

FESTIVAL AT-A-GLANCE

36TH
ANNUAL

OCT 25-29

JON BATISTE IN *AMERICAN SYMPHONY*

VA
FF

VIRGINIA FILM FESTIVAL

A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

PRESENTING
SPONSOR



OVER 100 FILMS IN 5 DAYS

GALA SCREENINGS



AMERICAN FICTION



DREAM SCENARIO



GOING TO MARS: THE NIKKI GIOVANNI PROJECT



THE HOLDOVERS



MAESTRO



MAY DECEMBER



ORIGIN



RUSTIN



WAR PONY



OPENING NIGHT FILM

Maestro

Craft Award: Kazu Hiro

Wednesday, Oct. 25 | 7:00 PM
The Paramount Theater

Bradley Cooper stars as legendary composer Leonard Bernstein in this enchanting film about his musical legacy and magnetic love story with actress Felicia Monteleone (Carey Mulligan). Inspired by stories provided by the Bernstein children, *Maestro* is an unmissable cinematic experience. **Discussion with makeup effects artist Kazu Hiro, two time Oscar-award winner for *Darkest Hour* and *Bombshell*.**

Presented by Bank of America



Kazu Hiro



BLACK EXCELLENCE

FEATURING:

The Space Race

This gripping documentary recounts untold stories of pioneering Black pilots, astronauts, scientists, and engineers who broke barriers in space despite ongoing inequality on Earth. **Discussion with Executive Producer and film subject Leland Melvin.** *The Space Race* is part of the Black Excellence series, featuring a dozen films that celebrate, investigate, and deepen our understanding of African American culture and history.

The Space Race is presented by Bay Ridge Private Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors

Series presented by United Way of Greater Charlottesville



INDIGENOUS CINEMA OF THE AMERICAS

FEATURING:

Café Daughter

Inspired by true events, *Café Daughter* tells the story of a nine-year-old, half-Chinese, half-Cree girl as she struggles to find her place in a small Saskatchewan community in the 1960s. **Discussion with director and producer Shelley Niro.** This film is part of the Indigenous Cinema of the Americas series.

Series presented by Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency



INTERNATIONAL OSCAR CONTENDERS

FEATURING:

The Taste of Things

Set in France in 1889, the film follows the life of Dodin Bouffant (Benoît Magimel) as a chef living with his personal cook and lover Eugénie (Juliette Binoche). France's Official Oscar selection, *The Taste of Things* is part of the International Oscar Contenders series, which includes eight additional films, representing Chile, Finland, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Tunisia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

The Taste of Things is presented by Harvest Moon Catering and AV Company

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

American Symphony

Directorial Achievement Award: Matthew Heineman

Sunday, Oct. 29 | 7:30 PM

The Paramount Theater

Grammy and Academy Award-winning recording artist, composer, and bandleader Jon Batiste is tirelessly preparing his "American Symphony" when he and his longtime partner—Emmy Award-winning journalist and bestselling author Suleika Jaouad—learn that her rare form of leukemia has returned. Discussion with Jon Batiste and Emmy Award-winning director Matthew Heineman; and brief performance by Batiste.

Presented by UVA Arts: supported by the Office of the Provost & the Vice Provost for the Arts



Jon Batiste



Matthew Heineman



KOREAN CINEMA

FEATURING:

Cobweb

In this film-within-a-film, a director obsessively seeks to revise his latest film's ending, convinced it will become a masterpiece. Amid resistance from actors, staff, and strict government censors, his mission evolves into a complex challenge filled with dark humor. *Cobweb* is part of the Korean Cinema series.

Series supported by UVA Korea Society and Korean Cultural Institute - Washington, D.C.



MIDDLE EASTERN & SOUTH ASIAN CINEMA

FEATURING:

Four Daughters

In this visionary documentary, a mother's life is marked by the radicalization and subsequent estrangement of her two eldest daughters. Director Kaouther Ben Hania employs professional actors to reenact the roles of the missing daughters and their mother in a unique format that intimately explores hope and loss. *Four Daughters* is part of the Middle Eastern & South Asian Cinema series which features films from Turkey, Morocco, Tunisia, and Iran.



NATURE & ENVIRONMENT

FEATURING:

Evil Does Not Exist

Takumi and his daughter face a looming threat in the impending arrival of a glamping site catering to urban tourists. They unite to defend their territory in a harrowing ecopolitical thriller from Ryūsuke Hamaguchi (*Drive My Car*). *Evil Does Not Exist* is part of the Nature & Environment series.

