

# Virginia Film Festival

## Films of 2019

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### 2019 Late Night Wrap Party

Three Notch'd Craft Kitchen & Brewery

**Saturday October 26 10:00 PM - 2:00 AM**

21+ Event Before the credits roll on the 2019 Festival, join us at the Late Night Wrap Party for an unforgettable evening. Enjoy delicious local beer and savory snacks provided by Three Notch'd Craft Kitchen & Brewery and refreshing Bold Rock Hard Cider. And don't miss one of your last chances to sample Three Notch'd Brewery's special edition VAFF beer brewed specifically for our Film Festival season! Dance to rocking tunes and try out the MoxBox social photo booth. Mingle with filmmakers and fellow movie fans as you bask in the excitement and energy of VAFF. Presented by the Virginia Film Office and Three Notch'd Brewing Company

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### 2019 Opening Night Gala

The Jefferson Theater

**Wednesday October 23 9:30 PM - 12:00 AM**

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 Kool Kats Lite, 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. Presented by Bank of America Supported by Harvest Moon Catering and The AV Company Event Partner - Bold Rock Hard Cider

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### 2040

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Sunday October 27 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Director: Damon Gameau

Featuring: Damon Gameau, Eva Lazzaro, Zoë Gameau

What will our planet look like in the year 2040? And more importantly, can we do anything to make a difference in our future? Director Damon Gameau argues the answer is "yes" in this idealistic and hopeful documentary that imagines the year 2040 as a brighter and better world, despite concerns about the planet's declining health. Investigations into the potential of innovations like renewable energy and alternative transportation infuse this documentary with optimism and a sense of determination to affect positive environmental change. Structured as a conversation with his four-year-old daughter, Gameau uses stunning visual effects and dramatized sequences to envision a better world for his daughter and the planet. Introduction by Deborah Lawrence (UVA)

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## **9 Pillars Hip Hop Music Video Showcase**

Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

**Friday October 25 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

Curated by 9 Pillars Hip Hop Cultural Festival Director, Cullen Wade, 9 Pillars Hip Hop Music Video Showcase highlights some of the best local hip hop video directors and rappers. Full Lineup: Keynote Illidge - "Homicide" dir. Wicked Wead The Losers - "Heartbreak" dir. Boo Agee J.Ran ft. EquallyOpposite - "Teach You" dir. NOXID Chef G. - "No Hook" dir. Doughman Quin Bookz - "Game" dir. Evan Hen Fellowman - "Sobriety" dir. Tod Gorman Waterloo - "4 Walls" dir. Zach Phillips & Drew Heilman Waasi - "YOUANDI" dir. Cyrus Entezam Discussion with the filmmakers and artists, moderated by Ty Cooper (VAFF) Supported by 101.3 Jamz and 9 Pillars Hip Hop Cultural Festival

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## **Adrenaline Film Project Reprise**

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Saturday October 26 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM**

In its 15th year and hosted by Light House Studio, the Adrenaline Film Project challenges 12 filmmaking teams to write, cast, film, edit, and premiere their films all in 72 hours under the mentorship of Hollywood professionals, Jeff Wadlow and Han West, and AFP alum and LHS lead teaching artist, Sam Gorman. LHS premiered the 2019 completed films at Vinegar Hill Theatre on October 12 with an awards ceremony. This screening will be a repeat screening of the completed films and feature an Audience Award. Introduction and award presentation by Sam Gorman (Light House Studio) Light House Studio's Adrenaline Film Project is supported by Amy and John Harris, 3Twenty3, Allison Partners, Charlottesville Radio Group, Vibethink, and the Virginia Film Office.

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## **Afrikana Film Festival**

Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

**Saturday October 26 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

The Afrikana Independent Film Festival is dedicated to showcasing the cinematic works of people of color from around the world, with a special focus on the global Black narrative. Its mission is to "present high-quality, well-crafted stories that celebrate the diaspora and encourage people to connect." This screening will showcase some of the best work of the 4th Annual Afrikana Film Festival. Discussion with filmmaker Terrance Daye, moderated by founder and creative director Enjoli Moon

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## **Ai Weiwei: Yours Truly**

St. Anne's-Belfield School

**Sunday October 27 2:00 PM - 3:45 PM**

Director: Cheryl Haines

Featuring: Ai Weiwei, Ahmed Maher, Chelsea Manning, John Kiriakou, Gao Ying

While under house arrest in Beijing at the hands of Chinese authorities, artist and activist Ai Weiwei remotely transforms Alcatraz into an extraordinary exhibit dedicated to prisoners of conscience around the globe. His exhibit Yours Truly invites visitors to write messages of hope and support to those unjustly detained in other countries. The film follows these postcards' journeys, demonstrating the comfort that can be found in the voices of strangers on the other side of the world. Director Cheryl Haines also explores the artist's own inspiration for his work, ultimately creating a moving call to action that extends the already expansive reach of Ai Weiwei's letters. Discussion with director Cheryl Haines and subject John Kiriakou, moderated by Matthew McLendon (UVA) Supported by IX Art Park

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## Alone

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

**Friday October 25 3:00 PM - 12:00 AM**

Director: Kwaku Alston

Featuring: Rodney Charles, Eromomen Esoimeme

Screens before A Conversation with Kwaku Alston I was inspired to create Alone while processing the loss of my community and neighborhood from the devastating Woolsey Fires. Displaced, unable to call anywhere home, and suffering from severe survivor's guilt, I was unsure for the first time about my future and where my family could live. Everywhere I looked, I saw ashes and darkness, a suffering community in pain. During this time, I deeply resonated with Maya Angelou's poem "Alone." Her words propelled me into creating a short film. Alone was born out of this place of despair and isolation and was an effort to create a piece of art to help my soul heal. In Alone, we are faced with the dire consequences of humankind creating an unsustainable world. Our harmful actions and inability to change has initiated cataclysmic destruction—a product of ignoring our responsibilities as stewards of the earth. We have been enslaved by materialism, an effective tool...

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## Always in Season

Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

**Sunday October 27 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

Director: Jacqueline Olive

Preceded by the short film What if Black Boys Were Butterflies? When Claudia Lacy's 17-year-old son, Lennon, was found hanging from a swing set in their predominantly white neighborhood of Bladenboro, North Carolina, authorities quickly ruled his death a suicide. When suspicion begins to arise regarding the details of her son's death, Claudia's conviction that her son was a victim of lynching, as opposed to suicide, begins to grow. Using Claudia's story as an entryway, director Jacqueline Olive explores recent grassroots efforts of four neighborhoods in the United States to recognize the victims of lynching and heal the supplemental traumas of their communities. As it becomes clear that the injustices of the past continue to affect the present, this film questions how our nation can reconcile with the past and ensure continued racial justice. Discussion with director Jacqueline Olive and subject Cassandra Green, moderated by Michelle Jackson (VAFF) This film is...

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## American Heretics: The Politics of the Gospel

PVCC Dickinson Center

**Sunday October 27 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

Director: Jeanine Isabel Butler

Featuring: Dr. Reverend Robin Meyers, Revered Lori Walke, Reverend Bishop Carlton Pearson, Dr. Bernard Brandon Scott, Oklahoma State Rep Collin R. Walke, Dr. Robert Jones, Reverend Marlin Lavanhar, and Nehemiah D. Frank

Religion, race, and politics in America have been intertwined for as long as the country has existed. In this empowering piece, director Jeanine Isabel Butler follows a bold group of Oklahomans working to bring change to their communities. These religious leaders from the Bible Belt refuse to accept that religion is meant only for a very specific group and are more interested in saving people from an earthly hell than the otherworldly one. This film questions all that we think we know about the Christian heartland and compels audiences to engage in new and difficult conversations to impact change. Discussion with director Jeanine Isabel Butler, co-producer Catherine Lynn Butler, Larycia Hawkins (UVA), and Sabrina Dent (Freedom Forum Institute), moderated by Kurtis Schaeffer (Religion, Race & Democracy Lab) Presented by Religion, Race, and Democracy Lab

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## Artemio

Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

**Sunday October 27 5:15 PM - 6:45 PM**

Director: Sandra Luz López Barroso

Featuring: Artemio Gómez, Zárata Cocco Zárata, Luis García Colón, Marilyn García Zárata

Preceded by the short film *Nichmal Son: Musica Que Florece* Artemio was born in the United States. But now he lives in a small town in Guerrero, Mexico, with his mother Cocco. Despite the roots he has in Mexico, Artemio never experiences a feeling of home in this place. The one constant in Cocco and Artemio's lives is the black telephone sitting in their temporary home, connecting them to the people they love and the life they once had. Directed by Sandra Luz López Barroso, Artemio is a portrait of a mother and son navigating life to the best of their abilities in a place neither fully feels at home. Discussion with director Juan Javier Pérez Pérez (*Nichimal Son: Musica Que Florece*), moderated by Federico Cuatlacuatl (UVA) This film is part of the Indigeneity in Mexico Film series supported by UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the...

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## Atlantics

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Sunday October 27 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Director: Mati Diop

Featuring: Mama Sané, Amadou Mbow, Ibrahima Traoré, Nicole Sougou, Amina Kane, Mariama Gassama, Coumba Dieng, Ibrahima Mbaye, Diankou Sembene

In a suburb of Dakar, Senegal, many souls have been lost to the sea in an attempt to flee the country for a better life. The construction workers on a futuristic tower have not been paid for months and attempt to take the journey in search of that brighter future. A young man named Suleiman is among them, lover of Ada, who is betrothed to another man. Days after the abrupt disappearance, a mysterious fire breaks out at Ada's bridal bed as a strange fever begins to spread. This supernatural romance is a contemporary fable grounded in important messages, shot elegantly to display the complexity of characters that don't often get to see the light of day. Introduction by Alison Levine (UVA), discussion with Kandjouura Dramé (UVA) and Alison Levine, moderated by Iana Dontcheva (VAFF)

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## Autonomy

PVCC Dickinson Center

**Saturday October 26 1:00 PM - 2:45 PM**

Director: Alex Horwitz

Featuring: Malcolm Gladwell, Eddie Alterman, Scott Dadich, Ernst Dickmanns, Ray Magliozzi, Sadayuki Tsugawa, Chris Urmson, Tamara Warren

Acclaimed author Malcolm Gladwell leads the first comprehensive documentary look at the human side of the emerging technology that will power self-driving vehicles. Providing a cinematic exploration into a brief history of self-driving cars and the evolution of the automobile industry, this film emphasizes the unanswered questions of the potential impact self-driving technology could have on a variety of practical applications and age groups. Director Alex Horwitz focuses not on speculation regarding the future of cars, but rather on the human side of innovation and the psychology of control, fear, and adapting to change. Discussion with subjects Andy Schaudt and Debbie Desiderato, moderated by Donna Chen (UVA) Supported by Enterprise

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## **Bacurau**

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Sunday October 27 7:30 PM - 9:45 PM**

Director: Kleber Mendonça Filho, Juliano Dornelles

Featuring: Sônia Braga, Udo Kier, Barbara Colen

Teresa returns to her village of Bacurau, located in Brazil's semi-arid sertão, following the death of her 94-year-old mother and village matriarch, Carmelita. Upon her arrival, Teresa quickly observes signs that Bacurau is in dire condition. Basic supplies for survival are running low, access to the outside world is fading, and delivery trucks show up riddled with bullet holes. Even more devastating, the government begins to deny the existence of the village, wiping it from all maps. As the outside world begins to close in on Bacurau, the villagers stand their ground with a secret weapon. Introduction by Chandler Ferrebee (VAFF)

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## **Beanpole**

St. Anne's-Belfield School

**Saturday October 26 8:00 PM - 10:15 PM**

Director: Kantemir Balagov

Featuring: Viktoria Miroshnichenko, Vasilisa Perelygina, Andrey Bykov, Igor Shirokov, Olga Dragunova, Konstantin Balakirev, Ksenia Kutepova

In 1924 two women, Iya, a nurse, and Masha, a recently returned soldier, struggle to reassemble their lives in the war-torn, paralyzed city of Leningrad, Russia. Director Kantemir Balagov loosely draws from the 1985 book *The Unwomanly Face of War*, written by Nobel Prize-winning author and historian Svetlana Alexievich, to create a cinematic world that allows women to examine the pain associated with the duality of suffering and resilience. This desolate narrative offers admiration of broken individuals attempting to rebuild, and even rediscovering themselves despite the contentious uncertainty for the state they have always called home.

