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BEACH BREAK
FILM FESTIVAL
2024



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OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION



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WELCOME!

Welcome to the Third Annual Beach Break Film Festival!

We are thrilled to share this year's program with you—a collection of films that educate, inspire, entertain, and ignite the drive within each of us to better understand the complex issues facing our world. From stories of water grabbing and plastic pollution to the artistry of Arthur Tress and the iconic Cyndi Lauper, our lineup is diverse and thought-provoking. You'll find humor in the clever satire in *Amazon Truck* and depth in a documentary about the legendary Carol Doda. Yet, the heart of this festival lies in a shared mission: fostering environmental awareness and meaningful change.

This year, I was honored to attend the Hollywood Climate Summit in Beverly Hills, supported by a grant from The Redford Center, a nonprofit dedicated to environmental storytelling. The summit brought together voices from across creative industries—filmmakers, influencers, activists, and innovators—all united by a vision for a more sustainable future and how to inspire everyday thinking and acting differently. As Jennifer Granholm, US Secretary of Energy, held up a photo of her grandchild, I was reminded that storytelling has the power to spark transformation.

I am deeply grateful for the friends, filmmakers, and collaborators who contributed their creativity, time, and passion to this event. Thanks to our incredible board and selection committee, we are to present a festival weekend that we hope will transport you, fill your heart, ignite your imagination, and inspire your desire to spread kindness. As you leave the theater, may you carry with you a spark of joy, determination, and curiosity—ready to take even a small step toward making a difference.

My heart, once left in San Francisco, now feels full and at home here, with all of you. Thank you for sharing your holiday with us and for supporting this celebration of storytelling and community.



Gratefully, Julie

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Julie Roskoph". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Julie Roskoph (Mell)
Director and Founder

"NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS."

MARGARET MEAD



OPENING NIGHT
Saturday, December 28th at 7:00 PM

Sponsored by Palermo Properties Team at COMPASS: Kirsten Hagen,
Stephanie Sills, and Shanti Minkstein

THE GRAB

THE GRAB

Directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite, *The Grab* exposes the hidden global race for control over food and water resources by governments, investors, and mercenaries, threatening entire populations. Through gripping investigative journalism by Nathan Halverson and his team at The Center for Investigative Reporting, and compelling storytelling, the film reveals how this silent power shift—shaping the future of world dominance—is already fueling global crises and geopolitical conflict. **1 hr 42 min**

For more information about The Center for Investigative Reporting go to
<https://revealnews.org>

Preceded by the short film **THE POWER OF SMALL** a TDB Family Foundation trailer, follows six individuals gifted with resources to spread kindness, showcasing how simple, empathetic acts can create profound and lasting change in lives, relationships, and communities.



Gabriela Cowperthwaite, Director, *The Grab*

Gabriela Cowperthwaite is an award-winning filmmaker and documentarian known for creating thought-provoking films that inspire dialogue on critical social and environmental issues. She gained international recognition with her groundbreaking documentary *Blackfish* (2013), which exposed the controversial practices of marine mammal

captivity at SeaWorld. The film sparked a global conversation about animal welfare and led to significant changes in the entertainment and theme park industries. Gabriela's ability to blend investigative journalism with emotional storytelling has made her a respected voice in documentary filmmaking.

In addition to *Blackfish*, Gabriela has directed and produced a range of impactful projects, including the feature film *Megan Leavey* (2017), a compelling true story of a young Marine and her bond with a military working dog. Her work demonstrates her commitment to highlighting the human condition, environmental sustainability, and animal rights. With a background in political science and filmmaking, Gabriela continues to push boundaries, bringing untold stories to the forefront of public consciousness.



Moderator: Peter Drekmeier,
Policy Director for the Tuolumne River Trust

Peter serves as Policy Director for the Tuolumne River Trust, where he oversees campaigns aimed at protecting and restoring the source of our Hetch Hetchy water. After graduating from UC Berkeley, Peter returned to his hometown of Palo Alto to work on the international Earth Day 1990 campaign. He co-founded Bay Area Action (now Acterra), helped coordinate the Devil's Slide Tunnel campaign, and served as Mayor of Palo Alto.



