

# FESTIVAL AT-A-GLANCE

37<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL  
OCT 30  
- NOV 3

CENTERPIECE FILM: EMILIA PÉREZ

## GALA SCREENINGS



ANORA



BLITZ



THE END



THE FIRE INSIDE



MEMOIR OF A SNAIL



NIGHTBITCH



PAVEMENTS



THE PIANO LESSON



THE ROOM NEXT DOOR

VA  
FF

# VIRGINIA FILM FESTIVAL

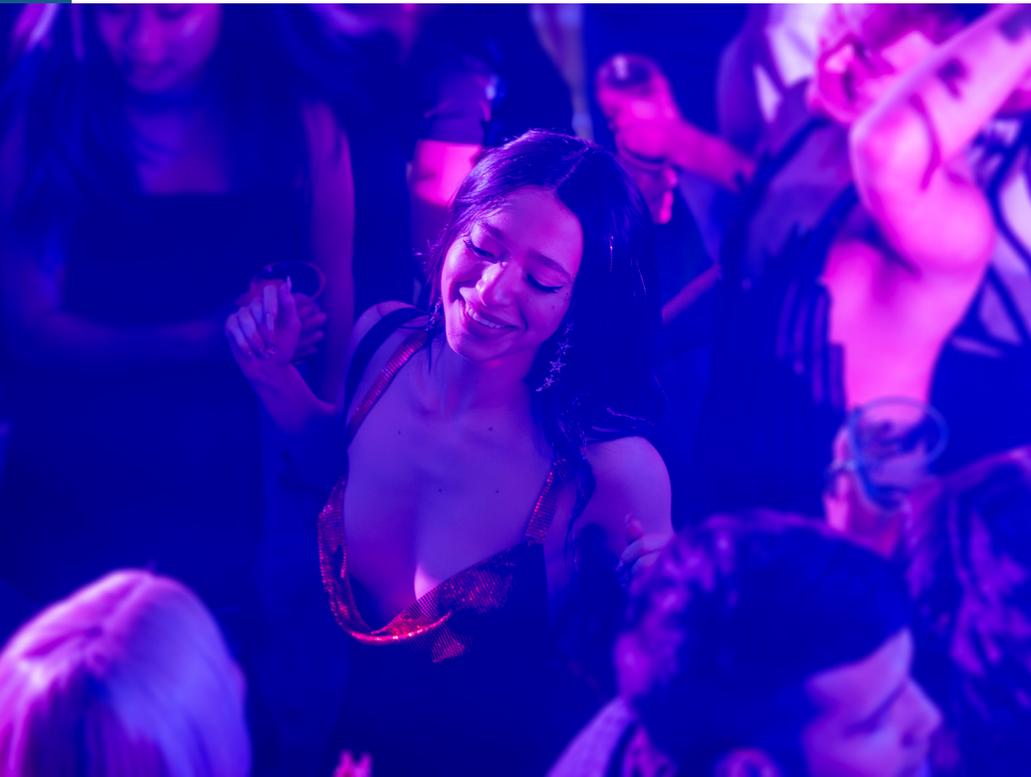
A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

PRESENTING  
SPONSOR



THE  
JOSEPH AND ROBERT  
CORNELL MEMORIAL  
FOUNDATION

OVER 100 FILMS IN 5 DAYS



**OPENING NIGHT FILM**

# Anora

**Wednesday, Oct. 30 | 7:00 PM**  
**The Paramount Theater**

In the latest sensorial feast from celebrated U.S. director Sean Baker (*The Florida Project*, *Red Rocket*), Mikey Madison plays Ani, an exotic dancer from Brighton Beach, Brooklyn who gets her shot at a Cinderella story after impulsively marrying one of her clients.

Palme d'Or Winner, Cannes Film Festival  
Part of the 2024 tribute to NEON, presented alongside VAFF's Impresario Award for the distributor's contribution to cinema.



*Achievement in Acting Award: Mikey Madison*



**AFTER HOURS**

**FEATURING:**

## ***Chainsaws Were Singing***

Best Picture Award winner at Fantastic Fest, this DIY passion project is a blood-drenched murder-packed musical extravaganza about two lovers split up by a chainsaw.

Part of the inaugural After Hours series, which spotlights films that walk on the wild side—genre, horror, sci-fi, fantasy, and more.