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## **Before the Devil Knows You're Dead with Ethan Hawke**

The Paramount Theater

**Saturday October 26 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

Director: Sidney Lumet

Featuring: Ethan Hawke, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Albert Finney

Needing some quick cash, brothers Andy and Hank set up the perfect crime to rob their own parents' jewelry store. Their plan is far from foolproof, and when the job goes amiss the furious family patriarch takes matters into his own hands, unaware that he is hunting down his own sons. The plot quickly shifts from classic crime to a drama that skillfully explores family dysfunction. The film's quiet, subtle tones, combined with shifting points of view and expert acting, claim it a spot among the classics. Discussion with actor Ethan Hawke, moderated by Elizabeth Flock (PBS NewsHour) Supported by Quirk Hotel

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## **Best of Film at Mason**

Violet Crown 4

**Saturday October 26 1:15 PM - 3:15 PM**

Best of Film at Mason is a showcase of recent notable and award-winning films. From heartfelt to heartbreaking intermediate and senior fiction films, to poignant intermediate and beginning level documentary shorts, this program captures and celebrates the diversity of cinematic storytelling in Film and Video Studies at George Mason University. Discussion with the filmmakers

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## **Best of Film at UVA**

Violet Crown 4

**Saturday October 26 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM**

Visibility Cloak: 2019. USA. 8 min. Director: Kristen Barrett Jazmin struggles to stay afloat as a black girl at her “woke” predominantly white university. Everything changes, however, when she has the opportunity to turn herself white. The Bartender: 2019. USA. 5 min. Director: Graham Barbour, Christina Anton Micah LeMon is not your usual bartender. After receiving his bachelor’s in biology and master’s in linguistics, he hit the road to be a chef. Now back behind the bar, LeMon uses the technique he learned in kitchens to carefully craft cocktails at the Alley Light here in Charlottesville. To Grow Wings: 2019. USA. 17 min. Director: Olivia Comm A young woman named Anna copes with the death of her father and learns to enjoy life again with the help of her best friend Marcus. The Special Athlete : 2019. USA. 4 min. Director: Christina Anton, Graham Barbour Beloved Newcomb Hall Employee Chris Raupp represented...

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## **Big Fur**

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Thursday October 24 10:30 PM - 11:45 PM**

Director: Dan Wayne

Featuring: Ken Walker, Amy Carter, Colette Walker

World champion Canadian taxidermist Ken Walker undertakes the biggest challenge of his career in this funny portrait of an eccentric artist-hero. Walker decides to build a life-size Bigfoot, based on frames from an iconic 1967 movie, to reveal at the 2015 World Taxidermy Championships. His motivation in sculpting Bigfoot is not to take home the grand prize, but instead the hope that his recreation will prompt more information about Bigfoot to be revealed. This quirky documentary is a wry, funny celebration of an artist’s dedication to his craft—no matter how obscure. Discussion with director Dan Wayne and subject Ken Walker, moderated by Chandler Ferrebee (VAFF)

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## **Breaking Away**

PVCC Dickinson Center

**Friday October 25 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Director: Peter Yates

Featuring: Dennis Christopher, Dennis Quaid, Daniel Stern, Jackie Early Haley, Barbara Barrie, Paul Dooley

Fresh out of high school in Bloomington, Indiana, Dave and his working-class best friends Cyril, Moocher, and Mike are desperate to cling to their youth. As the pressures of adulthood inch closer, the group begins to drift apart, with Dave having to decide between attending college and pursuing his aspirations of training with the professional bicycling team, Cinzano. This classic piece of American cinema from acclaimed director Peter Yates explores the dichotomy of pursuing one's dreams versus following a traditional path, all with a mix of intelligence, humor, and suburban wit. Introduction by VAFF director Jody Kielbasa, discussion with actor Dennis Christopher, moderated by Elizabeth Flock (PBS NewsHour) Supported by Boar's Head Resort

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## **Burning Cane**

St. Anne's-Belfield School

**Saturday October 26 1:45 PM - 3:45 PM**

Director: Phillip Youmans

Featuring: Wendell Pierce, Karen Kaia Livers, Dominique McClellan, and Braelyn Kelly

Preceded by the short film Easter Snap. God-fearing Helen Wayne's faith is quietly tested when the relationships in her rural Louisiana Protestant town begin to unravel. Helen's only surviving son, Daniel, is recently unemployed and struggles with the burdens of alcoholism while caring for his young son. Helen seeks refuge from the instability in her church, yet even her pastor, Reverend Pastor Joseph Tilman, cannot seem to escape his demons following the sudden death of his wife. 19-year-old writer-director Phillip Youmans tackles the complexities of the dichotomous role of masculinity and religion within the African American-community while subtly exploring the small complexities within a small black Protestant community. Introduction by Michelle Jackson (VAFF) This film is part of the Race in America series presented by James Madison's Montpelier and supported by Bama Works Fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and the UVA...

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## **Burp**

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

**Friday October 25 7:00 PM - 12:00 AM**

Director: Colette Burson

Featuring: Nina Millin, Sean Ramey, Jacqueline Jones, Robert Shepherd

Screens before the feature film Swallow "Burp" is a feminist horror fantasia about a woman in modern day America who finds herself gaslit by relatives who have different politics and beliefs.

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## **The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari**

PVCC Dickinson Center

**Saturday October 26 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM**

Director: Robert Wiene

Featuring: Werner Krauss, Conrad Veidt, Friedrich Feher, Lil Dagover, Hans Heinrich von Twardowski, Rudolf Lettinger

In anticipation of the historic film's 100th-anniversary premiere in Berlin, Feb 26th, 1920, this repertory screening will feature live music based on the Expressionist composers of Europe, who were active at the time of the film's release. The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari gave birth to the psychological thriller and horror genres in film and it is a tour de force of Modern painting, architecture, acting, and music. Introduction by Matt Marshall (UVA) with live musical accompaniment by Matt Marshall and the Reel Music Quartet

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## **The Cave**

PVCC Dickinson Center

**Saturday October 26 4:00 PM - 5:45 PM**

Director: Feras Fayyad

Featuring: Dr. Amani Ballour, Samaher, Dr. Salim Namour, Dr. Alaa

For the past eight years, the war in Syria has brought death and destruction to millions. Civilians live in constant fear of missile or chemical weapon attacks; for many, safety is found in an underground hospital known as The Cave. In this hidden expanse of tunnels, four female doctors serve alongside their male counterparts in roles that would be unthinkable in the deeply sexist culture that exists above. This moving and artistic film tells a story of strength, compassion, and hope like no other, bringing to light the horrors of a war raging worlds away. Introduction by Kirsten Gelsdorf (UVA)

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## **Changing the Game**

Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

**Sunday October 27 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM**

Director: Michael Barnett

Featuring: Mack Beggs, Sarah Rose Huckman, Andraya Yearwood

High school athlete Mack Beggs made national headlines in 2017 when he became the Texas girls wrestling state champion for the second time. Despite Beggs' insistence that he should wrestle against other males, discriminatory Texas athletic rules force him to compete with female wrestlers instead. Many regarded Beggs' fight against the prejudicial policy as heroic, yet the feelings of exclusion and intolerance from his own community still remained. Director Michael Barnett follows Beggs' story, along with those of two other transgender high school athletes, to highlight the intimate struggles of the fight for trans rights in high school athletic programs across the United States. Introduction by Bonnie Hagerman (UVA) This film is part of the LGBTQIA+ series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and supported by the UVA Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil...

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## **Clemency**

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Saturday October 26 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM**

Director: Chinonye Chukwu

Featuring: Alfre Woodard, Aldis Hodge, Wendell Price, Richard Schiff, Danielle Brooks

Preceded by the short film Slave Cry Prison warden Bernadine Williams has objectively carried out several executions of death row inmates in a maximum-security prison. The psychological consequences of the job begin to weigh on her after a particular execution goes awry, resulting in serious implications for the prison. Meanwhile, the clock is winding down for death row inmate Anthony, whose conviction is in serious question. As Warden Williams strikes up a unique, emotional bond with Anthony, she is forced to confront the complex and difficult ethical circumstances of her position. This deeply observant feature offers an intense character study that illuminates the internal conflicts of those whose livelihoods are tied to taking human life. Introduction by Deirdre Enright (UVA) Presented by The Daily Progress This film is part of the Race in America series presented by James Madison's Montpelier and supported by Bama Works Fund at the Charlottesville Area Community...

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## **The Client**

St. Anne's-Belfield School

**Sunday October 27 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Director: Joel Schumacher

Featuring: Susan Sarandon, Brad Renfro, Tommy Lee Jones, Mary-Louise Parker, Anthony LaPaglia

Based on the John Grisham bestseller, The Client revolves around Mark, a street-smart 11-year-old boy who is mixed up in a world of criminal activity not meant for him. With no means of getting out, he must rely on an inexperienced lawyer with a history of substance abuse to come to his rescue. This film delves into the lively, tense, and emotionally involving world of shady dealings associated with mobsters and corrupt officials. A cinematic masterpiece from renowned filmmaker Joel Schumacher, this timeless 1994 thriller brings to light the lawless nature of man and a trail of corruption gone unnoticed. Discussion with author John Grisham, moderated by Jane Kulow (Virginia Center for the Book) Supported by St. Anne's-Belfield School

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## **Coapan En Espera**

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

**Saturday October 26 8:00 PM - 12:00 AM**

Director: Federico Cuatlacuatl

Screens before the feature film The Sower. An experimental documentary from director Federico Cuatlacuatl, Copan En Espera highlights the migratory history and diaspora of a community from Cholula, Puebla, Mexico. This film is part of the Indigeneity in Mexico Film series supported by UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for the Arts

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## Coming Home

Violet Crown 5

**Thursday October 24 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM**

Director: Ricardo Preve

Featuring: Ricardo Preve, German Rodriguez, Jorge Digliglio, Pablo Pieretti, Cristian Disabato, Tomas Wolf

In October of 2014, director Ricardo Preve led a diving expedition on the shore of Barra Musa Kebir, a remote island off the coast of Sudan, in search of the Italian World War II submarine Macalle that sank in 1940. On the last day of their search, Preve stumbled upon the unmarked grave of Carlo Acefalo, the only submariner to die in the shipwreck. Although numerous pleas had been made to government and military officials over the years to search for Acefalo's grave and repatriate his body, no attempt had been made. Coming Home follows the unbelievable journey of Preve and his crew as they seek to honor Acefalo and finally bring him home. Discussion with director Ricardo Preve, moderated by Enrico Cesaretti (UVA)

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## Conversation with Kwaku Alston

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Friday October 25 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM**

This event will include a screening of Alston's short film Alone Kwaku Alston has photographed some of the most famous faces of our time—from Oscar and Grammy winners to Barack Obama and the First Family. His many and diverse clients include The New York Times Magazine, Time and Essence Magazine, global brands like Amgen, Pfizer, Coca-Cola, Target and Verizon, and media giants such as Universal Studios, Disney, Amazon, Sony Music, and ESPN. Many will recognize his photography for TV and film posters including "The Lion King," "Night School," "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" and "Us." His portraits have a fresh, unaffected feel, and yet they celebrate the extraordinariness of his subjects, striking a balance between contemporary documentary photography and classic celebrity portraiture. Discussion with director Kwaku Alston and actor Rodney Charles, moderated by Michelle Jackson (VAFF) This is a free, unticketed event. Please arrive fifteen to thirty minutes before the listed...

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## Cowboy Joe

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

Director: Jingjing Tian

Featuring: Conder Shou, Lei Zhou

Screens before the feature film Driveways. Set in New York City, Cowboy Joe is a punchy story about a Chinese cowboy who grapples with his Asian-American identity and stands up to his father for the first time.

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# **Crisis: Behind a Presidential Commitment**

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Thursday October 24 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

Director: Robert Drew

Featuring: John F. Kennedy, George Wallace, Robert F. Kennedy, Vivian Malone, James Hood, Nicholas Katzenbach

In June 1963, director Robert Drew's camera crew followed President John F. Kennedy and his staff as they led the nation through a period of great tension in American politics and society. Despite a recent federal ruling, Alabama Governor George Wallace threatened to deny two black students, Vivian Malone and James Hood, access to the otherwise all-white University of Alabama. The film also documents Attorney General Robert Kennedy's attempts to advise the President on how to avoid a national crisis. This cinéma vérité documentary film uses vintage footage of key historical figures to provide an "as it happened" look at one of the most crucial standoffs in the history of the American Civil Rights Movement. Introduction by Aniko Bodroghkozy (UVA) and Andrew Rodgers (VAFF)

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# **Deerskin**

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Saturday October 26 11:00 PM - 12:30 AM**

Director: Quentin Dupieux

Featuring: Jean Dujardin, Adèle Haenel, Albert Delpy

At the start, Georges is seemingly just a middle-aged, bearded loner living in a small-town motel. This image quickly turns more cynical when he obtains his most prized possession: a fringed, leathery deerskin jacket. After spending his lonely evenings in a local bar, Georges returns to his solitude and rants to his new fashion statement. It doesn't take long for the coat to start talking back. It gives him instructions to eliminate every other jacket in existence, and he turns to crime and violence to bring its demands to fruition. This surreal, quirky film employs a dark yet comedic plot to bring home its final themes and punchline. Introduction by Chandler Ferrebee (VAFF) This film is part of the Witching Hours series supported by University Programs Council

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# **Default**

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Sunday October 27 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

Director: Choi Kook-hee

Featuring: Kim Hye-soo, Yoo Ah-in, Jo Woo-jin, Heo Joon-ho, Vincent Cassel

Default turns the fallout of the 1997 Asian financial crisis in Korea into riveting entertainment. The film follows three storylines: Si-hyun's shows how the government acted during the crisis, Jung-hak's frames the downturn in economic terms, and Gap-su represents millions of real Korean small business owners who suffered in 1997. These three perspectives trace the rippling effect of the collapsing economy on different social strata, and how deeply they are connected to each other. At each of these levels, Default highlights and humanizes the very real trauma in the East that is often overshadowed by the 2008 US financial crisis, and offers numerous lessons that are still relevant today. Introduction by Joseph Seeley (UVA) This film is part of the Korean Film series supported by the UVA Korea Society

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# Dismantling Democracy

Culbreth Theatre

**Saturday October 26 2:00 PM - 3:45 PM**

Director: Allen Clements

Featuring: Michael Abramowitz, Margaret Brennan, Rosa Clemente, Ian Bremmer, Jalane Schmidt, Stephen Levitsky, Ann Dowd, Larry Sabato, Ted Cruz, Tim Kaine