Nathan Halverson, Producer, Investigative Reporter

Nate Halverson is a national Emmy Award-winning senior reporter and producer at The Center for Investigative Reporting in San Francisco.

Nate has reported from around the world, including Russia, Guatemala, England, Zambia, Congo, China, and Venezuela. His investigations have ranged from financial fraud and organized crime to uncovering internal company documents from a tech company which then paid a \$155M settlement to its users.

His award-winning work has appeared on NPR's Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Fox News, CNN, Mother Jones, Newsweek, PBS NewsHour, NYT.com, MSNBC and elsewhere. He has lectured and spoken at King's College at Cambridge University, Columbia University, New York University, Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University, University of California-Berkeley, and now here at the Beach Break Film Festival.



TC Johnstone, Director, *The Power of Small*

T.C. Johnstone is a multi-award-winning impact documentary film director/producer. He has produced and directed multiple features and short documentaries including the award winning film "*Rising From Ashes*" executive produced by Oscar winning actor Forest Whitaker. The film won 19 film festivals, received US and international distribution and was a catalyst for the creation of the Rising From Ashes Foundation which

continues to support the work of peace and reconciliation.



Sunday, December 29th at 11:00 AM

Sponsored in part by the Friends of the Half Moon Bay Library

COUNTED OUT

COUNTED OUT

In the 21st century fueled by technology, data, and algorithms, math determines who has the power to shape our world. ***Counted Out*** investigates the biggest crises of our time—including political polarization, racial inequity, and climate change—through an unexpected lens: mathematics. In our current information economy, how we understand math—and who understands it—is a critical determinant of social and economic power. **89 min**



Vicki Abeles, Director and Producer

Vicki is a filmmaker, attorney, and change agent. She directed the award-winning documentaries *Race to Nowhere* and *Beyond Measure* and reached millions of viewers by focusing on social impact. She is the author of the NYT best-selling book *Beyond Measure*. Additional film credits include Associate Producer on the Sundance favorite *Miss Representation* (2011) and Associate Producer on *Plastic Man: The Artful Life of Jerry Ross Barrish* (2014). Continuing to bring communities together around the power of stories, Vicki's work as an Impact Producer for *Chasing Childhood* and *High School 9-1-1*, along with producing the national live-stream event, "*State of the Kids: Uniting for Youth Mental Health*," has built alliances across the world to empower kids to thrive.



Jason Hovey, Khan Academy

Jason Hovey is a seasoned product leader with extensive experience in the edtech space. At Khan Academy, he plays a key role in driving the organization's mission to provide a free, world-class education to anyone, anywhere. With a background in creating impactful digital learning solutions, Hovey is passionate about leveraging technology to transform education and make it more accessible for learners around the globe.



Lisa Petrides, Ph.D., ISKME CEO and Founder

Lisa Petrides, Ph.D., is the CEO and founder of the Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME), a global nonprofit driven by her passion for making learning open, equitable, and accessible to all. She created the award-winning open educational resources OER Commons, a digital library that empowers educators

and learners worldwide to discover and collaborate on free, high-quality teaching materials. Beyond her professional achievements, Lisa brings warmth and vision to her work, inspired by the belief that knowledge-sharing can transform lives and communities. A former professor at Columbia University, Teachers College, and visiting scholar at Stanford, she now also serves on UNESCO's OER Dynamic Coalition Advisory Group and as a trustee for the San Mateo County Community College District, supporting over 25,000 students across three campuses.



Rebecca Galicia, Subject in the film

Rebecca Galicia is a mother whose traumatic experience with math in school derailed her career ambitions and access to the economy. Now, she finally faces her math phobia at community college in hopes of charting a better future for herself and her family.



