The Poppy Jasper International Film Festival mission is to change the way we see each other through film.
Welcome to the 17th annual Poppy Jasper International Film Festival.

The PJIFF team and I are so excited to share this year’s festival with the people of Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Hollister, and San Juan Bautista as well as filmmakers and visitors from all over the world. It’s been our vision to create a dynamic regional event that elevates marginalized voices through film.

Our panel of screeners and jurors reviewed over 600 short and feature-length films from 50 countries and selected 260 from 30 countries. We’re proud to share some of the most talented independent filmmakers and their films from all over the world.

Our festival would not be possible without the generous support of the community. We want to thank all of our venues and volunteers, our sponsors and media partners, our downtown businesses, and everyone else in the community who have put in thousands of hours year-round to put on this festival.

It takes not only a village but in our case a region to make this festival happen. Enjoy the films, filmmakers, and events throughout the week!
Our Venues

**GILROY**
The District Theater
7430 Monterey Hwy, Gilroy
Capos Event Center
7588 Monterey Road, Gilroy
Keller/Williams
42 Martin Street, Gilroy
Besson Family Vineyards
3575 Hecker Pass Hwy, Gilroy

**MORGAN HILL**
Community Playhouse
17090 Monterey Hwy, Morgan Hill
The Champagne Room at MOHI Social
17440 Monterey Hwy, Morgan Hill
MOHI Farm
90 East 3rd Street #50, Morgan Hill

**HOLLISTER**
Granada Theater
336 Fifth Street, Hollister

**SAN JUAN BAUTISTA**
Jardines De San Juan
115 Third Street San Juan Bautista
The Barn at Mission Farm
400 San Juan Hollister Road
San Juan Bautista
Tuesday April 11
Morgan Hill - Morgan’s Cove
Pre-Party 6-9:30 PM

Wednesday April 12
STUDENT FILMMAKER SHOWCASE
Gilroy - The District Theater
Film Screenings 3-11 PM
Opening Ceremony 4-5 PM
Performance by the Gilroy High School Chamber Choir

Thursday April 13
LOCAL FILMMAKER SHOWCASE
Morgan Hill Playhouse
Film Screenings, Northern California 10 AM-6 PM
Gilroy - The District
Film Screenings, Southern California 11 AM-7 PM
San Juan Bautista - 18th Barrel
Beer Social – Release of Barley POP Beer 5-8 PM
Gilroy - Pour Me Taproom
Filmmaker Mixer 9:30 PM

Friday April 14
WOMEN’S DAY
Morgan Hill - MOHI Farms Restaurant
Breakfast with Women Directors and Panelists 9-11 AM
Morgan Hill - Community Playhouse
Film Screenings 11 AM-6 PM
Women’s Panel Discussion 3-4 PM
Gilroy - Capos Event Center
Poppy Bash - Doors Open 6 PM / Event Starts 7:30 PM
Celebration with Industry, filmmakers and the community.
Tempo Kitchen and Bar
After Party 9:30 PM - For passholders only

Saturday April 15
Gilroy - Besson Family Vineyards
Mimosa Brunch 9-10:30 AM - For passholders only
Morgan Hill - Community Playhouse
Film Screenings 10 AM-9 PM
Gilroy - The District Theater
Industry Panel 11 AM-12 PM
Film Screenings 10 AM-10 PM
Performance by Kelli Jones 10 PM
Music Videos 10-11 PM
Hollister - Granada Theater
Film Screenings 10 AM-11 PM
Hollister - Mad Pursuit Brewing
Beer Social – Release of Barley POP Beer 5-8 PM

Sunday April 16
Mummy Mountain Walk with Popo
Coyote Lake County Park, Gilroy 9-11 AM
Morgan Hill - Community Playhouse
Film Screenings 1-5 PM
Morgan Hill - Champagne Room at MOHI Social
Filmmaker Awards Ceremony 6-8 PM
Special Award – Ferrari Owners Charitable Foundation
After Party – MOHI Farm Restaurant - For passholders only
San Juan Bautista - The Barn At Mission Farm
Film Screenings 11 AM-3 PM
Star Wars Event and Panel Discussion 3-5 PM
Gilroy - Pour Me Taproom
Beer Social – Release of Barley POP Beer 4-7 PM

Monday April 17
MEXICAN-AMERICAN FILMMAKER SHOWCASE
San Juan Bautista - Jardines de San Juan
Mimosa Brunch 10 AM-12 PM - For passholders only
San Juan Bautista - The Barn at Mission Farm
Film Screenings 12-4 PM
Awards Ceremony – Honoring Lupe Valdez 4-5 PM
Panel Discussion, After Party TBD

Tuesday April 18
LGBTQIA+ DAY
Gilroy - The District Theater
Film Screenings 2-8 PM
Panel Discussion 7-8 PM
Hollister – Granada Theater
Film Screenings 3-9 PM

Wednesday April 19
FILMS FROM IRAN
Gilroy - The District Theater
Film Screenings 11 AM-3 PM
Audience Awards Announced
High School - Block 1  
**The District Theater, Gilroy, 3-4 PM**

**Fitting In** (USA, 3:38) “Fitting In” is a symbolic social-impact film that draws a parallel between fitting into shoes and fitting into society.

**Burning Memories** (USA, 8:36) As Charles nears the end of his life, lost and suffering from dementia, he reverts back to his prior self and walks through the door of his mind.

**Game Plan** (USA, 7:43) A group of associates meet to finalize a high-stakes business deal that will lead to the end for one of them, but which one will be finished?

**Deception** (USA, 21:20) When Captain York is found murdered mere hours after a party, four friends are left for questioning.

**The Summer Field** (USA, 5:55) After being drafted to a pro track team, a midwestern young teen needs to decide between his future career and his dementia-ridden grandfather.

High School - Block 2  
**The District Theater, Gilroy, 5-7 PM**

**Reaper** (USA, 3:43) ANIMATED/2D The Grim Reaper attempts to capture a lost soul.

**Once Upon a Time by the Sea** (USA, 11:40) A woman seeks her dream life and realizes it’s not all that it’s cracked up to be in this time-spanning thriller from award-winning 13-year-old filmmaker Liam Lui Martin.

**Between the Lines** (USA, 13:00) Needing an escape from a difficult family life, a boy turns to art, and in doing so, stumbles upon a dark power.

**Hardcore** (USA, 10:00) Sarah, a young photographer with many tattoos and piercings, falls in love with August, a reckless drummer in a band.

**Saving Monarchs** (USA, 20:00) Why human interference isn’t necessarily the best way to protect monarch butterflies.

**Dying to Meet You** (UK, 14:50) This true story reveals what happens on the day Bill Wilson turns down a drink and creates Alcoholics Anonymous.

Opening Ceremony  
**Wednesday April 12, 4-5 PM**  
**The District Theater, Gilroy**

With a performance by the Gilroy High School Chamber Choir, led by Jon Souza, singing a medley of songs from film classics.
College - Block 3
The District Theater, Gilroy, 7-9:30 PM

Reunion Dinner (USA, 11:00) Richard and his American girlfriend attend a family gathering centered around the Lunar New Year.

Subs (UK, 16:39) Mason is a young lad on the cusp of adulthood who tries to convince his amateur boxing coach that he is ready to follow in the footsteps of the gym’s top fighters.

An Island Drifts (Singapore/USA, 18:32) Set in Singapore, a young teacher presses for the truth from a maladjusted student, an act that leads to devastating results.

Ten Days* (USA, 14:41) Anastasia and her family lived in the basement for 10 days, witnessing the most terrible period of Russia’s attack on Kiev, Ukraine. *Mature content (war)

Lone Wolves* (UK, 12:38) A short contemporary thriller exploring the extremist right-wing radicalisation of a young white man in the digital age, as seen through the eyes of his concerned father.

Inertia (Belgium, 10:56) ANIMATED/2D A young woman refuses to accept change in her life.

