



Cover Page



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

*Your Curated Guide to the 35th Woods Hole Film Festival:
Saturday, July 25 – Saturday, August 1, 2026*

With more than 120 films spanning eight days, discovering your next favorite film can feel overwhelming. That's where **In the Spotlight** comes in.

We've grouped films into themed collections to help you find stories that speak to your interests—whether you're drawn to inspiring documentaries, dark comedies, environmental stories, coming-of-age dramas, or late-night genre films.

You can create your personalized festival roadmap with this guide: explore one category or sample them all! However you choose to experience the festival, we hope these curated recommendations help you discover something unforgettable.

[**Festival passes & ticket packages on sale here.**](#) Individual tickets on sale July 1st on.

THEMES AT A GLANCE:

Looking for Inspiration? 🙌

Artist Biopics

Trailblazers & Striving for Equity

Changemakers

Looking for Connection? 🤝

Human Interest Stories
Family, Belonging & Identity
Coming of Age

Looking for Wonder? 🙌

Environment & Science
Music

Looking for Something Strange? 🙌

Dark Comedy
Mystery, Thriller & Supernatural Drama
Woods Hole After Dark

Looking to Support Local Filmmakers? 🙌

The Spirit of Massachusetts

Looking to See All Your Options? 🔥

[Browse all films here](#)

BEYOND THE SCREEN:

[Master Classes & Panels](#)
[Parties](#)

Welcome to the 35th Woods Hole Film Festival

Bold Films, Bright Futures. Celebrating 35 Years of Films that Matter.

Want to browse the guide online?

Want In The Spotlight in your inbox?

(Tap three dots
in top right-hand
corner and select
“print layout” for
best formatting :)



Artist Biopics

CREATIVE, RESILIENT ARTISTS

Stories of creativity, memory, and lifetimes devoted to making meaning.

For lovers of art, photography, and remarkable lives. These films celebrate painters, photographers, and creators whose work became inseparable from their identities—and whose influence continues to inspire. From preserving friendships through art to forging unconventional lives, these stories remind us that creativity has no expiration date.

Featured films:

- [ANNE PACKARD: AN ARTIST'S RESOLVE](#)
- [OUR MR. MATSURA](#)
- [YO \(LOVE IS A REBELLIOUS BIRD\)](#)
- [ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE](#)
- [HARD TWIST: THROUGH THE LENS OF BARBARA VAN CLEVE](#)

✨ Perfect for audiences who love...

American Masters, Finding Vivian Maier, Joan Didion: The Center Will Not Hold, artist biographies, photography, and stories of remarkable lives.

★ Don't miss...

ANNE PACKARD: AN ARTIST'S RESOLVE, an intimate portrait of the Provincetown painter returning to the gallery that transformed her life.

The Lineup Breakdown:



ANNE PACKARD: AN ARTIST'S RESOLVE by *Arthur Egeli, USA*, 2026, 74 mins.

Synopsis: At 92, Anne returns for one final visit to the Provincetown gallery that transformed her life. Once dismissed by the art world and left to raise five children alone, Anne defied

expectations—selling her paintings from her front yard before building a thriving gallery with her daughters. As she prepares to say goodbye to the space that became a hub for artists and collectors, Anne’s story is a testament to resilience, creativity, and the enduring power of art.

Preceded by the short film ANI LIU: EYE HEART WOMB by Miao Wang: An artist-mother turns the invisible labor of care into provocative art, challenging societal control over bodies and redefining motherhood’s power.

[Screening July 26 | 7:15pm at Falmouth Academy’s Simon Center](#)



OUR MR. MATSURA by Beth Harrington,
USA/Japan, 2026, 97 mins., New England Premiere

Synopsis: After arriving from Japan in the early 1900s, Frank Matsura settled in Okanogan County, Washington, where he became the region’s leading photographer. Through his distinctive self-portraits and collaborative images with settlers, immigrants, and Native peoples, Matsura built bridges across cultures and left a lasting legacy that continues to shape the community’s sense of identity and history.

[Screening August 1 | 5:15pm at Clapp Auditorium in MBL’s Lillie Building](#)



YO (LOVE IS A REBELLIOUS BIRD) by
Anna Fitch, Banker White, USA, 2026, 78 mins.

Synopsis: After the loss of her friend Yo, Anna devotes ten years to building a meticulous 1/3-scale replica of Yo’s house, just large enough for her to enter. Inside, a puppet of Yo inhabits the space, allowing Anna to reimagine and relive their connection.

Blending vérité footage from Yo’s final year with Anna’s creative reenactments of Yo’s

extraordinary life, the film explores themes of memory, grief, and the enduring impact of friendship and artistic expression.

