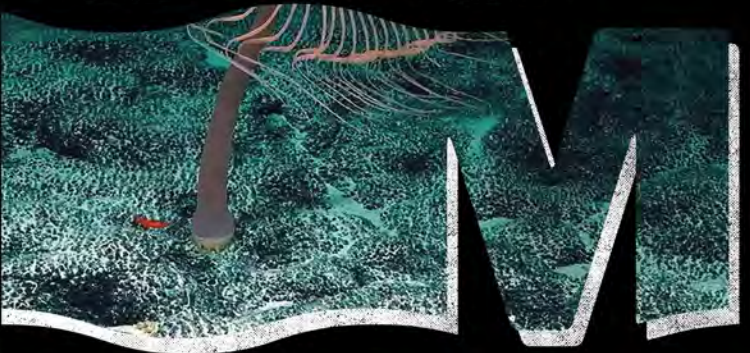
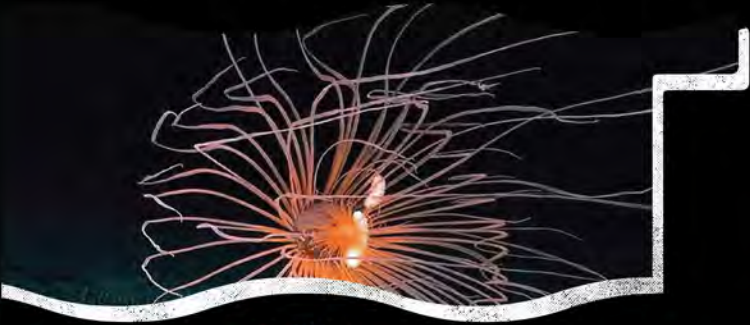
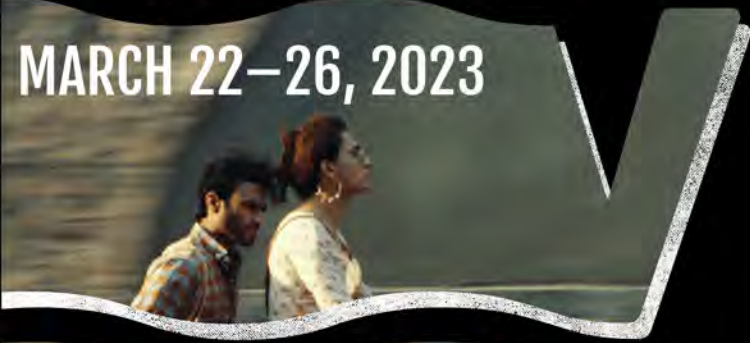




THE 23RD ANNUAL MARTHA'S VINEYARD FILM FESTIVAL



MARCH 22-26, 2023



WELCOME TO THE 23RD ANNUAL MARTHA'S VINEYARD FILM FESTIVAL!

This year's program reflects the Martha's Vineyard Film Festival's mission to connect the arts with the Island community. Each film in our lineup explores the complex relationship between individuals and their communities, demonstrating the power of this dynamic and its effects on humanity. This theme underscores the importance of community engagement and how, in turn, it shapes our personal narratives. Join us March 22-26 to experience stories from across the world, and stories by filmmakers from our very own shores, celebrating how art can inspire, challenge, and even heal us.

We're so excited to see you!



Minah Oh, Director of Film Programming

TICKETS

Purchase tickets ahead of time, through the festival's website, tmvff.org.

No need to print your tickets! We will have your name at the door for each film you purchased tickets for.

All ticket holders must be at the screening venues no later than 10 minutes prior to the start of each show, or risk losing their seats to people on the waitlist.

During the festival, tickets may also be purchased at the box office located at the front entrance of the Grange Hall. It will be open every day of the festival, starting one hour before the first screening.

WAITLIST

Sometimes screenings are "sold out" online, but most of the time not every ticket holder shows up. Swing by our campus in West Tisbury's village center shortly before screening begins, and check in with our on-site venue managers to see if there is room.

We will do our best to get you in!

MEALS & MUSIC

Great food and live music have always been a part of the MVFF experience. Lunches and dinners will be prepared by West Tisbury chef Nicole Cabot. Concessions and drinks will also be available at the Grange Hall.

