



- BODY PLUS
- FAMILY PLUS
- TASTE PLUS
- CALENDAR PLUS
- WEEKEND PLUS

CALENDAR PLUS

Dog-gone good picks for final week

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Get ready for the Best of the Fest as the Arizona International Film Festival goes into its final weekend. Upcoming events range from Thursday's outdoor screening of the dog-umentary for pet lovers, "Wiener Takes All," to the full-length narrative "Made in L.A." dramatizing exploited Hispanic workers in Los Angeles sweatshops.

Plenty of choices can be made based on one's own personal politics this weekend. Many of the features and documentaries have a political agenda to encourage.

"Sozdar: She Who Lives Her Promise" examines the difficult life of Kurdish freedom fighter Nuriye Kesbir, who languished in Dutch limbo for several years. She wasn't granted political asylum in the Netherlands, but she wasn't forced to return to her native Turkey, either.

"Brave New West" details the life of Utah journalist and editorial cartoonist Jim Stiles who uses his tiny newspaper, the Canyon County Zephyr, to fight the big government and big business forces that want to exploit Utah's natural resources.

A little less political but even more touching is "The Linguists," following the exploits of two men trying to save the dying languages of tiny cultures around the world being co-opted by larger ones. Is this neo-colonialism? In a sense, maybe it is.

"Coyote" puts a twist on illegal immigration by following two gringos who decide to help a Hispanic friend slip into the U.S. That was so easy, the pair of Americans decide to go in the business of helping illegal immigrants into this country. Quickly they meet up with drug smugglers and other less-than-idealistic people who thrive on shady border politics.

Anthologies of short films are always the favorite screenings of veteran film festival fans. Newcomers discovering the unique flavor of independent features are also advised to try the short films first.

"Chicano Shorts" contains five films, touching on issues of politics, religion, love, death and journalism.

PHOTOS & IMAGES

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Photo courtesy of Arizona International Film Festival

Tonight's screening of "Wiener Takes All" is open to dog lovers and their dogs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What: 17th annual Arizona International Film Festival

When: through Sunday

Where: The Screening Room, 127 N. 1st Ave.; Crossroads Festival Cinema, 4811 N. Oracle Rd.; and the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, 1000 River Road. Also, special events at the Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.; Hotel Congress, E. Congress St.; La Placita Village, 1000 N. 1st Ave.; Dinnerware ArtSpace, 264 E. Congress St.; and The Hut, 305 N. Fourth Ave.

Price: \$6 first screening each day; \$10 admission all other screenings; \$100 at the Fox; \$40 saver pass for six screenings and workshops (including night); \$100 producer pass, for all screenings and workshops; \$150 Gold Sponsor pass for screenings, workshops, special events and receptions.

Info: 882-0204, filmfestivalarizona.com

THURSDAY

4 p.m. - Fox Theatre - From The Arthouse to the Mainstream
 "Chinatown" - U.S. Private detective (Jack Nicholson) follows an adulterous woman in the seamy intrigue of the California capital
 6 p.m. - Screening Room - Reel From



A pair of longer shorts, booked under the title "Performance Shorts," examine the plight of young women who become sex workers.

The festival's dedication to increasing public awareness of Alzheimer's and dementia continues in a collection of 10 "Memory Shorts," most of the films running less than 10 minutes each.

Worth emphasizing is the unique plate of "IndieYouth Shorts" mostly from around the United States, also 10 entries. Most are less than 10 minutes long. Get a taste of what today's film-literate teens are thinking.

An important nonfilm event is the free workshop Saturday, "Tucson Is For Filmmaking: Why Filmmakers Like Shooting in Tucson" with a five-member panel of filmmakers. Tamara Mack is the moderator.

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Shorts • "Dear Oh Dear, Mr. Reilly" - U.S. • "We Hear Siren" - U.S. • "Lemon Tree" - U.S. • "Intangible" - U.S. • "Vision Decay Memory" - U.S. • "Solidaridad" - U.S. • "Unknown" - U.S. • "The Girls of Elizabeth Street" - U.S.

7:30 p.m. - Cinema La Placita - Premiere Showcase • "Wiener Takes All: A Dog's Story" - U.S. The National Wiener Dog Race may be an unknown event, but thousands of fans, sold-out venues, and national coverage may help dachshund racing gain the notoriety it deserves.

8 p.m. - Screening Room - Cine Chino • "Virgen de Guadalupe" - U.S. • "Belong" - U.S. • "Chiles" - U.S. • "Tortilla" - U.S. • "Dream" - U.S.

10 p.m. - Screening Room - Premiere • "Donovan Slacks" - United Kingdom

FRIDAY

6 p.m. - Screening Room - Reel From • "She Who Lives Her Promise" - The Netherlands • "Nuriye Kesbir, a Kurdish woman who was given in marriage at the age of 12, and fought 30 years later as the wanted leader of a guerrilla movement. Filmmaker Annemarieke will introduce film.

7:30 p.m. - Crossroads Theater - Reel From • "The Flyboys" - U.S. When two young boys sneak aboard a mysterious airplane, they are unexpectedly embroiled in a world of action-packed coming-of-age film. Filmmaker Urness will introduce film.

7:30 p.m. - Tucson Chinese Cultural Center • "The Linguists" - U.S. Dying languages on the verge of extinction. Journeys take them deep into the heart of these cultures, knowledge and communities. Panel will follow screening with filmmaker Kramer.

8 p.m. - Screening Room - Cine Chino • "In L.A." - U.S. Three Latina immigrants survive in Los Angeles sweatshops and fight out to win basic labor protections in the face of immigration, the power of unity and the courage it takes to find your voice. Filmmaker Carracedo will introduce film.

10 p.m. - Screening Room - Experience • "Red-Light District Graffiti" - Japan • "Tape" - Mexico

SATURDAY

11 a.m. - Screening Room - Tucson Chinese Cultural Center • Filmmaking • Filmmakers with recent features discuss why they like shooting in Tucson. Free admission.

2 p.m. - Screening Room - IndieYouth • The future of filmmaking as young filmmakers tell their stuff.

3 p.m. - Crossroads Theater - Reel From • "Circus Rosaire" - U.S. Three generations of animal trainers overcome financial hardship and personal loss to reunite for their first performance in 50 years. Filmmaker and Chad Wilson will introduce the film.

4 p.m. - Screening Room - Wellness • "The Girl" - United Kingdom. A tender, Oscar-nominated British writer Iris Murdoch follows a young woman filled with passion and desire who degrades under the cruel hands of a disease. Panel will follow screening.

5 p.m. - Crossroads Theater - Cine Chino • "Coyote" - U.S. A plot to traffic illegal immigrants across the U.S./Mexico border goes

perpetrators find themselves caught in a dangerous drug cartel. Filmmaker E... will introduce film.

7 p.m. - Screening Room - Premier
"Brave New West" - U.S. The inspiri...
Stiles, a modern western individual...
the politically progressive Canyon C...
the heart of conservative Mormon U...
Doug Hawes-Davis will introduce fil...

7:30 p.m. - Crossroads Theater - C...
"Made in L.A." - U.S.

9:30 p.m. - Screening Room - Movie...
"Quality Time" - U.S. In a dystopian...
polar ice caps are melting, the milita...
controls all aspects of life - and it's...
to your parents.

9:30 p.m. - The Hut - Closing Night...
music by Al Perry and friends.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

1 p.m. and 4 p.m. - Screening Room...
Fest • Award-winning films and aud...
close out the Festival

IF YOU GO

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE