



9TH ANNUAL

# AVFEST

**APRIL 28-MAY 7, 2023**

TEN DAYS OF FILM, FOOD, WINE, AND FILMMAKERS  
IN CONVERSATION IN NORTHERN SONOMA COUNTY



## WELCOME TO THE 9TH ANNUAL AVFEST!

I look forward to writing this letter every year. It allows me to meditate on all the excellent work AVFilm has delivered to our community and how the annual Festival reflects that effort to the world.

AVFest 2023 represents a full manifestation of all we at AVFilm hold dear. Over the course of ten days, filmmakers from all across the world will join us in conversation, and students will take the spotlight with a film competition of their own including special meetings and screenings with visiting artists. Together, we will explore issues relevant near and far and dine with some of our favorite restaurants and wineries. We will dance, we will talk, and we will connect. And we will return to each other more enriched, with lighter hearts and invigorated spirits. This is what film can do.

For 2023, we streamlined the Fest experience so that our guests would feel the full power of cinema. We designed the schedule so patrons flow from one screening or event into the next. We invite you to dive in and let the current carry you.

***You and your story  
belong here.***

And I am overjoyed to share that after eight years of building, pivoting, and evolving, AVFilm is poised to deliver its most ambitious project yet: Plaza Cinema Center.

Plaza Cinema Center will be a two-story community asset - at 371 and 375 Healdsburg Avenue in Healdsburg, CA - that we have dreamt about since 2014. We are eager to fill the ground floor with a brand new, state-of-the-art, three-screen cinema and an entire second floor of educational and community programming. We know that sharing film experiences positively transforms individual lives and the broader community. The development of our new home is a promise to Northern Sonoma County, students of all ages, and the next generation of filmmakers that you and your story belong here.

See you at the movies!



Kathryn Hecht  
Executive Director

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# AT CARTOGRAPH, WE BELIEVE THE ARTS ARE ESSENTIAL

WHICH IS WHY  
WE ARE A  
PROUD  
SPONSOR OF  
AVFEST!

Visit us Tues - Sat  
Reservations  
recommended

340 Center St.  
Healdsburg, CA  
707-433-8270

## BOX OFFICE & GENERAL INFO

*Tickets and passes are available for purchase online at [bit.ly/AVFest-Tix](https://bit.ly/AVFest-Tix)*

### PRE-FEST BOX OFFICE

PLAZA CINEMA CENTER

375 Healdsburg Ave, Ste 200

Healdsburg, CA 95448

4/24-4/27: 9:00am-1:00pm

### BOX OFFICE DURING FEST

Venue box offices at all locations will open 30 minutes prior to the first film each day.

### FEST GUIDELINES

1. Please have ID with you at all times. You do not need a paper copy of online orders; we will check you in by name. All ticket orders are final. No refunds, exchanges, or substitutions.
2. Ticket and pass holders must be in the appropriate line 15 minutes prior to the start of each film to guarantee admittance.
3. Outside food and beverages are not permitted.
4. Cell phones must be turned off before the start of each film.
5. The use of cameras and other recording equipment is strictly prohibited during all screenings and programs.

### STAY INFORMED

Be sure to visit us on our website – [avfilmpresents.org/film-festival/individual-tickets](https://avfilmpresents.org/film-festival/individual-tickets) for up-to-date programming information and any last-minute changes to our schedule.

### WILL THERE BE SWAG?

Yes! We'll be selling AVFilm T-shirts at all of our box offices. Stickers are free!

### WHAT IF I'M RUNNING LATE? WILL YOU GIVE MY SEAT AWAY?

All pass holders and ticket holders must be in line 15

minutes prior to the start of each film. Seats will be released to rush tickets at that time. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of Festival management. Give one of our Box Office managers a heads up if you need assistance.

### HOW DO I CONNECT WITH YOU ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

Find us using #AVFest2023 on:

Facebook: @avfillofficial

Twitter: @avfillofficial

Instagram: @avfillofficial

### CONSENT TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED/FILMED

AVFest and its representatives may photograph, film, and/or otherwise record attendees at all festival activities. By attending, you consent to such photography, filming, and/or recording and to any use in any and all media throughout the universe in perpetuity and without compensation for the use of your appearance, voice, and name for promotional and/or advertising, or any other purpose by AVFilm and its affiliates and representatives.

*Tickets and passes are available  
for purchase online at  
[Bit.ly/AVFest-Tix](https://bit.ly/AVFest-Tix)*







2023
SUMMER
CAMPS



JUNE 12-16
DANCE, CAMERA, ACTION

In partnership with  
San Francisco Dance Film Festival  
HEALDSBURG, CA



JULY 10-14
ARTS EXPLORATION + FILMMAKING

In partnership with Jendala + Hartizens  
HEALDSBURG, CA

JULY 24-28
DOCUMENTARY IN THE WILD

In partnership with Sonoma County  
Regional Parks  
CLOVERDALE, CA

JULY 31-AUG 4
ADVENTURE FARMS + DOCUMENTARY

In partnership with Little Saint Farms  
HEALDSBURG, CA

AUG 7-11
ARTS EXPLORATION + FILMMAKING

In partnership with Jendala + Hartizens  
CLOVERDALE, CA

OPEN REGISTRATION UNTIL JUNE 2ND

\$400 PER WEEK-LONG CAMP - CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE  
NO CHILD WILL BE TURNED AWAY DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS

[www.avfilmpresents.org](http://www.avfilmpresents.org)

# AWARDS

## STUDENT AWARDS

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – SCHOOL PROJECT FILM

(Sonoma, Lake, & Mendocino County students only)

Best overall film – \$100 cash prize for teacher's classroom

### MIDDLE SCHOOL – SCHOOL PROJECT FILM

(Sonoma, Lake, & Mendocino County students only)

1. Best technical achievement in filmmaking – \$50 cash prize for teacher's classroom
2. Best storytelling – \$50 cash prize for teacher's classroom
3. Best overall film – \$100 cash prize for teacher's classroom

### MIDDLE SCHOOL – INDEPENDENT FILM

(Sonoma, Lake, & Mendocino County students only)

1. Best technical achievement in filmmaking – \$100 cash prize for student
2. Best storytelling – \$100 cash prize for student
3. Best overall film – \$250 cash prize for student

### HIGH SCHOOL – SCHOOL PROJECT FILM

(Sonoma, Lake, & Mendocino County students only)

1. Best technical achievement in filmmaking – \$50 cash prize for teacher's classroom
2. Best storytelling – \$50 cash prize for teacher's classroom
3. Best overall film – \$100 cash prize for teacher's classroom

