The 42nd Bi-Annual New Jersey Film Festival will be taking place on the Fridays and Sundays between September 8-October 8, 2023. The Festival will be a hybrid one as we will be presenting it online as well as doing in-person screenings at Rutgers University. All the films will be available virtually via Video on Demand for 24 hours on their show date. Each General Admission Ticket or Festival Pass purchased is good for both the virtual and the in-person screenings. The in-person screenings will be held in Voorhees Hall #105/Rutgers University, 71 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, NJ beginning at 5PM or 7PM on their show date. General Admission Ticket=$15 Per Program; Festival All Access Pass=$100; In-Person Only Student Ticket=$10 Per Program. For more info scan the QR code above or go here: https://watch.eventive.org/newjerseyfilmfestivalfall2023
New Jersey Film Festival Fall 2023 Schedule

Friday, September 8, 2023 – Online for 24 Hours and In-Person at 7PM!

To Understand An Anemone - Emily Goodchild (Newport/Cheltenham, United Kingdom) Following the journey of four protagonists - a human, a prop, a camera and water, this film explores the relationship between human and anemone. 2023; 14 min.

Breaking The Surface – John Evans, Ani Javian (New Brunswick, New Jersey) Breaking the Surface is a dance film about climate change, specifically, about the rise of sea level and the issues that are caused by that rise, currently and projected into the future. The film focuses on communities in New Jersey and the region that are being, and will be, most affected by the changes. 2023; 26 min.

Fandango, portrait of an opera workshop – Manno Lanssens/Joy Bechtler (Antwerp, Belgium/Princeton, New Jersey) The risks are great and the odds are against them. In this workshop in Kinshasa-Congo, talented singers share their passion to sing...opera. With Joy Bechtler, voice coach at Operanauts, Inc., they get a rare opportunity to hone their talents. Together, they work on opera scenes to perform at a local restaurant. If the evening is a success, it could help them organize against the social chaos of their native Kinshasa and develop satisfying careers. The film concludes as the singers learn they have been invited to perform their program again, this time with additional music, as part of the popular local music series Arty Live, hosted at a luxury hotel. For the singers, it’s a golden opportunity. The question is, with just 3 days’ notice, can this small group of workshop participants prepare an entire evening of opera music for the public? In English and French, subtitled. 2023; 30 min.

Sunday, September 10, 2023 – Online for 24 Hours and In-Person at 5PM!
**Things That Didn’t Happen – Joshua Kaufman (New York, New York)** Years after a fateful car accident, a recluse remains uncomfortable in his skin and unable to shake off the feeling that a familiar stranger is watching him from just beyond the trees. 2022; 13 min.

**Honor Student – Tamika Miller (Los Angeles, California)** Jeremy Chue is a picture-perfect teenager. He is talented, has the perfect grades, a well-off family, and attends a prestigious Washington, D.C. private school. At least that is how he appears. After losing his twin brother in a mass shooting, Jeremy takes matters into his own hands and proves America a lesson it’ll never forget. 2023; 82 min.

**Friday, September 15, 2023 – Online for 24 Hour!**

**Minnesota Mean – Dawn Mikkelson (Duluth, Minnesota)** A year in the lives of six members of the Minnesota RollerGirls, one of the most competitive roller derby teams in the world, as they strive to win the Hydra, the top prize in Women’s Flat Track Roller Derby. When the star of the team gets injured, will her teammates find their own power? *Minnesota Mean* is a human drama about the pounding heart of roller derby: powerful, self-sufficient women. It’s a vital and relevant story of triumph, loss, strength, determination, and a search for balance between individuality and community. How do women who pride themselves on their hard-won independence thrive in a sport that requires them to rely on a team? How do they meet the full-time demands of the sport without sacrificing their own dreams for life outside the rink? 2022; 81 min.