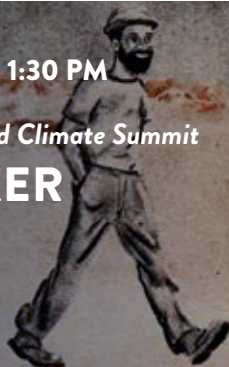
Recology: A World Without Waste

The Recology mission represents a fundamental shift from traditional waste management to resource recovery. We seek to eliminate waste by developing and discovering sustainable resource recovery practices that can be implemented globally.

Sunday, December 29th at 1:30 PM

Acquired from the Hollywood Climate Summit

PLANETWALKER



PLANETWALKER

In *Planetwalker*, filmmakers Dominic and Nadia Gill chronicle Dr. John Francis's remarkable 17-year journey across America without motorized transport or speech, driven by his vow to raise awareness about environmental issues. Through his silence and steadfast actions, the film captures a profound story of resilience, advocacy, and living in harmony with the planet. **24 min**



Dominic Gill, Director


Dominic Gill, a British filmmaker and adventurer, is known for his compelling documentaries that explore humanity and the environment. His debut film, *Take A Seat*, earned the Special Jury Prize at the Banff Mountain Film Festival. In *Planetwalker*, Dominic brings to life the inspiring journey of John Francis, who walked the U.S. in silence to

promote environmental awareness.



Nadia Gill, Director

Nadia Gill, a filmmaker and former attorney, co-founded Encompass Films with Dominic Gill. Her work includes the award-winning *Coming to My Senses* and the NBC Universal series *Take A Seat*. In *Planetwalker*, Nadia brings to life the inspiring story of John Francis, who walked the U.S. in silence to promote environmental awareness.



Sunday, December 29th, following *Planetwalker*

Generously funded by Susan Savich

WALK WITH ME

WALK WITH ME

Walk With Me follows filmmaker David Hodge as he transitions from a car-centric American lifestyle to the walkable culture of Stockholm, Sweden, reflecting on personal memories and societal impacts of mobility. Through thoughtful conversations and poignant observations, the 55-minute film explores how walking fosters community, improves health, and reconnects us with the world around us. **56 min**



David and Hi-Jin Hodge

This marks David and Hi-Jin's (*Life on Wheels*, 2022) second appearance at the festival. They are a husband and wife team of filmmakers and video artists, passionate about creating stories and connecting with others. They are concerned about the world and how we live in it. They look for ways in

our art that bring connection, joy, provocation, stimulation, and inspiration.

Their pieces typically blend editorial materials and innovative uses of technology to explore complex human and social questions. Some of their work is purely a visual exploration. They have shown ocean views on the side of a 40-story office building and were the first to use video iPods in an artistic installation.

Their work poses questions that probe individual hopes and resolutions. They hear the conversation of humanity striving for the comfort of permanence, all while recognizing that everything constantly changes around them.



Gerry Tierney - AIA, LEED AP BD+C

Gerry Tierney, former Associate Principal and Director Emeritus of the Mobility Lab at Perkins & Will, studies the evolution of urban mobility and its impact on the public realm. Founder of Mobility and the City's REDCAR project, Gerry collaborates with academia on addressing multiple aspects of evolving urban mobility. He has moderated panels and presented at UC Berkeley, MIT, the University of Oregon, USF, Trinity College Dublin, as well as at the American Society of Landscape Architects, the American Planning Association and multiple Healthy City Design International conferences. He continues his studies into the impacts of TNCs, micro-mobility and autonomous vehicles on urban design, placemaking within the public realm, augmented transit, curb demand and parking.

BIOS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Geeti Silwal - Principal, Cities+Sites Practice Leader

Geeti grew up in a small, hard-working, steel township in India called Durgapur. As one of four siblings, Geeti attributes her principles of 'zero waste' to her humble family upbringing. Her parents have been her greatest inspiration in life. Studying architecture at Jadavpur University in Kolkata and spending her early design years in Delhi, Geeti discovered her

intense desire to use the power of good design to positively impact a greater number of lives and enable richer daily experiences for the common person. This discovery propelled her to pursue a master's degree in Urban Design at UC Berkeley.