Resurgence (USA, 19:00) Ryan De Vries, a professional canyoneer, encounters a near-death experience in the canyons of Southern Utah.

Soft Landing (USA, 16:12) Ten years after an accident on a mission that resulted in the death of his best friend, a retired astronaut comes to terms with his life and attempts to make things right.

College - Block 4
The District Theater, Gilroy, 9:30-11 PM

Inside My Heart (Canada, 1:49) ANIMATED/2D “Inside My Heart” centers on a baby girl who is in gestation, perhaps not materially, but growing inside a heart that already dreams of her arrival.

Max & Taco (Get Their Sh!t Together) (USA, 15:00) Max, who has been sober for six months, is on the eve of her first concert back but loses her dog and might relapse.

Afternoons of Sun, Nights of Water (Argentina, 20:00) Lamia, a young woman, with the mentality of a little girl, begins an obsessive adoration for Rabbit, a man of the town.

Half Guard (UK, 10:20) Half Guard is the story of Lucas, a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu instructor whose class is disrupted by the late arrival of Israel, a new student.

Deer Girl (USA, 10:47) Harold, a nature photographer, sets up a time lapse camera to film the decomposition of a dead deer.

Bad Dates (USA, 5:22) Elliott’s friends advise her on what to do and what not to do on a date while she contemplates asking out a pretty girl she spots in the park.


@scroll_alice (UK, 3:37) ANIMATED/2D GFX An experimental short about our love-hate relationship with Instagram and our photo-editing mania.
Films from Northern California

Morgan Hill Block 1
Community Playhouse, 10 AM - 12 PM

The Office Explorers (USA, 12:00) A group of employees work for a boss who can make people cringe.

Grilled (USA, 7:39) A man struggles to make a grilled cheese sandwich.

A Good Fight (USA, 10:00) An exiled warrior has to fight a challenger in ritual combat every fifteen years.

Bellybutton (USA, 7:42) A Y2K teen girl struggles to connect fantasy and reality when she gets a coveted piercing.

Duck Test (USA, 8:40) After going through several unsuccessful therapy sessions, young clerk Andrew Nowakowski decides to sort out his sexuality with a well-advertised coach who claims to work miracles and promises a fix in just one session.

Queer Science (USA, 7:29) A scientist accidentally shrinks her comedian girlfriend to the size of a Brussels sprout.

Makeup (USA, 12:33) A straight high school teenager who loses a gay friend because he didn’t stand up for him against a homophobic bully gets a chance to make up for his error.

Strangers in Boxes (USA, 6:10) A group of activists—all strangers—from more than 15 countries meet online in the midst of a global pandemic.

Interlands (UK/USA, 5:43) A young woman looks into herself through memory and poetry, in order to heal and achieve a new growth of spirit in the face of heartbreak stemming from love and, more generally, life.

Home (USA, 9:36) A footballer wrestles with the sudden end of his career as he finds himself back in his hometown.

Morgan Hill Block 2
Community Playhouse, 12-2 PM

Beginnings (USA, 6:28) This film is about the struggles a veteran is facing as he suffers with PTSD.

First Time for Everything* (USA, 8:42) The everywoman story of a girl’s first time putting a tampon in.

Éléfan (UK/USA, 26:53) Éléfan explores the relationship between space and identity among London’s Latin American community in the years leading up to the demolition of Elephant & Castle shopping center.

Heartbeat on the Strings (USA, 8:00) This film tells a story of a teen violinist named Adonis who grows up with his neighbor Gemma, but does not know Gemma secretly loves him.

Accidental Advocates in Phuket (USA / Thailand, 14:30) This film follows the Community Outreach Program of one of the world’s largest dog and cat sanctuaries in Southeast Asia.

Nociva* (USA, 16:20) When the school principal discovers a teacher’s distorted behavior on his students, she confronts the vile man to save the life of a tormented young girl.

Morgan Hill Block 3
Community Playhouse, 2-4 PM

Fascination* (USA, 14:46) James Montgomery, troubled office assistant to Delilah Jones, becomes fascinated with his boss’s looks and kind nature.

Institution (USA, 15:00) This short thriller is about a middle-aged man who wakes up and finds himself in a padded room in a mental institution.

Heading Away from the Ledge* (USA, 70:08) Filmmaker Henry A. Hopkins tells the story of his brother’s struggle with mental illness, drug addiction and the dramatic effects it’s had on his family. Heading Away From The Ledge is an intimate and poignant look into a world that many families can relate to, and which we can all learn from.

Morgan Hill Block 4
Community Playhouse, 4-6 PM

We Are All In This Together (USA, 74:52) DOCUMENTARY During divisive times in America, a man sets off on a cross-country bicycle journey, with no food, no money, and the hope of gaining a better understanding of the human connection.

The Last Free Place (USA, 11:05) Kat has lived rent-free in the desert hobo camp of Slab City since her dad’s death until an opportunity comes up, and she’s forced to choose between her new relationship and confronting her past.

Too Many What* (USA, 14:09) Not all is as it seems in this dark comedy psychedelic whodunnit.
Films from Southern California

**Gilroy Block 1**
*The District Theater, 11 AM-1 PM*

**This is a Film About My Mother** (USA, 58:28) During a stark winter weekend in upstate NY, siblings Eve and Max reconnect a year after their mother’s passing.

**Lollipop Cowboy** (USA, 27:29) Upon arriving late, a cowboy for children’s parties meets a princess after she’s hired to perform as his replacement.

**Madness Incarnate** (USA, 12:34) As a struggling writer during the pandemic, Mikah battles with his inner demons as he falls into a monotonous routine of isolation and self-doubt.

**Gilroy Block 2**
*The District Theater, 1-3 PM*

**Meteorite** (USA, 18:37) When two couples simultaneously discover a meteorite landing site, the claim to the celestial object becomes a battle of wits, gender, and a declaration of true desire.

**Soundman** (USA, 12:24) A timid ornithology professor has spent years documenting a very rare bird only to experience technical difficulties during her anticipated presentation, leading to emotional unraveling.

**Daddy** (USA, 20:00) A uniquely twisted coming-of-age story about an aspiring porn star who spends the summer of 1980 in her family’s dilapidated desert motel by sleeping with every man who passes through.

**Now and Never** (USA, 15:25) In a visual and sonic love letter to filmmaking, NOW AND NEVER’s ever-changing aspect ratios and color palette help navigate the fractured, claustrophobic mind of Harriet, a woman in the midst of an anxiety attack.

**Awakening** (USA, 18:07) An accountant bored out of his mind accidentally finds happiness in a dark, wicked way.

**I’m Sorry, I Tried, I Love You** (USA, 11:05) A struggling mother finds herself caught in an endless battle against a mysterious infestation in her home.

**Gilroy Block 3**
*The District Theater, 3-5 PM*

**Eid Mubarak** (USA, 16:00) A privileged six-year-old Pakistani girl embarks on a mission to save her beloved pet goat from being eaten on the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, only to learn the meaning of sacrifice.

**Skate Night** (USA, 17:47) Casey has finally asked out the girl of his dreams to a date at a skating rink— but there’s one problem, he can’t skate!

**Meet Carly W.** (USA, 13:44) Struggling to pull herself together post-pandemic, a flailing millennial is pushed to the brink when she goes on a virtual interview from hell.

**Swing** (USA, 18:00) A mysterious package arrives at Paul and Terri’s door. What it contains could either save or end their passionless marriage.

**Spy vs. Spia** (USA, 16:00) Two rival international spies join forces against an evil organization only to discover secrets about their past, their future, and their hearts.

**Oscar J. Evans’ The Artist** (USA, 4:08) This is the story of a young peasant boy and a young nobleman who share a passionate affair that awakens the mind of the young peasant boy to become a poet.

**The Dress** (USA/Georgia, 9:00) A young woman under house arrest decides to change her appearance drastically for the last chance and a “perfect date” with someone she loves the most.