### HIGH SCHOOL – INDEPENDENT FILM

(Sonoma, Lake, & Mendocino County students only)

1. Best technical achievement in filmmaking – \$100 cash prize for student
2. Best storytelling – \$100 cash prize for student
3. Best overall film – \$250 cash prize for student

### COLLEGE – CLASS PROJECTS & INDEPENDENT FILM

(Must be currently enrolled at accredited U.S. college or university at the time of submission)

1. Best technical achievement in filmmaking – \$100 cash prize for student
2. Best storytelling – \$100 cash prize for student
3. Best overall film – \$250 cash prize for student

## JURY AWARD

### Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (J.E.D.I.) AWARD

This jury prize of \$1,000 will be awarded to one feature or traditional short film that:

1. Rights a wrong, corrects revisionist history, or brings a new or underrepresented perspective
2. Amplifies a traditionally marginalized community or is made by women, nonbinary, transgender and/or BIPOC artists
3. Deals with themes of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, or belonging

**The J.E.D.I. AWARD is sponsored by**  
**Jeanne and Stephen Kearns**

## AUDIENCE AWARDS

### AVFest Audience Award - Feature-Length Narrative

This prize will be awarded to one feature narrative film that receives the highest marks from AVFest audiences. Cash value: \$1,000

### AVFest Audience Award - Feature-Length Documentary

This prize will be awarded to one feature-length documentary film that receives the highest marks from AVFest audiences. Cash value: \$1,000

### AVFest Audience Award - Short

This prize will be awarded to one short film across narrative and documentary categories that receives the highest marks from AVFest audiences. Cash value: \$500





# PLAZA CINEMA CENTER

## OUR BELIEF

Sharing film experiences positively transforms individual lives and the broader community by generating joy, creating new understandings, and opening hearts and minds.

## THE PROBLEM

Movie theaters, which are a primary communal space, have closed across the region, eliminating what had traditionally been a social hub. Adults are more divided and isolated than ever, and young people are reporting record levels of disconnection and poor mental health. The North Bay needs a center with a community gathering place for watching movies, and film & media arts education, a maker space for storytellers, and a setting where individuals of all ages can meet and connect.

## HOW WE WILL SOLVE IT

Plaza Cinema Center will greatly enhance life in the North Bay by connecting the community with movies and each other. Through film's unique accessibility and power to unite and educate, we inspire people and stimulate dialogue. We enrich individual lives to invite a more inclusive, empathetic, and informed society.

## OUR VISION

Plaza Cinema Center will be an accessible center welcoming a richly diverse community for cinematic exploration. Through education, entertainment, and the support of artists, we will courageously challenge the status quo, lifting up and centering each unique voice.

## JOIN US

To learn more, please contact Executive Director Kathryn Hecht at [kathryn.hecht@avfilmpresents.org](mailto:kathryn.hecht@avfilmpresents.org).



# OPENING NIGHT + BLOCK PARTY

**Friday 4/28**

Film begins at **5:00pm** @ **The Clover Theater**

Block Party on 1st Street **6:00-9:30pm**

Brought to you by



Kick off the fest with a champagne toast at The Clover Theater!



## BLACKBERRY

(Canada, 122 min)

Directed by Matt Johnson



## In attendance

Director and star Matt Johnson, Executive Producer and Composer Jay McCarrol

Champagne toast, screening, food, and drink tickets are included in the ticket price.

*Blackberry* chronicles the rise and fall of one of the most game-changing technologies in the last 30 years. Centered on the eclectic array of personalities that converged to launch the world's first smartphone, this irreverent, tech-world satire captures much of the creative chaos that comprises today's Silicon Valley (despite the story taking place in Ontario, Canada). Shot in a verité, handheld style with a cast that electrifies the screen, *Blackberry* is a fast-paced nerd comedy about the early days of addiction to our phones.

Immediately following the filmmaker Q&A, step out into the rockin' 1st Street Block Party with the sounds of AVFilm-fave Sabor de mi Cuba. Bask in community, good eats, and local wines, and party the night away.

Event is complimentary for **PLATINUM & OPENING WEEKEND PASS HOLDERS**

Individual Tickets are \$100

[BIT.LY/AVFest-Tix](https://bit.ly/AVFest-Tix) (case-sensitive)

#AVFest2023



# STUDENT FILM COMPETITION

Saturday 4/29

Red Carpet Opens at 10:30am @ The Clover Theater  
Films begin at 11:00am

With support from



The AVFest Student Film Competition is back with nearly \$3,000 in prize money!



**BONUS!**

Students and their families are welcome to stay for lunch after the student film awards and watch the SATURDAY MATINEE SHORTS for free!



**AVFilm Education**

Please visit our website for details on all of our year-round programs: [avfilmresents.org/education](http://avfilmresents.org/education)

The Student Film Competition is an annual event that encourages – and incentivizes (CASH + PIZZA) – students from across Sonoma, Lake, and Mendocino Counties to practice their storytelling skills. Students work in and outside of classrooms to produce their own short films, which are then entered into a competition. This year, AVFest welcomed dozens of films. This event will screen the finalists in each category for middle school, high school, and college students.

For a list of available awards, see page 6.

Event is FREE for the community

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#AVFest2023

# NEIGHBOR NIGHT

Saturday 4/29

Doors open at 6:00pm | Dinner at 6:30pm @ Alexander Valley Hall  
Film begins at 7:00pm

With support from



Neighbor Night is for family-style dinner and conversation; this programmer-favorite film will definitely get you talking!



**JACK HAS A PLAN**

(USA, 73 min)  
Directed by Bradley Berman



**In attendance**

Director Bradley Berman and Producer Chris Metzler (AVFest alum)

BBQ, beer and wine, and screening are included in the ticket price.

When San Francisco musician and storyteller Jack decides to end his life due to an irreversible brain tumor (and asks for it to be filmed), the result is both thought-provoking and entertaining. With a surprisingly light and airy touch, Berman's documentary captures Jack's witty persona while underscoring his unwavering desire to die with dignity.

Join us for our much-loved Neighbor Night! Grab a glass of the good stuff, fill your plate with Bar-B-Que, and snag a seat with friends and family. After dinner, settle in for a provocative exploration of issues that affect us all.

Event is complimentary for PLATINUM & OPENING WEEKEND PASS HOLDERS  
Individual Tickets are \$85

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# THE J.E.D.I. AWARD

Sunday 4/30

Reception begins at 6:00pm @ The Silverwood Building  
Film + filmmaker Q&A at 7:00pm @ The Clover Theater

Help us welcome Director Ellie Foubmi and celebrate her exceptional storytelling. The J.E.D.I. (Justice/Equity/Diversity/Inclusion) Award carries a cash prize of \$1,000.