She believes that urban designers and planners need to be strong advocates of healthy cities. Working to develop a vision for a community's future, Geeti deems it her fundamental responsibility to put in place a framework for a regenerative, urban environment that promotes the health of the ecosystem, the people, and the economy.



Lisa Moulton - Landscape Architect and Tracker

Certified Level III Cybertracker Evaluation in track and sign identification: this is the International Standard for wildlife tracker training, Level III is equivalent to professional African Trackers. Current Level II Trailing Certification (following to find animals). 2023-2024: Taught field classes in tracking to docents at Año Nuevo State Park and volunteers at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. 1998-Present: co-leading monthly Bay Area Tracking Club.



Zurine De Miguel - Associate Professor, Research, Teaching, Data Science, Subject in the film

Zurine is a behavioral and molecular neuroscientist and associate professor of psychology at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Her research investigates how physical activity and stress shape brain function and mental health, with a focus on preventing disease and

promoting healthy aging. She holds a PhD in Behavioral Neuroscience from a joint program between the University of the Basque Country and the University of Colorado Boulder. She completed a master's degree in Clinical Neuropsychology from the University of Barcelona and another in Data Science from the Complutense University of Madrid. She was awarded the prestigious European Marie Curie and the Ramon y Cajal Fellowships. She spent over a decade at Stanford University as a senior scientist advancing her research on the brain-behavior connection.

Her work has been published in top-tier journals like Nature and featured in The New York Times, Science Magazine, and STAT News. Beyond research, Dr. De Miguel has taught behavioral neuroscience to students predominately from underserved communities, developed initiatives to integrate AI into education, and served as an academic senator. She is fully bilingual (Spanish and English) and is dedicated to creating healthier communities by connecting neuroscience, education, and public policy. In collaboration with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, she leads efforts to assess the cognitive and emotional benefits of active transportation programs, such as the Walking School Bus program.

Sunday, December 29th at 4:00 PM

A DIVINE JOURNEY - TRILOGY

Parts 1, 2, and 3 (2 and 3 are WORLD PREMIERES)

A DIVINE JOURNEY - TRILOGY

A Divine Journey Trilogy follows young changemaker, Divine Mugisha, as she rises above extreme poverty to pursue her dream of studying psychology and addressing mental health challenges in disadvantaged and refugee communities. Despite personal struggles, she founded the Supportive Pillar Organization to help youth stay in school and now embarks on a transformative mission to further her education and expand her impact. **90 min**

For more information about Supportive Pillar Organization go to
<https://www.supportivepillarorganisation.org>



Annette King, Impact Producer & Director

Annette King is CEO and Executive Producer at Splicer Films and is a returning guest of Beach Break. Annette founded the production company to tell impactful stories that inspire audiences to create a better world. King has built a multinational team of talent collaborating on stories with purpose that evoke empathy, shift narratives and spotlight underrepresented cultures and subjects. With her extensive expertise in film production and direction, King has contributed to the creation of numerous documentary films.

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A photograph showing a hand pouring champagne from a dark bottle into a tall flute glass. In the foreground, there is a plate with a golden-brown bread roll and a small portion of red jam. The background shows a bar with various bottles of wine and spirits.

Sunday, December 29th at 6:30 PM

Acquired from the Hollywood Climate Summit

PLASTIC PEOPLE

PLASTIC PEOPLE

Plastic People, acquired from the Hollywood Climate Summit, explores humanity's dependence on plastic and the alarming discovery of microplastics infiltrating our air, water, soil, and even our bodies. Guided by science journalist Ziya Tong, the documentary investigates the health impacts of these invisible invaders and issues an urgent call to rethink our relationship with plastic. **1 hr 24 min**

Preceded by the short film **AMAZON TRUCK** by Steve and Dylan Gallup. A humorous look at our dependency on ordering stuff and the ease of which it is to do so.