**BLACK EXCELLENCE**

**FEATURING:**

## ***The Piano Lesson***

Marking the third of August Wilson's plays to be brought to the screen by producer Denzel Washington (*Fences*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*), this highly anticipated film boasts an all-star cast including John David Washington (*BlackkKlansman*), Danielle Deadwyler, Ray Fisher, and Samuel L. Jackson. Part of the Black Excellence series.

**Presented by United Way of Greater Charlottesville; The David Butler Family Foundation; and UVA Division for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and supported by The Charlottesville Chapter of The Links, Incorporated and The Charlottesville Player's Guild**



**INDIGENOUS CINEMA OF THE AMERICAS**

**FEATURING:**

## ***Jazzy***

Jazzy and Syriah are best friends—Oglala Lakota girls growing up in Spearfish, South Dakota—whose bond is tested as they encounter crushes, changing bodies, complex families, and grief. Executive produced by and starring Lily Gladstone (*Killers of the Flower Moon*), this stunning coming-of-age narrative highlights the power of the clear idealism and joy of childhood. Winner of Best Performance at the Tribeca Film Festival, *Jazzy* is part of the Indigenous Cinema of the Americas series.

Series presented by UVA Arts Council



CLOSING NIGHT FILM

# The Room Next Door

Sunday, Nov. 3 | 8:00 PM

The Paramount Theater

Ingrid (Julianne Moore) and Martha (Tilda Swinton) were close friends in their youth, when they worked together at the same magazine, but lost touch as their lives took different courses. When Martha makes an unorthodox request of Ingrid, the two are forced to navigate a serious test to their lifelong bond, in the latest from Pedro Almodóvar.

Golden Lion for Best Film, Venice Film Festival

Presented by Harvest Moon Catering and AV Company



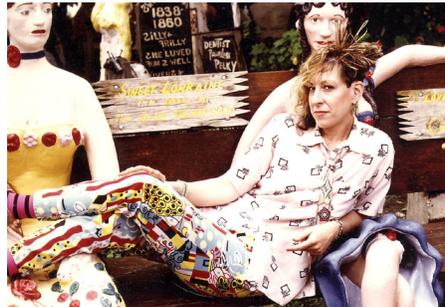
INTERNATIONAL OSCAR CONTENDERS

FEATURING:

## The Seed of the Sacred Fig

A gripping social drama turned thriller from noted Iranian director Mohammad Rasoulof, a vocal critic of Iran's hardline conservative government who recently fled the country to avoid an eight-year prison sentence. Germany's official Oscar selection, *The Seed of the Sacred Fig* is part of the International Oscar Contenders series, which includes nine additional films, representing Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Latvia, Pakistan, Poland, and Senegal.

Supported by UVA Global Affairs



LGBTQIA+

FEATURING:

## The World According to Allee Willis

Allee Willis, the remarkable songwriter and artist, composed the iconic *Friends* theme song, the Earth Wind & Fire mega-hit "September," and contributed to the musical *The Color Purple*. This documentary delves into the captivating tale of this music icon, chronicling her journey towards finding genuine love, self-acceptance, and unparalleled creative prowess. Part of the LGBTQIA+ series.



NATURE & ENVIRONMENT

FEATURING:

## Nocturnes

This stunning, immersive documentary follows ecologist Mansi Mungee and her assistant Bicki, a member of the local indigenous Bugun community, as they attempt to record and measure the size of hawk moths at various locations in an Eastern Himalayan forest. The film uncovers how the study speaks to the dangers of global climate change while highlighting the interconnectedness of the natural world. Part of the Nature & Environment series.

Series presented by Southern Environmental Law Center





CENTERPIECE FILM

# Emilia Pérez

**Saturday, Nov. 2 | 3:30 PM**  
**The Paramount Theater**

Renegade French auteur Jacques Audiard (*Rust and Bone*, *A Prophet*) offers up his most ambitious film to date—a musical fever dream that defies genre and expectation as it tracks the lives of four remarkable women in Mexico.

Featuring powerful performances from Zoe Saldana, Selena Gomez, Adriana Paz, and Karla Sofía Gascón.