## OUR FATHER, THE DEVIL

(USA/France, 107 min)  
Directed by Ellie Foubmi



### In attendance

Writer-Director Ellie Foubmi who will be presented with AVFilm's prestigious J.E.D.I. Award.

Reception (bites and sips) and screening are included in the ticket price.

Brought to you by



Jeanne & Stephen Kearns

# DOC SHORTS: CHANGEMAKERS

Monday 5/1

Doors open at 7:00pm @ The Lost Church  
Film + Panel at 7:30pm

Brought to you by



This collection of emotionally moving documentary shorts features activists and advocates who are changing lives in meaningful and transformative ways.

### BRING THE SALMON HOME

Shane Anderson, USA, 14 min  
Dams and drought have pushed the Klamath River salmon population to near collapse. In response, local youth created the Klamath Salmon Run, a 300+ mile trek from the ocean to the headwaters to cultivate support

for the biggest river restoration project in history – the removal of four regional dams. Shane Anderson captures the emotions, courage, and determination of Klamath River tribal communities as they struggle to preserve and restore their local ecology.

### BEYOND THE BETA

Heather Murray, USA, 18 min

Competitive rock climbing is more than just a sport of mental acuity and physical prowess. It fosters a sense of community and teaches athletes to be resilient and compassionate critical thinkers. Heather Murray explores these ideas and more in this illuminating portrait of a youth climbing team in Santa Rosa and the social and emotional benefits the program has afforded young people.

### MY NAME IS SIRI

Sarah Moshman, USA, 15 min

When Siri was diagnosed with non-verbal autism at the age of 3, experts told the Chettipally family that their daughter would likely face a lifetime of dependency. But experimental teaching therapies, a loving network of family and friends, and Siri's indomitable spirit prove them wrong in this deeply moving story about perseverance against all odds.

### BY MY SIDE

Vicki Topaz and Wynn Padula, USA, 30 min

By My Side tells the powerful story of three war veterans who suffer from PTSD and the service dogs that help them heal. Through intimate interviews with the vets' families and revealing footage of the soldiers bonding with their canine companions, the film demonstrates how man's best friend may be one of the best ways to mitigate the psychic scars imprinted on those who have been in service to our country.



**Directors Heather Murray, Sarah Moshman, Vicki Topaz, and Shane Anderson expected to be in attendance.**

Event is complimentary for PLATINUM, GOLD, & OPENING WEEKEND PASS HOLDERS  
Individual Tickets are \$50

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Event is complimentary for PLATINUM & GOLD PASS HOLDERS  
Individual Tickets are \$25

BIT.LY/AVFest-Tix (case-sensitive)  
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# AAPI HERITAGE NIGHT

Tuesday 5/2

Doors open at 6:30pm |  
Multi-course meal at 7:00pm @ Lo & Behold  
Film begins at 8:00pm

Brought to you by



Join us for a celebration of AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) Heritage Month.



## 7 DAYS

(USA, 86 min)  
Directed by Roshan Sethi



## What to expect

Meet us at Lo & Behold for an exceptional multi-course meal artfully crafted by local chefs with perfectly paired wines and a delightful rom-com. Dinner experience, wine, and screening included in the ticket price.

Ravi and Rita, two modern-day Indian-Americans, politely comply with a pre-arranged date set up by their old-fashioned Indian parents. But when the start of the pandemic forces them into lockdown together, the personas they project to their parents quickly unravel, dismantling stereotypes and challenging traditions. With incredible performances from Karan Soni and Geraldine Viswanathan and a smart and funny screenplay, *7 Days* is a fresh and satisfying take on the classic romantic comedy updated for the 21st century. It's an impressive directorial debut that is charming, brisk, and heartfelt.

Event is complimentary for PLATINUM PASS HOLDERS  
Individual Tickets are \$250

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# DINNER + FILM UNDER THE STARS

Wednesday 5/3

Cheers begin at 6:30pm | Dinner at 7:00pm @ Catelli's  
Film begins at 8:00pm

Brought to you by



Grab a blanket and get cozy for an intimate look at how our beloved restaurants faced COVID and a changing world.



## SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED

(USA, 77 min)  
Directed by Pete Ferriero



## What to expect

Auntie Domenica and team will welcome us back to the patio with her signature Italian comfort food family-style, local wines, and a view of the night sky that can't be beat. Director Pete Ferriero and local chefs will be in attendance. Dinner, wine, and screening included in the ticket price.

In the summer of 2020, chef Elizabeth Falkner set out across the country to investigate the impact of the pandemic on the restaurant industry, America's second-largest employment sector. The result is a fascinating exposé on how chefs pivoted, improvised, and innovated in an industry already grappling with low-profit margins to keep their businesses afloat and support the staff that depends on them. Featuring interviews with a parade of legendary chefs, including Nancy Silverton, Chris Cosentino, Alice Waters, and Dominique Crenn, Falkner demonstrates the entrepreneurial fortitude and resiliency that American chefs displayed to avoid closure.

Event is complimentary for PLATINUM PASS HOLDERS  
Individual Tickets are \$150

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# ARTHOUSE AT THE MADRONA

Thursday 5/4

Sips and eats begin at 7:00pm @ The Madrona

Film begins at 8:00pm

Brought to you by



Join us for the zaniest (and one of the most satisfying) films of the Fest.



## FREAKS OUT

(Italy, 141 min)

Directed by Gabriele Mainetti



## What to expect

Join us under a canopy of stars on the picturesque lawn of The Madrona. Glass of wine and screening are included in the ticket price. Bring blankets and chairs for maximum comfort.

During the rise of the Third Reich, four Jewish circus performers with extraordinary powers decide to flee persecution by traveling to America. The only problem is Franz, a clairvoyant Nazi pianist who believes they're the key to Germany winning the war. Defying easy classification, *Freaks Out* is a phantasmagoric historical drama that is at once enchanting, surprising, funny, and heartfelt. Featuring jaw-dropping visual design, a science fiction premise, and visual stylings reminiscent of Quentin Tarantino or Tim Burton, the film is a spectacle-filled joyride about misanthropes banding together to fight the powers that be. *Italian with English subtitles.*

Event is complimentary for PLATINUM & GOLD PASS HOLDERS  
Individual Tickets are \$40

BIT.LY/AVFest-Tix (case-sensitive)  
#AVFest2023

# WORLD SHORTS SHOWCASE

Friday 5/5

Doors open at 6:30pm @ Longboard

Program begins at 7:00pm

Brought to you by



A compilation of creative cinema from around the globe with storytellers in attendance. Event includes a glass of Longboard's finest!