**Gilroy Block 4**
*The District Theater, 5-7 PM*

**Earth to Zippy!** (USA, 10:16) In an irreverent ode to the silent films of yesteryear, a martian lands on Earth to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming an actor in Hollywood, but finding success is more difficult than he imagined.

**This Wild Abyss** (USA, 22:30) A former cowboy turned janitor with an eighth-grade education, Milt Humason forms an unlikely friendship with astronomer Edwin Hubble and assists him at Mt. Wilson Observatory.

**She’s Clean** (USA, 15:00) From the comfort of her bathroom, a resilient woman tries to marry her desires for sexual freedom with emotional intimacy by showering with all her dates.

**Hitbaby** (USA, 28:33) A skilled but suicidal hitman decides to train a bumbling computer hacker how to be an assassin.

**Our Language is Chaos** (USA, 12:50) A kidnapped couple are running late for their polyamorous couples therapy, but rather than calling the cops, they call their therapist.

**Me/You** (USA, 14:26) When Gem, a type A perfectionist, finally loses all of her patience with her crude and inconsiderate roommate, the consequences are more nefarious than what they seem.

**Holy Beast: In the Studio with Avia Rose Ramm** (USA, 3:30) This short documentary enters the world of Southern California artist Avia Rose Ramm.

Beer Social – release of Barley POP beer
*Thursday April 13, 5-8 PM*
18th Barrel, San Juan Bautista

Filmmaker Mixer
*Thursday April 13, 9:30 PM*
Pour Me Taproom, Gilroy
**Morgan Hill Block 1**

**Community Playhouse, 11 AM-1 PM**

- **Kiss ‘n’ Ride** (USA, 7:46) On her way home from a lovely cafe date, a woman finds reminders of her date in every little thing.
- **Bird Keeper** (USA, 11:05) Young Lumen finds herself captured in a surreal world between death and life.
- **Jackson** (UK, 16:48) Teenager Amira avoids a haunted house visit using her unique imagination.
- **Functioning** (USA, 14:07) In the late 90s, Asia is desperate to prove that she belongs at a cut-throat Hollywood Talent Agency.
- **In the Rearview** (USA, 6:03) As two siblings - the filmmaker and her brother - look back on a road trip with their father 20 years ago, they discover their memories have faded, but the feelings they share remain the same.
- **Your Guardian** (UK/Serbia, 20:00) Belgrade, 1992. Yugoslavia is falling apart, and freshly graduated Mina and her soon-to-be-recruited boyfriend plan to leave the country.
- **A Real Adventure** (Sweden/USA, 17:00) Two Dungeons and Dragons enthusiasts are at the funeral of their best friend Björn.

**Morgan Hill Block 2**

**Community Playhouse, 1-3 PM**

- **Dear Doctor** (USA, 3:45) A visual poem about the pain and misdiagnosis of Endometriosis, utilizing striking imagery and raw words to combine an effective and poignant piece.
- **The Phoenix** (USA, 15:00) After successfully acquiring superpowers, a young girl attempts to fix her parents’ marriage. In the end, she learns that superpowers can’t fix everything.
- **Borrowed Time** (UK, 19:00) Based on a true story. Olivia has a complicated relationship with her mother who suddenly calls her to go back home.
- **The Other Road** (USA, 16:10) An unexpected encounter at a motel swimming pool may hold the key to redemption for a young runaway mother and a free-spirited older woman, both of whom have a shockingly similar secret.
- **The Call** (UK, 12:09) Laila, a university student, and her mum are based in the UK when they receive a call to hear a bomb has exploded in their home country of Lebanon.
- **Animal Control** (USA, 15:28) A short, tense thriller about a troubled Animal Control Officer who investigates a complaint about a dog hoarder in the neighborhood where a child was abducted several years earlier.
- **Nice to Meet You All** (UK, 11:47) This film is a celebration of a woman with Dissociative Identity Disorder who has survived human trafficking rings in the US.

**Breakfast with Women Directors and Women’s Day Panelists**

*Friday April 14, 9-11AM*

MOHI Farm Restaurant, Morgan Hill

**Poppy Bash**

*Friday April 14, 6-9:30 PM*

Capos Event Center, Gilroy

**After Party**

Tempo Kitchen and Bar, Gilroy 9:30 PM

* Mature Content*
Morgan Hill Block 3
Community Playhouse, 4-6 PM

AutoCorrect (USA, 12:31) Ansu is a careful, by-the-book actor in the midst of Zoom rehearsals with a big-shot White director and an all-white cast when she decides to address a long-standing issue of name mispronunciation.

For Heidi (UK, 9:43) Thirteen-year-old Heidi is sent home from school for breaking the rules with a giant blue and black mohawk, but finds her dad is supportive and helps devise a plan to beat the headmistress at her own game.

Promises (USA, 14:10) A Latina single mother of two is struggling to keep her head above water and regain custody of her kids while keeping the needle out of her arm.

Tap Twice (UK, 20:27) A housewife is tasked with watching her neighbor’s paralyzed son, and must grapple with her role as wife and mother.

The Ancestors (UK, 13:27) This film explores identity and belonging in the Ndebele culture of Zimbabwe where there is a long-forgotten cultural practice called imikleklo which is essential for connecting children to their heritage.

Innocent* (Ireland, 4:32) As mass shootings are on the rise in the US, one morning in a middle school changes lives forever.

Consumed* (UK, 15:00) Grieving after an early miscarriage, Faye preserves the embryo in a jar of oil, sleeping with it under her pillow, and expecting her husband to feel the same connection.

The Blue Scarf (UK, 9:37) The Blue Scarf is a coming-of-age narrative short about a young girl called Lana on the day she secretly decides to start wearing the hijab, and how that decision affects her relationships both at home and at school.

For Heidi

Women’s Panel
Friday April 14
Morgan Hill Community Playhouse 3-4 PM

Katie Bignell Moderator
Katie launched Festival Formula in 2014, and has built it into the respected and trusted company it is today. She is an active member of the Short Film Conference and is also one of the few UK members of the Film Festival Alliance. She is a key spokesperson on festival issues with coverage in The Hollywood Reporter and Screen Daily.

This panel is an opportunity for visiting industry professionals to talk about their experiences as women in the industry and give filmmakers an opportunity to ask questions and network.

Norma Garcia-Muro is currently the VP of Marketing at Kaleidescape where she draws upon her extensive experience in film marketing to propel Kaleidescape’s growth and revolutionize the home cinema experience. She has worked in strategy and marketing at Paramount Pictures and Lucas Films. where she was the head of international marketing and had strategic oversight of the Star Wars and Indiana Jones franchises across global markets. Norma is also a consummate motivator and mentor who is passionate about empowering young women and color within the industry. She has been named one of the Top 50 Women in Global Cinema in 2020 and 2021.

Kimberley Browning is a filmmaker and film festival professional based in Los Angeles. Her recent film credits includes Uprooted: The Journey of Jazz Dance which premiered on HBO Max in Feb 2022, as well as Being Michelle and Acting Like Nothing is Wrong, both currently on the festival circuit. Episodic credits includes programming for HBO, A&E Networks, CBS, NBC, ABC Signature, Rollingstone.com, People.com, Warner Brothers TV, Comedy Central and RealNetworks.

Crickett Rumley received her MFA in Film at Columbia University and is the founder and senior director of the Film Festival Department at the New York Film Academy in Los Angeles, where she develops educational programs for a diverse student body. She also guides young filmmakers to official selections at such esteemed festivals as Sundance, Bronzelens, the BAFTA Student Film Awards, the Student Academy Awards, and the College Television Awards.

Faye Brenner grew up in the film and entertainment industry as the daughter of 5-time Oscar nominated Production. Designer Albert Brenner. Faye began her own career in television and film as a Script Supervisor working on films such as Stand By Me, Ghostbusters 2, Ghost, The Morning After, Species, Father of the Bride 2, and Clear and Present Danger. She began her directorial debut on the television series “The Rookie.” Faye recently received Best Director for her short film PROMISES at the Idyllwild IPP in Idyllwild, CA.
Join us for a special evening of music, food and fun as we celebrate the accomplishments of our filmmakers and kick-off the festival!