Dismantling Democracy examines new and old democratic structures of government in the United States and around the world. Featuring intimate interviews with key players offering powerful perspectives, the documentary depicts the gradual deterioration of the effectiveness of government for, of, and by the people. Economic imbalances, racial tension, xenophobia, and a global rise in populism exist at odds with the fundamental democratic principles of fairness, equality, and justice. Through a critical look at the history and current state of democracies, it becomes evident that preserving democracy is a feat no less significant than its establishment. So, are We the People up to this pressing task of preserving democracy? The film issues a call to act before the deterioration of democracy continues. Introduction by Larry Sabato (UVA Center for Politics), discussion with interview subject Ann Dowd, moderated by Larry Sabato Presented by UVA Center for Politics and VPM PBS

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# Dolce Fine Giornata

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Sunday October 27 5:15 PM - 7:00 PM**

Director: Jacek Borcuch

Featuring: Krystyna Janda, Kasia Smutniak, Vincent Riotta, Antonio Catania, Lorenzo de Moor, Robin Renucci

Maria Linde, a renowned poet and Nobel Prize winner, lives in her glorious Tuscan villa surrounded by family and friends. After a terrorist attack in Rome, she refuses to let fear of outsiders and the unknown take over. In her acceptance speech for a local award, she denounces Europe's crumbling democracy, but is unaware of the backlash she will have to endure as a result. The film artfully reminds audiences of the importance of art, politics, and family in all our lives through an empowering tale of womanhood and love. Introduction by Ilya Tovbis (VAFF) This film is part of the Israeli and Jewish Film series supported by Congregation Beth Israel

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# Driveways

Violet Crown 5

**Friday October 25 7:30 PM - 9:15 PM**

Director: Andrew Ahn

Featuring: Hong Chau, Lucas Jaye, Brian Dennehy, Christine Ebersole, Jerry Adler

Preceded by the short film Cowboy Joe. Following the death of her estranged sister, aspiring nurse Kathy and her 8-year-old son Cody travel cross country to her late sister's house to clean and sell it. Given Cody's past struggle with making friends, he does not seem bothered by spending the whole summer in an unfamiliar New York town. Upon arrival, Kathy discovers that her sister was a hoarder, proving that she knew less about her sister than she previously thought. As Kathy begins to navigate understanding her late sister, Cody strikes up an unlikely friendship with neighbor and Korean war veteran Del. This quiet, warm drama unfolds to reveal how community can be found at any age. Discussion with director Andrew Ahn and producer Joe Pirro, moderated by Soraya McDonald (The Undeclared) Supported by The Whiskey Jar

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## **Easter Snap**

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

**Saturday October 26 1:45 PM - 12:00 AM**

Director: RaMell Ross

Screens before the feature film *Burning Cane* With a baited handling of American symbolism, director RaMell Ross captures the experience of five Alabama men as they resurrect the homestead ritual of hog processing in the deep South under the guidance of Johnny Blackmon.

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## **Ed Asner: On Stage and Off**

Violet Crown 4

**Saturday October 26 6:15 PM - 8:00 PM**

Director: Kurt Jacobsen, Warren Leming

Featuring: Ed Asner, Michael Shannon, Oliver Stone, Mike Farrell, David Shepherd, Paul Buhle

Widely acknowledged as the most honored performer in the history of American television, Ed Asner is as devoutly serious about the craft of acting as he is about sticking to ethical action in public life. A two-time former president of the Screen Actors Guild, Asner's storied career spans decades. Like his famous blunt and beloved screen counterpart 'Lou Grant,' Asner's personal creed is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. This full-length documentary probes his Kansas City roots, his inspirations and influences, his remarkable acting career, his brave political activism at a personal cost, and his unflagging energy to this day as a performer of the screen and stage. Discussion with co-director Kurt Jacobsen, moderated by VAFF Advisory Board member Scot Safon

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## **Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga (How I Felt When I Saw That Girl)**

Violet Crown 5

**Thursday October 24 8:45 PM - 11:15 PM**

Director: Shelly Chopra Dhar

Featuring: Anil Kapoor, Rajkummar Rao, Regina Cassandra, Sonam Kapoor

Sweety Chaudhary, a young Punjabi woman, is constantly badgered by her overbearing family about her love life, and the need to marry a nice Hindu boy. When she stumbles into a theater one afternoon, she meets Sahil, a failing playwright who presents himself as a potential husband to Sweety's family. Sahil becomes infatuated with Sweety, who is harboring a secret—she is in love with a woman. Fearing retaliation from her conservative Hindu family, Sweety opens up to Sahil, who helps her navigate her family and her sexuality. This film, the first in Bollywood to feature a same-sex relationship, balances a light comedy of errors with a family drama that tests the strength of familial bonds. Discussion with director Shelly Chopra Dhar, moderated by Geeta Patel (UVA) This film is part of the Middle Eastern and South Asian Film series supported by the UVA Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures and the UVA Department...

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## **Ernie & Joe: Crisis Cops**

PVCC Dickinson Center

**Saturday October 26 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

Director: Jenifer McShane

Ernie & Joe introduces two courageous police officers in San Antonio's mental health unit working to divert people away from jail and into mental health treatment. In an intimate portrait that illustrates progressive methods of policing, this documentary reflects the best of public servants, one 911 call at a time. Acclaimed filmmaker Jenifer McShane shines a light on a pair of officers trying and succeeding in doing it right by weaving together their experiences during their daily encounters with people in crisis. Discussion with Lori Wood, Tom Von Hemert, and Kevin Miller, moderated by Joanna Jennings (Region Ten)

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## **Family Romance, LLC**

Culbreth Theatre

**Sunday October 27 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

Director: Werner Herzog

Featuring: Yuichi Ishii, Mahiro Tanimoto

Preceded by the short film Pilgrim Werner Herzog's latest narrative focuses on Japan's bizarre rent-a-family business, a professional stand-in service that provides clients with actors that portray a range of roles including friends, family members, or even coworkers. Placing non-fiction themes into a narrative context, the film zeros in on Yuichi Ishii, a young man who owns Family Romance, one of many professional rental services. Audiences meet Yuichi posing as the missing father for teen girl Mahiro, who is oblivious to Yuichi's true identity. This fascinating documentary-like film examines if an emotional attachment is still possible in a world that will commodify even basic human relationships. Introduction by Miyabi Goto (UVA)

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## **The Father**

Violet Crown 5

**Sunday October 27 4:45 PM - 6:30 PM**

Director: Kristina Grozeva, Petar Valchanov

Featuring: Ivan Barnev, Ivan Savov

Valentina's death takes quite a toll on her husband, Vassil. When it's discovered that a neighbor received several calls from the deceased, Vassil starts to follow the mysterious breadcrumbs surrounding her passing along with his son, Pavel, who tries to keep him in one piece. The distant father-son duo mourns the death of their loved one in this bittersweet road trip comedy. Directors Grozeva and Valchanov ask questions of familial bonds and the strength they have in the presence of grief. Inspired by true events, The Father explores the ways generations diverge and how one life-changing event can bring those who seem far away together again. Introduction by Iana Dontcheva (VAFF)

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## **Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles**

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Saturday October 26 9:30 PM - 11:00 PM**

Director: Max Lewkowicz

Featuring: Michael Bernardi, Jerry Bock, Danny Burstein

A love letter to the celebrated musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, this documentary is an exhilarating exploration of the musical's origins, unexpected success, and timeless themes. While some regard the musical as a notable piece of popular entertainment, it has persisted through the decades and continues to resonate with audiences around the world. Focusing on three time frames—1905, 1964, and today—this film illuminates the musical's universal themes of faith, marriage, the importance of community, and individual struggle. Through a series of interviews with the creatives behind the musical and contemporary artists such as Sheldon Harnick and Lin-Manuel Miranda, unique insight is granted into the musical's enduring effect on pop culture. Introduction by Joel Rubin (UVA) This film is part of the Israeli and Jewish Film series supported by Congregation Beth Israel

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## **Field of Dreams**

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Saturday October 26 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Director: Phil Alden Robinson

Featuring: Kevin Costner, James Earl Jones, Ray Liotta

While walking through his cornfield one evening, Iowa farmer Ray Kinsella hears a voice whispering, "if you build it, he will come." An image of a baseball diamond appears in his fields, and Ray is compelled to follow the mysterious signs. After plowing down his corn to make room for the field, he continues to receive messages from this unknown source. Ray reluctantly follows the clues that take him on a journey through the history of a beloved American pastime. The classic film tells a heartwarming tale of sportsmanship and family, standing as a symbol for Hollywood's magical storytelling capabilities. Introduction by Chandler Ferrebee (VAFF), discussion with Brian Truitt (USA Today), moderated by Bob Schotta

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## **Fig Tree**

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Friday October 25 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM**

Director: Aälām-Wärqe Davidian

Featuring: Betalehem Asmamawe, Yohanes Muse, Weyenshiet Belachew, Mareta Getachew, Mitiku Haylu, Kidest G/Selasse, Tilahune Asagere, Rodas Gizaw

Set in 1989, director Aälām-Wärqe Davidian's feature debut follows 16-year-old Mina as she navigates coming of age in the midst of the Ethiopian Civil War. As their Jewish faith jeopardizes their safety, Mina, her brother, and their grandmother make plans to flee Ethiopia for Israel, where the children's mother awaits. The plan, however, requires Mina to leave behind Eli, her Christian boyfriend—although not without protest. Inspired by her own memories of growing up in war-torn Ethiopia, director Aälām-Wärqe Davidian crafts a film that blurs the lines between the mundane and the extraordinary, exposing the impact of civil war on the lives of ordinary people. Introduction by Ilya Tovbis (VAFF)

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## **Fishing With Dynamite**

Violet Crown 5

**Sunday October 27 2:00 PM - 3:45 PM**

Director: Paul Wagner

Featuring: Ed Freeman, Robert Reich, Arthur Brooks, Bethany McLean, John Mackey, Jim Collins

Director Paul Wagner examines how the shared obsession with short-term profits between corporations and Wall Street is negatively impacting the foundations of American capitalism in his newest documentary, Fishing with Dynamite. The film investigates the dark corners of American corporations, exposing the harshness of maximizing shareholder value capitalism, or the claim that profits are the only purpose of a corporation. In a positive vein, stakeholder companies are celebrated for their prioritization of the human needs of employees, the community, and our natural environment. Featuring interviews with an array of experts and company CEOs, this film provides a powerful, urgent story about corporations, capitalism, and democracy in America today. Discussion with director Paul Wagner, subject Ed Freeman, and producers Jenny Mead and Bidhan Parmar, moderated by Margaret Franklin (CFA Institute) Presented by CFA Institute Supported by the UVA Darden School of Business

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## **Flop**

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

**Saturday October 26 8:30 PM - 12:00 AM**

Director: Riley Foulk, Jago Gould, Bertie Sackson, Aleksei Jackson, and Nick Tennery

Screens before the feature film Postal. In this hilarious short film, a shy young man attempts to impress his crush at a pool party. This film was created by young filmmakers at Light House Studio during their Filmmaking II workshop.

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## **Food Place**

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

**Sunday October 27 2:30 PM - 12:00 AM**

Director: Lauren Lapkus

Screens before the feature film It Started as a Joke. In this ensemble comedy, the ragtag employees at a rundown fast food restaurant while away the days until their lives actually start.