The MVFF strives to be an event generating little waste. Composting and recycling stations will be located in the Grange Hall, and food and drink will not be served in or with plastic bottles, cups, plates, or cutlery. Festivalgoers are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

SPONSORED BY



FESTIVAL

PROGRAM

WED 3/22 6 PM **WAITING TO CONTINUE**
Discussion to follow

THU 3/23 4:30 PM **JUDY BLUME FOREVER**
Prerecorded discussion to follow

5 PM **NARRATIVE SHORTS**
Discussion to follow

6:15 PM **DINNER AND MUSIC**

7 PM **LOVELY JACKSON**
Discussion to follow

7:30 PM **BAD PRESS**
Discussion to follow

FRI 3/24 2 PM **PLAN C**
Discussion to follow

2:30 PM **UTOPIA**

4 PM **JOYLAND**

5 PM **FIRELIGHT MEDIA**

5 PM **DOCUMENTARY SHORTS**
Discussion to follow

6:30 PM **DINNER AND MUSIC**

7:15 PM **STEPHEN CURRY: UNDERRATED**

7:15 PM **IT'S ONLY LIFE AFTER ALL**
Discussion to follow

7:30 PM **SPECIAL SURPRISE SCREENING**

SAT 3/25 10 AM **STEPHEN CURRY: UNDERRATED**

10 AM **BAD PRESS**
Discussion to follow

10:15 AM **HEALING DAKOTA**
Discussion to follow

12 PM **LUNCH**

12:45 PM **BUTTERFLY, BUTTERFLY**
Discussion to follow

12:45 PM **WAITING TO CONTINUE**
Discussion to follow

1 PM **SALOUM**

2:30 PM **DEEP RISING**

3 PM **THE LADY BIRD DIARIES**
Discussion to follow

3:15 PM **PATOU: IN BLACK AND WHITE**
Preceded by an introduction via Zoom

SAT 3/25 5:15 PM **SHOWING UP**

5:30 PM **THE ART OF SILENCE**

5:45 PM **LOVELY JACKSON**
Discussion to follow

7:30 PM **DINNER AND MUSIC**

8 PM **IT'S ONLY LIFE AFTER ALL**
Discussion to follow

8:30 PM **FLAMIN' HOT**

SUN 3/26 10 AM **DANCE SHORTS**
Emceed by Island dancers

10:15 AM **JUDY BLUME FOREVER**
Prerecorded discussion to follow

11:45 AM **LUNCH**

12:30 PM **IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?**
Prerecorded discussion to follow

12:45 PM **RETURN TO SEOUL**

3 PM **FREEDOM ON FIRE**
Discussion to follow

4 PM **THE LADY BIRD DIARIES**
Discussion to follow

5:45 PM **VINEYARD SHORTS**
Discussion to follow

7 PM **DINNER AND MUSIC**

7 PM **FLAMIN' HOT**

8 PM **RYE LANE**

VENUE KEY **THE GRANGE HALL**
1067 State Road, West Tisbury

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST TISBURY
1051 State Road, West Tisbury

THE CAPAWOCK THEATRE
43 Main Street, Vineyard Haven



PRESENTED BY



For tickets and more information, please visit the MVFF website by scanning the QR code

BAD PRESS

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 | 7:30 PM | GRANGE HALL
SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 10 AM | FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Dirs. Rebecca Landsberry-Baker and Joe Peeler
Documentary | 1 hr. 38 min.

Followed by a discussion with the directors, film subject Angel Ellis, and representatives of the Aquinnah Cultural Center

A nuanced tale about a modern Native community, this film documents a Muscogee (Creek) Nation newspaper's fight for freedom of the press.



FREEDOM ON FIRE: Ukraine's Fight for Freedom

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 | 3 PM | GRANGE HALL
Dir. Evgeny Afineevsky | Documentary | 1 hr. 54 min.

Followed by a discussion with director Evgeny Afineevsky; Ukrainian-American filmmaker and former Disney Studios executive Iya Labunka will moderate

From the aftermath of the 2014 Revolution of Dignity to the 2022 Russian invasion, this heartrending film documents the resilience and personal stories of the Ukrainian people.



BUTTERFLY, BUTTERFLY

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 12:45 PM | GRANGE HALL
Dir. Len Morris | Documentary | 40 min.

Followed by a discussion with the director, producer Petra Lent McCarron, food activist and writer Ali Berlow, and film subject José Velázquez Castellanos; Mr. Morris will also show 8 minutes of THE PINK BUCKET, a work in progress co-directed by Fernanda Mora Brenes and Ms. McCarron

This film surveys Islander Len Morris's 30 years of documenting child labor all over the world.



