

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**THE 20th ANNUAL AMERICAN PAVILION EMERGING FILMMAKER SHOWCASE
ANNOUNCES FILM LINEUP**

*Young filmmakers from across the U.S. and around the world will bring their shorts to
The American Pavilion during the Cannes Film Festival*

LOS ANGELES, CA (April 12, 2017) – Today, The American Pavilion proudly announced its 2017 lineup for the American Pavilion Emerging Filmmaker Showcase. The impressive program features 25 short documentary and narrative films by up-and-coming filmmakers from the U.S. and around the world, all of which will screen at The American Pavilion during the Cannes Film Festival. More information about the showcase and links to view the films’ trailers are available at:

<http://www.ampav.com/index.php/student-programs/cannes-emerging-filmmaker-showcase/2017-finalists-emerging-filmmaker-showcase/>

The showcase encompasses five sections, including: Student Short Films, Student Documentaries, Emerging Filmmaker Short Films, Emerging Filmmaker Documentaries, and Emerging Filmmaker LGBTQ Showcase films.

In a new partnership with KCETLink Media Group, a leading national independent nonprofit public broadcast and digital network, three of the films featured in the Showcase are winners of [FINE CUT Festival](#) of Films. A flagship program for Los Angeles’ KCET public television since the late ‘90s, the festival was founded by actor Jack Larson, best known for his portrayal of photographer/reporter Jimmy Olsen in the 1952-1958 television series “Adventures of Superman,” on the idea that public television was an excellent platform for providing critical visibility to student and emerging filmmakers. Winners in three categories will receive five-night accommodations through The American Pavilion plus \$500 cash to go toward air travel.

Selected from over 3,000 entries from around the world, with the finalists determined by nine award-winning and notable industry experts, this year’s FINE CUT Festival of Films winners include DOOR TO FREEDOM (TUR ZUR FREIHEIT), directed by Jeremias Bayerl; THE OUTCAST, directed by Bucher Almzain; and HIDE AND SEEK, directed by Camille Fleury. In addition, three of the films from the Emerging Filmmaker Showcase will be featured in the FINE CUT broadcast television series, which will begin airing June

14 at 9pm on **KCET** independent public television in Southern California and **Link TV** nationwide 9PM EST/PST (DirecTV channel 375 and Dish Network channel 9410).

The films in this year's Emerging Filmmaker Showcase focus on themes as diverse as the refugee crisis, terrorism, climate change, bullying, and online dating. A variety of stars are featured, including: Valerie Harper (*Rhoda*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*), Liz Torres (*The John Larroquette Show*, *Gilmore Girls*), and Harmony Santana (*Gun Hill Road*) in MY MOM AND THE GIRL; Fawzia Mirza and Laura Zak (both from the Emmy nominated web series *Her Story*) in SPUNKLE; Elizabeth Banks served as Executive Producer and narrator for YOURS SINCERELY, LOIS WEBER; and the Spike Lee produced \$15 KICKS, about former NBA star Stephon Marbury and his low-cost sneakers, Starbury.

Female directors are once again well represented in The Showcase, with more than half of the films directed by women.

Student filmmakers hail from schools across the United States, including: School of Visual Arts, Santa Monica College, Chapman University, UCLA, USC, AFI, Hunter College, Wake Forest University, Florida State University, Salzburg University of Applied Sciences, Columbia College Chicago, and Young Actors Theatre Group.

"This year's showcase promotes cultural diversity amongst the films and filmmakers and I'm excited that more than half of the finalist films are directed by women," said Monika Skerbelis, Programming Director.

Emerging showcase winners will be chosen by a jury that includes agents, managers, producers, and festival programmers and will be announced at The American Pavilion during this year's Cannes Film Festival.

Prize packages are sponsored by: KCETLink Media Group's FINE CUT Festival of Films, Final Draft, Write Brothers Movie Magic-Screenwriter, Jungle Software, International Documentary Association, Screening Services Group, Michael Wiese Productions Books, and ESE Film Workshops Online.

About The Emerging Filmmaker Showcase

Since 1989, The American Pavilion has offered opportunities in Cannes to film students from around the world. The 2017 Emerging Filmmaker Showcase will provide an opportunity for emerging filmmakers to have their works seen by Cannes Festival and Film Market attendees. Prizes will be awarded to filmmakers and the top twenty-five films will be screened in a special "Emerging Filmmaker" showcase at The American Pavilion in Cannes.