[Screening July 26 | 5:00pm at Falmouth Academy's Simon Center](#)



ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE by

Katie Jacobs, USA, 2025, 90

mins., Massachusetts Premiere

Synopsis: Purchasing a house together on the Bowery in the 1950s, three female artists defied societal norms and prioritized their art over traditional roles as wives and mothers. Through interviews with the women, now

in their 90s, as well as their grown children, **ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE** explores the emotional complexities of being an artist and a parent. A heartfelt celebration of independence, creativity, and the enduring strength three women all can relate to.

Screening sponsored by Road Rebel Global, the premier sports, entertainment & corporate travel management company

[Screening July 29 | 7:30pm at Falmouth Academy's Simon Center](#)



**HARD TWIST:
THROUGH THE
LENS OF BARBARA
VAN CLEVE** by

Cynthia Matty-Huber,

USA, 2025, 80 mins.,

New England Premiere

Synopsis: Born into Montana's ranching culture, photographer

Barbara Van Cleve redefined Western imagery with a bold, independent vision that captured the rugged beauty of the land and the strength of the people, especially the women, who shaped it.

HARD TWIST shows how Van Cleve, now ninety-one years old, continues to embrace life as an independent artist, an advocate for ranch women, and an unabashed leader in a photographic genre long considered the domain of men.

[Screening July 28 | 4:00pm at Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, WHOI](#)

 Trailblazers

TRAILBLAZERS

Stories of resilience, opportunity, and the people building a more inclusive future.

From sports and education to housing and family, these documentaries spotlight pioneers and communities working to create change. Through perseverance, compassion, and determination, these films celebrate those who challenge old assumptions and open doors for the next generation.

Featured films:

- [NO HANDS: THE WILD RIDE OF THE SCHWINN BICYCLE COMPANY](#)
- [TRANSFORMING THE BEAUTIFUL GAME: THE CLYDE BEST STORY](#)
- [BEST DAY EVER \(& MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE\)](#)
- [MISS REPRESENTATION: RISE UP](#)
- [ADMISSION POSSIBLE](#)
- [SAVING ETING STREET \(& THE HARDEST WORKING MAN\)](#)
- [THE DADS \(& HANDWOVEN\)](#)
- [DECISIONS, DECISIONS \(Shorts Block\)](#)

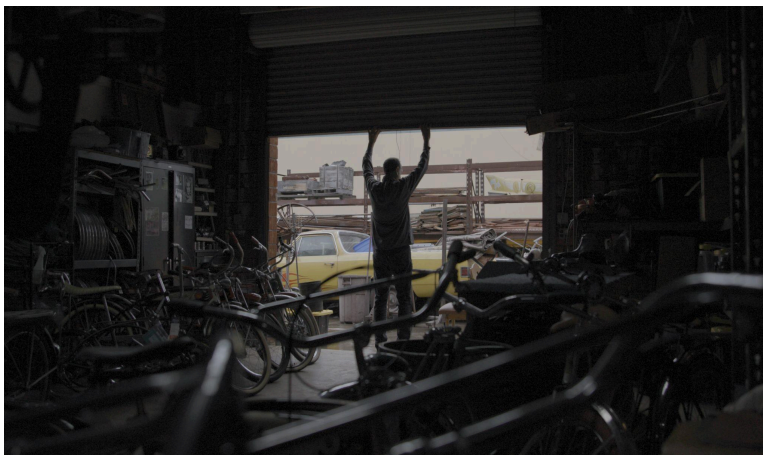
✨ Perfect for audiences who love...

Stories about social change, resilience, and communities pushing toward a more equitable future. Fans of *Crip Camp*, *RBG*, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, *13th*, and *The Janes*.

★ Don't miss...

THE DADS, executive produced by Dwyane Wade, a moving portrait of fathers supporting their trans and nonbinary children with love, courage, and unwavering commitment.

The Lineup Breakdown:



**NO HANDS: THE WILD RIDE
OF THE SCHWINN BICYCLE
COMPANY** by *Daniel Clarke*,
USA, 2026, 75 mins., *New
England Premiere (local
filmmaker)*

Synopsis: Lance Armstrong narrates this hugely entertaining and unexpectedly emotional documentary about innovation, family legacy, reinvention, and the cultural imprint of a first bike. Through rare archival material, modern cinematography, and the voices of riders, collectors, industry leaders, and the Schwinn family itself, the film becomes more than the story of a company's rise and fall. It becomes a reflection on what bicycles came to mean in American life. **Preceded by CIRRUS: THE WOODEN BOAT STORY** by Ken Murphy & Durier Ryan, a short documentary about generations uniting to restore a celebrated, 90-year-old wooden boat, battling time and decay to set sail again.