Moderator: Valerie Dubois, Activist and Climatebase Fellow

Valerie is a former high-tech product management executive who is now applying her expertise to help create a sustainable world for both people and the planet. As a trained Climate Reality Leader and Climatebase Fellow, she collaborates with 350 Silicon Valley and Pacific Clean Energy to lead decarbonization initiatives and educational seminars throughout

San Mateo County. She recently joined the Stanford Plastics & Health working group, and volunteers with Seahugger & Pacific Beach Coalition.



Dr. Desiree LaBeaud, MD, MS, FASTMH

Professor, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Medicine and Associate Dean of Global Health at Stanford University's School.

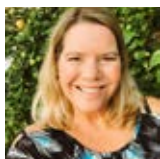
She received her MD from the Medical College of Wisconsin, and trained with the Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital pediatric residency program and the pediatric infectious disease fellowship program at Case Western

Reserve University, while earning her master's degree in Clinical Research and Epidemiology. She studies the human health impacts of climate change including research focused on innovative solutions to the global plastic pollution crisis. Her current field sites include Kenya, Grenada, and Brazil. She currently heads a clinical research lab focused on better understanding the risk factors and long-term health consequences of arboviral infections and the most effective means of prevention. She has also recently launched a nonprofit, the Health and Environmental Research Institute- Kenya (www.heri-kenya.org).



Claire Lacy, Sea Hugger Program Coordinator

Claire is an advocate for the natural world and has spent most of her professional career as a wildlife biologist, working to preserve critical habitat and endangered species throughout California. This field has alerted her to the importance of listening to the rhythms of the seasons and minimizing our overall footprint. Together with Sea Hugger, she hopes to work within the community to lessen our dependence on plastics and educate the next generation about ways to live in harmony with all living creatures. She lives with her family in Montara, CA and spends her time gardening, exploring and chasing hot pink sunsets.



Karin Odasz, Sea Hugger Treasurer and Volunteer

Karin is retired from a career in retail finance, and has been volunteering for Sea Hugger since fall of 2021 and is now our Board Treasurer. She has lived in El Granada for 25 years, and raised two daughters on the Coast. She has always been passionate about protecting our beautiful natural habitat, the ocean, and all of the precious creatures that live in the water. When not volunteering for Sea Hugger, she volunteers for other organizations caring for animals and delivering meals to seniors. She also enjoys traveling, golf, yoga, hiking, and biking.



Steve Gallup, Singer/Songwriter, Amazon Truck

This marks Steve and Dylan Gallup's second appearance at the festival, following their world premiere in 2023 of "*Do You Remember the 2020 Blues?*" Steve is a Coastside guitarist, songwriter, and wildlife photographer, the SF Bay Area Curator for The Acoustic Guitar Project, and a founding member of the Press Record Songwriting Society. He often performs at Bay Area venues with his duo "Play Away Rust."

Dylan Gallup, Animator, Amazon Truck

Dylan Gallup is a talented animator and visual storyteller with a passion for bringing creative ideas to life. Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, Dylan specializes in combining humor and heartfelt storytelling through animation.



**SPECIAL
THANKS TO CIYA
MEDITERRANEAN
CUISINE AND BLUE
DRAGON PHO FOR
CLOSING NIGHT
CATERING.**

Sunday, December 29th at 8:40 PM

LAST KNOWN COORDINATES

LAST KNOWN COORDINATES

After winning Mavericks, legendary big-wave surfer Chris Bertish sets his sights on a new record: to be the first person to stand up paddle-board from Africa to North America. More than 4000 miles. 93 days. All alone. Friends and family think he's crazy, but Bertish's mantra is that nothing is impossible. ***Last Known Coordinates*** is an intimate account of Bertish's epic journey as he battles storms, equipment failures, sharks, leaks, and loneliness to test the limits of what is truly possible. **56 min**



Chris Bertish

In everything he does – from inspiring audiences around the world to raising money for charity, breaking world records in big wave surfing and Stand Up Paddleboarding and being an Ambassador for positive Ocean and Climate Change Projects, Chris Bertish uses his stories, his adventures, his business as a force for positive impact and change.