About The American Pavilion

The American Pavilion, celebrating its 29th year as the epicenter of American hospitality and communication at the Cannes International Film Festival, brings together both

professional and emerging filmmakers along with industry executives from across the globe. A sought after destination for information, orientation, and recreation, it accommodates the needs of its members, guests and sponsors in a dynamic business environment. With its impressive array of amenities and services, AmPav provides an opportunity to relax in very comfortable surroundings.

The American Pavilion boasts the Roger Ebert Conference Series which offers insightful and provocative panel discussions and in-conversations with filmmakers, talent and top leaders; a restaurant and bar that provide fast service with a smile throughout the day and is open to all festival badge holders after 6:00pm most evenings; a coffee bar; free WiFi and charging stations; a media terrace with a panoramic view of the Riviera; the Emerging Filmmaker Showcase; the Culinary Program featuring chefs from across the US and Canada; The American Pavilion Worldwide Student Program; and public and private rental for parties and receptions.

For more information, please visit:

Website: www.ampav.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/americanpavilion>

Twitter: @AmPav

Instagram: The_American_Pavilion

ABOUT KCETLINK MEDIA GROUP

KCETLink Media Group is a national independent, nonprofit, digital and broadcast network that provides high-quality, culturally diverse programming designed to engage the public in innovative, entertaining and transformative ways. With a commitment to independent perspectives, smart global entertainment, local communities, and opportunities for engagement and social action, KCETLink depicts people and the world through a lens unavailable elsewhere in U.S. media. A viewer-supported 501(c)(3) organization, KCETLink content is distributed nationally via satellite on Link TV DIRECTV channel 375 and DISH Network channel 9410 and on KCET in Southern and Central California via broadcast and cable, as well as through various digital delivery systems. For additional information about KCET and Link TV productions, web-exclusive content, programming schedules and community events, please visit kcet.org or linktv.org. Select programming from KCET and Link TV is also available for streaming on Hulu, Apple TV, and Roku platforms.

STUDENT DOCUMENTARY

MY GARDEN, NO LONGER

2017, 17:09 min., USA/Vanuatu, Documentary, Wake Forest University

Producer/Writer/Director: Scott E. Schimmel

The people of Vanuatu, a country once dubbed the happiest place on earth, struggle to maintain their culture and traditions as climate change takes hold.

ACOUSTIC NINJA

2016, 7:30 min., USA, Documentary, Florida State University

Producer/Director: Robert Bevis

Cast: Trace Bundy

In this portrait of fingerstyle guitarist Trace Bundy, we explore his desire to strike the perfect balance between life on tour and life at home.

STUDENT FILMS

DOOR TO FREEDOM (TUR ZUR FREIHEIT)

2016, 20 min., Austria, Drama, Subtitles, Salzburg University of Applied Sciences

(KCETLink's *Fine Cut Film Festival Winner*)

Writer/Director: Jeremias Bayerl

Producer: Bianca Weber

Cast: David Luis Burgart, Sandro Di Stefano, Alan Hasso, Anton Noori

What if the deepest issue of the refugee crisis is packed into the moral of a bedtime story? A drama, in which a boy has to escape from war and overcome several barriers in order to reach his goal, a wooden door, his only chance to freedom. A paradox world that is truly sad, finally revealing a bizarre surprise.

THE OUTCAST

2015, 16:33 min., USA, Drama, Subtitles, Columbia College Chicago (KCETLink's *Fine Cut Film Festival Winner*)

Director: Bucher Almazain

Producer: Bucher Almazain, Olayinka Hassan

Writer: J. Scott Sibley, Bucher Almazain

Cast: Mariam Sobh, Adham Murched, Robert Hope, Shaker Zaibak, KC Matthews, August Gallagher-Alex, Francesca Santoro, Dom Coviello

After escaping a war torn country, a young woman is now torn herself when her husband is denied entry into the U.S. Alone and with little money, she struggles to get him in before he is deported. Surrounded by a foreign culture, she must learn to quickly adapt while feeling like a true outcast.

THE MOMENT

2016, 2 min., USA, Animation, School of Visual Arts

Writer/Director: Karis Seungyoun Oh

Producer: John McIntosh

Cast: Stephen Knight

The Moment is a story about an artist who learns about the importance of the things

unseen as she gets to draw a stranger's portrait.