[Screening August 1 | 7:45 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



TRANSFORMING THE BEAUTIFUL GAME: THE CLYDE BEST STORY by Dan Egan, USA/UK/Bermuda, 2026, 99 mins.

Synopsis: **TRANSFORMING THE BEAUTIFUL GAME: THE CLYDE BEST STORY** tells the inspiring true story of Clyde Best, whose talent, perseverance, and quiet resilience helped break racial

barriers in English football and inspired millions around the world. Featuring an exclusive interview with Best and a host of notable voices, this moving documentary explores the legacy of a pioneer whose influence is still felt across the global game today.

[Screening July 29 | 5:00 PM at Falmouth Academy's Simon Center, Falmouth, MA](#)



BEST DAY EVER by Ben Knight & Berne Broudy, USA, 2025, 47 mins. (Massachusetts Premiere)

Synopsis: **BEST DAY EVER** tells the story of adaptive

mountain bikers Greg Durso and Allie Bianchi, whose Vermont riding community is redefining what's possible through the creation of the world's first fully adaptive trail network. Their journey is one of resilience, friendship, and the freedom that comes from belonging.

Paired with MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE by Alice Stone, an uplifting documentary short about musicians whose disabilities fuel their creativity and artistic excellence, this screening is a powerful reminder that inclusion benefits everyone.

Sponsored by The Falmouth Road Race, the first road race in American to include and champion an adaptive wheelchair racing program, starting with the pioneer Bob Hall

[Screening July 27 | 5:30 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



MISS REPRESENTATION:

RISE UP by Jennifer Siebel

Newsom, USA, 2026, 90 mins., New England Premiere

Synopsis: Over a decade after

MISS REPRESENTATION

exposed the media's contribution to the under-representation of women in leadership, **MISS**

REPRESENTATION: RISE UP dives deep into the cultural backlash against women's agency and power. With inspiring young women at its core, the film interweaves diverse young women's personal journeys alongside powerful voices in media, culture, leadership, and academia to reimagine a future that finally uplifts women and girls.

[Screening August 1 | 3:00 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



ADMISSION POSSIBLE by Matthew

Syrett, Bowie Alexander, USA, 2026, 90 mins.

Synopsis: An intimate look at high-achieving, first-generation students from a New York City public high school as they navigate the fraught college admissions process. Against the backdrop of pandemic aftershocks, shifting national policies, and debates over equity, the film follows these students—many from immigrant families—as they confront daunting obstacles and immense pressure.

[Screening July 27 | 5:30 PM at Falmouth Academy's Simon Center, Falmouth, MA](#)



SAVING ETTING STREET by Dena Fisher, Amy Scott, USA, 2025, 67 mins.,
New England Premiere

Synopsis: **SAVING ETTING STREET** follows master carpenter Shelley Halstead and three young Black women as they transform abandoned houses into opportunities for home ownership and

generational wealth. Together, they challenge generations of racism and sexism in housing, but as tensions within the group surface and a suspicious fire threatens their work, Shelley's vision of community is put to the ultimate test.

Preceded by the short film THE HARDEST WORKING MAN by Aaron Cassara: A devoted shoe repairman fights to keep his family shop alive as New York's small businesses vanish around him.

[Screening July 30 | 5:30 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



THE DADS by Luchina Fisher, USA/Spain/Canada, 2026, 72 mins.

Synopsis: Inspired by the Emmy Award-winning Netflix short, **THE DADS** follows fathers of trans and nonbinary children as they navigate an increasingly fraught political

landscape and confront impossible choices between country and family. Directed by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Luchina Fisher and executive produced by Dwyane Wade, this intimate documentary is a moving portrait of fatherhood, courage, and unconditional love.

Preceded by the short film HANDWOVEN by Dasha Levin, Mason Cazalet, Mihika Das, Matthew Wisdom: A non-binary shepherd and weaver strives to preserve their cultural heritage through traditional weaving, battling the erosion of ancestral practices.

[Screening July 31 | 4:00 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

DECISIONS, DECISIONS (Shorts Block)

DECISIONS, DECISIONS is a round-up of drama, documentary, and animation shorts all collected around the idea of life's big turning points. Come to immerse yourself in very human stories and prepare to be deeply moved.



HILDA O. VS. THE STATE OF NEW YORK by *Alison Cornyn, Heather Greer*

Logline: Empowered by new legislation, at age 81, Hilda Onley seeks justice for the sexual abuse she endured as a teen in 1958 at the New York State Training School for Girls.



KANSAS, 1989 by *Clayton Dean Smith*

Logline: The story of a Midwestern teen on the verge of coming out, and the night of danger that changes the course of his life.