Don’t miss your chance to mingle with filmmakers, cinematographers, screenwriters, and other television and film industry professionals.

This year’s Bash will feature a musical performance by Grammy award-winning bassist Polo Jones, famed guitarist Kat Dyson who has played on stage with Prince and Cyndi Lauper, singer and songwriter Jay Turner, and Randy Spendlove, President of Paramount, Worldwide Publishing and Music.

Ian Puleston-Davies, an actor very well known to British audiences, and whose directorial debut film, Bolan Shoes, will screen Saturday night in Hollister, will be giving a keynote address.

Enjoy hors d’oeuvres, sample the Barley POP, a Hazy IPA brewed especially for the festival, and purchase this year’s commemorative Poppy Jasper t-shirt.
Saturday April 15

Saturday Morning Cartoons
ALL VENUES, 10-11 AM

Enjoy these family friendly cartoons and animated shorts screening in Morgan Hill, Gilroy and Hollister.

Fobi (Iran, 12:57) A little girl faces her fear of spiders.

The Social Chameleon (USA, 9:30) ANIMATED/3D CGI Cosmo the chameleon doesn’t fit in with the other animals, and no matter how hard he tries, he just can’t seem to find his place in the jungle.

The Perfect Fit (Lithuania, 10:30) A young nonverbal autistic boy named Patrick lives in a children’s home and becomes obsessed with parrots which makes it even harder for him to find parents who want to adopt him.

The Truth Within (USA, 3:10) In a Make-a-Bear Store, a hard-boiled teddy bear detective is alerted by his lover of a dead body that has been found.

Solan (Iran, 3:00) ANIMATED/3D CGI A child becomes a victim of parental differences.

Morgan Hill Block 1
Community Playhouse, 11 AM-1 PM

Into Dust (UK, 40:00) When Perween Rahman is murdered, her sister Aquila returns to Karachi, Pakistan to investigate but finds herself caught up in the powerful forces of corruption.

Paper Doll* (Iran, 14:44) Raha is a young girl who is eager to learn the mythical dance, Sama after she sees a dance session in the neighborhood studio.

Smoked Fish (UK, 30:00) Chinese Grandma Yu’s visit to see her granddaughter in the UK is disrupted when she is racially attacked and beaten.

Maiden Dogs (Italy, 11:11) Noemi is a young single mother working in a betting agency who turns to stealing from the cash register when her work hours are cut.

Morgan Hill Block 2
Community Playhouse, 1-3 PM

Another Swell Day (USA, 3:28) An animation following a young girl who has been recently diagnosed with a rare blood disease known as HAE (Hereditary Angioedema) but refuses to let her trials overwhelm her.

Dear Fear (UK, 14:07) A short documentary that allows us to spend time with a teenager at the height of the pandemic as he comes to terms with his own mental health issues.

Jack Has a Plan (USA, 73:00) DOCUMENTARY When Jack, a man with a terminal brain tumor for 25 years, decides to end his life, his family and friends struggle to accept his decision.

Morgan Hill Block 3
Community Playhouse, 3-5 PM

Desmond’s Not Here Anymore (USA, 15:55) Abigail battles moving her elderly mother with dementia out from the family home.

Bring Back My Bonnie (UK, 18:33) An elderly man with dementia continues to speak with his late wife to keep her memory alive.

Kiran (UK, 8:00) Kiran, once a happily married independent business owner, is now the full time caretaker of her elderly mother who is suffering from dementia.

The Carer (UK, 16:36) With moments of dark comedy and heart-breaking sadness, The Carer aims to give a raw insight into a daughter’s mental and physical breakdown under the demands of full-time care giving.

In Expectation of Light (Iran, 17:08) An elderly couple who have lived in old houses for many years face despair and depression, until something unexpected happens.

Kite Strings (UK, 13:36) Kat is trying her hardest to support her mother, Heather, who has dementia but juggling her own life with her boyfriend leads to exasperation.

Morgan Hill Block 4
Community Playhouse, 5-7 PM

Brotherness (Romania/Italy, 8:20) When they learn of their mother’s accident, two young brothers embark on a journey to discover the essence of their relationship.

Thrown Away Child (UK, 31:13) Failed by a care system that continuously ignored evidence of the abuse she suffered as a child, Louise is saved by her determination to escape home and become an artist.

The Savior (Iran, 15:00) A young girl lives with her dad in a village, and after losing her mom, decides to try to save the fishes.

Quarantine (Iran, 18:30) Susan is a housewife who realizes the beauty that she has always hidden because of her husband’s prejudice after allowing her daughter to attend a hairdresser’s school.

Birds (UK, 11:44) When her 9-year-old daughter’s dreams of becoming a gymnast are on the line, a mother behind bars struggles to keep her whereabouts a secret.

* Mature Content
My Dear Son (Hong Kong/UK, 9:00) In a capitalist city where people have kids to be proud of, a woman, Rose, unexpectedly gives birth to a cat son who doesn’t behave as an ordinary baby and she struggles to love him.

Clergymen (UK, 13:04) Two henchmen spend their final moments confessing their sins in an attempt for a better afterlife.

The Other Side of Fear (UK/Germany, 19:22) ‘The Other Side of Fear’ is a darkly comic tale about Patient CM, an exuberant woman with a rare brain disorder that has rendered her literally fearless.

Woman of the Woods (Canada, 3:56) A woman goes into the woods to enjoy the peaceful nature only to be disturbed by a vile polluter and must take matters into her own hands.

A Killer Outside (UK, 8:27) Suffering from agoraphobia and believing she is being tormented by an alien entity, Caroline must distinguish between reality and mental illness.

Once I Passed (Germany, 10:21) In 1925, an original handwritten copy of a poem written by Walt Whitman unveils that the love poem was written not about a woman but about an affair with a man in an anonymous city, which may have been his first physical experience of love.

Him* (UK, 9:09) With past trauma appearing in waves, Geny finds it hard to focus on her life going forward.

Promise (USA, 5:14) An experimental dance film exploring grief, substance abuse, and recovery.

Forever (UK, 12:06) Shani and Amar are two half-dead girls, being sex-trafficked with a high price tag and manage to escape.

Adelina (USA, 10:05) Adelina loves Tony because he’s the only person who doesn’t treat her like an object but becomes dismayed when she discovers he has a new girlfriend.

Kevin Rubio is a writer and producer who has received two Emmy nominations for his screenwriting on several animated television series, including My Little Pony. His Star Wars/COPS parody TROOPS has been credited as the start of the “fan film genre” and paved the way for viable streaming content on sites like, YouTube, Curiosity. and even major streamers like Netflix and Disney+. Kevin’s film TROOPS can be found on “The Star Wars Saga” blue-ray.

Norma Garcia-Muro is currently the VP of Marketing at Kaleidescape where she draws upon her extensive experience in film marketing to propel Kaleidescape’s growth and revolutionize the home cinema experience. She has worked in strategy and marketing at Paramount Pictures and Lucas Films. where she was the head of international marketing and had strategic oversight of the Star Wars and Indiana Jones franchises across global markets. Norma is also a consummate motivator and mentor who is passionate about empowering young women and women of color within the industry. She has been named one of the Top 50 Women in Global Cinema in 2020 and 2021.

Jeffrey Sherman is a writer, producer, and musical composer/songwriter who graduated from UCLA Film School. He has written two of his own feature films, “The Soldier” and “Up the Creek” and has been a contributing writer on many other films for Interscope, Universal, Paramount, Disney, Hollywood Pictures and others. Jeff has produced and written extensively for television series aired on Showtime, ABC and Walt Disney Pictures. He has released three collections of original musical compositions, “Begin Again,” “Afterglow” and “Respite.”