**Jury Prize and Best Actress Winner, Cannes Film Festival**

**Presented by UVA Arts and the Office of the Provost and Vice Provost for the Arts**

**Supported by Out and About and QVA: University of Virginia's Queer Alumni Network**



## Unstoppable

**Thursday, Oct. 31 | 8:30 PM**  
**The Paramount Theater**

Jharrel Jerome (*Moonlight*, *I'm a Virgo*) blows the doors off with a career-defining performance alongside a star-studded cast (including Jennifer Lopez, Bobby Cannavale, Michael Peña, and Don Cheadle) in this inspiring true story of one-legged wrestling champion Anthony Robles. **Discussion with director William Goldenberg**

**Presented by Bank of America**



**40TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING**

## Birdy

**Friday, Nov. 1 | 12:00 PM**  
**The Paramount Theater**

Golden Globe-winner Matthew Modine (*Full Metal Jacket*, *Stranger Things*) and Academy Award-winner Nicolas Cage star in this riveting anti-war drama. A story of two boyhood friends, the confident and popular Al and Birdy—an awkward and gentle soul obsessed with birds—whose youth is shattered by the Vietnam war. **Discussion with actor Matthew Modine**



**Matthew Modine**



## Bird

**Friday, Nov. 1 | 4:00 PM**  
**The Paramount Theater**

The latest from Academy Award-winning filmmaker Andrea Arnold (*Fish Tank*, *American Honey*), *Bird* weaves fantasy with reality to tell the story of a 12-year-old girl navigating a hardscrabble life alongside her eccentric father (Barry Keoghan) and the enigmatic Bird (Franz Rogowski).

**Supported by UVA Gamma Knife Center**



# Pavements

Saturday, Nov. 2 | 6:30 PM  
Culbreth Theatre

Preeminent indie director Alex Ross Perry (*Her Smell*) captures the story of one of the most iconic bands of the 90s, Pavement. Perry blends elements of music biopic, Off-Broadway jukebox musical, and pop-up museum exhibition to create an alternate reality of the cult-favorite band's past and present. **Discussion with Alex Ross Perry and Pavement drummer Steve West**

Presented by C-VILLE Weekly and UVA Arts and The Office of the Provost and Vice Provost for the Arts



Directorial Achievement  
Award: Alex Ross Perry



## Bob Trevino Likes It

Friday, Nov. 1 | 8:10 PM  
Culbreth Theatre

Lily Trevino (Barbie Ferreira, *Euphoria*) is a 25-year-old woman struggling to overcome low self-esteem and a lack of close friends and family. When her father stops picking up her calls, she turns to Facebook in hopes of reconciliation and accidentally gets in touch with another man (John Leguizamo) who shares her father's name. **Discussion with director Tracie Laymon**

Supported by Verizon



## The Bitter Pill

Saturday, Nov. 2 | 11:00 AM  
Culbreth Theatre

Directed by award-winning documentary filmmaker (Gleason) and Charlottesville native Clay Tweel, *The Bitter Pill* captures the relentless courage of a West Virginia attorney and his community as they rally to fight back against the opioid epidemic, in the process sparking a national movement. **Discussion with director Clay Tweel**

Supported by Duner's



## A Real Pain

Saturday, Nov. 2 | 12:00 PM  
The Paramount Theater

Estranged cousins David (Jesse Eisenberg) and Benji (Kieran Culkin) come together to make a pilgrimage to Poland to honor the life of their grandmother, a Holocaust survivor. The unforgettable journey effortlessly blends comedy and drama as the film honors personal and shared history.

Supported by The Doyle Hotel



# ***Memoir of a Snail***

**Thursday, Oct. 31 | 8:00 PM**  
**Culbreth Theatre**

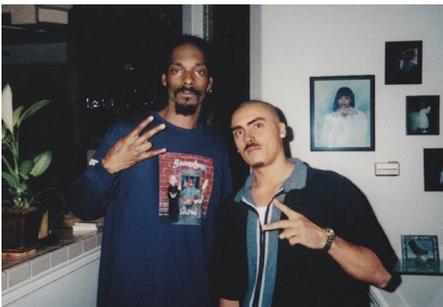
Academy Award-winning director Adam Elliot (*Mary and Max*) offers a bittersweet, coming-of-age memoir of a melancholic girl named Grace Pudel: a hoarder of snails, romance novels, and guinea pigs.