MAMITA LINDA by *Jose Duran*

Logline: After her youngest child leaves for college, a single mother looks ahead to what's next.



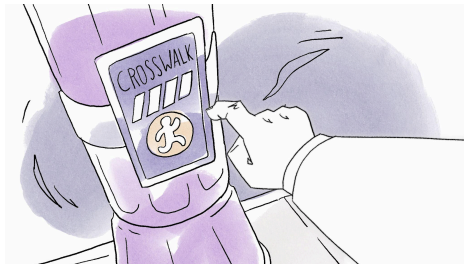
SELFLESS by *Jason Hyun Kim*

Logline: A devoted mother, desperate to fulfill her and her husband's American promise for their son, enacts a tragic plan to secure his future.



UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE by *Thato Rantao Mwosa*

Logline: A trans African salon owner must choose between abandoning her Boston life or risking ICE detention after her asylum is denied.



WAIT! by *Lisa Klein*

Logline: Inspired by a “true-ish” story, this tale dives into the quietly epic, absurdly mundane test of human patience — waiting at a crosswalk!



YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR by *Jeff Low & David Kolbusz*

Logline: A man on the brink of suicide pays a stranger to end his life, only to discover that putting your trust in a hired killer may not be the wisest decision.

Sponsored by The Reel Do-Over, Chelsea ’s FIRST Film Festival produced by Clark Ave Prod and Endless Films coming to Chelsea MA on March 24 - March 28, 2027.

[Screening July 26 | 5:45pm at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

 **Changemakers**

CHANGEMAKERS

Stories of courage, conviction, and the people shaping the future.

From classrooms and courtrooms to rainforests and rural communities, these films spotlight individuals who challenge the status quo and fight for something larger than themselves. Whether preserving democracy, defending free speech, confronting injustice, or planting seeds for the next generation, these stories remind us that change often begins with a single voice—and the courage to use it.

Featured films:

- [SCHOOL FOR DEFECTORS](#)
- [THE GREAT EXPERIMENT](#)
- [KIKUYU LAND](#)
- [CRIME & PARODY](#)
- [AMAZING LIVE SEA MONKEYS](#)
- [BE THE CHANGE \(Shorts Block\)](#)
- [THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL](#)

✨ Perfect for audiences who love...

Stories about activism, resilience, and people making a difference. Fans of *Navalny*, *Boys State*, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, *The Grab*, and documentaries that inspire conversation long after the credits roll.

★ Don't miss...

BE THE CHANGE, a shorts program featuring four remarkable stories of individuals preserving legacies, fighting for equality, and restoring the rainforest for future generations.

The Lineup Breakdown:



SCHOOL FOR DEFECTORS by
Jeremy Workman, Korea/USA, 2026,
92 mins. (Festival alum)

Synopsis: Set in a small school in
Busan for North Korean defectors,

SCHOOL FOR DEFECTORS offers rare access to the lives of 20 young students as they navigate new beginnings. Acclaimed filmmaker Jeremy Workman (**SECRET MALL APARTMENT**) tells a joyful story of hope, resilience, and the universal dreams of youth.

[Screening July 26 | 2:00 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



THE GREAT EXPERIMENT by Stephen Maing & Eric Metzgar, USA, 2026, 100 mins.

Synopsis: **THE GREAT EXPERIMENT**

takes a sweeping look at America during four pivotal years, holding a mirror to a nation divided and asking whether democracy can endure in an era of profound change. Filmed in

striking black and white, this timely documentary offers a powerful reflection on the state of what George Washington once called “our last great experiment” in democracy.

Sponsored by Newburyport Documentary Film Fest, championing great documentary films in Newburyport, MA in September, 2026.

[Screening July 26 | 4:30 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



KIKUYU LAND by Andrew H Brown, Bea Wangondu, Kenya/USA, 2026, 93 mins.,
Massachusetts Premiere

Synopsis: In Kenya's tea highlands, one man's claim to his family's stolen land sets Mr. Mungai against a multinational giant. His fight draws a local news producer into a battle that exposes buried histories, family

secrets, and the unfinished business of colonial power.

Sponsored by Salem Film Fest, the largest documentary film fest in Massachusetts in Salem March, 2027. Come to Salem, see the world!

[Screening August 1 | 3:00 PM at Falmouth Academy's Simon Center, Falmouth, MA](#)



CRIME & PARODY by Will Thwaites, USA, 2026, 87 mins., New England Premiere

Synopsis: After an amateur comedian is thrown in jail for political satire, The Onion joins his fight for free speech in a case that helps draw national attention to police conduct and accountability. **CRIME & PARODY**

shines a light on debates around free speech and political expression are reaching a boiling point in America.