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## **Forman vs. Forman**

Violet Crown 5

**Friday October 25 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**

Director: Jakub Hejna, Helena Trestíková

Featuring: Milos Forman, Miroslav Ondříček

Through a collection of archival footage, early interviews, and material from private archives, this nostalgic documentary reflects on the career of two-time Oscar-winning director Milos Forman. The film explores Forman in the height of his career as he struggled against two major demons of Hollywood at the time—Nazism and Communism—and how this struggle shaped his resistance through cinema. Directors Jakub Hejna and Helena Trestíková also highlight Forman’s traumatic childhood in Czechoslovakia and how these years greatly affected his later exile in the United States. A tribute to one of cinema’s greatest minds, this film reflects the interconnectedness of personal experience and artistic creation. Introduction by Jack Hamilton (UVA)

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## **Frankie**

Violet Crown 5

**Thursday October 24 3:15 PM - 5:00 PM**

Director: Ira Sachs

Featuring: Isabelle Huppert, Brendan Gleeson, Marisa Tomei, Jéréemie Renier, Pascal Greggory, Ariyon Bakare, Vinette Robinson and Greg Kinnear

Françoise Crémont, known to her family as Frankie, is a well-known French art-house movie star. Struggling with terminal illness and her own mortality, Frankie decides to invite her extended family on a vacation to Sintra, a picturesque village in the mountains of Portugal. Frankie remains at the center of the narrative, while the various stories of her family revolve around her on several different orbits. Although the entirety of the film occurs over just one day, the complexities of the family’s dynamics are quickly made known and deeply explored. Introduction by Iana Dontcheva (VAFF) Supported by Prime 109

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## **Gay Chorus Deep South**

PVCC Dickinson Center

**Sunday October 27 5:00 PM - 6:45 PM**

Director: David Charles Rodrigues

Featuring: Dr. Tim Seelig, Ashlé, Jimmy White, Terrance, Riley, Pastor Jim Dant, Malaysia Walker

In response to a wave of discriminatory anti-LGBTQ laws and the divisive 2016 presidential election, the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus embarks on a tour of the American South. The journey challenges the group of over 300 singers, many of whom fled the South, to confront their own fears, pain, and prejudices on a journey towards reconciliation. The conversations and connections that emerge offer a glimpse of a less divided America, where the things that separate us—religion, politics, sexual identity—are set aside by the power of music, humanity, and a little drag. This film is part of the LGBTQIA+ series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and supported by the UVA Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for the Arts

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## General Magic

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Saturday October 26 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

Director: Sarah Kerruish, Matt Maude

Featuring: Tony Fadell, Megan Smith, Andy Hertzfeld, Marc Porat, John Sculley

Before 1990, there was no digital communications industry—no digital cell phones, no world wide web, no connection. Enter General Magic: a flashy, mysterious spinoff of Apple that attempted to create the first handheld communicator (or “smartphone”) nearly 20 years before the release of the iPhone. What follows in this captivating documentary is a story of remarkable innovation, meteoric success, and spectacular failure. Directors Sarah Kerruish and Matt Maude offer an inside view of this secretive startup, interspersing archival footage with interviews featuring the creators of the iPod, iPhone, Android, and eBay. Introduction by David Touve (Batten Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation)

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## Ghost Town Anthology

Violet Crown 4

**Sunday October 27 8:00 PM - 9:45 PM**

Director: Denis Côté

Featuring: Robert Naylor, Josée Deschênes, Jean-Michel Anctil

The frigid, small Québécois village of Irénée-les-Neiges is ominously disrupted by the unexpected death of local teenage Simon Dubé in a fatal car accident. While the majority of the town is too stunned to discuss the circumstances surrounding the tragedy, the Dubé family and a handful of residents begin to report several sightings of strangers descending on the village. This quiet, dark narrative examines the insidious ability of grief to infiltrate an individual’s life and the lasting fog it can cast on a community. Introduction by Andrew Rodgers (VAFF)

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## Ghostwriter

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

**Friday October 25 9:45 PM - 12:00 AM**

Director: Tao Groves, Alex de Montbel, Alex Flamm, and Jack Snead

Screens before the feature film In Fabric Ghostwriter is a sweet short comedy about a writer who, while battling writer’s block, finds inspiration from an unexpected source. This film was created by young filmmakers at Light House Studio during their Filmmaking II workshop.

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# The Golden Harvest

Violet Crown 5

**Sunday October 27 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM**

Director: Alia Yunis

In this “6,000-year-old love story,” director Alia Yunis explores the complicated relationship between the people of the Mediterranean and their olive trees. Her search leads her on a riveting journey around her home, encountering an ensemble of characters who share the stories and symbolism imbued in every bottle of olive oil. These ancient trees have seen the rise and fall of civilizations, stalwarts against the decay of time; Yunis sets out to discover the secrets that lie behind these magnificent specimens. A delightful insight into what can make the mundane magical, Yunis’ award-winning documentary is a gold-tinged masterpiece. Discussion with Tessa Farmer (UVA), moderated by Nizar Hermes (UVA) This film is part of the Middle Eastern and South Asian Film series supported by the UVA Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures and the UVA Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures

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# Grass

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Saturday October 26 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM**

Director: Hong Sang-soo

Featuring: Kim Min-hee, Jung Jin-young, Ki Joo-bong, Seo Young-hwa, Kim Sae-byuk, Ahn Jae-hong, Gong Min-jeung

A young woman, Areum (Kim Min-hee, *The Handmaiden*) sits in the corner of a small café outside of Seoul almost daily, spending her time bent over her laptop typing. In the tables that surround her, other café goers recount the various dramas in their lives, serving as the inspiration for Areum’s work. Couples argue, romances begin, and artists plan their next big projects, all while Areum writes away. But as director Hong Sang-soo begins to have audiences doubt Areum’s reliability, a major question arises—is she merely writing what she hears? Or is she hearing what’s been written? As the drama in the coffeeshop unfolds, the answer becomes only more ambiguous. Introduction by Hyeyon Moon (UVA) This film is part of the Korean Film series supported by the UVA Korea Society

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# Harriet

The Paramount Theater

**Saturday October 26 8:00 PM - 10:45 PM**

Director: Kasi Lemmons

Featuring: Cynthia Erivo, Leslie Odom Jr., Joe Alwyn, Clarke Peters, Vanessa Bell Calloway, Omar J. Dorsey

Based on the extraordinary life of Harriet Tubman, this film chronicles the American hero’s escape from slavery and transformation into a history-making abolitionist. Tubman’s courage, ingenuity, and tenacity through dangerous missions helped free hundreds of slaves using the Underground Railroad and changed the course of history. From acclaimed writer/director Kasi Lemmons, this triumphant story of one woman’s journey to freedom remembers the dark and grueling realities of slavery in America. Leading with the themes of rebellion, justice, and the quest for freedom, Harriet brings to light the impact of a crucial figure who worked to dismantle an oppressive establishment unlike any other. Discussion with actor Vanessa Bell Calloway and producer Daniela Taplin Lundberg, moderated by Janelle Bouie (*The New York Times*) Due to a last minute scheduling conflict, Debra Martin Chase is no longer able to attend Presented by Wells Fargo This film is part of the Race in America...

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## **A Hidden Life**

Culbreth Theatre

**Sunday October 27 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

Director: Terrence Malick

Featuring: August Diehl, Valerie Pachner, Maria Simon, Tobias Moretti, Bruno Ganz, Matthias Schoenaerts, Karin Neuhäuser, Ulrich Matthes

This historical drama features the true story of Franz Jägerstätter, an Austrian farmer and devout Catholic whose idyllic life is shattered when he becomes a conscientious objector during World War II. The Nazi Party charges Jägerstätter with treason, whisking him away to a remote holding facility. Ripped from his family and faced with the threat of execution, Jägerstätter undergoes a crisis of faith, embarking on a tumultuous moral journey. Interweaving vibrant cinematography with haunting orchestration, Terrence Malick's triumphant follow-up to *Tree of Life* is a poignant rumination on faith, humanity, and compassion. Introduction by Manuela Achilles (UVA) Supported by Virginia Magazine

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## **Human Nature**

Violet Crown 5

**Saturday October 26 10:45 AM - 1:00 PM**

Director: Adam Bolt

CRISPR has revolutionized the scientific world, allowing us the ability to change the most basic building blocks of life. With this new technology, scientists can cure numerous diseases, reshape the biosphere, and even design children. Yet advances such as these are not without consequences. With testimonies from the scientists, families, and engineers who interact with CRISPR the most, the film explores its far-reaching possibilities and implications. Director Adam Bolt navigates the complexities of these new advancements and engages his audience with thoughtful questions about the ethics of this unique technology. This captivating documentary asks the anything-but-simple question: just because we can, does that mean we should? Discussion with Mazhar Adli (UVA), moderated by Andrew Rodgers (VAFF)

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## **The Humorist**

Violet Crown 4

**Sunday October 27 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Director: Michael Idov

Featuring: Yuri Kolokolnikov, Alisa Khazanova, Polina Aug , Artem Grigoryev, Aleksey Agranovich

Set in the waning days of the Soviet Union, *The Humorist* is a portrait of a fictional stand-up comedian, Boris Arkadieva, whose intellect becomes a burden when he can't adapt to the increasingly heavy chains of expectation and censorship. This smart social satire presents a tormented man affected not only by external oppression, but also by his own insecurities that poison his relationships, sanity, and successes. An impressive directorial debut by Michael Idov, this film crackles with sharp-witted dialogue and reveals the darker elements of a society moving into uncharted territory beyond mere corruption. Introduction by Ilya Tovbis (VAFF) This film is part of the Israeli and Jewish Film series supported by Congregation Beth Israel

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## **I Lost My Body**

Culbreth Theatre

**Sunday October 27 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

Director: Jérémy Clapin

Featuring: Hakim Faris, Victoire Du Bois, Patrick Dasso

In a desperate attempt to get back to its body, an amputated hand escapes from its dissection lab and journeys across Paris. It fights off sewer rats and navigates the city streets, quickly becoming a sympathetic protagonist. Flashbacks to the hand's previous life show his own body, Naoufel, growing up and falling in love, slowly giving answers to the cause of the separation between limb and body. The artful animation is uniquely captivating and poetic, providing a touching account of physical and emotional loss and quickly proving to be more than just a quirky cartoon.

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## **I've Got Issues**

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Sunday October 27 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

Director: Steve Collins

Featuring: Macon Blair, Claire Titelman, Maria Thayer, Jim Gaffigan

Self-loathing, loneliness, death, discrimination, injustice, oppression, and the atom bomb, I've Got Issues is a unique comic world inhabited by sensitive souls trying to survive the spectrum of pain the average person runs into in this world. In a dead-pan, deeply empathetic tone, the film asks the big questions: "What are we supposed to do with all the hurt?", "Is civilization making any progress at all?" The film builds an answer out of intertwining stories of characters swallowed in darkness, yet still finding light. Discussion with director Steve Collins, moderated by Andrew Rodgers (VAFF)

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## **In Fabric**

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Friday October 25 9:30 PM - 11:30 PM**

Director: Peter Strickland

Featuring: Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Hayley Squires, Leo Bill, Julian Barratt, Steve Oram, and Gwendoline Christie

Preceded by the short film Ghostwriter In the months following a painful divorce, Sheila visits a department store in downtown London to purchase a life-altering dress. She leaves with a flattering, blood-red gown, and something far more sinister. The garment begins to leave lesions on her skin, destroys her washing machine, and soon becomes a treacherous adversary in a fight for survival. This hauntingly seductive satire critiques modern consumer culture, blending age-old horror with contemporary dark humor. Bewitching, provocative, and brilliantly bloody, Peter Strickland's horror comedy brings a truly new meaning to the phrase "dress to kill." Introduction by Chandler Ferree (VAFF) This film is part of the Witching Hours series supported by University Programs Council

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# **The Inn at Little Washington: A Delicious New Documentary**

The Paramount Theater

**Sunday October 27 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM**

Director: Mira Chang, Jeff Dupre, and Maro Chermayeff

Featuring: Patrick O'Connell

Dubbed "The Pope of American Cuisine," Chef Patrick O'Connell is a legend. He's revered as a pioneer of refined American cooking, and as the eclectic restaurateur who transformed a country inn into an international culinary temple. But, behind the fairytale - behind the humor and whimsy - lies a story of a self-taught chef who started with nothing, and overcame a decades-long feud with a fiercely conservative and homophobic rural town to create one of the most renowned restaurants in America. From Emmy and Peabody award winning Show of Force, in association with the VPM, Virginia's home for Public Media and executive producer Spike Mendelsohn, comes a delicious new documentary that intimately explores the ornate world of Chef Patrick O'Connell and his magnificent obsession: the double five star, double five diamond, Michelin rated hotel and restaurant, The Inn at Little Washington. Long considered one of the greatest dining experiences in America...

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## **It Started as a Joke**

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Sunday October 27 2:30 PM - 4:15 PM**

Director: Julie Smith Clem, Ken Druckerman

Featuring: Eugene Mirman, Kumail Nanjiani, Reggie Watts, Kristen Schaal, Ira Glass, Wyatt Cenac

Preceded by the short film Food Place. When Eugene Mirman first proposed a comedy festival making fun of other comedy festivals, he was only half joking. To his surprise, this offhand comment would go on to become the Eugene Mirman Comedy Festival, the world's first "sincere-and-ironic" comedy festival. Billed as the "Comedy event that comedians look forward to," the first ever EMCF enjoyed immense success, and has continued for over 10 years. Featuring a star-studded lineup including Kumail Nanjiani, Jim Gaffigan, and Mike Birbiglia, this documentary pays homage to what comedy is, is not, and everything in between.