**Friday, September 15, 2023 – In-Person Only at 7PM!**
Solo Musical Performance by Tim Motzer  After two decades of world touring, 12 solo guitar soundscape albums, and a multitude of stunning collaborations including over 100 albums of credits, Tim Motzer continues to “traverse manifold territories in music” (Guitar Player magazine). Tim is a sonic pioneer and widely known for his distinct textural acoustic-electro guitar voice utilizing looping, bowing, electronics, and prepared techniques. He has collaborated with numerous musical luminaries including David Sylvian, Burnt Friedman, Jaki Liebezeit, poet Ursula Rucker, Vernon Reid, David Torn, Markus Reuter, Pat Mastelotto, and Percy Jones, among others. His film/TV credits include the hit HBO series True Blood as well as Miami Vice, a major motion picture directed by Michael Mann, and recently, the motion picture, Hustle, by Adam Sandler. For the past 23 years, Tim has brought his dynamic, eclectic array of musical projects together under his own 1k Recordings imprint, which has over 60 releases and counting. He composes, records, and produces his own solo and collaborative work, along with projects for other artists. For more info about 1k, please visit 1krecordings.bandcamp.com

Grounding: An Experimental Film (2023)  Produced, Directed and Cinematography by Albert Gabriel Nigrin; Edited by Albert Gabriel Nigrin and Katie Scrivani; Starring Katie Scrivani; Sound Advice by Irene Fizer. A series of stream of consciousness visual field recordings interspersed with images of a woman flashing sunlight into the lens of the camera. “Grounding” is a therapeutic technique that involves doing activities that “ground” or electrically reconnect you to the earth. 2023; 30 min. Grounding will be screened as part of the New Jersey Film Festival Solo Musical Performance by Tim Motzer.

Sunday, September 17, 2023 – Online for 24 Hours and In-Person at 5PM!

Shorts Program
**Night Ride From LA – Martin Gerick (Krefeld, Germany)** Night Ride from LA is based on a real car ride at night from downtown LA to the desert near Palm Springs a few years ago. The footage was taken from the car by continually shooting single long exposure photos to document the ride of about two hours without any break. This technique condensed the whole trip to a flickering twirl of time-stretched movements and night light graffiti causing a kind of psychedelic trance. A love letter to the energy and vibe of the Californian way of life. 2023; 5 min.

**Method – Trevor Hemblin (New York, New York)** A director and actor go head-to-head when the actor wants to use a real bullet for the Russian roulette scene that they’re filming. 2023; 12 min.

**San Miguel – Katherine Myers (Los Angeles, California)** Three L.A. influencers are forced to hail an airport taxi in Mexico when their ride falls through. They start to notice strange behavior from their driver, and when the car takes a wrong turn into the middle of nowhere, the influencers begin fearing for their lives... 2023; 13 min.

**Animal – Lauren Adams (Los Angeles, California)** Bitty and Minnie pilot their Post Haste Shipping Company vessel, delivering supplies for the ongoing and ambiguous rebuild of a collapsed America. For these pilots, their world is almost entirely contained to the inside of their ship - a self-driving behemoth with no windows onto the landscape that corporate assures them is haunted by dangerous Animals. Minnie has a vicious scar that seems to back up this warning. 2023; 15 min.
The Sacred Bees – Kay Qiao (Los Angeles, California) A caring man is finally forced to go out of his way to hunt down his love of life after her unbearable attitude switch and silent treatment. 2023; 16 min.

This is the Rill Speaking – Gabriel Rodriguez-Fuller A lonely warehouse worker is besieged by visions. 2023; 23 min.

Friday, September 22, 2023 – Online for 24 Hours and In-Person at 7PM!

Out of Frame – Evan Bode (Syracuse, New York) Trapped in their frames and monitored by a menacing curator, two paintings long to escape from the art gallery's white walls. As the paintings lock eyes across the room, an unspoken connection forms between them that sets the stage for revolution. With a distinctive blend of live-action and animation, this short film by Evan Bode employs surreal metaphor to explore ideas about power, resistance, queer identity, visibility, and liberation from constructed borders. 2023; 9 min.