[Screening July 28 | 6:15 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



AMAZING LIVE SEA MONKEYS by Mark Becker, Aaron Schock, USA, 2026, 99 mins., New England premiere

Synopsis: From her crumbling estate on the Potomac, Yolanda Signorelli is engaged in a battle to wrest control of her late husband Harold's iconic toy **AMAZING LIVE SEA**

MONKEYS back from the corporate men who stole them from her, and to rescue them from the stain of her husband's dark legacy.

[Screening July 25 | 7:45 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

BE THE CHANGE (Shorts Block)

Featuring four compelling short films that explore preserving legacies, fighting for equality, and protecting our planet, this program celebrates individuals and communities working to create a better future for the next generation.



AND AGAIN, I DREAM by Catherine Gund, Mariah Norman

Logline: As journalist Ivy Young faces her final days, her loved ones race to preserve her legacy, confronting loss and forging intergenerational bonds.



SONIA by Sarah Colt, Emily Schuman

Logline: At 96, Sonia Pressman Fuentes confronts her legacy, determined to ensure her lifelong fight for equality is not forgotten.



THE TEACHER by Donal Boyd, Emma Romeijn

Logline: A devoted father in Borneo plants trees to restore the rainforest, hoping his quiet efforts will secure a better world for his children.

[Screening July 30 | 7:45 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL by Ben Proudfoot, Stephen Curry, USA, 2026, 29 mins.



The Festival kicks off at 1 pm with a special screening of **THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL**, the latest short documentary co-directed by two-time Oscar winner and one-time Oscar nominee Ben Proudfoot and NBA star Stephen Curry. The film celebrates Martin Luther King Jr.'s lawyer and speechwriter, Clarence B. Jones, who sacrificed personal security to help shape history. Proudfoot's short film *A Concerto is a Conversation* won Best Documentary Short at the Festival in 2021 and his Oscar-winning film *The Last Repair Shop* screened at the Festival in 2023.

Screening July 25 | 1:00 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA

 Human Interest

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

Remarkable lives. Unexpected connections. Stories that stay with you.

From epic love stories and lifelong friendships to prison mentorship and communities built on compassion, these documentaries remind us of the extraordinary resilience, kindness, and complexity that define the human experience. Intimate, inspiring, and deeply moving, these films celebrate the ties that bind us—and the many ways we find meaning, purpose, and hope in one another.

Featured films:

- [THE CYCLE OF LOVE](#)
- [THE BEND IN THE RIVER](#)
- [BEYOND](#)
- [LEAVING ANGOLA](#)
- [LOVING KARMA](#)
- [THE OLDEST PERSON IN THE WORLD](#)
- [MOVING FORWARD \(Shorts Block\)](#)

✨ Perfect for audiences who love...

Stories of friendship, family, redemption, and personal journeys. Fans of *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, *Still: A Michael J. Fox Movie*, *The Last Repair Shop*, and documentaries that make you laugh, cry, and appreciate being alive.

★ Don't miss...

THE CYCLE OF LOVE, from Oscar-winning director Orlando von Einsiedel, tells the extraordinary true story of a young Indian artist who bicycled 6,000 miles across continents to reunite with the Swedish woman he loved.

The Lineup Breakdown:



THE CYCLE OF LOVE by Orlando von Einsiedel, UK/Sweden, 2025, 98 mins., New England Premiere

Synopsis: From Oscar-winning filmmaker Orlando von Einsiedel (**THE WHITE**

HELMETS) comes one of the year's most uplifting documentaries. In **THE CYCLE OF LOVE**, a young street artist from a poor "untouchable" family in India, embarks on an extraordinary 6,000-mile journey to reunite with the Swedish woman who captured his heart. Through archival materials, personal letters, interviews, and beautifully crafted reenactments, the film chronicles a journey fueled by hope, determination, and the belief that love is worth any distance.

[Screening July 25 | 4:00pm at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



THE BEND IN THE RIVER by Robb Moss, USA, 2025, 83 mins. (Festival Alum)

Synopsis: **THE BEND IN THE RIVER** is acclaimed filmmaker Robb Moss's latest return to a group of friends he first filmed on a Grand Canyon rafting trip in the late 1970s. The third chapter in a remarkable decades-spanning chronicle—following **RIVERDOGS** and **THE**

SAME RIVER TWICE—the film revisits these friends in their seventies as they reflect on aging, family, regrets, and the choices that shaped their lives. Weaving together footage captured across nearly fifty years, Moss creates a gentle, deeply moving documentary that often feels like looking into a mirror.