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## **Jaddoland**

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Saturday October 26 7:45 PM - 9:45 PM**

Director: Nadia Shihab

Director Nadia Shihab returns to her home in Lubbock, Texas, to visit her mother, an artist from Iraq whose works focus on themes of familial history, longing, and displacement. Nadia documents her mother's increasingly isolated life and art, revealing the beauty and solace of her mother's creative process. While filming, Nadia's grandfather arrives. He is a warm charismatic man overtaken by his longing for the homeland he recently left. Tender and pensive, this film subtly explores the inheritance and reformation of culture, offering up a meditation on generational belonging and the question of what it means to call somewhere home. Introduction by Shilpa Davé (UVA) This film is part of the Middle Eastern and South Asian Film series supported by the UVA Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures and the UVA Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures

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## **Jojo Rabbit**

Culbreth Theatre

**Saturday October 26 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

Director: Taika Waititi

Featuring: Roman Griffin Davis, Thomasin Harcourt McKenzie, Taika Waititi, Rebel Wilson, Stephen Merchant, Alfie Allen, Sam Rockwell, Scarlett Johansson

A lonely German boy has his world view turned completely upside down when he discovers his single mother is hiding a young Jewish girl in their attic. Aided only by his idiotic imaginary friend Adolf Hitler—played by Jewish Polynesian writer-director Taika Waititi—Jojo must choose between clinging to his blind, brainwashed sense of nationalism or embracing his humanity. Waititi brings his signature style of humor and pathos to this biting anti-hate World War II satire as he identifies pointed parallels between the violent fascism of history and our current political moment. Introduction by Chandler Ferrebee (VAFF)

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## **Just Mercy**

The Paramount Theater

**Wednesday October 23 7:00 PM - 9:45 PM**

Director: Destin Daniel Cretton

Featuring: Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, Rob Morgan, Tim Blake Nelson, Rafe Spall, Brie Larson

Bryan Stevenson, a young lawyer in Monroeville, Alabama, has dedicated himself to a case involving Walter McMillian, a death row prisoner with no proper defense. Despite overwhelming evidence of his innocence, McMillian was convicted of murder by a jury who ignored key witnesses and took only a few hours to come to their verdict. Based on the memoir of the same name, this powerful and thought-provoking true story delves into the consequences of a biased, imperfect system and exposes the harsh realities faced by the wrongly convicted. Introduction by UVA President Jim Ryan Presented by Bank of America This film is part of the Race in America series presented by James Madison's Montpelier and supported by Bama Works Fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and the UVA Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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## **Kelebekler (Butterflies)**

Violet Crown 4

**Sunday October 27 1:45 PM - 3:45 PM**

Director: Tolga Karaçelik

Featuring: Tolga Tekin, Bartu Küçükçağlayan, Tuğçe Altuğ

After a traumatic event in childhood, siblings Cemal, Kenan, and Suzan left their village of Hasanlar to be raised by their extended family. Thirty years later, the estranged siblings have been summoned back to their village by their father, who suggests that they learn about the history of Hasanlar. Upon their arrival, they discover their father has since passed away and had one final wish—to be buried on the hottest day of the year when the butterflies come to the village to die. This wild, dark comedy provides a playful and heartfelt look at the complexities of familial bonds. Introduction by Joshua M. White (UVA) This film is part of the Middle Eastern and South Asian Film series supported by the UVA Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures and the UVA Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages & Cultures

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## **Kevin Everson Short Films**

Violet Crown 5

**Friday October 25 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM**

Director: Kevin Everson, Kahlil Pedizisai, Claudrena Harold

From internationally renowned filmmaker and recent 24th Heinz Award in the Arts and Humanities recipient Kevin Everson comes a selection of short films that combines historical observations with contemporary, socially-relevant narratives. This collection of films contains a broad scope of stories. Everson's films, richly abstracted and artfully constructed, are rare in their ability to find the extraordinary and theatrical in the ordinary and every day. Discussion with filmmaker Kevin Everson (UVA)

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## **Kifaru**

St. Anne's-Belfield School

**Friday October 25 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM**

Director: David Hambridge

Featuring: James Mwenda, Joseph "JoJo" Wachira, Jacob Anampiu

The northern white rhino species has long been in danger of extinction due to intense poaching and violent wars in East and Central Africa. With the number of surviving rhinos diminishing, the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in central Kenya was established to breed and protect what remained of the species. Following two rangers for over four years, director David Hambridge documents the joys and pitfalls of conservation firsthand. While they hope to care for Sudan, the only remaining rhino, long enough for scientists to resurrect the species using his DNA, Sudan's health has long been in decline. As the science efforts capture headlines worldwide, a greater story unfolds between the caretakers and their beloved rhino. Discussion with producer Andrew Harrison Brown, moderated by Adrienne Ghaly (UVA)

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## **The Kingmaker**

Culbreth Theatre

**Thursday October 24 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM**

Director: Lauren Greenfield

Centering on the controversial political career of Imelda Marcos, *The Kingmaker* explores the Marcos family's improbable return to power in the Philippines. The former first lady of the Philippines, whose behind-the-scenes influence on her husband Ferdinand's presidency rocketed her to the global political stage, confidently rewrites her family's history of corruption, replacing it with a narrative of the matriarch's extravagant love for her country. This jaw-dropping documentary by director Lauren Greenfield paints an engaging portrait of a woman who has navigated through countless political, personal, and social squalls, yet remains irretrievably drawn to the flame of power.

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# Lankes - John Borden Evans: The Rural Virginia Landscape in Our Time

Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

**Sunday October 27 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**

Director: Eduardo Montes-Bradley

The VAFF will present two of Eduardo Montes-Bradley's recent documentaries J.J. Lankes: Yankee Printmaker in Virginia and White: A Season In The Life Of John Borden Evans. Montes-Bradley, a celebrated cinematographer, published author, and photographer strives to create works that focus on historical, political, and cultural issues. J.J. Lankes: Yankee Printmaker in Virginia highlights Julius John Lankes, acclaimed artist and printmaker, while White: A Season in The Life Of John Borden Evans provides a snapshot of the life and career of Virginian artist John Borden Evans. Discussion with filmmaker Eduardo Montes-Bradley, moderated by Sean McCord (VAFF)

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## Light House Studio Shorts

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Thursday October 24 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

A nonprofit filmmaking center dedicated to teaching students self-expression through filmmaking, Light House Studio's work has been recognized on national channels such as CNN and TNT and through awards, including a Peabody Award, a Gold World Medal at the New York International Film and TV Festival, and a CINE Golden Eagle Award. This compilation of short films from LHS students includes a mixture of narratives, animations, and documentary work. Ranging from futuristic to classic, abstract to inquisitive, goofy to sincere, the line-up will leave you wanting more. Discussion with the young filmmakers 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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## Little Joe

St. Anne's-Belfield School

**Friday October 25 8:45 PM - 10:30 PM**

Director: Jessica Hausner

Featuring: Emily Beecham, Ben Whishaw

Alice is a single mother and committed plant breeder at a corporation involved with developing new species. After creating a genetically modified plant, which she names 'Little Joe' in honor of her teenage son, she soon discovers the flower's supernatural ability to make those who inhale its pollen happier individuals. With subject matter meant to tiptoe around the reality of mood-enhancing psychedelics, the story turns as the effects of her new creation change from delight to abnormal experiences for anyone who comes into contact with it. This unconventional film from acclaimed Austrian filmmaker Jessica Hausner boldly examines the commodification of happiness, and does so with a range of originality from colorpalette to performance style. Introduction by Iana Dontcheva (VAFF)

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## **Marriage Story**

The Paramount Theater

**Saturday October 26 11:45 AM - 2:00 PM**

Director: Noah Baumbach

Featuring: Scarlett Johansson, Adam Driver, Laura Dern, Alan Alda, Ray Liotta

Charlie and Nicole's already strained marriage is further tested when Nicole secures a coveted acting role in Los Angeles, despite the couple's strong roots in New York City with Charlie's theater company. While this narrative opens with the couple deciding to get divorced, director Noah Baumbach transports audiences back and forth through time to reveal the totality of Charlie and Nicole's time together, from when they first fell in love to the incidents that dismantled their relationship. This nonlinear meditation on love and marriage reveals the darkly transformative nature of divorce. Introduction by Alissa Wilkinson (Vox) Presented by Watermark Design

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## **Mickey and the Bear**

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Friday October 25 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**

Director: Annabelle Attanasio

Featuring: Camila Morrone, James Badge Dale, Calvin Demba, Ben Rosenfield and Rebecca Henderson

Mickey is a young girl living in Anaconda, Montana, with her unstable, unemployed, and uninvolved ex-Marine father Hank. As a headstrong and independent high schooler, she has applied to a college far from home, but is reluctant to leave her hometown or abandon Hank to fend for himself. This father-daughter drama is told through small moments, rather than theatrical twists and turns, breathing a new life into the classic genre. The film not only reaches audiences with its plot, but also employs an impactful soundtrack, outstanding cinematography, and a magnificent background in Montana's mountains to tell its hopeful story. Introduction by Iana Dontcheva (VAFF)

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## **Midnight Family**

St. Anne's-Belfield School

**Saturday October 26 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM**

Director: Luke Lorentzen

Featuring: Juan Ochoa, Fer Ochoa, Josué Ochoa, Manuel Hernández

In one of Mexico City's wealthiest neighborhoods, the Ochoa family operates a for-profit ambulance, competing with other private EMTs to help patients in need. In a city of almost 9 million, the government only operates 45 emergency ambulances, leaving businesses like that of the Ochoa family to serve as a crucial lifeline to those needing medical attention. However, the lack of financial gain from their operation often jeopardizes the quality of care the family can provide, and when the police crackdown on private ambulances the Ochoa family is thrown into a moral and ethical gray area. This observational documentary shows the urgent complexities surrounding healthcare, government authority, and communal responsibility.

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## **Motherless Brooklyn**

The Paramount Theater

**Sunday October 27 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

Director: Edward Norton

Featuring: Edward Norton, Bruce Willis, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Bobby Cannavale, Cherry Jones, Leslie Mann, Alec Baldwin, Willem Dafoe

In 1950s New York City, four former orphans make up The Minna Men, a makeshift private investigation firm. At the head of the business is Frank Minna, who schooled the young men on how to survive in the city. When a business venture goes unexpectedly awry, Frank is left dead with no leads on his killer. Lionel Esrog, a member of The Minna Men living with Tourette's Syndrome, leads the charge in solving the mystery. Forced to navigate wild and untamed Brooklyn, Lionel encounters characters of all types—friends, enemies, and those he can't be sure of—as he works to find out the truth about what happened to Frank. Introduction by VAFF director Jody Kielbasa Presented by The Paramount Theater

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## **The Muppet Movie**

PVCC Dickinson Center

**Sunday October 27 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM**

Director: James Frawley

Motivated to make his big break in Hollywood, Kermit the Frog decides to travel across America, making a slew of new friends along the way to form the iconic Muppet band. Through their trip the group experiences numerous mishaps, including an evil Doc on the hunt for frog legs, and even a budding romance. This screening celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the magic and wonder that The Muppet Movie brings to life while remembering the joy and laughter it has brought audiences for half a century. Introduction by Andrew Rodgers (VAFF) Presented by Light House Studio

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## **Nichimal Son (Blooming Music)**

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

**Sunday October 27 5:15 PM - 12:00 AM**

Director: Juan Javier Pérez Pérez

Featuring: Elvia Pérez Suárez, José Pérez López, Esteban Pérez Pérez.

Screens before the feature film Artemio Evlia relocates to Zinacantán out of love for her husband and must adapt to the life of the Zinacantec women. This short documentary by Mexican filmmaker Juan Javier Pérez Pérez brings forth a story of love, sacrifice, and assimilation. This film is part of the Indigeneity in Mexico Film series supported by UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for the Arts

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## **Oh Mercy!**

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Friday October 25 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM**

Director: Arnaud Desplechin

Featuring: Roschdy Zem, Léa Seydoux, Sara Forestier, Antoine Reinartz

Roubaix police chief Daoud and newcomer Louis grapple with a peculiar case of murder, deceit, and blame, all at the hands of their two primary suspects, Claude and Marie. At first, confessions appear far off and interrogations slowly become a game of finger-pointing. However, when a false identification is made, Daoud and Louis must take a deep dive into the minds of these two young women not only to discover their motives, but to save lives. Arnaud Desplechin's latest film detours from romance and delivers an unfiltered view of reality. Witnesses become suspects and culprits become victims in this raw crime drama. Introduction by Iana Dontcheva (VAFF)

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## **Oliver Sacks: His Own Life**

Violet Crown 5

**Saturday October 26 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

Director: Ric Burns

A month after receiving a rare, terminal cancer diagnosis, acclaimed writer and neurologist Oliver Sacks sat down for a series of limited interviews in his New York City apartment. Surrounded by his friends, family, and countless notebooks filled with decades worth of Sacks' musings about how the brain operates, this documentary captures Sacks' sense of wonder at the natural world, and the place of human beings within it. In combination with Sacks' own reflections, director Ric Burns includes nearly two dozen deeply revealing and personal interviews with those closest to Sacks to provide an illuminating exploration into the relationships between art, science, and storytelling. Discussion with filmmaker Ric Burns and subject Bill Hayes, moderated by Cathy Campbell (UVA) Supported by the Haney Consortium

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## **Olympic Dreams**

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Saturday October 26 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

Director: Jeremy Teicher

Featuring: Alexi Pappas, Nick Kroll

Preceded by the short film Wax Paul Now After a disappointing finish in her event at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang, young cross-country skier Penelope finds herself drifting without purpose. She quickly befriends Ezra, a volunteer dentist for the Olympic Village who is maneuvering a reluctant break from his fiancée back in the US. The two embark on an adventurous, yet time-sensitive relationship that highlights the value of human connection, however brief. The first narrative feature ever shot in a real Olympic Athlete Village, this film explores the interconnectedness of love and loneliness through the lenses of two strangers navigating the unknown. Supported by Style Weekly

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## **Pahokee**

Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

**Friday October 25 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Director: Patrick Bresnan, Ivete Lucas

Featuring: Na'Kerria Nelson, Jocabed Martinez, Junior Walker, BJ Crawford

Ivete Lucas and Patrick Bresnan paint a detailed and astonishingly nuanced portrait of Pahokee, a small rural town in the Florida Everglades. In this very close-knit community, the inhabitants struggle with various financial insecurities and an uncertain future. The film captures the daily life of the city, restoring a rich palette of ideas of gender and identity that are publicly displayed while creating new narratives. A complex, multi-faceted work that recalls both the raw social realism of the new American cinema and the neorealist style, Pahokee is the powerful portrait of a forgotten America, absent from the current political discourse. Discussion with filmmaker Patrick Bresnan, moderated by Michelle Jackson (VAFF) This film is part of the Race in America series presented by James Madison's Montpelier and supported by Bama Works Fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and the UVA Office...