**JEFF**  
Directed by Walter Woodman, Patrick Cederberg, & Matthew Hornick, Canada, 6 min  
An Amazon delivery drone named JEFF muses on the monotony of life until an unexpected system failure brings about a seismic change in his world view.

**SIERRA**  
Directed by Sander Joon, Estonia, 16 min  
A father and his shapeshifting son enter into the surreal world of car racing in this crowd-pleasing festival favorite, loosely inspired by the director's childhood. Best Animated Short Winner at the 2022 San Francisco International Film Festival.

**PUZZLE**  
Directed by Ricardo Muñoz Senior, Mexico, 14 min  
When Albertini reaches out to The National Institute of Games and Leisure Activities for the People to complain about the missing last piece of his puzzle, he becomes embroiled in a Kafkaesque struggle with the state. The result is a funny and absurd socialist satire about one man's rage against the machine.

**DESERT LIGHTS**  
Directed by Katherina Harder Sacre, Chile, 19 min  
Antay and his friends struggle to make ends meet in their neglected and drought-stricken town in the Atacama Desert. Official Selection of the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival.

**THE SPACE BETWEEN US**  
Directed by Julianne Martin, USA, 3 min  
A lonely spaceman's desire for company may be about to come true when a mysterious ship arrives at his space station.

**AN EVENING WITH TAGLIONI**  
Directed by Jessica Wright & Morgann Runacre-Temple, UK, 14 min  
When legendary ballerina Marie Taglioni, the first woman to ever go 'en pointe' retired, her pointe shoes were bought by a fan, cooked at a lavish dinner party, and served to 35 guests with quite unexpected results.

**DREAM ON, LEON**  
Directed by Roger Gariépy, Canada, 8 min  
With humor, warmth, and impressive visual flair, we journey into the dreamlife of Leon, man's best friend. Official Selection of the 2022 Palm Springs International Shortfest.

**HATCHBACK**  
Directed by Riley Sugars, Australia, 12 min  
In this hilarious dark comedy from down under, Vince attempts to dispose of a dead body for the mob, but when he reluctantly enlists the help of his dim-witted brother-in-law Ted, things don't go according to plan. Best Short Film nominee at the 2022 Australian Academy Awards.

Event is complimentary for PLATINUM, GOLD, & CLOSING WEEKEND PASS HOLDERS  
Individual Tickets are \$25

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# PLAZA CINEMA CENTER CELEBRATION

## Saturday 5/6

Music + Food + Wine at 6:00pm @ Plaza Cinema Center Courtyard

Film begins at 8:00pm @ The Healdsburg Plaza

Brought to you by



A ticketed courtyard event celebrating our community's growing culture of film that will spill over to The Plaza for a free public screening of the incredible indie doc *Little Richard: I Am Everything*.



### LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING

(USA, 98 min)  
Directed by Lisa Cortés



### What to expect

Join us in the Plaza Cinema Center courtyard with a picnic meal, wine, and live music from Healdsburg Jazz. At 7:30 pm, make your way to The Plaza to claim your VIP seating for the film. Dinner, wine, music, and VIP seating are included in the ticket price.

"I am the originator, the emancipator, the architect of rock-n-roll," exclaims Richard Penniman. He was right. The flamboyant, outspoken, and often hilarious musical icon finally gets his due in Lisa Cortés' new documentary. Featuring newly discovered archival footage and interviews with a pantheon of rock-n-roll legends, the film offers a deep dive into the musical genius' early influences as well as the role he played in the history of popular music. The film thoughtfully deconstructs the complex nature of Little Richard's personal and public identity to reveal how his Black and queer roots were inextricably linked to the subversive nature of the art form.

Event is complimentary for PLATINUM & CLOSING WEEKEND PASS HOLDERS  
Individual Tickets are \$75

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# CLOSING NIGHT + AWARDS

## Sunday 5/7

Film begins at 5:00pm @ Longboard

Closing Night reception + Awards 8:00-9:30pm @ The Matheson

Brought to you by



Wrap up the Fest with Director Christine Yoo and the team behind San Quentin's life-changing program.



### 26.2 TO LIFE

(USA, 90 min)  
Directed by Christine Yoo



### What to expect

After the screening, join us at The Matheson for the Closing Night Awards. Closing Night reception with ample bites, beer, and wine, plus the screening are included in the ticket price.

Filmed inside San Quentin Prison, *26.2 to Life* explores the transformative power of the 1000 Mile Club, a training program where incarcerated men prepare to run a marathon on the dirt and concrete path circling the prison yard. Featuring unprecedented access behind the walls of the infamous correctional facility, the film tracks the emotional and physical journey of a handful of runners seeking to define themselves by something other than their crimes. Christine Yoo's debut documentary is a testament to rehabilitation and redemption in a country that still incarcerates more of its own citizens than any other place in the developed world.

Event is complimentary for PLATINUM, GOLD & CLOSING WEEKEND PASS HOLDERS  
Individual Tickets are \$50