[Screening July 29 | 7:30pm at Meigs Room, MBL's Swope Center, 5 North Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



BEYOND by Asia Johnson & Michael Kleinman, USA, 2025, 89 mins., New England Premiere

Synopsis: **BEYOND** takes audiences inside Sing Sing prison, where a group of incarcerated men prepares for a TED-style event designed to share their experiences and envision a better

future for the prison system. With extraordinary access, the film follows participants from their

first auditions through the emotional highs and challenges of taking the stage. The result is a deeply moving portrait of human resilience and the power of being heard.

[Screening July 27 | 8:00 PM at Falmouth Academy's Simon Center, Falmouth, MA](#)



LEAVING ANGOLA by Andrew Kukura, USA,

2026, 93 mins

Synopsis: Filmed over seven years inside Louisiana's Angola prison, **LEAVING ANGOLA** follows the relationship between a lifer turned inmate pastor and mentor and a young father

preparing for release through a re-entry program. As one man offers hard-won wisdom and trade skills, their bond becomes a lifeline for both—one seeking freedom, the other offering hope from within prison walls.

[Screening July 31 | 7:45 PM at Falmouth Academy's Simon Center, Falmouth, MA](#)



LOVING KARMA by Johnny Burke, Andrew

Hinton, India/UK, 2025, 80 mins.

Synopsis: High in the foothills of the Indian Himalayas, a former monk from Massachusetts has built a home for children the world has cast aside. At Jhamtse Gatsal, "The Garden of Love and Compassion," the film picks up their stories

and meets a new generation of children who are navigating their own difficult beginnings.

LOVING KARMA offers a moving testament to the possibility that even our deepest pain can be transformed—one moment of kindness at a time.

[Screening July 26 | 3:00 PM at Falmouth Academy's Simon Center, Falmouth, MA](#)



THE OLDEST PERSON IN THE WORLD by

Sam Green, USA, 2026, 87 mins.

Synopsis: Over the course of a decade, acclaimed filmmaker Sam Green follows each individual who

holds the title of the world's oldest living person. As the distinction passes from one remarkable life to the next, Green travels across the globe, weaving together their stories with reflections on his own journey through time. **THE OLDEST PERSON IN THE WORLD** begins as a fascinating exploration of longevity and evolves into a moving meditation on aging, chance, memory, and the profound experience of being alive.

[Screening August 1 | 3:00 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

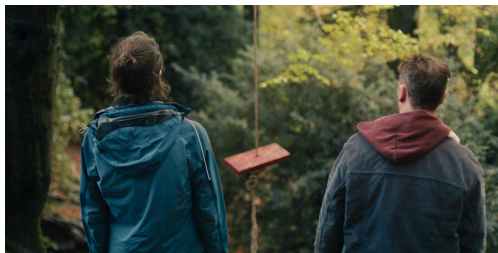
MOVING FORWARD (Shorts Block)

MOVING FORWARD brings together stories of endings and new beginnings. From a roller rink's final days and a family flower shop fighting for survival to friendships tested by grief and recovery, these films explore what it means to carry on when life changes course. Through humor, heartbreak, and unexpected connections, each story reminds us that moving forward doesn't always mean moving on.



THE LONG-REIGNING KING OF ROLLERCASTLE SKATELAND by *David Hull*

Logline: The long-tenured manager of an aging, castle-themed roller rink faces the final three days of business for his beloved little empire.



THE SWING by *Yaz Al-Shaater, Haz Al-Shaater, Yaz & Haz Al-Shaater*

Logline: After a suicide attempt, Simon reluctantly joins his estranged friend Danny on a road trip through the Peak District.



THE PETAL PUSHER by *David Abel (Festival alum)*

Logline: A family fights to keep their beloved flower shop alive as Penn Station's transformation threatens their legacy and livelihood.



THE SHALLOW END by *María de la Cruz Rudloff*

Logline: After rehab, Agatha returns home seeking to rekindle her childhood friendship, only to confront painful truths that threaten her fragile recovery.



SOMETHING GREATER THAN YOU by *Gordon LePage (Festival alum)*

Logline: Two rival raccoons must set aside their differences when an unexpected visitor threatens their winter refuge.



MEMORY FOAM by *Lubomir Rzepka*

Logline: A grieving opera singer searches for a new mattress, but each one forces him to relive the heartbreak he's desperate to escape.

[Screening July 29 | 5:30 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

Family & Identity

FINDING HOME

Family, identity, and the search for belonging.

Whether navigating sibling dynamics, uncovering family secrets, or reconnecting with cultural roots, these stories explore the ties that shape us and the people who help us understand who we are. Funny, tender, and deeply human, these films remind us that belonging is often less about where we come from than the connections we choose to nurture.