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## **Pain and Glory**

Culbreth Theatre

**Friday October 25 9:00 PM - 10:45 PM**

Director: Pedro Almodóvar

Featuring: Antonio Banderas, Asier Etxeandia, Leonardo Sbaraglia, Penélope Cruz

Renowned director Salvador Mallo is facing the decline of his career. As he looks back on his past and the path that he has chosen, he questions whether or not there is a life beyond his art. Memories of first love, the early discovery of cinema, childhood joys, and painful loss all flood back. He battles with the separation between his craft and his own life, attempting to fill the void that has brought his filmmaking to a halt. The clever and emotional script brings to life a story of pain, success, solitude, and overcoming with a unique simplicity and spontaneity. Introduction by David Gies (UVA)

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## **Parasite**

Culbreth Theatre

**Saturday October 26 8:30 PM - 10:45 PM**

Director: Bong Joon Ho

Featuring: Song Kang Ho, Lee Sun Kyun, Cho Yeo Jeong, Choi Woo Shik, Park So Dam, Lee Jung Eun, Chang Hyae Jin

The Park Family is the picture of aspirational wealth. The Kim family is rich in nothing other than street smarts. When these two houses are brought together the Kim family senses a golden opportunity in providing the Parks with services such as tutoring and art lessons. The two families strike up a bond with their mutual exchange of the Park's high reward for the Kims' indispensable services. However, when a parasitic interloper threatens the Kims' newfound comfort a savage, underhanded battle for dominance breaks out, threatening to destroy the fragile ecosystem between the Kims and the Parks. This thrilling dark comedy provides a unique examination of the evils of class inequalities and the powers of wealth. Introduction by Hyeyon Moon (UVA) Supported by Loyola Marymount University This film is part of the Korean Film series supported by the UVA Korea Society

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## **Parwadeshgah (The Orphanage)**

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Thursday October 24 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

Director: Shahrbanoo Sadat

Featuring: Qodratollah Qadiri, Sediqa Rasuli, Masihullah Feraji, Hasibullah Rasooli, Ahmad Fayaz Omani

In Soviet-era Afghanistan during the late 1980s, 15-year-old Qodrat makes his living on the streets of Kabul selling movie tickets on the black market. The little money he does make he uses for food and the Bollywood films that serve as an escape for him. When he is rounded up by the police and sent to a Soviet orphanage, however, Qodrat's life is suddenly ruled by a hierarchy of bullies and the anxieties of a shifting political situation in Kabul. Still, Qodrat and his few friends at the orphanage are able to find refuge from the turmoil in their shared love for Bollywood. Director Shahrbanoo Sadat oscillates between scenes of harsh reality and pure fantasy to form a delicate coming-of-age narrative. Introduction by Samhita Sunya (UVA) This film is part of the Middle Eastern and South Asian Film series supported by the UVA Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures and the UVA Department of...

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## **Pilgrim**

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

**Sunday October 27 10:30 AM - 12:00 AM**

Director: William Wylie

Screens before the feature film Family Romance, LLC This short film reflects on the solitary observations and momentary anonymity of the pilgrim. It was shot along the 1200km 88 Temple Pilgrimage trail on the island of Shikoku, Japan.

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## **The Pollinators**

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Sunday October 27 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Director: Peter Nelson

Featuring: Dave Hackenberg, Susan Kegley, Brett Adey, Bill McKibben, Dan Barber, Christina Grozinger, Jon Lundgren, Sam Ramsey, Jim Frazier, Maryann Frazier, Glenn Card

This cinematic journey follows migratory beekeepers and their mobilized colonies of honeybees around the United States, as the bees help to pollinate the fruits and vegetables we eat every day. This documentary project takes viewers on a tour around the nation, speaking with farmers, scientists, chefs, economists, and more about the essential project. Combining mesmerizing shots of the hardworking insects in action alongside gorgeous landscapes, Nelson's masterpiece chronicles the tiny yet pivotal role honeybees play in our ecosystem—and what might become of our world without them. Introduction by Martha Kiene (Virginia State Beekeepers Association)

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## **Port of Destiny: Peace**

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Thursday October 24 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM**

Director: Robert Abbott

Port of Destiny: Peace recounts Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos' path to peace in a transformative documentary about the end of a civil war that left some 260,000 people dead and 8 million displaced. His persistence changed a country that was once the murder capital of the world into a global destination for investment and tourism. As Defense Minister he waged war on FARC, a terrorist guerrilla movement, and as President, he brokered peace—but paid a steep political price. Featuring interviews with former United States President Bill Clinton and former United Kingdom Prime Minister Tony Blair, the film draws on unprecedented access to Santos, his family, and Colombian officials to tell the story of a man who risked his career and his legacy to bring peace to his people. Discussion with Brian Owensby, moderated by producer Pattie Sellers Supported by The Miller Center

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## **Portrait of a Lady on Fire**

Culbreth Theatre

**Friday October 25 5:45 PM - 8:00 PM**

Director: Celine Sciamma

Featuring: Adèle Haenel, Noémie Merlant, Valeria Golino

In eighteenth century France, the elusive Héloïse has rejected her mother's previous attempts to commission a wedding portrait out of her resistance to marriage. As a result, Marianne—the most recent artist—must masquerade as a lady's maid during the day to paint her subject from memory by night. As the portrait materializes, an unlikely relationship blossoms between the two women as Héloïse enjoys her last moments of untethered bliss. This living, breathing oil masterpiece pairs breathtaking cinematography with standout performances from Haenel and Merlant to craft a poignant reflection on womanhood, romance, and queer identity that rings true today. Introduction by Deborah McGrady (UVA) Presented by C-VILLE Weekly This film is part of the LGBTQIA+ series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and supported by the UVA Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and...

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## **Postal**

Violet Crown 5

**Saturday October 26 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM**

Director: Tyler Falbo

Featuring: Michael Shenefelt, Elyse Dufour, Eric Vega, Mia Jackson, Megan Hayes, Steve Coulter

Preceded by the short film Flop. Phillip Tress lives in Jacksonville, Florida, and has decided to finally confess his undying love for his high school sweetheart. When the engagement ring he ordered doesn't arrive before his flight to meet her, at her wedding to another man, he falls into a downward spiral that leads to an epic breakdown. Based on a true story, this gripping dark comedy of a universally shared struggle with customer service takes audiences on Tress' transformation from a hopeless romantic to a bloodied, besieged man at war with the corporate world through his phone calls with customer service. Discussion with director Tyler Falbo and actor Michael Shenefelt, moderated by VAFF Advisory Board member John Harris

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## Primary

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Sunday October 27 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM**

Director: Robert Drew

Featuring: Robert Drew, Hubert H. Humphrey, Muriel Buck Humphrey

It is April of 1960, and John F. Kennedy and Hubert H. Humphrey are gearing up for the Wisconsin primary election for the United States Democratic Party's presidential nomination. Audiences are given a detailed, insider's look into the political process through this breakthrough film, setting a standard for its genre. Utilizing mobile cameras and sound equipment, director Robert Drew is able to follow the candidates through the most intimate moments of their campaigns, and record part of our history in a way that was unprecedented in its time. Discussion with Sally Hudson (UVA) and Jonathan Karl (ABC News), moderated by Larry Sabato (UVA Center for Politics)

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## Queen of the Capital

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Saturday October 26 5:00 PM - 6:45 PM**

Director: Josh Davidsburg

Featuring: Muffy Blake Stephyns, Fidel Morin, Jon Rybka, Chuck McWilliams, Nicole Murray Ramirez

Bureaucrat by day, drag queen crusader by night, Muffy Blake Stephyns has high aspirations. Muffy and her everyday persona, Daniel, must navigate her bureaucratic day job at the Department of Labor in Washington, DC, all while balancing her role in the Imperial Court of Washington DC, a philanthropic organization full of drag queens, drag kings, and other vibrant performers. Every year, the court elects an emperor and an empress. Drawing on experience as a former political consultant, Muffy spends a year campaigning for the title. Davidsburg's documentary illuminates the thriving D.C. drag scene and explores the story of an individual on a crusade for the community. Discussion with filmmaker Josh Davidsburg and subject Muffy Blake Stephyns, moderated by Alonso Duralde (The Wrap) This film is part of the LGBTQIA+ series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and supported by the UVA Office...

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## Queer Love on Screen

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Thursday October 24 8:45 PM - 10:15 PM**

The VAFF will present an episode from season three of Netflix's Dear White People that follows a group of students of color at Winchester University, a predominantly white Ivy League college. The episode focuses on Lionel and his attempt to convince D'unte and friends that he's ready for the gay "deep end." An episode from the TV series Falling for Angels, in which men explore facets of modern-day relationships against the backdrop of Los Angeles neighborhoods, will also be presented. The episode follows Kevin, a young Taiwanese American, who grew up in a traditionally white American neighborhood but begins to have a different understanding of his heritage after meeting Gino, an adopted Korean American. Discussion with writer Steven J. Kung, moderated by Alonso Duralde (The Wrap) This film is part of the LGBTQIA+ series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and supported by the...

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## Rafiki

Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

**Saturday October 26 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Director: Wanuri Kahiu

Featuring: Patricia Amira, Muthoni Gathecha, Jimmy Gathu, Nice Githinji, Charlie Karumi, Patricia Kihoro

Tomboy and daughter of local politician, Kena, has always been “one of the guys.” Defying Kenya’s construct of womanhood and presenting more androgynously, she is often an outsider in her community. When Ziki, the charismatic daughter of her father’s political rival, moves to town, Kena makes her first female friend. Initially Kena’s mother is thrilled with the friendship, but when the two girls’ bond blossoms into romance, it could prove disastrous for the family’s reputation. Facing violent homophobia, the young couple must defend themselves against Kenya’s anti-gay laws, forcing them to choose between happiness and safety. Discussion with director Wanuri Kahiu, moderated by VAFF Advisory Board member Jason George

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## The Report

The Paramount Theater

**Thursday October 24 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM**

Director: Scott Z. Burns

Featuring: Adam Driver, Annette Bening, Jon Hamm

Daniel J. Jones, a Senate staffer, is assigned the harrowing task of leading an investigation into the CIA’s systematic torture of terrorists in the years following the September 11 attacks. Following his analysis of extensive evidence, Jones determines that the CIA’s “enhanced interrogation techniques” were immoral, cruel, and ineffective, and were misrepresented by the CIA to policymakers. However, when Jones’ team attempts to publish their findings, the White House and CIA go to great lengths to suppress their report. Based on a true story, this intense narrative presents more than a decade’s worth of real-life political events and illuminates one man’s fight against inhumanity and injustice. Introduction by executive director of the 9/11 Commission Philip Zelikow (UVA)

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## Sea of Shadows

St. Anne’s-Belfield School

**Sunday October 27 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Director: Richard Ladkani

Featuring: Carlos Loret De Mola, Jack Hutton, Dr. Cynthia Smith, Andrea Crosta

When Mexican drug cartels and Chinese traffickers join forces to poach the rare totoaba fish in the Sea of Cortez, their methods threaten to destroy all marine life in the region. Most at risk is the elusive vaquita porpoise, one of the most endangered whale species on Earth. This thrilling documentary follows a diverse, dedicated team of scientists, high-tech conservationists, investigative reporters, and undercover agents as they risk their lives to preserve what remains of the vaquita population and indict those who bring continual harm to the species.

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## Sesame Street

Culbreth Theatre

**Saturday October 26 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Sesame Street, join VPM PBS and the Virginia Film Festival for a 60-minute screening of favorite clips from this iconic, award-winning children's television series. Made up of a colorful community of monsters, birds, grouches, and humans, Sesame Street is a place where everyone counts. This screening of Sesame Street is part of the Virginia Film Festival's 2019 Family Day, presented by VPM - Virginia's home for Public Media and the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for the Arts; and supported by CBS19 News, and Z95.1. This is a free, unticketed event. Please arrive fifteen to thirty minutes before the listed start time to find a seat. ™/© 2019 Sesame Workshop. All Rights Reserved.

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## Short Films: Feeling Dramatic

Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

**Friday October 25 3:00 PM - 4:45 PM**

Nana (Lullaby): 2019. Spain. 17 min. Director: Roger Villarroya Featuring: Alba García, Aina Clotet, Yann Labaye, Josep Maria Alexandre, Eva Llorach Laura is young, alone, and pregnant. She helps take care of an elderly French man, Nicolas. Sixty years earlier, in France, Nico takes care of his mother, Alice, and she takes care of him. In Laura's dreams, a wound demands to be healed, deeper than anything that time and space define or reason explains. Ladies Most Deject: 2019. USA. 15 min. Director: Martha Elcan Featuring: Conner Wharton, Robin Mullins, and Pepper Binkley A teenage girl from the Appalachian Mountains struggles to protect her siblings from their drug-addicted mother. A Purgatory Story: 2019. USA. 16 min. Director: Tom Albanese Featuring: Joey Long, Joana Metrass Winner of the Audience Award for 'Best After Hours Short Film' at the 43rd Cleveland International Film Festival, A Purgatory Story follows a demon stuck with...

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## Short Films: Lessons Learned

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Thursday October 24 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

Rear View: 2019. USA. 17 min. Director: Steve Kniss Featuring: Timmy H. Barron, Callie Johnson, Bela Nikolic To process the death of his wife, a grieving husband embarks on a road trip with his daughter to the place where it all began, the place where he and his wife fell in love. Fermi Paradox: 2018. USA. 2 min. Director: Angie Gan Featuring: Ian Burkett Would you ever envision an explanation of the paradox between the high probability of extraterrestrial life and the lack of evidence found that uses ... claymation? In this piece, animator Angie Gan explores the use of fine art in creating accessible, educational science videos. Demand Curve: 2019. USA. 11 min. Director: The Bragg Brothers Featuring: Bill Castrogiovanni, Nick Cassidy, Jonathan Gaietto Offended by his kidnappers' low demands, a university professor uses basic economics to increase his ransom and get in on the action. My Daughter Yoshiko: 2019. USA. 16...

