for future reference and for replicating the smells of those she admires. However, when Jimmy's sister Julia arrives at the family home after being released from prison, the family's lives are quickly upended. Vicky attempts to recreate Julia's scent – in doing so she uncovers memories of a secret, horrible disaster that occurred a decade prior. This fantastical drama offers musings on female sexuality, the complex relationship between mother and daughter, and the intrinsic nature of questioning our origins. **Introduction by Omega Ilijevich (VAFF)**

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## The Hole in the Fence

Violet Crown 4

**Sunday, November 6 4:30 pm - 6:15 pm**

A group of boys from a prestigious Mexican private school attends an exclusive summer camp designed to that gives them physical, moral, and religious training to bring them closer to God and turn them into tomorrow's elites – all under the disturbingly-watchful eyes of unyielding adult guardians. The discovery of a hole in the fence sets in motion a chain of disturbing events as the boys devolve into a Lord of the Flies-like mob mentality that creates and spreads hysteria in this profoundly disturbing coming-of-age drama that unravels like a horror movie while drawing on actual events. **Introduction by Omega Ilijevich (VAFF) This film is part of the Highlighting Cinema of Mexico Focus series supported by Mexican Cultural Institute in D.C.**

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## The Inspection

Culbreth Theatre

**Sunday, November 6 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

Inspired by writer-director Elegance Bratton's own true story, The Inspection follows the journey of a young gay Black man as he attempts to build his future without the unconditional support of his mother. Homeless and with very few options, Ellis French decides to enlist in the Marines, with the determination to find success in a system that only seeks to see him fail. He faces immense difficulties, from being confronted with deep-rooted prejudice to arduous basic training. Despite these barriers, he finds support, strength, and unexpected friendships. French undergoes intense trials but, in the end, finds a sense of belonging. The Inspection is a deeply intimate recollection of the lived experience of a man fighting for purpose, fighting for acceptance, and fighting for himself. **Tribute to actor Raúl Castillo by Carlos Aguilar (LA Times, The Wrap, AV Club), followed by a discussion. RAÚL CASTILLO** Raul Castillo is best known for starring in We The Animals and HBO's Looking (both the TV series and the film). He also shines in supporting roles in Cha Cha Real Smooth, Hustle, Army of the Dead, and Wrath of Man. Castillo will next be seen in Peter Hedges' The Same Storm, and Oz Rodriguez's Miguel Wants to Fight.

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## The Levys of Monticello

The Paramount Theater

**Sunday, November 6 12:00 pm - 1:45 pm**

After his death in 1826, Thomas Jefferson left behind a mountain of personal debt, forcing his heirs to auction off most of his possessions and sell off his iconic home of Monticello. In 1834, Monticello came under the unlikely ownership of Uriah Levy, a Jewish U.S. naval officer and deep admirer of Jefferson's scholarship and dedication to religious liberty. The Levy family would go on to own Monticello for nearly a century – far longer than Jefferson and his descendants and are credited with saving the property from dilapidation. This remarkable historical documentary uncovers the incredible legacy of the Levy Family while confronting the racism and anti-Semitism that remain part of the narrative surrounding the national landmark. **Introduction by Leslie Greene Bowman (Thomas Jefferson's Monticello) Discussion with director Steven Pressman, and subjects Niya Bates, Marc Leepson, and Phyllis Leffler, moderated by Susan Stein (Thomas Jefferson's Monticello) This film is part of the Jewish and Israeli Film Series presented by Congregation Beth Israel.**

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## The Lives Between the Lines

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Sunday, November 6 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm**

**World Premiere** This intimate, powerful film documents the inspiration for and construction of the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers at the University of Virginia. The Memorial to Enslaved Laborers acknowledges the work and individual lives of the enslaved African Americans who built UVA and sustained daily life from its founding. Utilizing interviews with students, professors, and Charlottesville community members, and many descendants of the enslaved laborers at UVA, The Lives Between the Lines illuminates the difficult history of an American institution and honors the legacy of the community in which it lives. **Discussion with film subjects Cauline Yates, DeTeasa Gathers, and Mike Spence, moderated by Kirt von Daacke (UVA). This film is part of the Virginia Filmmaking Focus presented by Virginia Film Office.**

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## The Lost King

The Paramount Theater

**Saturday, November 5 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

For years archaeologists presumed the remains of King Richard III had been scattered over 500 years ago – until the 2012 discovery of his remains underneath a parking lot in Leicester proved them wrong. Spearheading the search for King Richard III's remains was historian Philippa Langley (Sally Hawkins), whose devotion and unrelenting research was met with skepticism by academia. Director Stephen Frears (Philomena, High Fidelity) captures the inspiring true story of a woman who refused to be ignored, taking on Britain's most established historians and forcing the legacy of one of the most controversial rulers in English history to be re-examined. The Lost King is a magical tale capturing the adventure of one woman's awakened sense of purpose and the journey of discovery, obsession, and stolen glory. **"An underdog story that proves a perfect vehicle for Hawkins's reliably winning screen presence"** -The Observer (UK), Mark Kermode