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FEST SCHEDULE

FEST DATES	FRIDAY 4/28	SATURDAY 4/29	SUNDAY 4/30	MONDAY 5/1	TUESDAY 5/2	WEDNESDAY 5/3	THURSDAY 5/4	FRIDAY 5/5	SATURDAY 5/6	SUNDAY 5/7
VENUES	----- THE CLOVER THEATER -----								----- LONGBOARD VINEYARDS -----	
REGULAR SCREENINGS	WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? 11:00am 108 min	STUDENT FILM COMPETITION 10:30am Red Carpet 11:00am Films 90 min	LYNCH/OZ 11:00am 108 min					NOWHERE SPECIAL 11:30am 96 min	LAKOTA NATION VS. THE UNITED STATES 10:30am 120 min	THE ORIGIN OF EVIL 11:00am 125 min
	ANIMA 1:45pm 120 min	MATINEE SHORTS 1:15pm 84 min	DOC SHORTS: MAVERICKS 1:45pm 73 min					PERSIAN LESSONS 1:30pm 127 min	PRETTY PROBLEMS 1:30pm 103 min	SUNDAY SHORTS 2:00pm 89 min
	OPENING NIGHT	SMOKE SAUNA SISTERHOOD 4:00pm 89 min	RICOCHET 4:00pm 76 min					BLACKBERRY 4:00pm 122 min	HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD 4:00pm 100 min	
	LATE NIGHT SHORTS 9:00pm 90 min									
VENUES	THE CLOVER + FIRST STREET	ALEXANDER VALLEY HALL	SILVERWOOD BUILDING + THE CLOVER	THE LOST CHURCH	LO & BEHOLD	CATELLI'S	THE MADRONA	LONGBOARD VINEYARDS	PLAZA CINEMA CENTER + THE PLAZA	LONGBOARD + THE MATHESON
EVENING SPOTLIGHT EVENTS	OPENING NIGHT + Block Party  <b>BLACKBERRY</b>  5:00pm Film Block party immediately follows  122 min	NEIGHBOR NIGHT <i>(Family-Style BBQ + Film)</i>  <b>JACK HAS A PLAN</b>  6:00pm Open 6:30pm Dinner 7:00pm Film  73 min	THE J.E.D.I. AWARD <i>(Filmmaker reception)</i>  <b>OUR FATHER, THE DEVIL</b>  6:00pm Sips + Bites 7:00pm Film  116 min	DOC SHORTS: CHANGEMAKERS  <b>Shorts Collection</b>  7:00pm Open 7:30pm Film  77 min	AAPI HERITAGE NIGHT <i>(Chef Tasting + Film)</i>  <b>7 DAYS</b>  6:30pm Open 7:00pm Dinner 8:00pm Film  86 min	DINNER + FILM UNDER THE STARS <i>(Dinner + Film)</i>  <b>SORRY WE'RE CLOSED</b>  6:30pm Open 7:00pm Dinner 8:00pm Film  77 min	ARTHOUSE AT THE MADRONA  <b>FREAKS OUT</b>  7:00pm Sips + Eats 8:00pm Film  141 min	WORLD SHORTS SHOWCASE  <b>Shorts Collection</b>  6:30pm Sips 7:00pm Film  92 min	PLAZA CINEMA CENTER CELEBRATION <i>(Dinner + Film)</i>  <b>LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING</b>  6:00pm Picnic 8:00pm Film  98 min	CLOSING NIGHT + Awards  <b>26.2 TO LIFE</b>  5:00pm Film 8:00pm Awards Reception  90 min

THE FILMS



**ANIMA**  
(China, 120 min)  
**Directed by Jinling Cao**  
Set in the breathtakingly beautiful forests of Inner Mongolia, two brothers struggle to make a living in the Chinese logging industry. Tensions rise when they both take an interest in a local widow and find themselves at odds over the increasingly reckless deforestation practices destroying their homeland. Visually stunning and exquisitely scored, *Anima* is a deeply-moving family drama about the need to keep our Earth in balance. It reconnects us with indigenous traditions and reminds us about man’s spiritual interdependence with the natural world. *Chinese with English subtitles.*

4/28 - 1:45pm - Clover



**BLACKBERRY**  
(Canada, 122 min)  
**Directed Matt Johnson**  
*Blackberry* chronicles the rise and fall of one of the most game-changing technologies in the last 30 years. Centered on the eclectic array of personalities, this irreverent, tech-world satire captures much of the creative chaos that comprises today’s Silicon Valley (despite the story taking place in Ontario, Canada). Shot in a verité, handheld style reminiscent of *The Office* and featuring a retro soundtrack and a cast that electrifies the screen, *Blackberry* is a fast-paced nerd comedy about the early days of addiction to our phones.

5/5 - 4:00pm - Longboard Vineyards



**THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD**  
(North Macedonia, 100 min)  
**Directed by Teona Strugar Mitevska**  
Set in Sarajevo at a speed dating meet-up for middle-aged singles, Asja and Zoran engage in a series of question exchanges to suss out whether they’d make a good match. What begins as a playful exchange quickly grows tense as their personal histories are slowly revealed, including their roles in the Yugoslav War. With Mitevska’s impressive visual style, the film is both a wry, heartfelt comedy about lonely souls looking for love and an explosive, unpredictable drama about war trauma, forgiveness, and the need to move on. *Bosnian with English Subtitles.*

5/6 - 4:00pm - Longboard Vineyards



**LAKOTA NATION VS. UNITED STATES**  
(USA, 120 min)  
**Directed by Jesse Short Bull & Laura Tomaselli**  
*Lakota Nation vs. United States* is a powerful primer on the history of Native American relations with the US government and an eye-opening exposé of the lingering injustices that require national redress. Featuring a carefully curated collection of entertainment imagery that has distorted our perception of native people, sublime images of disputed lands, and the incredible poetry of Layli Long Soldier, the film is a call to action for the land back movement by a people who attest that their “best days are yet to come.”

5/6 - 10:30am - Longboard Vineyards



**LYNCH/OZ**  
(USA, 108 min)  
**Directed by Alexandre Philippe**  
Alexandre Philippe’s clip-rich documentary explores how the *Wizard of Oz* is not only a seminal point of inspiration for David Lynch but how its ideas and imagery have permeated the entire history of cinema. Presented as visual essays by contemporary filmmakers (including camp auteur John Waters and filmmakers Karyn Kusama and David Lowery), each artist offers their own homage to the classic and invites us to journey down the rabbit hole of our collective cultural consciousness and into the mind-bending cinematic oeuvre of David Lynch.

4/30 - 11:00am - Clover



**NOWHERE SPECIAL**  
(Italy/Romania/UK, 96 min)  
**Directed by Uberto Pasolini**  
After receiving devastating news, John, a window cleaner in Belfast, is confronted with the impossible decision of finding an adoptive family for his four-year-old son, Michael. Pasolini’s film is surprisingly understated and restrained, never veering into the melodramatic territory one might expect. Instead, it revels in the unique father-son bond they share, magnifying small gestures and intimate moments. James Norton shines in the lead role. *Nowhere Special* is a subtle, humane, heart-wrenching film that you won’t soon forget.

5/5 - 11:30am - Longboard Vineyards

THE FILMS



**THE ORIGIN OF EVIL**  
(France, 125 min)  
**Directed by Sebastien Marnier**  
When Stéphane decides to reach out to her estranged father, she becomes embroiled in a dark web of family politics full of suspicion and hidden agendas. Sébastien Marnier’s twisty, subversive, and beautifully-executed family drama rides a razor’s edge between dark comedy and suspenseful thriller. With a magnificent cast, a script filled with surprising dramatic turns, and a playful array of foregrounded film techniques, the film ultimately reads as a modern-day parable about the inevitable end of the patriarchy. *French with English Subtitles.*

5/7 - 11:00am - Longboard Vineyards



**RICOCHET**  
(USA, 76 min)  
**Directed by Jeff Adachi & Chihiro Wimbush**  
A young woman shot by an undocumented immigrant in San Francisco during the summer of 2015 ignites a political and media firestorm. Politicians and national media outlets misrepresent the facts of the case, distorting the public’s understanding of the event. With unprecedented, behind-the-scenes access to the defense teams’ approach to managing the case, the documentary peels back the layers of stereotypes, jingoism, and scapegoating to reveal the challenge of providing an adequate public defense in a country awash in misinformation.