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## Short Films: Looking at Ourselves, Looking at Others

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Sunday October 27 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**

The Special Athlete 2019. USA. 4 min. Director: Christina Anton, Graham Barbour Featuring: Chris Raupp, Lloyd Raupp, Sue Raupp, Ron Manilla Beloved Newcomb Hall employee Chris Raupp represented the United States at the Special Olympics in Abu Dhabi this past March, bringing home the gold in doubles tennis. This is his story. Ladylike 2019. USA. 20 min. Director: Rachel Bickert, Emily Tapanes Featuring: Mallory Parish A young queer woman in the American south comes to terms with her sexuality, shattering deeply-rooted religious beliefs and cultural stereotypes within her conservative community, family, and self. This film is part of the LGBTQIA+ series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and supported by the UVA Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for...

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## Short Films: Potpourri

Violet Crown 4

**Sunday October 27 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

One Pill at a Time: 2018. USA. 2 min. Director: Andrew Wilson One Pill at a Time is an animated satirical take on America's advertising and pharmaceutical drug industries. Gingerbread: 2018. USA. 27 min. Director: Kendell Courtney Klein Featuring: Amanda Plummer, Bill Moseley, Azura Skye Set on a single night during one of the bloodiest days of the Civil War, Gingerbread chronicles Abraham Lincoln through one of the darkest nights of his Presidency as he reluctantly agrees to join Mary Todd in a séance to contact their recently departed son. The Message from Space: 2018. USA. 4 min. Director: Grier Dill Earth receives a message from deep space showing humans how to create a new miracle substance that can replace every modern material we currently use. After many years, with civilization completely rebuilt on the new material, the aliens arrive, and their intentions are not so selfless. St. Louis Superman:...

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## Short Films: Refugees

Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

**Saturday October 26 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM**

Azadi: 2019. USA, Greece. 25 min. Director: Scott Lunt, Hanna Stawicki Featuring: Sakina Hashemi, Farahnaz Ahmadi, Nour Omran, Priyali Sur Azadi follows a group of young refugee women building a new life in Athens, Greece, as they learn to tell their own stories for the first time through short films and shift from survival to dreaming of a hopeful future. Échappé: 2018. USA. 12 min. Director: Allison Mattox Featuring: Olesya Senchenko, Pavel Shatu, Nikolai Tsankov, Abigail Simon, Martin Harvey In 1970, a preeminent Soviet ballet company tours the West to showcase their elite dancers. During a performance of "Sleeping Beauty," a rising ballerina begins to suspect that her brother is planning to defect. Esta Es Tu Cuba: 2018. USA, Puerto Rico. 20 min. Director: Brian Robau Inspired by the real-life stories of the children involved in Operation Pedro Pan, the mass exodus of over 14,000 unaccompanied minors from Cuba to...

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## **Sibyl**

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Sunday October 27 8:00 PM - 10:30 PM**

Director: Justine Triet

Featuring: Virginie Efira, Adèle Exarchopoulos, Gaspard Ulliel

Tired of mundane sessions with her clientele, therapist Sibyl drops multiple patients and pursues her dream of writing a novel. The life of an author doesn't exactly fulfill her until she meets a new patient, Margot. With a muse and reignited passion for writing, Sibyl slowly grows closer to this struggling actress who needs more help than Sibyl may be prepared to offer. Justine Triet creates a medley of romance, drama, and comedy as Margot's life unravels and Sibyl gets more intertwined in it. As these two women grapple with shifting work lives and personal lives, there's no altering the truths of the past. Introduction by Iana Dontcheva (VAFF)

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## **Sing You a Brand New Song: The Words and Music of Coleman Mellett**

Violet Crown 5

**Friday October 25 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM**

Director: C.D. Malloy

Featuring: Chuck Mangione, Barry Miles, Will Lee, Steve Gadd, Jeanie Bryson, James Taylor

On February 12, 2009, at 10:17 PM, Continental Flight 3407 fell from the sky near Buffalo, New York, killing jazz musician Coleman Mellett. He was just 34 years old. In the wake of the tragedy, Mellett's recording partner Barry Miles discovered eleven unfinished songs, each with a vocal and guitar sample recording. Those who knew him as an accomplished jazz musician, including Chuck Mangione, had never heard him sing. These original compositions about his life and the people who meant the most to him comprise Mellett's final work. Detailing the making of Mellett's magnum opus, Malloy's touching documentary is a tender homage to a talent lost with a poignant nod to what is left behind. Discussion with filmmaker Jeanie Bryson and subject Zeb Mellett, moderated by John Kelly (VAFF)

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## **Slave Cry**

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

**Saturday October 26 3:00 PM - 12:00 AM**

Director: Jai Jamison

Featuring: Courtney Jamison, Tim Reid, Felicia Curry, Jerold Solomon, dl Hopkins, Jasmine Shea, Lisa Hodsoll, Elan Irving, Sterling Hurst, Mark Joy.

Screens before the feature film Clemency A young Black actress navigates the film industry in Richmond, Virginia, a market known for period pieces and historical tours. A sardonic look at how she reconciles the degrading roles she is asked to play, with her modern understanding of what it means to be a Black woman in America. A film about identity, legacy, and representation.

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## **Slay the Dragon**

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Friday October 25 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

Director: Chris Durrance, Barak Goodman

Gerrymandering, the process of manipulating the boundaries of electoral districts to favor one party, has long been giving our country's politicians an easy way to sway elections. This documentary travels the country to stand on the front lines with American citizens fighting against a system that they believe undermines our democracy. This call to action lays out a road map for how to stand up against our complex and immense government, emphasizing the need for everyday people to fight for freedom of the vote. Discussion with filmmakers Chris Durrance and Barak Goodman, moderated by Kyle Kondik (UVA Center for Politics) Supported by UVA Center for Politics

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## **The Song of Names**

Culbreth Theatre

**Sunday October 27 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM**

Director: Francois Girard

Featuring: Tim Roth, Clive Owen, Catherine McCormack, Jonah Hauer-King, Gerran Howell, Luke Doyle, Misha Handley

An emotional detective story spread over two continents and half a century, this deeply moving saga centers on young violin prodigy Dovidl, a recent Polish-Jewish refugee to London, at the start of World War II. Hours before his debut performance, the young man mysteriously vanishes without a trace and his brother Martin is left without any information regarding his whereabouts. This unwavering drama about friendship, betrayal, and reconciliation illustrates both the horrors of war and sibling rivalry with pulsing musical revelations. From acclaimed filmmaker François Girard comes a stylistic and emotionally stunning film that shows how within the darkest of mysteries, sometimes only music has the power to illuminate the truth, heal, and redeem. Introduction by Asher Biemann (UVA) This film is part of the Israeli and Jewish Film series supported by Congregation Beth Israel

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## **Song Without a Name**

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Friday October 25 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM**

Director: Melina León

Featuring: Pamela Mendoza, Tommy Párraga, Lucio Rojas, Maykol Hernández, Lidia Quipse

In a Peruvian clinic, a young woman gives birth to a healthy baby girl, only to have her whisked away for what are supposedly routine healthcare checks. When the baby, and the clinic, seem to disappear overnight, the impoverished parents are left without hope or refuge. Enlisting the help of a local investigative journalist, the young couple begins to unearth a child trafficking ring far beyond the scope of their own suffering. A hauntingly shot and scored mystery, Melina León's debut film dramatizes a true-life story of a mother's worst nightmare.

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## **Southern Journey (Revisited)**

PVCC Dickinson Center

**Sunday October 27 7:45 PM - 9:30 PM**

Director: Tim Plester and Rob Curry

Featuring: The Como Mamas, Anna and Elizabeth, Glenn Faulkner, The Local Honeys, and Jimmy Edmonds

In 1959 the noted ethnomusicologist Alan Lomax embarked on a road trip through the Southern States, armed with a pioneering stereo tape-recorder. This was a world on the cusp of monumental change, and the recordings that Lomax made on that trip serve as both a definitive collection of traditional roots music and a unique social document of the times. 60 years later, filmmakers Rob Curry and Tim Plester retrace Lomax's "Southern Journey" in search of echoes of the recordings that he left behind. Both a music documentary and a freewheeling travelogue, the film also takes the pulse of the nation - exploring how these regions have changed and illuminating what remains.

Introduction and musical performance by Emily Morrison (The Front Porch), discussion with co-director Rob Curry, moderated by Emily Morrison Supported by The Front Porch and WTJU

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## **The Sower**

Jefferson School African American Heritage Center

**Saturday October 26 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

Director: Melissa Elizondo

Preceded by the short film Copan En Espera. Amongst the mountains of Chiapas in Mexico, a rural multi-grade schoolteacher, Bartolomé, dedicates himself to sowing the seeds of learning. Through his years of teaching children of all ages, Bartolomé knows being an educator requires teaching that goes beyond strictly academics. The children of Monte de los Olivos even go as far as to refer to their teacher as a father figure and a beacon of hope. This quiet documentary explores the cultivation of a humanistic model of education rooted in curiosity and love for the outside world, expanding beyond the constraints of standardized curriculum. Discussion with directors Federico Cuatlatl (Coapan en Espera) and Melissa Elizondo (The Sower), moderated by Esther Poveda (UVA) This film is part of the Indigeneity in Mexico Film series supported by UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for the Arts

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## **The Spy Behind Home Plate**

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Friday October 25 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM**

Director: Aviva Kempner

Jewish baseball player Morris "Moe" Berg appeared as an enigmatic and brilliant player in the Major Leagues during the Golden Age in the 1920s and 1930s. While Berg is celebrated for his .243 batting average during his 15-year major league career, it was his work for the Office of Strategic Services, playing a prominent role in America's efforts to undermine the German atomic bomb program during WWII, that made him a most valuable player to his country. The first feature-length documentary on Morris "Moe" Berg reveals the life of this unknown Jewish hero through rare historical footage and interviews from the worlds of sports, spy craft, and WWII history. Discussion with filmmaker Aviva Kempner, moderated by VAFF Advisory Board member Diane Naughton This film is part of the Israeli and Jewish Film series supported by Congregation Beth Israel

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## Swallow

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Friday October 25 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

Director: Carlo Mirabella-Davis

Featuring: Haley Bennett, Austin Stowell, Elizabeth Marvel, David Rasche and Denis O'Hare

Preceded by the short film *Burp Hunter* lives an idyllic lifestyle, tucked away in a glass house she shares with her husband in upstate New York. She spends her days performing mindless chores—picking leaves out from the pool, cooking dinner for her husband, and playing iPhone games. Things take an abrupt turn, however, when Hunter discovers she's pregnant and develops pica, a compulsion to consume foreign and dangerous objects. As the severity of her condition worsens, questions of bodily autonomy and control begin to consume Hunter. This suspenseful drama unconventionally tackles questions of the expectations of women and the fight to regain ownership of one's life. Introduction by Chandler Ferrebee (VAFF) This film is part of the *Witching Hours* series supported by University Programs Council

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## Synonyms

Violet Crown 5

**Saturday October 26 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

Director: Nadav Lapid

Featuring: Tom Mercier, Quentin Dolmaire, Louise Chevillotte

When Israeli twenty-something Yoav moves to Paris, France, he intends to rid himself of his nationality and craft a new identity. Upon arrival, however, he is immediately faced with hardship when all his belongings are taken in an apartment robbery. Luckily, a couple in the apartment below take Yoav under their wing as his personal guide for all things French. Yoav takes his French dictionary with him everywhere, desperate to rid himself of the Hebrew language. His homeland is never far behind, however, especially when Yoav gets a security job at the Israeli consulate. Based on the real-life experiences of director Nadav Lapid, *Synonyms* reconciles the complexities of cultural identities while exploring the challenges of putting roots down in a new place. Introduction by Iana Dontcheva (VAFF) Presented by Violet Crown Cinema This film is part of the *Israeli and Jewish Film* series supported by Congregation Beth Israel

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## Tehran: City of Love

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Saturday October 26 3:45 PM - 5:30 PM**

Director: Ali Jaberansari

Featuring: Forough Ghajabegli, Mehdi Saki, Amir Hessam Bakhtiari, Behnaz Jafari, Amir Reza Alizadeh, Aram Mahzari

Three downhearted individuals— an ex-champion bodybuilder, an overweight beauty clinic secretary, and a dispirited religious singer—long for love in Tehran, Iran. As they attempt to change their solo status in the Iranian capital, their search for warmth and connection in a society that fails to embrace them back becomes the driving force in this poignant film about acceptance. Filmmaker Ali Jaberansari provides a pointed take on contemporary Iranian society as the trials of his disenchanting characters divulge what it means to be unlucky in love. With a heightened emphasis on the value of relationships and the lack thereof, this beautifully shot film conveys the importance of hope, courage, and perseverance in the face of adversity. Introduction by Farzaneh Milani (UVA) This film is part of the *Middle Eastern and South Asian Film* series supported by the UVA Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures and the UVA Department of Middle Eastern & South Asian...