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## The Power of Media, Storytelling, and The Muppets of Sesame Street

Irving Theater, CODE Building

**Saturday, November 5 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

**Featuring Sesame Workshop President Sherrie Westin in conversation with Marshall Persinger (VAFF Board)** For more than fifty years, Sesame Street has been reaching and teaching millions of children around the world across languages and cultures with proven, locally tailored early learning. This session will examine how Sesame Workshop, the educational nonprofit behind Sesame Street, uses the power of media, Muppets, and storytelling to provide early learning for young children, reflect and celebrate their identity, and deliver nurturing care to children and caregivers affected by conflict, crisis, and displacement. **This is a free, unticketed event. Please arrive fifteen to thirty minutes before the listed start time to find a seat.**

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## The Sky is Very Pretty

Market Street Park

**Friday, October 21 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

**Screens before the feature film MOM.** Mothers and daughters flee their country of origin and pass through Mexico carrying their fears, dreams and a future of hope. **This film is part of the Mobile Cinema Series presented by UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for the Arts. This film is also part of the Indigenous Cinema of the Americas Series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. This film is also part of the The Highlighting Cinema of Mexico Focus supported by Mexican Cultural Institute in D.C.**

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## The Smell of Money

Violet Crown 4

**Saturday, November 5 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm**

The overwhelming stench of pork products is infiltrating the air of eastern North Carolina. The Smell of Money follows Elsie Herring and other locals who live near the state's giant pig factories. When a large hog farm overtakes the land purchased by Elsie's grandfather, Elsie, a newly freed slave, vows to fight back. What began as a battle to safeguard her family's home and heritage becomes a fight against a large conglomerate and its deadly pollutant. Teaming up with a savvy local lawyer, Elsie and the other local residents enter into a nine-year court bin, a place free of pollution. The documentary reveals how and why animal waste is killing innocent people and the insidious effects of environmental racism, corporate greed, and global warming. **Introduction by Price Thomas (United Way of Greater Charlottesville) This film is part of the Environmental Film Series presented by Southern Environmental Law Center.**

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## The Son

Culbreth Theatre

**Friday, November 4 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

Hugh Jackman stars alongside Academy Award®-winners Laura Dern and Anthony Hopkins as a man whose life is upended when his ex-wife shows up with their troubled teenage son Nicholas. With a new wife and infant son and on the verge of a career breakthrough, Peter (Jackman) is thrown into a minefield of emotional distress with the boy's arrival. The young man has been missing from school for months and is troubled, distant, and angry. Peter strives to take care of Nicholas as he would have liked his own father to have taken care of him, but in reaching for the past, he loses sight of how to hold onto the Nicholas in the present. Directed by Academy Award®-winner Florian Zeller, *The Son* is a devastating and sympathetic look at a broken family trying to heal. **Introduction by Bilal Qureshi (NPR)** This film will be presented with Open Captions and the on stage presentations will include ASL interpretation. **"A powerful and literate film"** -Guardian (UK), Peter Bradshaw **"Hugh Jackman imbues *The Son* with a tragic power"**-Slant Magazine, Kenji Fujishima

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## To the End

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Friday, November 4 2:30 pm - 4:15 pm**

*To the End* follows four intersecting stories of courageous women of color—Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Varshini Prakash, Alexandra Rojas, and Rhiana Gunn-Wright—all of whom have been critical players in battling the climate crisis. The women have each been instrumental to the Green New Deal, ambitious legislation seeking to address climate change and the economic and the racial injustices it perpetuates in its wake. Set against the turbulent background of the 2020 election, pandemic, economic crisis, and historic protests against systemic racism, this powerful story illustrates how these women learn to work together to defend the right to a livable future for generations to come. **This film is part of the Environmental Film Series presented by Southern Environmental Law Center.**

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## Tug of War

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Saturday, November 5 10:45 am - 12:15 pm**

**Official Oscar® Selection—Tanzania** Denge is a revolutionary fighting for freedom from British colonial rule in his homeland of Zanzibar in the 1950s. Yasmin, a strong Indian-Zanzibari woman, is a rebel in her own way as she sets out to free herself from an arranged marriage she never wanted. Both of them push against the tide of cultural and political expectations. Their chance meeting turns into a forbidden romance as they grapple with the issues of race and culture that pull at them from both sides. The racist oppression Zanzibar experienced under British control has long gone unnoticed by history books, and the exchange of women's bodies has been a globally contentious topic. Based on Adam Shafi's novel of the same name, *Tug of War* engages with both and brings to light the power of love in the fight for freedom. **Introduction by Samhita Sunya (VAFF)** This film is part of the Middle Eastern and South Asian Series supported by UVA Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures and Institute for Humanities & Global Cultures.