David Tanaka has worked at ILM in VFX Production, at Pixar Animation as a Special Projects Manager and currently is a visual effects editor at Tippet Studio. His resume includes work on Jurassic Park, Forrest Gump, Star Wars, Cars, Ratatouille, Up, and Toy Story to name a few. David also has his own Award-winning Film Production Company and launched “Cinemabilities” - a project offering virtual filmmaking courses for young adults with special needs. He is currently 2nd Vice-Chair on the Visual Effects Society Board of Directors.

Kimberley Browning is a filmmaker and film festival professional based in Los Angeles. Her recent film credits includes Uprooted: The Journey of Jazz Dance which premiered on HBO Max in Feb 2022, as well as Being Michelle and Acting Like Nothing is Wrong, both currently on the festival circuit. Episodic credits includes programming for HBO, A&E Networks, CBS, NBC, ABC Signature, Rollingstone.com, People.com, Warner Brothers TV, Comedy Central and RealNetworks.
**Gilroy Block 1**

*The District Theater, 12-2 PM*

**Playtime’s Over** *(Norway, 10:37)* A celebration of the incredible imagination we find in the mind of children, which unfortunately fades away as they grow up. In the film we meet a boy who gets teased for being childish as he plays vividly in his own fantasy world. He has to choose whether he should keep doing what he loves and risk losing his friends, or put his imaginative world behind him and “grow up”.

**Non-Negotiable** *(UK, 8:39)* A couple in a café await with trepidation their harshest critic and most important confidant, their 9 year old daughter, who outlines the terms and conditions she requires for the arrival of her new sibling.

**Help! I’ve Stolen Amy Adams’ Nose!** *(UK, 8:46)* A celebrity-obsessed ballet dancer wakes up one morning sporting the nose of her idol, A-list actress Amy Adams.

**Swat** *(UK, 7:40)* An explosive, territorial brawl erupts between man and insect. But who will be victorious?

**Close** *(UK, 15:48)* 30-somethings Sam and Jamie have started to figure it all out - they’ve got their jobs, their flat, and each other but they’ve also got the raggedy sofa they found on the street the year they met.

**SOS** *(UK, 7:51)* Shot entirely on a ‘snorricam’, we follow one cowardly man’s journey home as he’s mugged multiple times by the same gang.

**Junior** *(USA, 11:22)* Documentary Gifted as a teenager, Jérôme "Junior" Simeon was recruited by top Haitian roots music group “Racine Mapou de Azor” and spent 20 years touring the world but Junior’s high-profile career comes to a shocking halt.

**The Cloaked Realm “Tunnel 23”** *(USA, 22:54)* The Cloaked Realm is an adaptation and reimagining of history’s greatest but now forgotten science fiction stories: “Tunnel 23,” based on or inspired by visionary science fiction author Stanley G. Weinbaum’s, and a “A Martian Odyssey.”

**Gilroy Block 2**

*The District Theater, 2-4 PM*

**Kaiju Girl** *(Japan, 25:00)* One night, Himika, an eighth-grader, dreams that Kaiju (a giant monster) attacks her town. Mizuki, an outcast in her class, has the same dream, and the two begin to interact, but Himika is unable to tell her that she accidentally broke the horns of the monster that Mizuki was making... This is a story of girls who live an extraordinary life with a monster as their ordinary life.

**The Stupid Boy** *(UK, 15:52)* London is being terrorized by Christian white supremacists, but while one man is being groomed to join them, a boy from Brixton sees the world in a different way.

**Time Tourists** *(New Zealand, 6:00)* Two strangers stumble upon a beautiful natural sight, and each other. As they hit it off it’s clear that neither of them, but neither have experienced nature quite like this before.

**Just in Case** *(UK, 14:00)* In collaboration with Bipolar UK, ‘Just in Case’ explores the harsh reality of what it’s really like to live with bipolar disorder.

**The Outing** *(UK, 15:16)* 1970’s: A lonely divorcee, Nellie, meets widower Frank on a trip to the seaside.

**Make Me a King** *(UK, 15:55)* Ari performs as a Jewish Drag King, much to the confusion of their family. Idolising real-life hero, Pepi Littman, who carved out a space for Drag Kings over 100 years ago, they use this history to open up a space for acceptance in the present.

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**Mimosa Brunch**

*Saturday April 15, 9-10:30 AM*

*Besson Family Vineyards, Gilroy*

Here’s your opportunity to visit one of Gilroy’s beautiful vineyards, taste award-winning wine, and network with filmmakers and industry professionals.

Accessible for VIP/All Access Passholders, Filmmaker, Industry Professionals only.

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**PJIFF.ORG**
setup. 

Touring actors, Jasper and Dario, arrive at ‘digs’ one evening and walk into a peculiar world. Two strangers, reeling from the loss of their friend, find themselves in an unexpected moment of connection. Shawn specialises in awkward sex scenes and awkward sex scenes only. When she receives a call from her former mentor, Fiona, Shawn is overjoyed at the opportunity to prove her skills and the worth of her style on set.

The Sprayer (Iran, 9:00) In the land occupied by the sprayers army, no one has the right to grow any kind of plants either in public or private.

The Diamond (Sweden, 13:46) Stefan who is lonely and has a blinding ambition to make friends, stumbles upon a diamond in the woods.

Good Vibrations* (USA, 10:00) Julia is trying to date again after two years of COVID lock down, however, everyone she seems to find is extremely awkward - or is she just as awkward as everyone else?

Awkward Intimacy* (UK, 7:47) Shawn specialises in awkward sex scenes and awkward sex scenes only. When she receives a call from her former mentor, Fiona, Shawn is overjoyed at the opportunity to prove her skills and the worth of her style on set.

The Podcast (UK, 6:00) The head of a production company has had an idea to die for. Luckily she has an enthusiastic work experience student to help her implement it.

Les Câlins Cheaps (Cheap Hugs) (Canada, 15:08) Two strangers, reeling from the loss of their friend, find themselves in an unexpected moment of connection.

Danavan (Canada, 12:37) René and Polo are apprehensive about the arrival of the new next-door neighbour. Though he doesn’t know it, the young man is moving into the apartment previously occupied by Robert, their late friend who passed away two weeks prior. Spotting Robert’s barbecue left on the balcony, René begins to spiral as he refuses to leave it in the hands of the new next-door neighbour.

Happy You Near (USA, 9:17) On New Year’s Eve, two couples discover they’ve been partner-swapping in surprising configurations.

Julia* (UK, 7:31) Touring actors, Jasper and Dario, arrive at ‘digs’ one evening and walk into a peculiar setup.

A Love Worth Fighting For (UK, 15:00) A German and an English soldier, in the first uneven throes of war, meet by chance. They are interrupted by a French woman who brings them together. When the naïve German later kills the English, his world comes crashing down...

Chipper (USA, 20:47) After receiving a mysterious letter, a wayward son returns to his childhood home to wrestle with a dark family secret.

Fishwife* (UK, 17:14) In wild 18th century Britain a lonely woman discovers that her menstrual cycle is of interest to a stranger.

Strings (USA, 13:00) Penny has her share of demons, and she’s about to take on one more as she dreams of becoming the world’s greatest Sax player.

Niagara Falls (USA, 4:33) At the edge of her life, a woman must confront a cascade of hopes, desires and fallen dreams.

Only Words (Switzerland, 3:20) A brief glimpse into the tug of war on two lovers, struggling to separate amidst love’s promises and impossibilities.

Heart Failure (UK, 10:27) When Frank falls for his one night stand, he must do everything he can to stop his heart from breaking completely.

**Saturday April 15, continued**

**Gilroy Block 3**

*The District Theater, 4-6 PM*

The Sprayer (Iran, 9:00) In the land occupied by the sprayers army, no one has the right to grow any kind of plants either in public or private.

The Diamond (Sweden, 13:46) Stefan who is lonely and has a blinding ambition to make friends, stumbles upon a diamond in the woods.