BENNY GOT SHOT

2016, 20 min., USA, Drama, American Film Institute

Writer/Director: Malcolm Washington

Writer: Jory Anast, Malcolm Washington

Producer: Joenique Rose

Cast: Lantha Richardson, Jihad Reeves, Tammi Mac

When Naomi, a young autopsy assistant at the LA County Coroner's office, realizes her brother has gone missing on the night of a police shooting, she is forced to confront her worst fear, that his body may be in the morgue.

TRUE COLORS

2016, 5 min., USA, Animation, School of Visual Arts

Writer/Director: Nicole Morciniec

A small sparrow falls in love with a beautiful bird, and paints himself to be colorful in order to catch her attention.

OWEN

2016, 14 min., USA, Drama, UCLA

Producer/Writer/Director: Kelly Pike

Cast: Casey Kramer, Owen the Golden Retriever, Courtney Stewart

Hellen lives on the streets with her aging dog, Owen, as her only companion. An opportunity for housing comes her way, but Owen is not allowed to join her. She has one day to make a series of hard decisions that leave both of their futures hanging in the balance.

SWIPE RIGHT

2016, 9 min., USA, Comedy/Drama/Romance, Chapman University

Writer/Director: Kendall Goldberg

Producer: Kendall Goldberg, Amber Berck

Cast: Cameron Kelly, Jimmy Seargeant, Maile Flanagan, Ryan Stiffelman, Tom Teller, Trevor Stevens

After being stood up by her Tinder date, Katie's impromptu bar hookup goes horribly wrong.

DRIFTING

2017, 6 min., USA, Drama, Young Actors Theatre Camp

Director: Olivia Ingram, Shawn Ryan

Writer: Shawn Ryan

Producer: John Ainsworth

Cast: Alexia Hermann, Naomi Grossman, Hope Raymond

Jenny arrives at show and tell with her pet goldfish and an unusual request. A journey

into the mind of a child being dragged through her parent's messy divorce, "Drifting" is the tale of finding one's place in an ever-changing world.

DOCUMENTARY

WE ARE PEOPLE TOO: STORIES FROM THE JUNGLE

2017, 22 min., USA/France, Documentary

Producer/Director: Stephanie Meurer

From the front lines of the 'Jungle' refugee camp in Calais, France, stories from those who lived and worked there.

\$15 KICKS

2016, 11 min., USA, Documentary

Director: Jenn Shaw

Producers: Spike Lee, John Dahl, Danielle Dormer, Marquis Daisy

Cast: Stephon Marbury

In 2006, former NBA star Stephon Marbury endorsed a revolutionary low-cost sneaker called the Starbury. \$15 Kicks revisits the Starbury sneaker's altruistic mission and media frenzy. The film highlights proponents and skeptics of the brand's humble gross margin and its tumultuous discontinuation in 2009.

YOURS SINCERELY, LOIS WEBER

2017, 6 min., USA, Documentary

Director: Svetlana Cvetko

Writer: Lisa DiTrollo, David Scott Smith

Producer: David Scott Smith

Executive Producer: Elizabeth Banks, Benjamin Alfonsi

Cast: Elizabeth Banks, Anne Brochet, Cristina Rambaldi, Stina Nielsen, Carol Monda

"Yours Sincerely, Lois Weber" examines the achievements of the highest paid silent film director at Universal in 1916, a woman by the name of Lois Weber. It is told through the fictionalized character of a young magazine photographer who hopes to impress her.

EMERGING SHORT FILMS

HIDE AND SEEK (GRAND HUIT)

2015, 23:48 min., Drama, Subtitles, France (KCETLink's *Fine Cut Film Festival Winner*)

Writer/Director: Camille Fleury

Producer: Joanna Sitowska

Cast: Elise Lhomeau, Sandrine Dumas, Suzanne Rault-Balet

Alice is in the hospital. Here, she does not invite: she gets visitors.

DEAR DAD

2016, 5:30 min., USA, Family Drama

Writer/Director: Carlos Alberto Hurtado

Producer: Carlos Alberto Hurtado, Terence Lee

A thank you letter from a cancer survivor to his father whose words and life lessons taught him the value of never giving up.

I SEE YOU

2016, 10 min., USA, Drama/Action, AFI Women's Directing Workshop

Writer/Director: Manjari Makijany

Producer: Manjari Makijany, Emmanuel Pappas

Cast: Anya Inger, Raegan Revord, Shahaub Roudbari.