Series presented by Southern Environmental Law Center



American Fiction

Breakthrough Director Award:
Cord Jefferson

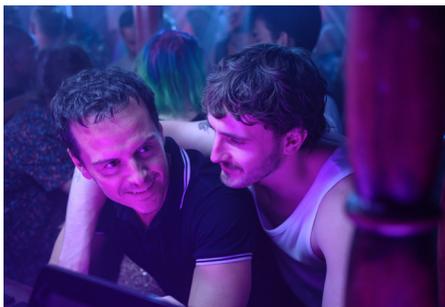
Thursday, Oct. 26 | 8:00 PM
The Paramount Theater

Starring Jeffrey Wright and fresh off winning the coveted People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival, *American Fiction* is an equally provocative and hilarious satire that skewers literary and Hollywood portrayals of Black culture. Discussion with director, producer, and writer Cord Jefferson.

Presented by The Paramount Theater



Cord Jefferson



All of Us Strangers

Thursday, Oct. 26 | 8:00 PM
Culbreth Theatre

This dreamy ghost tale follows screenwriter Adam's (Andrew Scott) enamored connection to his neighbor Harry (Paul Mescal), in the latest film from director Andrew Haigh (*Weekend*). While working on a screenplay, Adam returns to his childhood home and finds his deceased parents living there just as they were 30 years prior.

Supported by UVA Division for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



The Disappearance of Shere Hite

Chronicler Award: Nicole Newnham

Sunday, Oct. 29 | 12:45 PM
Violet Crown 5

Sex educator Shere Hite's groundbreaking 1976 book, *The Hite Report*, redefined societal views on female pleasure. Academy Award-nominated director Nicole Newnham (*Crip Camp*) uncovers Hite's vital role in shaping gender perspectives that often goes overlooked in feminist history. Discussion with director Nicole Newnham.



Dream Scenario

Friday, Oct. 27 | 8:15 PM
Culbreth Theatre

Hapless family man Paul Matthews (Nicolas Cage) finds his life turned upside down when millions of strangers suddenly start seeing him in their dreams. Paul attempts to navigate the consequences of his newfound stardom in this wickedly entertaining comedy from writer-director Kristoffer Borgli (*Sick of Myself*) and producer Ari Aster.

Supported by Verizon

Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project

Changemaker Award: Nikki Giovanni

Saturday, Oct. 28 | 4:15 PM

The Paramount Theater

One of America's greatest living poets, Nikki Giovanni asserts, "The trip to Mars can only be understood through Black Americans." This inspiring documentary employs a dazzling array of visual accompaniments to her poetry, a treasure trove of archival footage, and Giovanni's own commentary to depict the story of an icon and her works of resistance. **Discussion with Nikki Giovanni.**

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



Nikki Giovanni



Eileen

Saturday, Oct. 28 | 8:30 PM

Culbreth Theatre

In this neo-noir based on Ottessa Moshfegh's debut novel, young secretary Eileen (Thomasin McKenzie) works at a juvenile detention center. She becomes mesmerized by her alluring new co-worker, Rebecca (Anne Hathaway), but then their friendship takes a twisted turn.



The Gilded Age: Season 2 Sneak Preview

Saturday, Oct. 28 | 6:00 PM

Violet Crown 5

An exclusive sneak peek screening of the first episode of season 2 of *The Gilded Age*. The Emmy Award-winning series chronicles one of the most legendary periods of American history through the stories of two of the most powerful families. **Discussion with director and executive producer Michael Engler and production designer Bob Shaw.**

Supported by HBO and WarnerMedia



CENTERPIECE FILM

The Holdovers

Saturday, Oct. 28 | 8:30 PM

The Paramount Theater

A cranky prep school history teacher (Paul Giamatti) is forced to remain on campus over the holidays with a student who has no family plans in the latest from Alexander Payne (*Election*, *Nebraska*). **Discussion with producer Mark Johnson.**

Presented by Brown Advisory



U.S. PREMIERE

Origin

Visionary Award: Ava DuVernay

Friday, Oct. 27 | 7:00 PM
The Paramount Theater

Written and directed by Academy Award nominee Ava DuVernay, *Origin* chronicles the remarkable life and work of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson as she investigates the genesis of injustice and uncovers hidden truths that affect us all. **Discussion with writer, director, and producer Ava DuVernay.**



Ava DuVernay
KOURY ANGELO/GETTY IMAGES



May December

Sunday, Oct. 29 | 4:00 PM
The Paramount Theater

In preparation for her upcoming acting role, Elizabeth (Natalie Portman), a rising celebrity, embeds herself in the lives of Gracie (Julianne Moore) and Gracie's much younger husband, Joe (Charles Melton). Director Todd Haynes (*Carol*) explores the American fixation on celebrity, tabloids, and trauma.