His mantra - Dream It. See it. Believe It. Achieve It - has led Chris to redefine his approach to success - not only across multiple sports but also as a respected Author, Filmmaker, and Businessman.



Arthur Tress, Photographer

Arthur has been taking pictures professionally for his entire adult life, from the 1960s through to the present. His work spans many genres and styles, though he is perhaps best known for his dreamlike, playful, and sometimes disturbing images in the fantastist and surrealist genres.

Arthur's work has been exhibited in museums around the world including MoMA NY, Centre Pompidou in Paris, and the SFMoMA. A major exhibition of his work was on display at The Getty Center Museum in Los Angeles in October, 2023. His photographic archive has been placed at Stanford University's Library as part of their new photography initiative.

Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1940, Arthur spent the first half of his life and career based on the East Coast. That was followed by a 30 year stint living on the Central Coast of California. He currently resides in San Francisco, CA. Continuing to take pictures nearly every day, Arthur still shoots on medium format film with his trusted Hasselblad.



Monday, December 30th at 11:00 AM

ARTHUR TRESS: WATER'S EDGE

ARTHUR TRESS: WATER'S EDGE

The documentary *Arthur Tress: Water's Edge* offers an intimate look at the life and work of renowned photographer Arthur Tress, whose evocative images capture the mysterious and surreal interplay between humanity and water. Through stunning visuals and personal reflections, the film explores Tress's unique artistic vision and enduring impact on contemporary photography. 1 hr 25 min

Preceded by the short film **THE PORTUGUESE CALÇADA KNOWS YOU**

Directed by André Badalo. The Portuguese Calçada are pavements that are considered a national heritage. However, there are increasingly fewer calçada stonemason masters in the country.



Stephen B. Lewis, Director

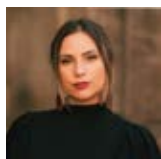
Stephen Lewis was born in Berkeley, California, raised in Evanston, Illinois, and attended film school at USC. A short film he made was screened at the Sundance Film Festival in 1992. Stephen moved to San Francisco where he had a long career in the video game industry as an artist, animator, designer, and programmer. After a mid-life career switch he became a clinical hypnotherapist, his current day job in San Francisco. He was recently awarded a US patent as a co-inventor of a device to help induce calm states through guided breathing.

Stephen's return to filmmaking coincided with a chance encounter with photographer Arthur Tress on a Bay Area ferry boat.



Barbara Lewis, Executive Producer

Barbara is the co-curator of the exhibition Arthur Tress – Observations at the Water's Edge. Known for her work in the arts community, she focuses on promoting photography and artistic storytelling through exhibitions and film.



Mariana Arroja, Ph. D., Singer & Songwriter, Portuguese Calçada

Mariana wrote a song inspired by the Portuguese Calçada and decided to explore this topic further, meeting several calçada stonemasons, and their families and hearing their stories.

Monday, December 30th at 2:00 PM

LET THE CANARY SING



LET THE CANARY SING

Alison Ellwood's *Let the Canary Sing* delves into the life and career of pop icon Cyndi Lauper, tracing her journey from her Queens upbringing to her rise as a socially conscious music legend. Featuring candid moments, archival footage, and dynamic performances, the film celebrates Lauper's artistry and advocacy as a trailblazing feminist and champion for others. **1 hr 36 min**

Preceded by the short film **FAREWELL, SANITY** by Student Filmmaker Milo Hoffman. After a reality-shifting breakup, an offbeat girl's inner psyche, Sanity, springs to life, leading to a journey of healing and self-discovery.