4/30 - 4:00pm - Clover



**PERSIAN LESSONS**  
(Russia/Germany/Belarus, 127 min)  
**Directed by Vadim Perelman**  
When Gilles, a Jewish refugee from occupied France in 1942 is apprehended by Nazi soldiers, he is subsequently enlisted as a tutor to teach an SS officer Persian. What follows is an incredible tale of creative resistance centered on Gilles’ entirely made-up language. Inspired by a true story and grounded in impressive leading performances, this suspenseful and unexpected WWII tale is a testament to the old adage “truth is stranger than fiction.” *German, French, Italian, & Persian with English subtitles.*

5/5 - 1:30pm - Longboard Vineyards



**SMOKE SAUNA SISTERHOOD**  
(Estonia, 89 min)  
**Directed by Anna Hints**  
Mystical, meditative, and life-affirming, Anna Hints’ new documentary explores how Scandinavian and Baltic women have ritualized the sauna experience to purge toxins from the mind and body alike. Featuring breathtaking cinematography reminiscent of a Rembrandt and an audio track of communal chants and folk songs, the film is a quiet revelation that captures womanhood in a way rarely expressed on screen, empowering female viewers and enlightening men in equally satisfying ways. *Estonian with English subtitles.*

4/29 - 4:00pm - Clover



**PRETTY PROBLEMS**  
(USA, 103 min)  
**Directed by Kestrin Pantera**  
Life for Lindsay and Jack is...meh. But a chance encounter with an absurdly wealthy stranger throws the struggling couple into a boozy wine-country getaway weekend in Healdsburg. What might have been a well-worn narrative of ostentatiously bad behavior from the uber-rich, is a surprising comedic journey, at once skewering the super wealthy and painting them with tender eccentricities, all while humbling the protagonists. A shrewd work from an emerging female director, the film features superb physical comedy and a first-rate ensemble performance.

5/6 - 1:30pm - Longboard Vineyards



**WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?**  
(UK, 108 min)  
**Directed by Shekhar Kapur**  
When Zoe solicits her childhood best friend, Kazim, to appear in her new film on arranged marriages, the stage is set for a cross-cultural clash of values on marital love and courtship. As she interviews a series of Muslim couples and travels to Pakistan to witness Kazim’s first meet-up (and marriage) to his new wife, their relationship is increasingly put to the test. Shekhar Kapur’s breezy romantic comedy frames familiar tropes through a fresh new lens in a film packed with humor, romance, and an exceptional all-star cast, including Emma Thompson as Zoe’s zany mother.

4/28 - 11:00am - Clover



LATE NIGHT SHORTS (90 min)

4/28 - 9:00pm - Clover



An edgier collection of stories for a midnight audience at 9:00pm.

Filmmakers are expected to be in attendance.

ITCHSANITY

Directed by Ben Lohrentz, USA, 8 min

In this fresh take on body horror, a business executive with itchy teeth will stop at nothing to find relief. Awarded Best of Show at the Sonoma County Student Film Festival.

SUSHI NOH

Directed by Jayden Rathsam H  a, Australia, 18 min

Trapped in the care of her lonely uncle, a young girl's nightmares about a bizarre kitchen appliance manifest into reality.

SAFE

Directed by Josema Roig, Spain, 10 min

In this tense thriller, a startled young girl hears a noise outside in the middle of the night and fears a monster, but the real danger may be lurking inside closer than she thinks.

CHRISTOPHER AT SEA

Directed by Tom CJ Brown, France, 21 min

Christopher embarks on a transatlantic voyage as a passenger on a cargo ship with the hope of finding out what lures so many men to sea. Instead, he finds himself on a surreal journey into fantasy, solitude, and obsession. Jury Award Winner at the 2023 SXSW Film Festival.

JUST A REHEARSAL

Directed by Hugo Sanz, Spain, 9 min

Two sisters, seven and eleven years old, are hiding inside a wardrobe. The little sister thinks they are rehearsing for a game but the older one knows that a terrible threat lurks outside.

PRUITT AND IGOE

Directed by Rachael Daniels, USA, 10 min

An undead white supremacist targets an African American teenager on the harsh, impoverished streets of North St. Louis in this fresh take on the horror genre.

ASPIRATIONAL SLUT

Directed by Caroline Lindy, USA, 14 min

Rosemary embarks on a journey of sexual liberation as an antidote to the heartbreak she experiences chasing Mr. Right, until one day when a casual hookup puts her newfound persona to the test. Audience Award Winner at the 2022 SXSW Film Festival.

MATINEE SHORTS (84 min)

4/29 - 1:15pm - Clover



Join us for a collection of award-winning shorts from this year's Festival circuit, including works from Sonoma County filmmakers.

Filmmakers are expected to be in attendance.

ICE MERCHANTS

Directed by Jo  o Gonzalez, Portugal, 15 min

An ice-peddling father and son engage in an extraordinary daily ritual as they travel from their cliffside ice house to the village below until one day when a disaster changes everything. Nominated for Best Animated Short Film at the 2023 Academy Awards.

CHASIN' BUTTERFLIES

Directed by Joshua Harding, Adam Hobbs, and Matt Klug, USA, 19 min

This charming portrait of eccentric Alabama artist Butch Anthony peels back the layers of the man who created a quirky drive-thru museum, a trophy-covered Cadillac, and a pontoon pirate ship known as Llatikcuf (read it backwards).

ANDY: A DOG'S TALE

Directed by Jamy Wheless, USA, 8 min

Petaluma's Ignite Animation Studios collaborated with Jean Schulz (of the Charles M. Schulz Museum) to deliver this uplifting tale of how one puppy overcomes a series of obstacles to find his purpose in life: becoming a Canine Companion.

EL CARRITO

Directed by Zahida Pirani, USA, 15 min

Nelly barely makes ends meet by working as a street vendor from dawn to dusk until an unexpected event jeopardizes her livelihood and the ability to care for her father. Audience Award Winner at the 2022 Palm Springs International Shortfest.

BELLINGHAM'S BELIEF

Directed by Tom Salvaggio, USA, 9 min

Panic erupts when the citizens of Bellingham, Washington notice strange cracks in their car windshields. Tom Salvaggio combines experimental film techniques with a retro-style voiceover to create a completely original neo-noir sci-fi mystery.