Supported by UVA Gamma Knife Center



Perfect Days

Saturday, Oct. 28 | 11:45 AM
Culbreth Theatre

Kōji Yakusho earned the Best Actor award at the Cannes Film Festival for his role as a humble Tokyo toilet cleaner whose ordinary life takes an unexpected turn. One of two films in the 2023 lineup from legendary director Wim Wenders (*Wings of Desire*, *Buena Vista Social Club*), *Perfect Days* is also Japan's official Oscar selection.

Supported by Waterperry Farm



The Persian Version

Friday, Oct. 27 | 5:00 PM
Culbreth Theatre

Leila faces rejection from her Iranian immigrant mother after unexpectedly becoming pregnant, but a long-held family secret might help bridge their differences in this comedy filled with dance sequences and lively family gatherings. **Winner of the U.S. Dramatic Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival.**

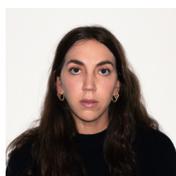
War Pony

Saturday, Oct. 28 | 12:00 PM
The Paramount Theater

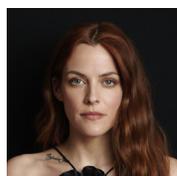
Poetic, heartfelt, and refreshingly humorous, *War Pony* follows two young men on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation as they hustle their way through economic hardship and navigate unique paths to manhood. Discussion with writer Franklin Sioux Bob, and writer-directors Gina Gammell and Riley Keough (Emmy-nominated actor, *Daisy Jones and the Six*).



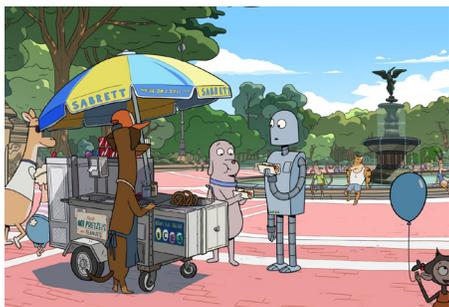
Franklin Sioux Bob



Gina Gammell



Riley Keough



FAMILY CENTERPIECE FILM

Robot Dreams

w/ short film *Starling*

Saturday, Oct. 28 | 11:15 AM
Violet Crown

Director Pablo Berger crafts a touching animated tale that explores the joys and frailty of friendship through the adventures of Dog and Robot in 1980s New York City. Kids and adults alike will relish this bittersweet story adapted from Sara Varon's 2007 titular graphic novel.

Supported by Carter Myers Automotive



Rustin

Thursday, Oct. 26 | 5:00 PM
Culbreth Theatre

Tony Award-winning director George C. Wolfe (*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*) shines a long overdue spotlight on the story of the brilliant, outspoken, and openly gay civil rights activist Bayard Rustin—architect of the 1963 March on Washington. Discussion with producer Bruce Cohen.

Supported by UVA Division for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Out and About



Sometime, Somewhere

Governor Gerald L. Baliles Founder's Award: Ricardo Preve

Saturday, Oct. 28 | 3:00 PM
Culbreth Theatre

An exploration of the unique journeys and shared struggles of Latino immigrants in Charlottesville, Virginia. Against the backdrop of two historical events that shaped perceptions of immigrants in America—September 11, 2001 and the 2021 Capitol Assault—the film features first-hand accounts and personal stories of resilience. Discussion with director and producer Ricardo Preve.