Moderator: David Oliphant, Entrepreneur

David Oliphant is the owner of Ocean Element Real Estate and the Ocean Blue Vault artist collective in Half Moon Bay. As a dedicated community leader, he serves as president of the Half Moon Bay Downtown Association, is a founding board member of CoastPride, and volunteers with Muttville senior dog rescue.



Mike Dale, Broadcaster

A veteran broadcaster and journalist who began his career in the San Francisco Bay Area at KCSM, KKUP and KZSU before migrating to San Diego, where he worked in both print and broadcasting for the San Diego Union-Tribune, Copley News Service Syndicate as well as radio stations KGB, KCBQ and KOGO. He holds a journalism degree from San Diego State University. Mike currently hosts a local music show, Coastside Carousel, at KHMB radio in Half Moon Bay, his hometown.



Christopher Childers, Choreographer & Entrepreneur

Christopher Childers, a San Francisco Bay Area native, began dancing at age 3 and has performed professionally since 15. He has toured globally with icons like Michael Jackson, Madonna, and Cirque du Soleil, and contributed to films like *Spider-Man* as a movement creator. Christopher's choreography and direction credits include major productions for Cirque du Soleil, RCCL Cruises, and Las Vegas's *Le Rêve The Dream*. He owns Sky-King Entertainment in Half Moon Bay and recently transitioned to filmmaking, co-creating the award-winning short *Carnival of Wonders*, which garnered accolades on the 2020 film festival circuit and is a semifinalist for the Cannes International Independent Film Awards.



Milo Hoffman, Editor, *Farewell, Sanity*

Milo is a third-year film major, and did the sound and editing for *Farewell, Sanity*. He has also been a part of making *Adeline West is my Best Friend*, and the music video "Where Were You When The Street Lamps Went Out?" by Exhale. He hopes to continue making these passion projects and is super excited about the screening.



TDB Family Foundation

The TDB Family Foundation exists to celebrate stories of kindness, support the resiliency of individuals, and promote solutions that contribute to thriving communities.



CLOSING NIGHT
Monday, December 30th at 5:00 PM

Generously funded by Paul Roskoph

CAROL DODA TOPLESS AT THE CONDOR

CAROL DODA TOPLESS AT THE CONDOR

Against the backdrop of the 1964 Republican Convention, a San Francisco cocktail waitress became one of the city's most popular entertainers after making her debut as America's first topless dancer. *Carol Doda Topless at the Condor* tells the story of the fresh-faced girl next door who defied convention and the law by gyrating atop a white baby grand piano and turning a North Beach nightclub into the city's second-most-popular tourist attraction after the Golden Gate Bridge. Meanwhile, Doda's very public use of silicone to enhance her breasts launched a new industry. Directors Marlo McKenzie and Jonathan Parker share an unprecedented look at Doda's life and legacy, as well as a behind-the-scenes tour of the vibrant, sometimes outrageous, and always entertaining world of North Beach. **1 hr 40 min**

Preceded by the short film **HEART OF THE CITY** by Brenton Gieser. San Francisco, a place, as Tony Bennett famously sang, where you'll leave your heart; but in exploring our city through the eyes, the work, and the experiences of our locals, you just might find your heart, too. "*Heart of the City*" is a series of short films that showcases seven diverse San Francisco neighborhoods and the artists, business owners, and community leaders who keep these places thriving.



Marlo McKenzie, Director, *Carol Doda Topless at the Condor*

Marlo McKenzie believes that story can change the world, and to create a better world we must first be able to imagine it.

She is a writer and director originally from the Detroit area. She studied language in France, worked in theater in Germany, and co-founded a video production company that trained formerly homeless youth in

Australia. Marlo just finalized her feature-length documentary about children who invent imaginary friends and worlds for fun called *MY SECRET COUNTRY*.