Good Vibrations* (USA, 10:00) Julia is trying to date after two years of COVID lock down, however, everyone she seems to find is extremely awkward - or is she just as awkward as everyone else?

**Gilroy Block 4**

*The District Theater, 6-8 PM*

The Well (UK, 8:35) Known as the outsider, Trish leads three ‘friends’ to a secret well in the hope to build friendships. When they realise the potential of the well, they get a terrifying reminder to always be careful what you wish for...

Do This For Me (UK, 19:43) Maintaining friendships in your twenties is tricky. Juggling careers, romance and the dread of turning 30. Meet Lex, Gracie, Beca, Kat, and Joy. We all know them, as we all are them. Reuniting tonight to pay tribute to a friend, tensions quickly rise as tipsy turns to drunk and grief takes hold of those left behind. ‘Do This For Me’ is a story about friendship, reminding us that everything else can wait when someone you love needs you.

A Love Worth Fighting For (UK, 15:00) A German and an English soldier, in the first uneven throes of war, meet by chance. They are interrupted by a French woman who brings them together. When the naïve German later kills the English, his world comes crashing down...

Chipper (USA, 20:47) After receiving a mysterious letter, a wayward son returns to his childhood home to wrestle with a dark family secret.

Fishwife* (UK, 17:14) In wild 18th century Britain a lonely woman discovers that her menstrual cycle is of interest to a stranger.

Strings (USA, 13:00) Penny has her share of demons, and she’s about to take on one more as she dreams of becoming the world’s greatest Sax player.

**Gilroy Block 5**

*The District Theater, 8-10 PM*

Belle River (USA, 11:00) Barring an unexpected turn of events, local authorities will soon be forced to open the floodgates of the Morganza Spillway, in order to save the cities of New-Orleans and Bâton-Rouge from further uncontrolled flooding.

Heart Failure (UK, 10:27) When Frank falls for his one night stand, he must do everything he can to stop his heart from breaking completely.

**Gilroy - Music Videos**

*The District Theater, 10-11 PM*

Zagros (Iran, 3:04) Music video.

Niagara Falls (USA, 4:33) At the edge of her life, a woman must confront a cascade of hopes, desires and fallen dreams.

Only Words (Switzerland, 3:20) A brief glimpse into the tug of war on two lovers, struggling to separate amidst love’s promises and impossibilities.

Mandala “Better Now” (USA, 4:06) Upon ending her toxic relationship with her boyfriend, a young musician experiences a sexual awakening with help from a mannequin.

Wicked Kiss “Baby Song” (USA, 7:47) Led by sisters Cathy (vocals) and Barb “Thee Animal” (drums), Arizona Indie rock band, Wicked Kiss, as they release their high energy debut single (original song) “Baby Song” and the accompanying video in March 2022.

**Performance by Kelli Jones**

*Saturday April 15, 10 PM*

The District Theater, Gilroy

**Kelli Jones, featured in the documentary Roots of Fire, will be performing live at The District Theater following the screening.**

* Mature Content
Arcadia Lasts (UK, 16:08) A teenager, Katy, gets cajoled into skipping school by a friend, Bobbi, both escaping for very different reasons.

Antarctica* (USA, 80:27) Life-long friends Kat and Janet see everything flip upside down as they hit senior year, and Janet meets a cute boy who might be a time traveler, and Kat’s panicked parents send her off to sex rehab.

Dehbaraftab Village (Iran, 8:00) **ANIMATED/2D** An old woman reviews her son’s life from his birthday to his child’s wedding day. We are accompanied by the real life of the old woman’s son from birth to his wedding day. The poacher changes the situation.

A Love Worth Fighting For (UK, 15:00) A German and an English soldier, in the first uneven throes of war, meet by chance, until their worlds come crashing down.

Middle Eastern Stories: FATHER (Iran, 17:32) A father intends to take his infant child away from his war-stricken country by hiding in a container to cross the border.

The One They Wanted (USA, 17:00) Gabriella Barton, a recently discharged US Army Staff Sergeant, struggles with loss throughout her post-military life.

Nisei* (USA, 20:36) Based on stories from the director’s grandfather, Nisei follows the journey of two Japanese-American brothers during World War II, Minoru and John Miyasaki, who are stripped of their citizenship and placed in internment camps.

English Channel (Iran, 9:32) Reza and his wife want to leave the country in an illegal way from the English channel, but they face some problems.

The Last Cuckoo: Dennis Gould (UK, 16:07) An intimate portrayal that welcomes us into the world of Dennis Gould, poet, activist, letterpress artist, cyclist, and lover of the beautiful game, this documentary shines a light on Gould’s life and beliefs through his own words and poetry.

The Creative High (USA, 75:00) Nine Artists in recovery from addiction are transformed by creativity in their turbulent search for identity and freedom.

Irish, Blacks & Dogs (UK, 8:30) Having suffered a fall, racist Irish immigrant Ted comes in to a heated conflict with Chris, the resolute black paramedic who has come to his aide.

Cerebrum (UK/Switzerland, 94:48) After waking up from a year-long coma, an insecure young man must fight his controlling father in order to discover what really happened to his seemingly absent mother.

Bolan’s Shoes (UK, 95:48) This story takes us on a tumultuous journey from the height of T. Rex mania in 1970s Liverpool to the present-day poignancy of what would have been Marc Bolan’s 75th birthday. It captures the heady exhilaration of glam rock mania through the experiences of a group of over-excited kids from a local children’s home before a devastating road accident changes their lives forever. This inspirational story explores the enduring legacy of childhood trauma and the life-affirming power of music.

This special screening of Bolan’s Shoes will be followed by a Q&A with director Ian Puleston-Davies.
Sunday April 16

**San Juan Bautista Block 1**

*The Barn at Mission Farm, 11 AM-1 PM*

**Pinball: The Man Who Saved the Game** *(USA, 90:19)* Recently reviewed in The New Yorker, Pinball tells the story of Roger Sharpe, the GQ journalist and real-life pinball wizard who in 1976 single-handedly overturned New York City’s 35-year ban on pinball machines.

**San Juan Bautista Block 2**

*The Barn at Mission Farm, 1-3 PM*

**Mummy Mountain Walk with Popo**

3.5 mile rigorous hike through famed Harvey Bear Ranch
Sunday April 16, 9-11 AM
Coyote Lake County Park, Mendoza Ranch Entrance
10840 Coyote Reservoir Road, Gilroy

**Sunday Morning Cartoons**

*The Barn at Mission Farm, 10-11 AM*

**Fobi** *(Iran, 12:57)* A little girl faces her fear of spiders.

**The Social Chameleon** *(USA, 9:30) ANIMATED/3D CGI* Cosmo the chameleon doesn’t fit in with the other animals, and no matter how hard he tries, he just can’t seem to find his place in the jungle.

**The Perfect Fit** *(Lithuania, 10:30)* A young nonverbal autistic boy named Patrick lives in a children’s home and becomes obsessed with parrots which makes it even harder for him to find parents who want to adopt him.

**The Truth Within** *(USA, 3:10)* In a Make-a-Bear Store, a hard-boiled teddy bear detective is alerted by his lover of a dead body that has been found.

**Solan** *(Iran, 3:00)* ANIMATED/3D CGI A child becomes a victim of parental differences.

**San Juan Bautista Block 2**

*The Barn at Mission Farm, 1-3 PM*

**Where the Winds Die** *(Iran, 13:00)* ANIMATED/2D Sardasht, a Kurdish city in the West of Iran, is the first city in the world to be victim of chemical weapons with mustard gas bombs at 4:15 p.m on Sunday, June 28th 1987.

**Raja’s Had Enough** *(UK, 11:12)* Raja is a creature in human form working at The Afterlife Bureau, where souls are processed after their death.

**The Virtual Llama** *(UK, 9:49)* A call with her newly virtual sister, Francis, convinces Emily that her sister no longer really exists.