Presented by CVILLE Weekly and supported by IRC Charlottesville

WEDNESDAY, OCT 25

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

| PARAMOUNT | CULBRETH | VIOLET CROWN 1 & 2 | VIOLET CROWN 3 | VIOLET CROWN 5 | VIOLET CROWN 6 & 7 | |
|--|----------|---|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | | 5pm |
| | | | | BLACK BARBIE: A DOCUMENTARY 5:00 PM | | 6pm |
| | | THE GULLSPÅNG MIRACLE 6:00 PM | | | ABOUT DRY GRASSES 5:30 PM | 7pm |
| MAESTRO w/ Guests 7:00 PM | | | | | | 8pm |
| | | | | BOOGER w/ TOOTH 8:15 PM | | 9pm |

THURSDAY, OCT 26

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

| | | | | | | 4pm |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------------|------|
| | | JOAN BAEZ I AM A NOISE 4:30 PM | | | | 5pm |
| | RUSTIN w/ Guests 5:00 PM | | | LIGHT HOUSE STUDIO SHORTS 5:00 PM | KING COAL 5:30 PM | 6pm |
| | | | | | | 7pm |
| | | THE GOLDMAN CASE 7:30 PM | SHORT FILMS: FANTASTICAL ESCAPE w/ Guests 7:00 PM | | | 8pm |
| AMERICAN FICTION w/ Guests 8:00 PM | ALL OF US STRANGERS 8:00 PM | | | ANSELM 8:00 PM | | 9pm |
| | | | | | COBWEB 8:30 PM | 10pm |

| PARAMOUNT | CULBRETH | VIOLET CROWN 1 & 2 | VIOLET CROWN 3 | VIOLET CROWN 4 | VIOLET CROWN 5 | VIOLET CROWN 6 & 7 | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|------|
| | | | | | | | 10am |
| | | | | | | | 11am |
| | | | | | | | 12pm |
| | | | | | | | 1pm |
| | | | | | | | 2pm |
| | | | | | SHORT FILMS: KEVIN JEROME EVERSON w/ Guests 2:15 PM | THEY SHOT THE PIANO PLAYER 2:30 PM | 3pm |
| | | | | I COULD HAVE... 3:00 PM | | | 4pm |
| | | | | | | | 5pm |
| | THE PERSIAN VERSION 5:00 PM | FINGERNAILS 5:15 PM | THIS WORLD IS NOT MY OWN 5:45 PM | SLEEP 4:45 PM | THE SPACE RACE w/ FOR THE MOON w/ Guests 5:00 PM | THE MISSION 5:30 PM | 6pm |
| ORIGIN w/ Guests 7:00 PM | | | | | | | 7pm |
| | DREAM SCENARIO 8:15 PM | FRYBREAD FACE AND ME 8:30 PM | IMMEDIATE FAMILY w/ Guests 9:00 PM | SHORT FILMS: BEST OF FESTS w/ Guests 8:00 PM | BREAKWATER w/ Guests 8:15 PM | EVIL DOES NOT EXIST 8:30 PM | 8pm |
| | | | | | | | 9pm |
| | | | | | | | 10pm |
| | | | | | | | 11pm |

 GALA/SPOTLIGHT FILMS

 FREE EVENTS

SATURDAY, OCT 28

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 | |
|--|--|--|---|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|------|
| | | | | | | | THE LAST OF US: PRODUCTION MASTERCLASS 10:00 AM | 10am |
| | | | NEXT GENERATION STORYTELLERS' HIGH SCHOOL SHORT FILMS w/ Guests 10:30 AM | | | | | 11am |
| | | ROBOT DREAMS w/ STARLING 11:15 AM | | | | 20 DAYS IN MARIUPOL 11:45 AM | | 12pm |
| WAR PONY w/ Guests 12:00 PM | PERFECT DAYS 11:45 AM | | | | STAMPED FROM THE BEGINNING w/ Guests 12:00 PM | | BEYOND THE HEADLINES: THE WGA 12:00 PM | 1pm |
| | | | | PAY OR DIE w/ Guests 12:45 PM | | | | 2pm |
| | | TERRESTRIAL VERSES 2:15 PM | TIME BOMB Y2K w/ Guests 1:45 PM | | | | MAKING IT: FILM INDUSTRY CAREER PANEL 2:00 PM | 3pm |
| | SOMETIME, SOMEWHERE w/ Guests 3:00 PM | | | | ONBOARD w/ Guests 3:15 PM | FROM YOU 2:30 PM | | 4pm |
| GOING TO MARS: THE NIKKI GIOVANNI PROJECT w/ Guests 4:15 PM | | | | IMPOSSIBLE TOWN 4:00 PM | | | | 5pm |
| | FOUR DAUGHTERS 5:15 PM | GOING VARSITY IN MARIACHI w/ Guests 5:00 PM | | | | | | 6pm |
| | FALLEN LEAVES 6:00 PM | | | | THE GILDED AGE w/ Guests 6:00 PM | THE SETTLERS 5:30 PM | | 7pm |
| | | | | CAFÉ DAUGHTER w/ Guests 7:00 PM | | | | 8pm |
| | | LA CHIMERA 8:15 PM | DUSTY & STONES w/ Guests 8:30 PM | | | TÓTEM 8:00 PM | | 9pm |
| THE HOLDOVERS w/ Guests 8:30 PM | EILEEN 8:30 PM | | | | TAPAWINGO w/ Guests 9:00 PM | | | 10pm |
| | | | | | | | | 11pm |