Prior to that she collaborated with the Oscar-nominated, Emmy-winning team at Concentric Media to produce *BUTTERFLY TOWN USA* - still airing on PBS stations. She also worked on a four-part documentary series called *STANDING ON SACRED GROUND*. She holds an MFA from the University of New South Wales in Australia and a BA from Michigan State University. In her spare time she enjoys reading, meditating, visiting museums and hiking in nature.

**Jonathan Parker, Director, *Carol Doda Topless at the Condor***

Jonathan Parker is a writer, director, producer, musician and composer based in San Rafael, CA. He received a BA degree in English from Stanford and began his career as a musician, performing in indie rock bands and the Marin Symphony.

His first feature film, *BARTLEBY*, which he also scored, was the Opening Night Selection at the New Directors/New Film Festival at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at Deauville. It was an official selection at numerous film festivals including Seattle, Munich, Jerusalem, Karlovy Vary, and South by Southwest.

(*UNTITLED*) won the Grand Jury Prize and the Cinema Choice Award at the Mannheim Film Festival and Best American Film at the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. It was an official selection at the San Francisco and Palm Springs Film Festivals.

THE ARCHITECT had its World Premiere at the Seattle International Film Festival, and was an official selection at international film festivals including Vancouver, Seoul, Rio de Janeiro, Houston and Mill Valley.

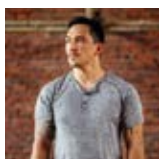
Jonathan Parker currently serves on the Board of the California Film Institute (CA FILM), which operates the Rafael Theater and produces the Mill Valley Film Festival.

**Wednesday Martin PhD., Author**

Wednesday Martin, who appears as an expert in *Carol Doda, Topless at the Condor*, is a writer, social researcher, and #1 New York Times bestselling author based in New York City. Her memoir *Primates of Park Avenue* offers a hilarious and insightful exploration of Manhattan motherhood, while her book *Stepmonster*, a finalist for the Books for a

Better Life Award, is widely regarded as a leading resource on stepfamily dynamics. She also authored *Marlene Dietrich*, a study of the actress's life and cultural impact.

Wednesday has written for The New York Times, The Atlantic, Harper's Bazaar, and more, and has appeared as a parenting and cultural expert on Today, Good Morning America, CNN, NPR, and the BBC. A Yale graduate with a doctorate in comparative literature and cultural studies, focusing on anthropology and psychoanalysis, Wednesday has taught at Yale and The New School and applied her anthropological insights to market research for Fortune 500 companies. She lives in New York City with her husband and two sons.

**Brenton Gieser, Producer & Director, *Heart of the City***

Born and raised here on the coast and returning for the second year in a row, Brenton Gieser (*The 50*) is a first-generation, biracial Korean-American film director straddling space between identities, cultures, and class. Brenton aims to craft stories that explore a nuanced yet grounded humanity through larger themes of inequity, healing, and the complexities

of self. Brenton is a DOC NYC 40 Under 40 honoree, a distinction celebrating the top emerging talent in the documentary industry.

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BBFF24 SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

5:30 PM Shiki Sushi Opening Reception

6:30 PM Doors open to the public

6:45 PM Theater Seating

7:00 PM **THE GRAB**
The Power of Small

SUNDAY DECEMBER 29TH

11:00 AM **COUNTED OUT**

1:30 PM **PLANETWALKER**
WALK WITH ME

4:00 PM **A DIVINE JOURNEY - TRILOGY**

6:30 PM **PLASTIC PEOPLE**
Amazon Truck

8:40 PM **LAST KNOWN COORDINATES**

MONDAY DECEMBER 30TH

11:00 AM **ARTHUR TRESS: WATER'S EDGE**
The Portuguese Calçada Knows You

2:00 PM **CYNDI LAUPER: LET THE CANARY SING**
Farewell, Sanity

5:00 PM **CAROL DODA TOPLESS AT THE CONDOR**
Heart of the City

7:30 PM Closing Reception

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