**A Mind Cannot Touch** *(USA, 19:00)* A sci-fi drama about a mother, Leda, who uses her expertise in neuroscience to bring her deceased daughter, Airlia, back from the grave as a sentient hologram — complete with Airlia’s memories and consciousness via mind uploading.

**Romanova** *(USA, 16:00)* The story of a wounded soldier who, after a brutal attack destroys her unit, makes a perilous journey through an unforgiving wilderness to end the war, aided by an enemy combatant she once scorned in the name of patriotism.

**Bucketheads - Episode 1** *(Canada, 24:00)* An increasingly disillusioned soldier trying to avenge his past, tracks down a traitor that could swing the tide of war, but when a revenant re-enters his life, he must desert every ally he thought he had to save his humanity.

**Thou Shalt Dance** *(Iran, 8:54)* ANIMATED/2D & 3D STOP MOTION On a normal day, a normal man finds an abnormal solution for his problem.

* Mature Content
Morgan Hill Block 1
Community Playhouse, 1-3 PM

**Hard to Reach (UK, 13:51)** It’s 2010 and the last day of school before summer, when Morey, an anxiety fuelled mentor living a life devoid of purpose, is quietly descending into a breakdown as he arrives to pick up his rebellious and sometimes violent teenage student, Jackson.

**Custard Creams (UK, 10:03)** Don, an army veteran living under the radar, opens the door to Alison, who while brandishing her glossy brochures, delivers the trickiest of news over tea and biscuits.

**Bibimbap for One (UK, 16:11)** After the passing of her mother, an unusual encounter with an elderly neighbor helps Hana to put things into perspective.

**Margin (UK, 11:32)** In an after-school, last-chance, catch-up class, 16 year-old student Ria struggles to better herself but clashes with her teacher Emily’s battle to get through an English lesson.

**Ousmane (Canada, 25:09)** Ousmane, a newly arrived immigrant living in Montreal, faces a challenging situation when he meets an elderly disoriented lady at the end of his workday.

**Roadmarks (Canada, 14:55)** Kory turns back to street-fighting to raise cash for his daughter’s music school against his better judgment, and the love of his life’s wishes.

Morgan Hill Block 2
Community Playhouse, 3-5 PM

**Harold & Mary (UK, 11:55)** Harold and Mary are in their fiftieth year of marriage, but unfortunately the cracks in their relationship start to show as a disease takes hold of Harold and tests the very foundations of their love.

**Monico Perseus (UK, 7:24)** When Ash escapes from a juvenile detention center, he clambers through the marshes in an attempt to rescue his older brother from their abusive alcoholic father.

**Unexpected Delivery (UK, 15:00)** It’s Christmas and Vicar Peter Donovan receives a promotion from the Central Soul Production; to purify a soul sent straight from Hell due to a soul shortage. Meanwhile his wife, Harriet, finds out she is finally pregnant. And a tainted soul is on the cards.

**Hold Me, Don’t Touch Me (UK, 8:40)** Disconsolate over the death of her child, Aidy skips grief counseling and enters a pub on a freezing London evening, only to find Stella, an eager but ill-equipped stranger, who is intent on trying to help him.

**No Filter (UK, 15:00)** The story of a depressed young woman who bluntly reflects on her life and the world for her social media page, as she goes through what she’s decided will be the last day of her existence.

**Statistic (Brazil, 6:00)** In the interior of northeastern Brazil, guaranteeing and accessing a place at school is not a reality for everyone, but Gugu, a teenager who spends most of his time watching TV, decides to try.

**Find the Light* (UK, 11:30)** Zak Anwar, a young Pakistani boy, is continually victimized and sees no reprieve, except in trying to end his suffering by attempting to drown himself, only for the but when the critical moment comes, he finds a purpose worth living for.

**Grave (UK, 15:52)** A supernatural tale about a young boy, Tom’s experience of grief after the death of his Mum and having to live with his Dad, who he barely knows.

**Crosshairs* (UK, 10:04)** When Danny steals his older brother’s air rifle, the introverted Harvey is keen to embark on a day of exploring.

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**Star Wars Event and Panel Discussion**
*Sunday April 16, 3-5 PM*
*The Barn at Mission Farms, San Juan Bautista*

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**Filmmaker Awards Ceremony**
*Sunday April 16, 6-8 PM*
*Champagne Room at MOHI Social, Morgan Hill*

Special Award – Ferrari Owners Charitable Foundation
Special appearance from members of the Golden Gate Garrison of the 501st Legion.

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**After Party**
*MOHI Farm Restaurant, Morgan Hill*

Jurors from the Industry have picked what they consider the best films from the festival. Join us for an evening of light refreshments at an exciting venue, MOHI Champagne Room.
Ian Puleston Davies and the Ferrari Owners Charitable Foundation will also be receiving special awards.

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**Beer Social – release of Barley POP beer**
*Sunday April 16, 4-7 PM*
*Pour Me Taproom, Gilroy*
Monday April 17
MEXICAN-AMERICAN FILMMAKER SHOWCASE

Block 1
The Barn at Mission Farm, San Juan Bautista, 12-2 PM

Fertile Land (USA, 13:44) A bittersweet love letter to a small village up in the mountains of Zacatecas, Mexico, where the droughts can be as intense as the love of the people who live there.

The Interview (USA, 9:17) Two women at opposite ends of their careers: Lauren, a rising star before the pandemic, is interviewing Ruth, a seasoned pro, let go during the pandemic. Over Zoom, what’s supposed to be a professional interview, soon becomes a therapy session.

Strings (USA, 13:00) Penny has her share of demons, and she’s about to take on one more as she dreams of becoming the world’s greatest Sax player.

Block 2
The Barn at Mission Farm, San Juan Bautista, 2-4 PM

Work Whatever You Got (USA, 4:00) A music video from Josefina Lopez’ new play, Twenty Pounds to Happiness, features four women celebrating their bodies on the beach.

Tomorrow’s Game (USA, 85:03) Although Daniel de la Rosa comes from a family of baseball prestige, he has never appreciated the sport until the day of his Uncle’s ascendance into the Hall of Fame as the first Dominican player in the league.

Amiguín (USA, 14:47) A single, depressed man lives alone, until a plastic friend is delivered to him.

Mimosa Brunch
Monday April 17, 10 AM-12 PM
Jardines de San Juan, San Juan Bautista (Passholders only)

Awards Ceremony
Monday April 17, 4-5 PM
The Barn at Mission Farm, San Juan Bautista

Join us as we recognize Lupe Valdez for her contributions to film with an Icon Award. Lupe on of the founding members of El Teatro Campisino, and a key participant in the evolution of Chicano film and theater for over fifty years. This event will include a celebration of her career with a Q&A at the end.
Tuesday April 18
LGBTQIA+ Day

Block 1
The District Theater, Gilroy 2-4 PM
Granada Theater, Hollister 5-7 PM

This Old Tearoom (USA, 27:53) An aging gay T.V. host, Al DeWitt, and his crew race to complete an episode on glory hole cozies and uncover the behind-the-scenes antics of the making of a short, wildly Queer, shoestring-budget T.V. pilot.

Empress ClawScream (UK, 25:08) When gawky Irish teenager Róisín discovers she’ll soon be parted from her best friend and the object of her affections - Riot Grrrl punk-pixie Jess - she summons up help from an unusual source - 1980s cartoon villainess ‘Empress ClawScream’.

Milton (USA, 12:00) The touching, poignant story of an elderly couple on vacation while struggling with their physical limitations and sharing memories of a life fully lived.

Titi (Iran, 18:48) After five years of Marriage, she takes all the measures to undergo a transgender procedure when she realizes that she is pregnant.

Panel Discussion
Tuesday April 18, 7-8 PM
The District Theater, Gilroy

Block 2
The District Theater, Gilroy 4-6 PM
Granada Theater, Hollister 7-9 PM

You’re Alright Hun (Ireland, 5:06) Orla is already on the brink of breakdown caring for her terminally ill dad, Darragh, until all hell breaks loose when her ex-girlfriend shows up to return a potted succulent.