HEALING DAKOTA

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 10:15 AM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE
Dir. James Michael LaMonte | Documentary | 1 hr. 22 min.

Discussion to follow with director James Michael LaMonte, cinematographer Zach Levenson, sound designer Jan Klier, and executive producer Elizabeth Cool; three K-9 dogs, and the police who work with them, will also be in attendance

A Massachusetts dog trainer's rehabilitation of a German Shepherd sheds light on the help needed by K-9 dogs with PTSD.

DANCE SHORTS: Camera and Choreography

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 | 10 AM | GRANGE HALL
1 hr. 20 min.

Island dancers and choreographers Abby Bender and Jesse Jason will be "dance emcees" for this program, performing between films

From the poetic to the political, these short films from Norway, Australia, the U.S., China, and South Korea capture filmmakers and choreographers collaborating to create their own hybrid art form.



IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 | 12:30 PM | GRANGE HALL
Dir. Ella Glendining | Documentary | 1 hr. 27 min.

Followed by a prerecorded discussion with director and film subject Ella Glendining

British filmmaker Ella Glendining, born with a rare condition, sets out to meet similarly bodied people and challenge misconceptions and attitudes about living with a disability.



DEEP RISING

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 2:30 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE
Dir. Matthieu Rytz | Documentary | 1 hr. 33 min.

Narrated by Jason Momoa, this timely fly-on-the-wall documentary unveils the corporate interest in, and consequences of, mining the ocean floor for rare metals needed in the electric-battery revolution.



IT'S ONLY LIFE AFTER ALL

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 | 7:15 PM | FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 8 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE
Dir. Alexandria Bombach | Documentary | 2 hrs. 3 min.

Followed by a discussion with director Alexandria Bombach

This reflection on the careers of Amy Ray and Emily Saliers—the Indigo Girls—celebrates the folk rock duo's friendship and commitment to political and social causes.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS: When All Else Fails

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 | 5 PM | FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
55 min.

Followed by a discussion with directors Jason Blevins and Elina Street, and producer Olena Lysenko

Featuring stories of human resilience, and the inspiring dedication of those who refuse to give up, these short documentaries remind us that amidst personal, national, and global conflicts we are connected through our potential to persevere.



JOYLAND

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 | 4 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE
Dir. Saim Sadiq | Drama | 2 hrs. 6 min.

When a Pakistani family's youngest son joins a burlesque theater and falls for a trans woman performer, the inevitable tension between religious conservatism and sexual expression takes center stage.



FIRELIGHT MEDIA: Works in Progress

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 | 5 PM | GRANGE HALL
1 hr. 15 min.

Brittany Ferrell, Sequoia Hauck, Karla Murthy, and Raúl Paz-Pastrana present their documentaries in progress. These filmmakers of color are supported by Firelight Media, an organization founded by filmmakers Marcia Smith and Stanley Nelson.



JUDY BLUME FOREVER

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 | 4:30 PM | GRANGE HALL
SUNDAY, MARCH 26 | 10:15 AM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE
Dirs. Davina Pardo and Leah Wolchok | Documentary | 1 hr. 37 min.

Followed by a prerecorded discussion with film subject Judy Blume, the film's directors, and Vineyard Haven children's librarian Emily LaPierre

This tribute to beloved American author Judy Blume honors her radical honesty about puberty and sex, and explores her life and lasting cultural impact.

FLAMIN' HOT

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 8:30 PM | GRANGE HALL
SUNDAY, MARCH 26 | 7 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE
Dir. Eva Longoria | Drama | 1 hr. 39 min.

Eva Longoria's feature directorial debut, starring Jesse Garcia and Tony Shalhoub, tells the uplifting story of Richard Montañez, a Mexican-American janitor who claimed to have invented Flamin' Hot Cheetos.



LOVELY JACKSON

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 | 7 PM | FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 5:45 PM | GRANGE HALL
Dir. Matt Waldeck | Documentary | 1 hr. 44 min.

Followed by a discussion with director Matt Waldeck and film subjects Rickey Jackson, his wife Clarissa Jackson, and their daughter Lovely Jackson

The story of America's longest wrongfully convicted prisoner, Rickey Jackson, is retold and reenacted by Jackson himself in this powerful and novel true-crime documentary.



NARRATIVE SHORTS: Connections

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 | 5 PM | FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
45 min.

Followed by a discussion with filmmakers Amy Yasmine Omar and Cameron Morton

The purpose of film is to tell stories that reflect the human experience. These shorts focus on connections with those we love—from two friends getting each other through work (and heartbreak), to the affection of a dog and his toys.