DOG-APARTMENT

Directed by Priit Tender, Estonia, 14 min

Awakened by the barking of his dog-apartment, a middle-aged ballet dancer travels through a rain-drenched wasteland to his most unusual job in this surreal stop-motion animation inspired by an Andres Ehin poem.

MOSES SUPPOSES

Directed by Caleb Teicher, USA, 2021, 4 min

A diverse cast of New York City dancers reimagines tap in the city with this updated take on "Moses Supposes" from the film Singin' in the Rain.

DOC SHORTS: MAVERICKS (73 min)

4/30 - 1:45pm - Clover



Portraits of humans at their eccentric, creative-minded best - a crowd-pleasing delight.

Filmmakers are expected to be in attendance.

CHASIN' BUTTERFLIES

Joshua Harding, Adam Hobbs, and Matt Klug, USA, 19 min

This charming portrait of eccentric Alabama artist Butch Anthony peels back the layers of the man who created a quirky drive-thru museum, a trophy-covered Cadillac, and a pontoon pirate ship known as Llatikcuf (read it backwards) to reveal the mind of a true maverick.

GOING GREENLAND

Erich Roepke, Jessica Baker, and Rachael Burks, USA, 23 min

Female adventurers Jessica Baker and Rachael Burks embark on an inspiring and formidable journey to explore Greenland's West coast fjords and towering mountains in one of the world's first renewable energy sailboats.

INSIDE THE BEAUTY BUBBLE

Cheryl Bookout and Cheri Gaulke, USA, 31 min

Jeff Hafler fancies himself as the world's first hairstorian. Opening a kitschy pastel dreamland of 3,000 vintage beauty artifacts in the desert community of Joshua Tree, Hafler demonstrates that sometimes it's strong people on the margins of society that hold a community together.

SUNDAY SHORTS (89 min)

5/7 - 2:00pm - Longboard Vineyards



A perfect Sunday program featuring eclectic selections from storytellers of all kinds.

Filmmakers are expected to be in attendance.

THE RECRUIT

Directed by Bao Truong, USA, 11 min

When Kat shows up for an interview at Intrinsic Recruiting, she experiences one strange turn after another until she slowly loses her grip on what is reality and what is fantasy in this surreal allegory on social anxiety.

A MOST EXQUISITE MAN

Directed by Jonas Taul, Estonia, 15 min

One man's hubris is called into question as his true position in the universe is slowly revealed in this exquisitely animated Estonian fable. Grand Prix Winner at the Fredrikstad Animation Festival.

THE FOURTH

Directed by Johnny Kirk, USA, 12 min

Offering a fresh take on an all-too-familiar tale, a group of young black and Latino friends, eager to celebrate the 4th of July, experience a police encounter that shatters the meaning of the holiday.

MILEZ

Directed by Stephanie Patrick & Ben Lee, USA, 4 min

Eight artists must decide whether to stay within the boxes that confine them or break free in this experimental screendance film, featuring music from the Austin-based hip-hop duo Magna Carda.

THE SEINE'S TEARS

Directed by Elliott Benard et al., France, 9 min

This stunning stop-motion reconstruction of a 1961 Algerian protest in Paris over mandatory curfews imposed by the police during the Algerian war is a tribute to what people will sacrifice when they believe in a cause. Best Animated Student Short Winner at the 2022 Palm Springs International Shortfest.

PRO POOL

Directed by Alec Pronovost, Canada, 8 min

The value of Charles-Olivier's degree in history and civilization is called into question when he ends up working at a pool supply store. Official selection of the 2023 Sundance Film Festival.

ON THE RIDE

Directed by Jen McGowan, USA, 13 min

In writer Jeremy Glazer's expertly constructed narrative, Scott is haunted by the memories of his past during an early morning bike ride, until he reaches a most unexpected destination.

THE SPRAYER

Directed by Farnoosh Abedi, Iran, 9 min

Set in a post-apocalyptic fascist state where its citizens are forbidden from growing plants, a seed is planted that initiates an unexpected uprising.

CUCKOO!

Directed by J  rgen Scholtens, Netherlands, 8 min

In this absurdist comedy about a lonely man who lives inside a cuckoo clock, all hell breaks loose when a radio quiz disrupts his hourly routine.





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03 JUNE  
7:30PM

FIELD OF DREAMS  
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15 JULY  
7:30PM

ZOMBIELAND  
CLOVERDALE

18 AUG  
7:15PM

INDIANA JONES  
& THE LAST CRUSADE  
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08 SEPT  
7:30PM