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## Turn Every Page: The Adventures of Robert Caro and Robert Gottlieb

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Saturday, November 5 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

The story of a friendship that spans five decades, this informative documentary explores Robert Caro and Robert Gottlieb's partnership as they approach the conclusion of Caro's volume series, *The Years of Lyndon Johnson*. Caro and Gottlieb are described respectively as "the most influential biographer of the last century" and "one of the greatest editors of the 20th century." Yet, they are known for their less than harmonious dynamic, leading some to question how they've maintained their connection for so long. Seen through the observant eye of Gottlieb's daughter Lizzie Gottlieb, the film captures little moments revealing how these two brilliant minds managed to balance each other out and features insightful commentary from former President Bill Clinton, Conan O'Brien, and Maria Tucci. **Introduction by Bilal Qureshi (NPR)**

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## Under the Fig Trees

Violet Crown 5

**Sunday, November 6 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm**

**Official Oscar® Selection—Tunisia** A group of teenagers in rural northwest Tunisia spend a summer working in a fig orchard to pay for their studies, prepare for their weddings, or help their families. As the day progresses, the women gather between the fig trees, under the gaze of their bosses and young men, to share gossip, meals, and tears as they explore their shared journey and their relationships with work, love, friendship, and the land they are on. Erige Sehiri's film is a lovely look at a sisterhood formed under the branches as they explore the joys and pitfalls of being young women on the precipice of their exciting yet uncertain futures. **Introduction by Samhita Sunya (VAFF)** This film is part of the **Middle Eastern and South Asian Series** supported by **UVA Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures.**

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## Utama

Violet Crown 4

**Saturday, November 5 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

**Official Oscar® Selection—Bolivia** Virginio and Sisa, an indigenous elderly couple living in the Bolivian highlands, have lived the same daily routine for years. However, an uncommonly long drought overtakes their land and quickly upends their lifestyle. Suddenly, the couple must decide whether to fall victim to or resist their environment and the passage of time. The arrival of the grandson Clever further complicates the couple's decision to endure the brutally changing land, as he begs them to leave their ranch behind and join the rest of their family in the city. Ultimately, each family member navigates the difficulties of the environment, a need for change, and the purpose of their own lives. **Introduction by Carlos Aguilar (LA Times, The Wrap, AV Club)** This film is part of the **Environmental Film Series** presented by **Southern Environmental Law Center.**

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## Vaychiletik

Market Street Park

**Friday, November 4 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

Vaychiletik (Dreams) tells the story of José Pérez, who the gods have granted the gift of music. Those who hold the position of traditional musicians, such as José, are appointed for life and are expected to play in the sacred festivities of Zinacatán, a Tzotzil Mayan territory in the Highlands of Chiapas. These sacred festivities are essential to preserving the central harmony of Tzotzil culture, so José gets up at dawn, takes his flute, and sets off to tour the regions of Zinacatán. This responsibility becomes more difficult for José as he ages, but as the temptation to quit grows stronger, he fears punishment from the gods if he resigns prematurely. Vaychiletik, a documentary based on the life of director Juan Javier Pérez's father, explores the intense yet beautiful world of Mayan Tzotzil culture. **Discussion with Director Xun Perez This film is part of the Mobile Cinema Series presented by UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for the Arts. This film is also part of the Indigenous Cinema of the Americas Series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. This film is also part of the The Highlighting Cinema of Mexico Focus supported by Mexican Cultural Institute in D.C.**

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## Women Talking

The Paramount Theater

**Saturday, November 5 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

After several newly uncovered counts of sexual abuse rock a tight-knit, isolated Mennonite community, a group of women in the colony secretly gather in a hayloft to discuss how to move forward. The women narrow their choices down to three: do nothing, stay in the community and fight, or leave. Some women worry that fighting will jeopardize their entry into heaven or warrant expulsion from the community--leaving behind their sons and husbands. Others assert the importance of the truth, arguing the terrors of domestic life are far more dangerous than deciding to leave the community. An adaptation of the acclaimed novel by Miriam Toews, this quiet drama offers a rumination on the power of grief, rage, grace, and triumph. **Tribute to actor Judith Ivey by Joe Fab (VAFF) Discussion with Judith Ivey, moderated by Jenny Wales (UVA)** Our screening of Women Talking will be preceded by a short presentation with Virginia Film Office director Andy Edmunds honoring the three winners of the **2022 Virginia Screenwriting Competition**. Over thirty years ago, the Virginia Screenwriting Competition was created to celebrate the accomplishments of Virginia writers, including past winners Vince Gilligan (Home Fries, Breaking Bad) and Megan Holley (Sunshine Cleaning), and to promote the future of filmmaking in Virginia. **JUDITH IVEY** Veteran stage actor Judith Ivey is a two-time Tony Award winner for Steaming and Hurlyburly, and was also nominated for Park Your Car in Harvard Yard and a revival of The Heiress. Ivey's film and TV work extends over four decades; she is best known for her performance in Designing Women, The Devil's Advocate, What the Deaf Man Heard, Will & Grace, Nurse Jackie, and Grey's Anatomy. **"There's a deep vein of humor and humanity that Polley and her actors mine from the text, and something quietly mesmerizing in their world-building."** -Entertainment Weekly, Leah Greenblatt