STEPHEN CURRY: UNDERRATED

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 | 7:15 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE
SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 10 AM | GRANGE HALL

Dir. Peter Nicks | Documentary | 1 hr. 50 min.

Following NBA titan Stephen Curry on his journey from unremarkable high school player to global star, this atypical sports film goes behind the scenes to deliver a multifaceted portrait of the man and athlete.



PATOU: In Black and White

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 3:15 PM | FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Dir. Fiona Cochrane | Documentary | 55 min.

Introduced, via Zoom, by director Fiona Cochrane and film subject Pat "Patou" Powell
An exploration of the life of Jamaican singer Pat Powell, this film examines his experiences with race, identity, and family in the U.K., Germany, and ultimately Australia.



THE ART OF SILENCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 5:30 PM | FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Dir. Maurizius Staerle Drux | Documentary | 1 hr. 21 min.

Legendary pantomime artist Marcel Marceau's tragic early life, heroic involvement with the French Resistance during World War II, and lasting artistic influence are illuminated in this new film by the son of a renowned Swiss mime.

PLAN C

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 | 2 PM | GRANGE HALL

Dir. Tracy Droz Tragos | Documentary | 1 hr. 39 min.

Followed by discussion with a film subject and a guest from Friends of Family Planning of Martha's Vineyard

This urgent film follows public health activist Francine Coeytaux and the team behind a national campaign to provide abortion pills to those without access.



THE LADY BIRD DIARIES

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 3 PM | GRANGE HALL

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 | 4 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE

Dir. Dawn Porter | Documentary | 1 hr. 40 min.

Followed by a discussion with director Dawn Porter and producer Kimberly Reynolds

Award-winning filmmaker Dawn Porter returns to the MVFF with this captivating documentary that delves into the revealing audio diaries Lady Bird Johnson recorded during her husband's presidency.



RETURN TO SEOUL

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 | 12:45 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE

Dir. Davy Chou | Drama | 1 hr. 55 min.

In this vibrant, globally acclaimed drama from Cambodian-French writer-director Davy Chou, a French adoptee unfamiliar with her native culture and language, returns to South Korea to search for her identity.



UTOPIA: Wild Visions in Silicon Valley

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 | 2:30 PM | FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Dirs. Angela Andersen and Claus Kleber | Documentary | 44 min.

Island filmmaker Angela Andersen and co-director Claus Kleber expose the dark side of industry leaders like Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, and Larry Page, raising important questions about the impact of technology on humanity's future.

RYE LANE

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 | 8 PM | GRANGE HALL

Dir. Raine Allen-Miller | Romantic Comedy | 1 hr. 20 min.

A fresh take on romantic comedy and a love letter to South London, this film follows two 20-somethings as they navigate the modern world of dating and spend a wild, impulsive day in the streets of Peckham and Brixton.



VINEYARD SHORTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 | 5:45 PM | GRANGE HALL

51 min.

Followed by a discussion with directors Matt Taylor and Ollie Becker, and producer Chris Fischer

This program highlights the work of Island residents Chris Fischer, Matt Taylor, and Ollie Becker, whose five thought-provoking short films showcase the diverse voices and creativity of Martha's Vineyard's filmmaking community.



SALOUM

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 1 PM | FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Dir. Jean Luc Herbulot | Thriller / Horror | 1 hr. 24 min.

In this fast-paced, genre-bending "southern" from Senegal, three mercenaries are forced to seek refuge in a holiday camp where past secrets risk exposure by forces human and supernatural.



WAITING TO CONTINUE: The Venezuelan Asylum Seekers on Martha's Vineyard

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 | 6 PM | GRANGE HALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 12:45 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE

Dirs. Ollie Becker, Tom Ellis, and Tim Persinko
Documentary | 20 min.

Followed by a discussion with film subjects; tickets for this film's opening-night screening also include admission to a dinner preceding it

This new short film by Circuit Films documents the experiences of the 48 Venezuelans who were flown to the Island last September.

SHOWING UP

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 | 5:15 PM | CAPAWOCK THEATRE

Dir. Kelly Reichardt | Drama | 1 hr. 48 min.

In her fourth collaboration with indie favorite Kelly Reichardt, Michelle Williams joins fellow 2023 Oscar nominees Hong Chau and Judd Hirsch in this subtle, funny, Palme d'Or-nominated film about a sculptor whose upcoming exhibition is jeopardized by personal struggles.



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