| PARAMOUNT | CULBRETH | VIOLET CROWN 1 & 2 | VIOLET CROWN 3 | VIOLET CROWN 4 | VIOLET CROWN 5 | VIOLET CROWN 6 & 7 | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|------|
| | | | | | | | 10am |
| | | | | | | | 11am |
| | | | | | | | 12pm |
| THE TASTE OF THINGS 12:00 PM | | | | | | | 1pm |
| | | | | | THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SHERE HITE w/ Guests 12:45 PM | MONSTER 1:15 PM | 2pm |
| | NO ORDINARY CAMPAIGN w/ Guests 2:00 PM | ANIMALIA 2:00 PM | HUMMINGBIRDS 2:15 PM | ALL DIRT ROADS TASTE OF SALT 2:45 PM | | | 3pm |
| | | | | | | | 4pm |
| MAY DECEMBER 4:00 PM | | | | | | | 5pm |
| | FOR THE TAKING w/ Guests 4:45 PM | RADICAL 4:45 PM | WE START WITH THE THINGS WE FIND w/ Guests 5:00 PM | | FAULKNER: THE PAST IS NEVER DEAD w/ Guests 4:45 PM | BREAKING THE NEWS 4:30 PM | 6pm |
| | | | | SHORT FILMS: HEROES YOU SHOULD KNOW w/ Guests 5:45 PM | | | 7pm |
| | | | | | | | 8pm |
| AMERICAN SYMPHONY w/ Guests 7:30 PM | THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE 7:45 PM | FANCY DANCE 8:30 PM | GUMBO COALITION 8:15 PM | ASOG 8:45 PM | SHORT FILMS: OUR WEALTH IN COMMON w/ Guests 8:30 PM | ON THE ADAMANT 8:00 PM | 9pm |
| | | | | | | | 10pm |
| | | | | | | | 11pm |

 GALA/SPOTLIGHT FILMS

 FREE EVENTS

FREE PANELS at CODE

Saturday, Oct. 28
Irving Theatre,
CODE Building

All panels are free. Arrive 15-30 minutes before the listed start time to find a seat.

Presented by Violet Crown Cinema



The Last of Us – Production Masterclass

10:00 AM

VAFF Board Member **Janet Graham Borba**—EVP of Production at HBO and MAX—leads a Master Class in physical production, using the first season of *The Last of Us* as a case study. The conversation touches on preparing, shooting, and finishing the hit show, with clips and behind the scenes information adding critical context and insider insights.



Beyond the Headlines: The WGA

12:00 PM

Learn about the Writer's Guild of America's origins, central role in Hollywood production, and the core issues that motivated the strike. **John Lee Hancock** (*The Blind Side*) is joined by fellow WGA and VAFF Board members and writers-directors **Jai Jamison** (*Superman & Lois*) and **Steven J. Kung** (*Fresh Off the Boat*) for a discussion about professional film and TV writing and the WGA.



Making It – Film Industry Career Panel

2:00 PM

Three early to mid-career filmmakers with very different paths to success in the film industry share their personal journeys. Writer **Nayna Agrawal** (Disney's *Encanto*) shares the stage with producer **Julia Pontecorvo** (*Going Varsity in Mariachi*) and script and production development specialist **Rebe Malarret** (Boardwalk Pictures, previously ARRAY). Moderated by **Scot Safon** (VAFF Board).

HOW TO GET YOUR TICKETS

Online at 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 (see below)

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 Art\$ 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 any 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 to a standby line. Note: we do not permit the saving of places in standby lines, and a max of two tickets 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. 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. To request accommodations, please contact VAFF Staff at eb4va@virginia.edu or (434) 982-4543, at least seven (7) business days before the event.



Questions?

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