## Those Who Remained

Newcomb Hall Theatre

**Thursday October 24 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM**

Director: Barnabás Tóth

Featuring: Károly Hajduk, Abigél Szóke, Mari Nagy, Katalin Simkó, Barnabás Horvay

In post-World War II Budapest, 16-year old Klara reluctantly lives with her great-aunt, desperately hoping her mother and father will return to Hungary after being sent to camps. She then meets 42-year old Aldo, a doctor living in solitude after surviving the concentration camps. As they form a relationship emblematic of a father and daughter, the two begin to find hope again amidst the darkness of reconciling with the war, as each finds something in the other they have long been missing in life. This powerful narrative illuminates the healing power of love amid conflict, loss, and trauma. Introduction by Stan Stepanic (UVA)

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## To the Stars

St. Anne's-Belfield School

**Saturday October 26 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Director: Martha Stephens

Featuring: Kara Hayward, Liana Liberato, Shea Whigham, Jordana Spiro, Lucas Jade Zumann, Adelaide Clemens, Malin Akerman, Tony Hale

In a small town in 1960s Oklahoma, reclusive teen Iris endures the booze-induced antics of her mother and daily doses of bullying from her classmates. Eventually, she forges an intimate friendship with Maggie (Liana Liberato), the worldly but reckless new girl, who homes in on Iris's untapped potential and coaxes her out of her shell. This subtle black-and-white film about friendship, growth, and hope reveals the courage of individuals forced to take drastic measures when they're made to stand up for themselves. Acclaimed filmmaker Martha Stephens presents a moving commentary about those affected by their surroundings and their attempts to cope with hardships. The film will be followed by the presentation of our Rising Star Award to actor Liana Liberato and a discussion moderated by Alissa Wilkinson (Vox) This film is part of the LGBTQIA+ series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the...

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## The Traitor

Violet Crown 5

**Sunday October 27 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM**

Director: Marco Bellocchio

Featuring: Pierfrancesco Favino, Maria Fernanda Candido, Fabrizio Ferracane, Luigi Lo Cascio, Fausto Russo Alesi, Nicola Calì

The Traitor tells the true story of Tommaso Buscetta, a man who brought down La Cosa Nostra, the Sicilian Mafia. Set in the early 1980s, this film offers an immersive behind-the-scenes look at mafia power structures as an all-out gang war rages between its leaders. Dodging assassinations, Buscetta flees to hide out in Brazil, but is soon arrested and extradited to Italy. Here Buscetta makes a decision that will change everything: he meets with Judge Giovanni Falcone and betrays the eternal vow he made to the Cosa Nostra. This film is a revealing portrait of the Cosa Nostra hierarchy and how justice is served through the Mafia Maxi Trial. Introduction by Sarah Annunziato (UVA)

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## **Trixie Mattel: Moving Parts**

Violet Crown 5

**Friday October 25 10:00 PM - 11:30 PM**

Director: Nicholas Zeig-Owens

Featuring: Trixie Mattel, Katya Zamolodchikova, Jaymes Mansfield, BenDeLaCreme, Bob The Drag Queen, Jinkx Monsoon

Trixie Mattel: Moving Parts captures the momentous rise of RuPaul's Drag Race breakout queen Trixie Mattel. As the charming drag persona of Milwaukee-raised Brian Firkus, Trixie does it all: headlining a live tour in Great Britain while filming Drag Race All Stars, managing personal projects, recording a new album, and navigating family issues including an unexpected fallout with close friend and web series co-star Katya Zamolodchikova. With humor and catharsis in each performance, this documentary is a raw and deeply personal portrait of the pitfalls of success and the endless churn of being a professional performer, singer, and comedian. This film is part of the LGBTQIA+ series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and supported by the UVA Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for the Arts

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## **The Two Popes**

The Paramount Theater

**Sunday October 27 7:00 PM - 9:15 PM**

Director: Fernando Meirelles

Featuring: Anthony Hopkins, Jonathan Pryce, Juan Minujín

One of the most shocking twists in modern Catholic Church history occurred in 2013 with the announcement of Pope Benedict XVI's resignation, becoming the first pontiff to do so in over six centuries. Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, a fervent believer in the Church's obligation to adjust towards the needs of its followers, is picked to succeed a pope who regards change as a compromise to the church's integrity. This narrative retelling of a pinnacle moment in the Catholic Church's history reveals the journey of two men grappling with religion, emotion, and humanity in the face of multifarious, substantial change. Introduction by VAFF director Jody Kielbasa Presented by UVA Health Gamma Knife Center

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## **Varda by Agnès**

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Friday October 25 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Director: Agnès Varda

Photographer, installation artist, and pioneer of the Nouvelle Vague Agnès Varda returns with a characteristically bittersweet farewell in this excitingly unpredictable documentary. From the "Queen of French Cinema" herself, this film presents footage of the auteur's previous work and sheds light on her experiences as a director. This heartwarming piece combs through the artist's remarkable life and career while allowing the filmmaker to have the final word on her films. Without missing a beat, Varda's introspective take on her personal journey provides a nuanced view of life, artistry, and the pursuit of success as a trailblazer in a male-dominated field. Introduction by Alison Levine (UVA)

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## **VCUarts Cinema | The Real and the Unreal**

Violet Crown 4

**Saturday October 26 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

What defines realism? How does non-realism fit in narrative cinema? The VCUarts Cinema Program aims to answer these questions with their series of student short films which capture both the real and unreal nuances of life. These films include a tarot card reader in search for her knight of cups, a dancer trying to overcome the limitations of her body, a little boy in search for his absent father, and a man overcome with a god complex. Discussion with the filmmakers

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### **Waves**

Culbreth Theatre

**Thursday October 24 8:30 PM - 10:45 PM**

Director: Trey Edward Shults

Featuring: Kelvin Harrison, Jr., Lucas Hedges, Taylor Russell, Alexa Demie, with Renée Elise Goldsberry and Sterling K. Brown

Waves centers around the Williams, an upper middle class African-American family in suburban Florida, as they navigate through love, pain and togetherness in the aftermath of a tragic loss. With authentic portrayals of ordinary life and a deep exploration around finding forgiveness, this film pulsates with urgency as it captures the emotional minefield of growing up and falling in love. From acclaimed filmmaker Trey Edward Shults comes a poetically radiant and ecstatic attempt to challenge core ideas of how and why things happen in life. Through sequences propelled by color, energy, and current music, Shults' new movie is a rare sort of cinematic achievement that innovates at every turn. Introduction by Chandler Ferrebee (VAFF) Supported by Underground Shorts

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### **Wax Paul Now**

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

Director: Val Bodurtha, Rebecca Shaw, Sophie Mann

Screens before the feature film Olympic Dreams Three New Yorkers will stop at nothing to get Paul Giamatti his own wax statue at Madame Tussauds.

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## **We Are the Radical Monarchs**

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Thursday October 24 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM**

Director: Linda Goldstein Knowlton

Over the course of several years, director Linda Goldstein Knowlton has followed the unexpected rise of the Radical Monarchs, an Oakland-grown alternative to traditional scouting troops for young girls of color. The troop still works to earn badges, not for sewing or selling cookies but for units on Black Lives Matter or being an LGBTQ Ally. Following the two moms, Anyavette Martinez and Marilyn Hollinquest, who founded the troop, the film captures seasons of earning badges, growing up, navigating the current political climate, and spreading the Radical Monarchs mission to other girls of color across the country. Discussion with filmmaker Linda Goldstein Knowlton, moderated by Michelle Jackson (VAFF) This film is part of the Race in America series presented by James Madison's Montpelier and supported by Bama Works Fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and the UVA Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

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## **We Believe in Dinosaurs**

Vinegar Hill Theatre

**Sunday October 27 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

Director: Monica Long Ross and Clayton Brown

Featuring: David MacMillan, Dan Phelps

America houses countless viewpoints and the acceptable methods of expressing them are consistently called into question. This story arises from rural Kentucky, where all eyes are on a life-size model of Noah's Ark being built to prove the accuracy of the Bible. A creationist, a former creationist, and a pro-science activist become the main characters in an examination of the controversy encompassing evolution denial and the separation of church and state. America's relationship with science is probed and prodded in this authentic documentary. Filmed over the course of four years, Monica Long Ross and Clayton Brown maintain a commitment to presenting opinions as they are and allowing the picture to frame itself. Discussion with filmmakers Clayton Brown and Monica Long Ross, and subjects David MacMillan and Dan Phelps, moderated by Paul Jones (UVA)

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## **Western Stars**

The Paramount Theater

**Thursday October 24 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**

Director: Bruce Springsteen, Thom Zimny

This music-fueled documentary offers audiences the opportunity to see Bruce Springsteen perform all 13 songs from his new critically acclaimed album Western Stars, his first studio album in five years. Director Thom Zimny, alongside Springsteen himself, captures his single performance of the album for a private audience at his farmhouse, surrounded by a thirty-person orchestra. Evoking both the mythic and rugged elements of the American West, this film weaves together archival footage and Springsteen's own narration to contextualize themes of love, loss, and the inevitable passage of time to tell the story of Western Stars. Discussion with co-director Thom Zimny, moderated by Bill Antholis (The Miller Center) Presented by The AV Company and Harvest Moon Catering Supported by Charlottesville Radio Group and The Miller Center

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## What If Black Boys Were Butterflies?

See Feature Film Listing for Venue

**Sunday October 27 2:30 PM - 12:00 AM**

Director: DaeQuan Collier

Screens before the feature film Always In Season While other boys can enjoy a childhood of freedoms, for many reasons, Black boyhood is a brief, complicated existence. What If Black Boys Were Butterflies, is a non-linear experimental short film displaying what Black Boyhood is and what it ultimately could be.

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## When All is Ruin Once Again

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Thursday October 24 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM**

Director: Keith Walsh

Featuring: Crusheen Straw Boys, Des Mulkere, Zacharia & Sylk Clark, Frank & Mary O'Sullivan, Ennis Brass Band, Eddie Lenihan, Cella McNamara, Angela Hanrahan, Paddy Hassett, Paddy O'Connor, Mattie & Kevin O'Brien, Tess Diviney, Gort Rose Girls, Sr. DeLourdes Fahy, Sr. Mary Brosnan, Tubber Card Players, Crusheen GAA Club, Mike Kavanagh, Kevin Cunningham, Tom & Maureen Neilan, Joe Kearney, Leonardo Gomez, Fr. Pat O'Neill

Using a subtle black-and-white visual tone, native Irishman and filmmaker Keith Walsh provides a deeply personal look into the impact of modernism on overlooked individuals. This poetic documentary explores the sentiments of rural townspeople in the west of Ireland as a new motorway ploughs through their landscape. Walsh places an emphasis on the difficulties of grappling with change while also questioning the genuineness of "progress" associated with intrusive human activity. Shot over an eight-year period, When All Is Ruin Once Again interweaves archival footage with interview footage in order to both inform and challenge one's understanding of this substantial piece of Irish history. Introduction by Andrew Rodgers (VAFF)

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## The Wild Goose Lake

Violet Crown 6 & 7

**Friday October 25 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM**

Director: Diao Yanan

Featuring: Hu Ge, Gwei Lun Mei, Liao Fan, Wan Qian, Qi Dao

Mob boss Zhou Zenong desperately tries to stay alive after he mistakenly kills a cop and a dead-or-alive bounty is put on his head. Set in densely populated Wuhan, Zenong is accompanied by Liu Aiai, a femme fatale employed by his boss who may have been sent there to help him, or to collect him for the hefty ransom. The two are hunted on the hidden shores of a lake, knowing that any moment could be their last. Filled with action-packed set-pieces and sequences, Diao delivers a dazzling take on crime drama.

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## **You Don't Nomi**

Violet Crown 4

**Saturday October 26 9:00 PM - 10:45 PM**

Director: Jeffrey McHale

Featuring: Adam Nayman, April Kidwell, Barbara Shulgasser-Parker, David Schmader, Haley Mlotek, Jeffery Conway, Jeffrey Sconce, Matt Baume, Peaches Christ, Susan Wloszczyna

The release of Showgirls in 1995, Paul Verhoeven's salacious NC-17 look at Vegas dancers, was met with extreme distaste and ridicule from both critics and audiences. Despite the initial near-universal disdain for the film, in the intervening decades a quite large and continually expanding fan community grew around the film, as well as intense debate about how the film treats themes of sex and gender. Following the journey of Showgirls from initial flop to cult classic, this documentary provides a thought-provoking and entertaining window into American pop culture and the surprising ways in which film can connect communities. This film is part of the LGBTQIA+ series presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and supported by the UVA Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost...

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## **Zombi Child**

PVCC Dickinson Center

**Friday October 25 9:15 PM - 11:00 PM**

Director: Bertrand Bonello

Featuring: Louise Labeque, Wislanda Louimat, Katiana Milfort

Beginning in 1962, this film focuses on the true story of Haitian man Clairvius Narcisse, who is said to have been dug up from his grave and forced to work on a sugar-cane plantation after his untimely death. Following this introduction, the film shifts to present-day France at an elite boarding school where popular girl Fanny befriends new girl Melissa, who recently moved there following her parents' deaths in the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Obsessed with Melissa's culture, Fanny seeks out Melissa's knowledge of voodoo to help solve her recent heartbreak. An attempt to rescue Voodoo from traditional racist stereotypes, director Bertrand Bonello's film offers an intentional look at the legacy and perpetuation of colonialism today.

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