Featured films:

- [ADULT CHILDREN](#)
- [ISLE CHILD](#)
- [IT COMES IN WAVES](#)
- [BEFORE THE CALL \(& SIHYEON'S SUMMER DAY\)](#)
- [LITTLE AUDREY](#)
- [CONVERSATIONS \(Shorts Block\)](#)

✨ Perfect for audiences who love...

Multigenerational family dramas, coming-of-age stories, and films about identity and cultural connection. Fans of *Minari*, *Past Lives*, *The Farewell*, *Shoplifters*, and *Aftersun*.

★ Don't miss...

ISLE CHILD, a moving story about a Korean adoptee whose discovery of a hidden letter sends him on a journey to reconnect with his roots and redefine what family means.

The Lineup Breakdown:



ADULT CHILDREN by Rich Newey, USA,
2025, 100 mins., Massachusetts Premiere

Synopsis: Warm, funny, and honest, this comedy/drama takes a thoughtful look at the challenges of growing up and adulting at any age. **ADULT CHILDREN** follows four siblings brought together by an unexpected

family crisis. As 17-year-old Morgan searches for wisdom to help write her college essay, she discovers that her older siblings are just as lost as she is.

Starring: Betsy Brand, Aya Cash, Ella Rubin, Thomas Sadoski, and Mimi Rogers.

Screening July 26 | 9:15 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA



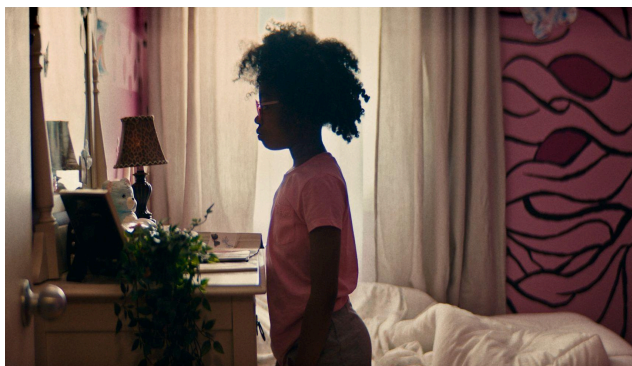
ISLE CHILD by Thomas Percy Kim, USA, 2025, 91 mins., Massachusetts Premiere

Synopsis: After discovering a hidden letter suggesting his birth mother in Korea is searching for him, a Korean adoptee and star high school athlete in Massachusetts is forced to confront the cracks in his carefully constructed American identity. As family

secrets unravel and his sense of belonging falters in **ISLE CHILD**, he journeys with his adoptive mother to Korea, where he uncovers the truth about his past and begins to reconcile the pieces of himself he thought were lost.

Starring: Ethan Hwang, Ben Wang, and Samantha Mathis

Screening August 1 | 5:15 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA



IT COMES IN WAVES by Fitch Jean, Canada, 2025, 105 mins., New England Premiere

Synopsis: Nine years after fleeing Rwanda for Canada, a young refugee has spent his life protecting his little sister from their mother's addiction. But after their mother dies of an

overdose and child services threaten to separate them, he is forced into a desperate choice that could either keep them together—or destroy what's left of their family.

Starring: Adrian Walters and Nendia Lewars

[Screening July 29 | 6:00 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



BEFORE THE CALL by James Choi, South Korea, 2025, 62 mins., New England Premiere

Synopsis: Before the Call follows Jinwoo, a Korean American who returns to Seoul to enlist in the military despite being exempt from service. As a global crisis escalates and

Korean soldiers are deployed overseas, Jinwoo's decision becomes more than a search for belonging. **BEFORE THE CALL** is a quiet meditation on identity, duty, and the choices that shape us.

Starring: Andy Koh, Ha Seong-guk, So-yi Kang, and Gwang-rok Oh

Preceded by the short film SIHYEON'S SUMMER DAY by Yeajoon Cho: A docufiction following six-year-old Sihyeon searching for his favorite ice cream in his new home: Idaho

[Screening July 29 | 4:00 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



LITTLE AUDREY by Michael Mailer, USA, 2026, 98 mins., World Premiere

Synopsis: When a Vatican commission investigates mysterious phenomena surrounding a comatose girl in Massachusetts, a skeptical child psychologist is drawn into a world where faith and reason collide. As unexplained events mount, she must confront the possibility of miracles, forcing her to question her deepest beliefs.

Starring: Emily VanCamp, Jennifer Esposito, Aidan Quinn, Josh Bowman, and Robert Wahlberg.

[Screening July 25 | 8:30pm at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

CONVERSATIONS (Shorts Block)

CONVERSATIONS brings together seven shorts about the ties that bind us. Through family gatherings, old friendships, lessons learned, and unexpected encounters, these films explore how love, memory, and identity are shaped by the conversations we have—and the ones we wish we had.