June – Lauren Stevens (Los Angeles, California) June is a gas-station attendant, withered by the mundaneness of her central-valley life. She has recently come out as bisexual, much to the confusion of her manager Claudia who wants the best for her favorite (and only) employee. When June’s childhood best friend, Nia, wanders into the gas station unexpectedly, they recall a memory of a moment that changed the course of their lives – for better and for worse. Through reconnecting with Nia, June realizes that her actions, words, and emotions do have an impact. This discovery hurdles June into a long awaited late-bloomed coming of age. 2023; 13 min.
**Hole in the Head – Dean Kavanaugh (Wicklow, Ireland)** Part-time projectionist and amateur filmmaker, John Kline Jnr, is mute and suffers from missing time. He hires local actors to play his parents in a series of recreated home movies in order to investigate their unsolved disappearance 25 years earlier. *Hole in the Head* is an independent feature film in which the protagonist re-stages his family’s home movies in order to recall a traumatic event. Melding new with old technologies and a film-within-a-film structure, this feature film proposes a hauntological discourse on autofiction, trauma and private ritual. 2023; 90 min.

**Sunday, September 24, 2023 – Online for 24 Hours and In-Person at 5PM!**

**From Inside of Here – Bill Basquin (San Francisco, California)** *From Inside of Here* is a non-fiction, feature-length film that unfolds slowly and is trusting of its audience. The film uses multiple media (16mm film, HD video, infrared stills, inter-titles, and sound recordings) to explore vulnerability and interconnection through the lens of an ecosystem and through the body of the filmmaker. 2023; 85 min

**Friday, September 29, 2023 – Online for 24 Hours!**

**Pictures Only – Charles Honeywell (Chicago, Illinois)** Set in 1950s Bronzeville, Louise Parker is facing eviction from her home. Desperate to keep her independence and status, she is introduced to a lucrative performing opportunity. While attempting to keep this new venture a secret, she simultaneously gains popularity, risking being exposed to and disowned by her mother. After being offered a promotion, she is left with two choices, become the headliner, or allow her family to lose everything. 2023; 21 min.
The Last Passenger – Takashi Horie (Queens, New York) It is in a small coastal town of Tohoku, Northeastern Japan, where a disastrous Tsunami wiped out the entire town and took thousands of people’s lives ten years ago. Years later, a rumor started circulating among Taxi drivers. The rumor is about a ghost that appears in the affected area. When a taxi driver picks up a young girl late at night near the affected area, she asks to take her to the Beach Town. But when they come to the beach town, she vanishes. One night, Endo, a taxi driver, picks up a girl who asks to go to the Beach Town. And when they come to the beach town… it is the beginning of his journey to discover his darkest past and his time to confront it. In Japanese, subtitled. 2023; 55 min.

Sunday, October 1, 2023 – Online for 24 Hours and In-Person at 5PM!

#LookAtMe – Ken Kwek (Singapore) When teenagers Sean and Ricky are invited to attend church with Sean’s girlfriend, they are treated to an Evangelical rock concert capped by a searing anti-LGBTQ sermon. Sean, a Youtuber, soon gets into trouble for dropping an outrageous video lampooning the megachurch’s pastor. He is widely condemned and prosecuted for flouting Singapore’s strict laws on public expression. As Sean descends into near-madness in prison, his gay twin brother, Ricky, gains prominence as a LGBTQ activist. Both find themselves at the heart of a culture war that spills out from social media into the real world. In English and Malay, subtitled. 2022; 108 min.

Sunday, October 1, 2023 – Online for 24 Hours!

Best of the 2023 New Jersey International Film Festival

Balaena – Alessia Cecchet (Santa Cruz, California) A whale lies stranded on the beach, and a woman seeks closure through a simulacrum while human interlopers observe, collect, dissect and take selfies. 2022; 8 min.
A Spot for Frog – Evan Bode (Syracuse, New York) Locked out of the school art room, a creative nonbinary teen named Frog grapples with anxiety as they seek a new place to eat lunch. Imagination blurs with reality in this hybrid work of live action and animation about an artist's search for identity, belonging, and expression on the margins. 2022; 16 min.

Herd – Michel Negroponte (Livingston Manor, New York) A herd of shaggy Belted Galloway cattle is delivered to a neighboring pasture in the Catskills and instantly inspires a new film. The filmmaker's growing fascination with the complex forces that propel the animals through one season to the next leads him to reflect on the modern idea of animal personhood. The cows graze and chew their cud, new calves are born, the mothers diligently safeguard their offspring while the bull dominates the herd. Like humans, cows have distinct characteristics: some are giddy, some private, others wise and placid. What are the mysterious forces that drive the cattle? Is their curiosity hardwired into their brains? Are cows sentient? Why do humans believe they have dominion over animals? These questions have been asked for centuries. Equal part rumination, observation and meditation, the film reveals the cow's essence and challenges us to think differently about our fellow living animal beings. 2023; 66 min.

Friday, October 6, 2023 – Online for 24 Hours!
Best of the 2023 New Jersey International Film Festival

Gutter – Theodore Drusba (Montreal, Canada) Mist. Dust. A bowling alley in the crosshair of a thunderstorm. A pregnant woman, a businessman and a widower find shelter in its midst. Pins are knocked down until gloomy moths kindle an outage. 2022; 22 min.
Bibi – Christopher Beatty (Summit, New Jersey) In this psychological thriller a mother and daughter live in a secluded mansion that is hiding a terrible secret. After a tragic loss, Vivian Ashwood is failing to cope. Struggling to raise her daughter Bibi, she turns to prescription medication and alcohol to soothe her anxieties and depression. Soon, the lines begin to blur between Vivian's routine nightmare and her reality. A strange man begins stalking and tormenting Vivian, causing her to unravel even further. She turns to Bibi, her only confidant, to confirm what is real and what is delusion. Bibi, also devastated by the loss of her sister and upset at Vivian for not protecting them both, only makes Vivian more unsure of the truth. After continuous torment, Vivian searches to find a way to protect herself and Bibi from the stalker by whatever means necessary. 2023; 92 min.

Sunday, October 8, 2023 – Online for 24 Hours!
Best of the 2023 New Jersey International Film Festival

The Sprayer – Farnoosh Abedi (Tehran, Iran) In the land occupied with the sprayers army, no one has the right to grow any kind of plants either in public or private. So many of the people and soldiers do not even know how a plant grows or what it looks like, until one day one of the soldiers finds a seed buried deep down in the dust and his curiosity is just the beginning of something extraordinary, something big, something revolutionary. 2022; 9 min.

Black Moon - Tonatiuh García (Mexico City, Mexico) The story of three siblings and the rebellion of a town to defend a river. An unexpected piece of news will make them make decisions that will change their destinies forever because what flows can be as appeasing as it is implacable. In Spanish, subtitled. 2022; 100 min.

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Live Screenings Info, Location, Directions and Parking:
Voorhees Hall #105/Rutgers University, 71 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, NJ = Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 9 and then take Route 18N (New Brunswick direction) and go for 2 1/2 miles to the College Avenue Campus/George Street exit (immediately after the Route 27S exit). Make a left at the light at the end of the exit ramp onto George Street, then go to the next light and make a right onto Hamilton Street. Voorhees Hall is adjacent to the Zimmerli Art Museum. Patrons can park in Rutgers Lots #1 (next to Kirkpatrick Chapel) and #16 (next to Murray and Milledoler Halls).

A map and directions can also be accessed online at: https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/ecosystem-for-learning/study-spaces/voorhees-hall-lobby

Note: Parking in the lots listed above are only for visitors to the University.
Faculty, staff, and students must park only in the lots they are authorized to park in.
Visitor vehicles must be registered prior to parking at the link below: https://rudots.nupark.com/v2/portal/eventregister/8cb561f1-fd05-4154-9b4e-ab0315e8c181#/events/registration/

Information:
New Jersey International Film Festival
Rutgers Film Co-op/New Jersey Media Arts Center
Rutgers University Program in Cinema Studies
4170 Academic Building, 15 Seminary Place
New Brunswick, New Jersey, 08901-8525 U.S.A.
Phone: (848) 932-8482
Email: NJMAC12@gmail.com NJMAC@aol.com
Websites: www.njfilmfest.com

Sponsors:
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