Jouissance (Iran, 22:00) The daily life of Arash and Rahi, a gay couple living in Tehran, gets disrupted by a mysterious ghost of Rahi’s ex-lover, Sadeq, who asks him to live with him again.

Kooseh (Shark) (Iran, 19:18) Samim, a teenage Afghan refugee, works illegally in a ceremony salon in Tehran and is little by little, embracing their sexuality as a girl in a guy’s body.

Boycam (Brazil, 20:00) The sexcam industry is one of the fastest growing sectors in the world, and Boycam makes presentations on an adult website to earn a living amid handling responsibilities for his 10-year old daughter.

Lucy (USA, 13:10) When Brad orders takeout after his Grindr hookup, he gets more than he bargained for when Lucy, a food delivery robot, drops off a baby instead.

SNAP (Archie’s Story) (Canada, 6:44) A short video conceived and directed by George Stamos featuring the legendary dancing, distinct voice and story of NYC vogue-dance icon Archie Burnett (Grandfather of the House of Ninja).

Block 3
The District Theater, Gilroy 6-8 PM
Granada Theater, Hollister 3-5 PM

Boifriend (USA, 10:07) A gay cis woman’s father is surprisingly happy when she brings her transmasc boyfriend home - but she soon realizes he’s only happy because she’s in a straight-passing relationship.

Tiny Mad Animals (UK, 14:44) Ben is moving out to live with his girlfriend. His housemate & old friend Alex has something he wants to say before he leaves. It could make or break their friendship.

The Tendency (Iran, 11:38) It’s about a lesbian girl who wants to leave the country in an illegal way.

Strangers (USA, 13:00) Back in his hometown for the first time since high school, Neal encounters his bully, Jackson, on a gay hookup app.

She (USA, 5:01) She is the tragic story of a boy who lives through domestic violence with his mother from his father and becomes a transvestite as a way to mourn and remember his mother, who dies from the domestic violence from his father.

After Sunset, Dawn Arrives (USA, 17:00) In the early 2000s, old ChinaTown, Los Angeles, an introverted and unsociable 65-year-old Chinese man, Wan, falls in love with a man who is nearly 30 years younger than him.

Make Me a King (UK, 15:55) Ari performs as a Jewish Drag King, much to the confusion of their family.

Belle Bottoms (USA, 12:00) Locals from Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Hollister and San Juan Bautista star in this fun and hilarious story of a man who is a conservative banker during the day, but at night becomes the drag superhero Belle Bottoms. While fighting for justice at night, Belle meets a victim who becomes her sidekick, Albeetcha Down.

Funded by local donors, this film was made as part of PJIFF’s 40 N’Up filmmaker program where people who have always wanted to make a film. In the months leading up to the filming, we teach people to write, direct, and edit a short film - proving that you can make a film at any age! Contact our festival director if you want to participate in this or any of our educational programs at mattie@pjiff.org.
Block 1
The District Theater, Gilroy, 11AM-1 PM

Pari & Poori (Iran, 13:42) It’s about a little girl who is trying to save her donkey

Destiny (Iran, 72:00) In a small village in northern Iran, 18-year-old Sahar takes care of her father, Rahim, because she has made a promise to her mother, who died two years earlier, to care for him but the young woman aspires to a completely different life of going to university.

Soil Flavored Bread (Iran, 9:24) The soil of Hormoz Island is the first edible soil in the world, and this documentary shows the inappropriate behavior of the people on the island.

Dribble (Iran, 15:00) Passion in soccer causes affection between brothers.

Block 2
The District Theater, Gilroy, 1-3 PM

One of Us* (Iran, 14:20) It’s the story of a teenager who has been engaged to an old man and she gets pregnant.

A Few Steps Further (Iran, 15:00) Because being an author is the highlight of humanity, even a soldier guarding the border will endanger his very existence out of respect for the one whose only weapon is a pen.

How Should One Wait For Godot (Iran, 28:07) “How Should One Wait for Godot” is an adaptation of Samuel Becket’s two plays, Waiting for Godot and EndGame.

Harat (Iran, 11:17) A father and daughter in Afghanistan are reaching the Iranian border when someone stops their car.

Katvoman (Iran, 7:35) Mother and son play a Catwoman-Batman Game before the father comes in and has to play a role in the game.

The Gold Teeth (Canada, 15:00) Sahra, an Afghan refugee in Canada arrives at Iranian ex-Dentist, Hamed’s doorstep for help extracting her late father’s gold teeth before they bury him.

The Bloody Family (Iran, 14:21) In an old and mysterious house, a young girl has not left her dark room for years. A social worker enters this house to save the girl’s life.

Company (Iran, 10:22) Company tells the story of a young boy who feels obliged to write a will for a dying woman who lives alone.

Split Ends (Iran, 14:15) A bald girl and a young boy with long hair whose car has been confiscated due to the lack of wearing a proper hijab, try to solve their problem with the Tehran Morality Police without having to pay a fine.

Wednesday April 19
Films from Iran

Audience Awards Announced
Wednesday April 19, 3 PM
The District Theater, Gilroy

We hope you’ve been voting for your favorite films throughout the festival by using the QR codes that follow each film screening. Here’s your opportunity on the last day of the festival to let the filmmakers know which were your favorite.

This year we received an unprecedented number of film submissions from Iran and we did our best to showcase as many as possible.
Poppy Jasper International Film Festival Chinese Filmmaker Showcase partnered with Silicon Valley Chinese Technology & Business Association, and GGConnections, putting together the Asian American Arts Festival with a day program of film festival, art show, fashion show and live music concert.

The Chinese Filmmaker Showcase had jurors from China, Vietnam, Chile and U.S. to rate the nominated films. It showcased screenings of films from all over the world, a panel discussion plus Q&A with internationally recognized filmmakers.

**Screenings**

- **Grand Opening Film**
  *Essentially Amy (15:00)*
  Director: Ari Groobman

- **Closing Film**
  *After Sunset Dawn Arrives (16:51)*
  Director: Andy Yi Li

- **Mosaic (7:30)**
  Director: Keith Qi Chen

- **Nostalgia (29:41)**
  Director: GuoRong Zhang

- **Someone in Time (6:30)**
  Director: Yu Zhang

- **Reunion Dinner (11:00)**
  Director: Zheng Ren

- **She & He (6:55)**
  Director: Anlan Tao

- **Death’s Diner (15:00)**
  Director: Ravenna Tran

- **Magician: Game of Detective (29:59)**
  Director: Tanzuan Shi

**Panel Discussion and Q&A**

Special Panel Guest
Habib Zargarpour
Virtual Production Supervisor
Unity Technologies
(Greyhound, Bladerunner 2049, Perfect Storm, Star Wars Episode I)
Gold Sponsors

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We want to especially thank these FRIENDS for their support and contributions to the festival:

- BGGS Lighting and Grip Service
- Bill Doherty
- Casa Q
- Central Computers
- City of Gilroy
- City of Hollister
- City of Morgan Hill
- City of San Juan Bautista
- FilmWay
- Gilroy Chamber of Commerce
- Gilroy Downtown Business Association
- Golden Memorial
- Guglielmo Winery
- Hacienda de Leal
- Hollister Downtown Business Association
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- La Fayette Travel
- Luxe Beauty Bar
- Luxe Design & Décor
- May Yam
- MG Constructors
- Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce
- Morgan Hill Downtown Association
- Morgan's Cove
- Morgan's Cove
- Moya Art Studio
- Richard Starks Sculptures
- San Juan Bautista Business Association
- Santa Cruz Film Festival
- SV Chinese American Computer & Commerce Association
- SV Chinese Technology & Business Association
- Tap Productions
- The Ford Store
- Toolshed Studios
- Visit Gilroy
- Visit Morgan Hill
- Visit San Juan Bautista

And our official hotel partner:
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