BACK TO THE FUTURE  
1ST ST. CLOVERDALE

15 SEPT  
7:30PM

STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE  
HEALDSBURG PLAZA

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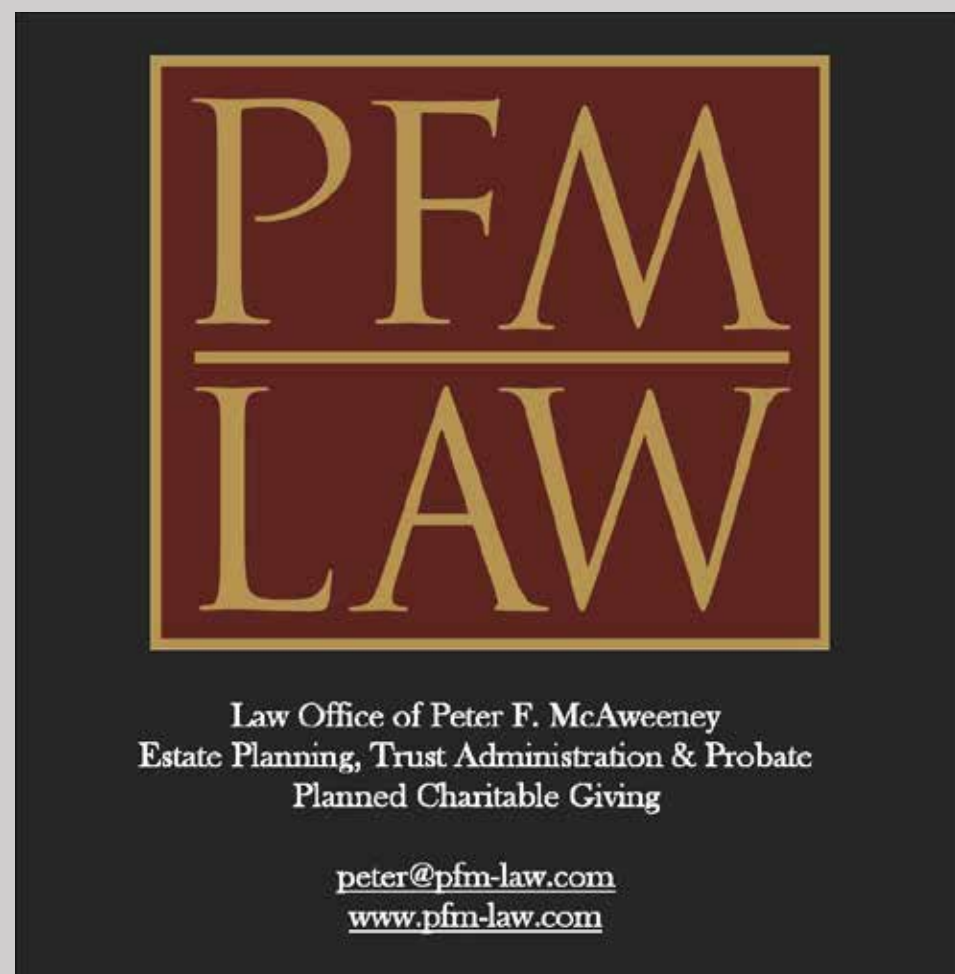
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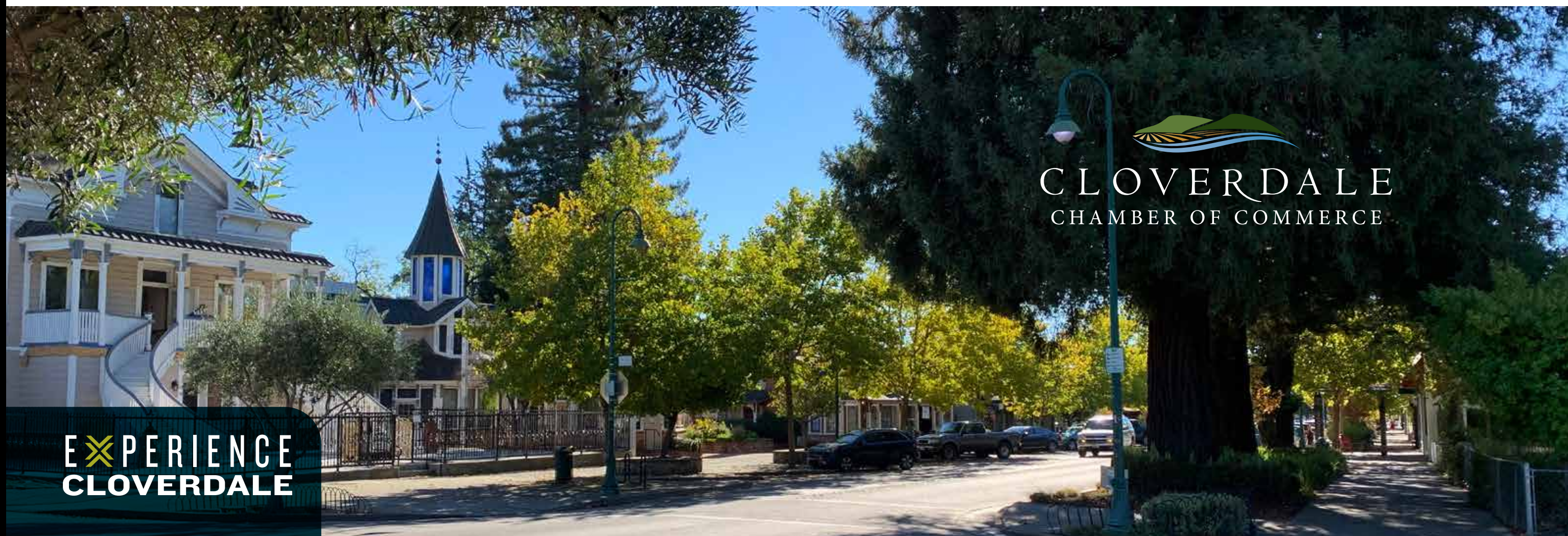


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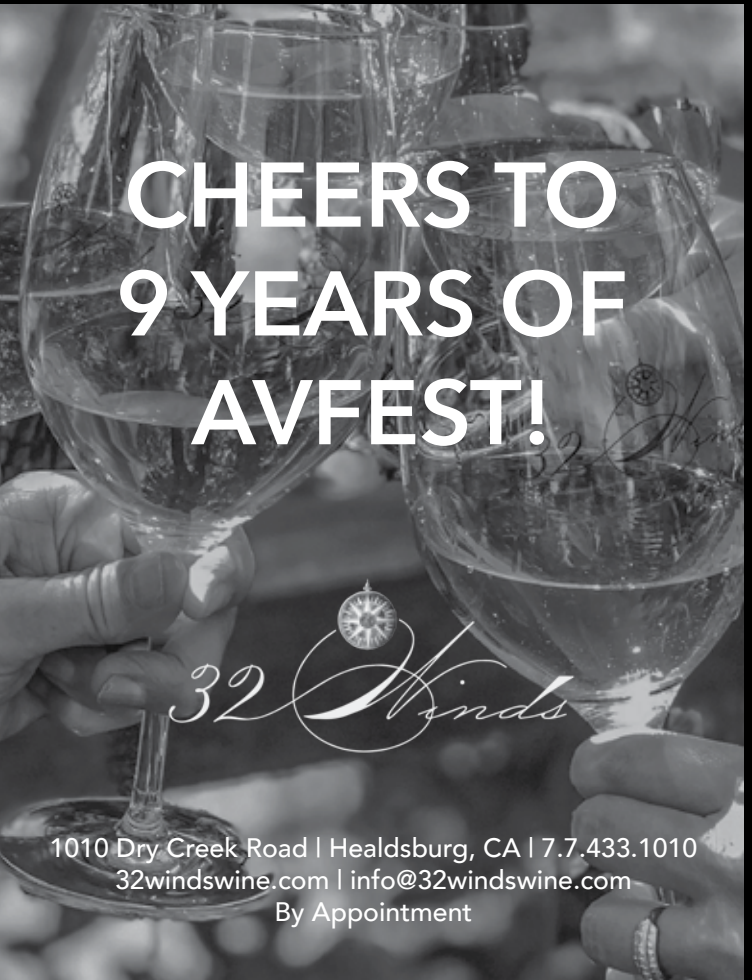
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Through the transformative power of film, AVFilm brings global perspectives into our community, builds partnerships to broaden our impact, and educates, empowers, and engages students of all ages.

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To be an essential part of our community by inspiring and educating through film and media arts.

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Excellence – Quality and integrity  
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Collaboration – Building partnerships and sharing resources  
Innovation – Forward-thinking and independent  
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