A man on a terrorist mission struggles with his decision on a crowded subway after he meets an innocent child on board but he's a ticking time bomb with no safe place to go. A déjà vu moment connects him to his haunting past and urges him to question the complex notion of the enemy. When the 'enemy' is humanized there's a shift in perspective.

THE MORNING AFTER

2017, 13 min., USA, Drama

Director: Joe Boothe

Writer: Alexa Alemanni, Joe Boothe

Producer: Michael Scott Allen, Mindy Cohn, Gretchen Landau

Cast: Alexa Alemanni, Michael Scott Allen, Layne Kula

Logline: Out of town for a wedding, a young married couple face a pregnancy scare and must walk miles to find a pharmacy. Their long journey forces them to face tough questions about their relationship that threaten to tear them apart.

SOLITUDE

2015, 7 min., Australia, Drama

Writer/Director: Michael Raso

Producer: Michael Raso, JD Cohen

Cast: Maggie Blinco

Margaret is an 80-year-old widow who spends each day visiting her local train station. She pleasantly sits on a bench absorbing the surroundings which give her a lot of bliss. The staff are aware of her presence and give her something significant in an envelope, hoping she'll no longer return. What's in the envelope?

THE PERFECT DAY (EL DÍA PERFECTO)

2016, 11:43 min., Spain, Subtitles, Comedy

Producer/Writer/Director: Ignacio Redondo

Cast: Ignacio Redondo, Pedro Freijeiro, Paula Sancho, Pep McCoy, Maria Jesus Garrido, Tatiana Ruiz

It's the most important day in David's life. He has a \$10,000,000 deal with a Japanese Holding and it's all or nothing today. Everything seems to turn out perfectly well, until...

LGBTQ FILMS

SPAGHETTI ROMANCE

2017, 10:43 min., USA/Italy, Comedy/LGBTQ, Santa Monica College

Producer/Writer/Director: Carrie Finklea

Cast: Ronja Jansz, Aurora Deiana, Vincenza Zichichi

Set in Sicily, Abby meets her girlfriend's conservative mother for the first time. When the encounter goes awry, she decides to take matters into her own hands --Italian style.

COCOON

2017, 25 min., USA/China, Family Drama/LGBTQ, Subtitles, University Southern California

Director: Liying Mei

Writer: Liying Mei, Xu Zhang

Producer: Liying Mei

Cast: Jinger Li, Yuan Xu, Jing Yang

China, 1997. A little girl finds out about her mom's affair with another woman. She has to make a decision of whether keeping this secret or not.

A DOLL'S EYES

2016, 12 min., USA, Drama/LGBTQ/Documentary

Producer/Writer/Director: Jonathan Wysocki

Cast: Jonathan Wysocki, Gabriel Bennett

Haunted by the film 'Jaws' since childhood, a filmmaker discovers why the movie affected him so deeply.

SPUNKLE

2016, 11 min., USA, Comedy/Drama/LGBTQ

Director: Lisa Donato

Writer: Fawzia Mirza, Lisa Donato, Ryan Logan

Producer: Fawzia Mirza, Lisa Donato, Steven Hudosh, Nabeela Rasheed

Cast: Fawzia Mirza, Jake Matthews, Laura Zak

Tensions rise when a woman and her wife ask her brother to be the sperm donor of their baby... or the uncle... or...the spunkle?!

LOVE LETTER RESCUE SQUAD

2016, 6:47 min., USA, LGBTQ/Documentary, Hunter College

Producer/Director: Megan Rossman

Cast: Deborah Edel

"Our history was disappearing as quickly as we were making it." With that realization, Deborah Edel and Joan Nestle co-founded the Lesbian Herstory Archives, the world's largest collection of materials by and about lesbians. More than 40 years later, Deb must consider the future of the collection.

MY MOM AND THE GIRL

2016, 19:45 min., USA, Comedy/Drama/LGBTQ

Writer/Director: Susie Singer Carter

Producer: Susie Singer Carter, Donald Priess, Romell Foster-Owens, Tony Cacciotti

Executive Producer: Mark Heller

Cast: Valerie Harper, Liz Torres, Harmony Santana, Emilka Kasprowicz

MY MOM AND THE GIRL is a true story based on an odd encounter that an East Coast woman with Alzheimer's (Valerie Harper) has one night on the capricious streets of East L.A. An unusual chance meeting that proves to have a profoundly positive effect on three very disparate - *desperate* - women.