**Cristal Prize for Best Feature, Annecy International Animation Film Festival**

**Presented by Watermark Design**



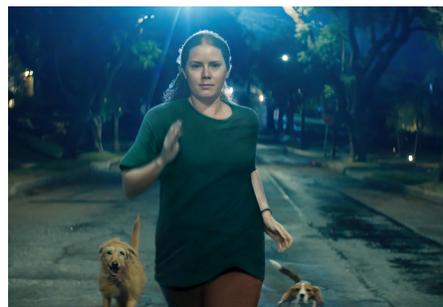
*Achievement in Animation Award: Adam Elliot*



## ***Unlikely Allies***

**Saturday, Nov. 2 | 4:30 PM**  
**Violet Crown**

Weldon Angelos was a promising music producer and recording artist whose life took a dramatic turn when he was sentenced to 55 years in federal prison. In response to the drastic punishment, conservative billionaire Charles Koch, Senators Cory Booker and Mike Lee, Van Jones, and Snoop Dogg all join forces to fight for Angelos' freedom. Part of the *Voices of the Formerly Incarcerated Series*.  
**Discussion with director Anthony Pedone**



## ***Nightbitch***

**Saturday, Nov. 2 | 7:30 PM**  
**The Paramount Theater**

Two years after giving birth and leaving her career behind, a mother (Amy Adams) is still learning to manage ceaseless stay-at-home routines when she notices her body is undergoing a surreal and inexplicable transformation. **Discussion with producer Anne Carey**



## ***The Fire Inside***

**Sunday, Nov. 3 | 12:10 PM**  
**The Paramount Theater**

Academy Award-winning cinematographer Rachel Morrison (*Mudbound*) makes her feature debut in this narrative based on the true story of boxer Claressa "T-Rex" Shields.

Written and produced by Academy Award-winning director Barry Jenkins (*Moonlight, If Beale Street Could Talk*), *The Fire Inside* follows the journey of the young boxer (Ryan Destiny) from Flint, Michigan as she trains for the Olympics.

# Luther: Never Too Much

Friday, Nov. 1 | 5:00 PM  
Culbreth Theatre

Directed by Dawn Porter (*Gideon's Army*), this documentary traverses the late R&B singer Luther Vandross' career, showcasing his journey from a boy with a dream in Harlem to a multi-Grammy award-winning household name.

Presented by UVA Division for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and supported by Charlottesville Chapter of The Links, Incorporated



Chronicler Award:  
Dawn Porter



## Eephus

Sunday, Nov. 3 | 2:45 PM  
Culbreth Theatre

For years, baseball teams have gathered on Soldier's Field, a small-town pitch in New England, battling each other in their amateur adult league. When a looming construction project threatens to demolish the field to make way for a new middle school, two teams seize the opportunity to play one final game on their beloved field.  
**Discussion with director Carson Lund**

Supported by Bay Ridge Private Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors



## The End

Sunday, Nov. 3 | 3:30 PM  
The Paramount Theater

A golden age musical about one of the last families on earth, from visionary Joshua Oppenheimer (*The Act of Killing*). Featuring Tilda Swinton, Michael Shannon, George McKay, and Moses Ingram. Part of the 2024 tribute to NEON. **Virtual discussion with director Joshua Oppenheimer**



## The Last Showgirl

Sunday, Nov. 3 | 8:30 PM  
Culbreth Theatre

Director Gia Coppola (*Palo Alto*) delivers a touching elegy about aging, womanhood, and redefined ambition, set against the gleaming lights of Sin City. Pamela Anderson shines as Shelley, a proud and self-possessed woman who has been a showgirl on the Vegas Strip for her entire adult life. When her show closes after a 30-year run, she's faced with an uncertain future.

# WEDNESDAY, OCT 30

THE VIRGINIA FILM FESTIVAL IS A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

PARAMOUNT	CULBRETH	VIOLET CROWN 1 & 2	VIOLET CROWN 3	VIOLET CROWN 4	VIOLET CROWN 5	VIOLET CROWN 6 & 7	
							5pm
							6pm
							7pm
							8pm
							9pm
							10pm
							11pm

# THURSDAY, OCT 31

THE VIRGINIA FILM FESTIVAL IS A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

							5pm
							6pm
							7pm
							8pm
							9pm
							10pm
							11pm

PARAMOUNT	CULBRETH	VIOLET CROWN 1 & 2	VIOLET CROWN 3	VIOLET CROWN 4	VIOLET CROWN 5	VIOLET CROWN 6 & 7	
							10am
							11am
BIRDY 40TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING w/ Guests 12:00 PM			AMADEUS 40TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING 12:45 PM				12pm
		A TRAVELER'S NEEDS 2:15 PM		TAUTUKTAVUK (WHAT WE SEE) 2:00 PM			1pm
					SHORT FILMS: KEVIN JEROME EVERSON w/ Guests 3:00 PM		2pm
BIRD 4:00 PM	LUTHER: NEVER TOO MUCH w/ Guests 5:00 PM	OMAR AND CEDRIC: IF THIS EVER GETS WEIRD 4:45 PM	SHORT FILMS: IN THE KALEIDOSCOPE 4:30 PM	ROOTED w/ Guests 4:50 PM			3pm
					ZURAWSKI V TEXAS 5:30 PM	UNDER THE VOLCANO 5:15 PM	4pm
							5pm
THE PIANO LESSON w/ Guests 7:30 PM	BOB TREVINO LIKES IT w/ Guests 8:10 PM	JAZZY 8:00 PM	DEMBA w/ Guests 7:30 PM	THE PENGUIN w/ Guests 7:50 PM			6pm
					TRANSPLANT w/ Guests 8:30 PM	THE GIRL WITH THE NEEDLE 8:15 PM	7pm
							8pm
							9pm
							10pm
							11pm

 GALA/SPOTLIGHT FILMS

 FREE EVENTS

# SATURDAY, NOV 2

THE VIRGINIA FILM FESTIVAL IS A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

PARAMOUNT	CULBRETH	VIOLET CROWN 1 & 2	VIOLET CROWN 3	VIOLET CROWN 4	VIOLET CROWN 5	VIOLET CROWN 6 & 7	CODE BUILDING	
			NEXT GENERATION STORYTELLERS' HIGH SCHOOL SHORT FILMS w/ Guests 10:00 AM	A LITTLE PRINCESS 10:15 AM	JUVENILE: FIVE STORIES w/ Guests 10:00 AM		DESIGNING THE PRODUCTION 10:00 AM	10am
	THE BITTER PILL w/ Guests 11:00 AM	THE GLASSWORKER 11:30 AM						11am
A REAL PAIN 12:00 PM			I HOPE THIS HELPS! w/ Guests 12:30 PM	SHAKING IT UP: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LIZ CARPENTER w/ Guests 1:00 PM		THE BLACK SEA 12:00 PM	MAKING IT - FILM INDUSTRY CAREER PANEL 12:00 PM	12pm
	THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG 2:15 PM	DAHOMEY 2:30 PM			PRESENCE 1:30 PM		BUILDING A SHOW: SUPERMAN & LOIS 2:00 PM	1pm
EMILIA PÉREZ 3:30 PM			INTRHIVE: INCARCERATION SURVIVORS' VOICES w/ Guests 3:00 PM	PLASTIC PEOPLE 3:45 PM		THE WORLD ACCORDING TO ALLEE WILLIS 2:45 PM		2pm
		FAQ 4:45 PM	ADRIANNE & THE CASTLE w/ Guests 5:20 PM		UNLIKELY ALLIES w/ Guests 4:30 PM			3pm
	PAVEMENTS w/ Guests 6:30 PM			WILFRED BUCK 6:10 PM		ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT 5:30 PM		4pm
NIGHTBITCH w/ Guests 7:30 PM		VERMIGLIO 7:45 PM	WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED w/ Guests 8:20 PM		SATURDAY NIGHT Special Award Screening w/ Guests 7:30 pm			5pm
				SNEAK PREVIEW: MAYFAIR WITCHES w/ Guests 8:45 PM		UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE 8:10 PM		6pm
								7pm
								8pm
								9pm
								10pm
								11pm

PARAMOUNT	CULBRETH	VIOLET CROWN 1 & 2	VIOLET CROWN 3	VIOLET CROWN 4	VIOLET CROWN 5	VIOLET CROWN 6 & 7	
							10am
							11am
	<b>GEORGIA O'KEEFE: THE BRIGHTNESS OF LIGHT</b> w/ Guests 11:00 AM	<b>DON'T CRY BUTTERFLY</b> 11:30 AM	<b>INTERCEPTED</b> 12:00 PM		<b>DAY OF THE FIGHT</b> w/ Guests 11:15 AM	<b>FLOW</b> 11:00 AM	12pm
<b>THE FIRE INSIDE</b> 12:10 PM							1pm
							2pm
	<b>EEPHUS</b> w/ Guests 2:45 PM	<b>BAD SHABBOS</b> 2:15 PM	<b>SHORT FILMS: DISSOLVING DREAMS</b> 2:45 PM	<b>NOCTURNES</b> 3:00 PM	<b>DEMENTIA AND LIVING WELL</b> w/ Guests 2:30 PM	<b>THE SHEPHERD AND THE BEAR</b> 2:00 PM	3pm
<b>THE END</b> w/ Guests 3:30 PM							4pm
							5pm
	<b>THE SUMMER BOOK</b> 6:00 PM	<b>I'M STILL HERE</b> 4:45 PM		<b>MEN OF WAR</b> 5:30 PM	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE IN MILLER'S POINT</b> w/ Guests 5:00 PM	<b>SABBATH QUEEN</b> 5:15 PM	6pm
			<b>THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO</b> 6:00 PM				7pm
							8pm
<b>THE ROOM NEXT DOOR</b> 8:00 PM	<b>THE LAST SHOWGIRL</b> 8:30 PM				<b>SHORT FILMS: OUR WEALTH IN COMMON</b> 8:20 PM	<b>CHAINSAWS WERE SINGING</b> 8:00 PM	9pm
							10pm
							11pm

 GALA/SPOTLIGHT FILMS

 FREE EVENTS

# FREE PANELS at CODE

**Saturday, Nov. 2**  
**Irving Theatre,**  
**CODE Building**

All panels are free and will be presented with live captions. Arrive 15-30 minutes before the listed start time to find a seat.

Supported by Violet Crown Cinema



## Designing the Production

**10:00 AM**

Learn about the magical craft of production designers—the film artists who bring the visual world of a screenplay to life. 2024 VAFF Craft Award Winner, **Kalina Ivanov** (*The Penguin*) is joined by Academy Award-nominated production designer **David Crank** (*Knives Out*).



## Making it—Film Industry Career Panel

**12:00 PM**

Four early to mid-career filmmakers with different paths to success in the film industry share their personal journeys. Actors/Producers **Trent Garrett** (*All My Children*) and **Jacob Young** (*The Bold and the Beautiful*) share the stage with actor/producer/director **Spencer Jamison** and production and support staffer **Ruthie Petitto** (*Russian Doll*).



## Building a Show: Superman & Lois

**2:00 PM**

Showrunners **Todd Helbing** (*The Flash*) and **Brent Fletcher** (*Lost, Angel*) are joined by VAFF Board member **Jai Jamison**, series writer and director, to discuss the inner-workings of show development, writing, and production. The conversation will be preceded by a screening of the 4th season premiere episode, *The End and the Beginning*.

# HOW TO GET YOUR TICKETS

**Online** at [virginiafilmfestival.org](http://virginiafilmfestival.org) until two hours prior to each film.

**By Phone** at (434) 924-3376, open Tues-Fri from noon to 5:00 PM.

**In Person** at UVA Arts Box Office in the lobby of the UVA Drama Building, and Downtown Box Office, located inside Violet Crown on the Downtown Mall.

## Ticket Prices

**Film Screenings:** \$15 adult / \$13 discounted

**Select Gala Screenings and Events:** \$20+

Discounts available on regularly priced screenings for senior citizens (60+), students with ID, children, UVA Faculty and staff, and local educators.

We accept all major credit cards and checks at our in-person box office locations. Cash payments are also accepted at the UVA Arts Box Office location.

## Free Tickets for UVA students

Full-time UVA students can receive up to one complimentary ticket to each film, as available, made possible by the Arts\$ program. UVA student tickets must be reserved 24 hours in advance and are not available the day of the film.

## Tickets During the Festival

**UVA Arts Box Office and Downtown Box Office at Violet Crown:** Open during business hours (scan QR code below for exact hours) as well as one hour before each screening.

**Online:** Up to two hours prior to each film.

**VAFF Box Office @ The Paramount Theater:** For screenings held at The Paramount only, open one hour before each screening.

## What if tickets are unavailable?

You're in luck! Ten minutes prior to the start of a film, we sell unclaimed tickets to a standby line. While there is no guarantee that we will have unclaimed tickets at the door, we typically do have a small number to release. Note: we do not permit the saving of places in standby lines, and a max of one ticket per person will be sold to each patron in the standby line.

## Accessibility

All screening and event venues are accessible via ramp or elevators, offer wheelchair areas for viewing performances, and have accessible restrooms. Additionally, we strive to be accessible to all our patrons. Select films offer closed captioning, open captions, and we also offer ASL interpretation at select in-person discussions. All foreign-language films are presented with English subtitles. For more information and for instructions on how to view a complete list of films that offer the accommodations listed above, visit [virginiafilmfestival.org/accessibility](http://virginiafilmfestival.org/accessibility). To request accommodations please contact VAFF Staff at [VAFFaccommodations@virginia.edu](mailto:VAFFaccommodations@virginia.edu) or (434) 982-4543, at least fourteen (14) business days before the event.



## Questions?

Scan the QR code below for more information on our ticketing policies, box office hours, and more.