THE LAST FRY by *Sam Zarrin*

Logline: A terminally ill man struggles to unite his bickering family for one last joyful memory before time runs out.



SEA SONG by *An-Phuong Ly*

Logline: The last remaining South Vietnamese naval officers reunite in California, confronting fading health as they strive to preserve their lifelong bond.



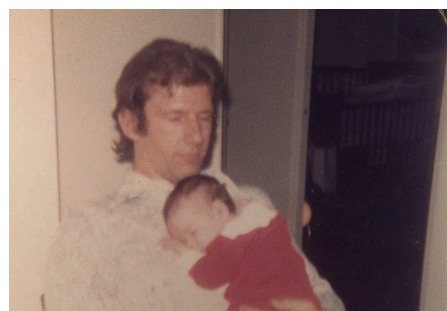
JASMINE. HOME. MOTHER by *Ugnė Skonsmanaitė*

Logline: On a bizarre game show, a determined woman risks everything to outwit censors and recover the memories that define her identity.



FISHING LESSONS by *Guy Kozak*

Logline: On his first wedding anniversary, Kozak seeks wisdom from three fishermen, navigating love's mysteries amid Cape Cod's haunting seascape.



A PICTURE OF MY FATHER by *Jonathan Miller, Zach Russo*

Logline: Estranged from her imprisoned father, John MacKenzie, Danielle learns how he profoundly shaped the lives of countless others following his death.



WHO'S WAITING FOR YOU? *by Daniel Palala, María Lempicka, YUCA*

Logline: Between the real world and the spiritual realm, an ancestral Xolo dog and an ordinary man shape a story woven with care and companionship.



THE FRENCH LESSON *by Tim L. Glover*

Logline: When a middle aged man decides to learn a new language, he learns new things about himself.

[Screening July 27 | 4:00pm at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

Coming of Age

GROWING PAINS

First loves, hard lessons, and the messy journey of becoming yourself.

Whether chasing first love, grieving the past, rebelling against expectations, or simply trying to fit in, these stories capture the awkward, exhilarating, and deeply human process of growing up. Funny, heartfelt, and sometimes unexpected, these films remind us that coming of age doesn't happen just once.

Featured films:

- [UNDER THE LIGHTS](#)
- [RUN AMOK](#)
- [FINDING OUR WAY \(Shorts Block\)](#)

✨ Perfect for audiences who love...

Character-driven stories about identity, friendship, and finding your place in the world. Fans of *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Lady Bird*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, and *The Edge of Seventeen*.

★ Don't miss...

UNDER THE LIGHTS, an uplifting drama featuring Pearce Joza, Mark Duplass, Lake Bell, Nick Offerman, and Randall Park, about a teenager with epilepsy determined to experience prom, first love, and all the milestones of adolescence.

The Lineup Breakdown:



UNDER THE LIGHTS by Miles Levin,
USA, 2026, 108 mins., Massachusetts
Premiere

Synopsis: UNDER THE LIGHTS is the award winning story of 17-year-old Sam, a boy with epilepsy, so desperate to feel like a

normal kid, he goes to prom knowing that the lights will make him have a seizure. Determined to experience the milestones of adolescence, Sam defies his limitations for a chance at prom, first love, and the sense of belonging he craves.

Starring: Pearce Joza, Tanzyn Crawford, Lake Bell, Mark Duplass, Randall Park, Nick Offerman, Marin Hinkle, and Kevin Carroll.

Screening August 1 | 7:30pm at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA



RUN AMOK by NB Mager, USA, 2026, 102 mins., Massachusetts Premiere

Synopsis: When amateur harpist and professional teacher's pet Meg discovers a commemoration ceremony is being planned for the shooting that took place at her high school

ten years ago, she knows she must contribute something. After all, the shooting claimed the lives of three students, and one teacher— Meg's mom. Meg decides to stage a full, musical reenactment of the event, and with her cast of high school misfits, attempts to pull off this bizarre, tender, and unwieldy undertaking while the adults do everything they can to stop her. Nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival and Director NB Mager was also named one of Variety's 10 Directors to Watch in 2026.

Starring: Alyssa Marvin, Sophia Torres, Patrick Wilson, and Margaret Cho.

Screening July 31 | 7:30pm at Meigs Room, MBL's Swope Center, 5 North Street, Woods Hole, MA

FINDING OUR WAY (Shorts Block)

FINDING OUR WAY brings together stories of self-discovery, growing pains, and unexpected journeys. From first loves and childhood misunderstandings to family obligations and quests for freedom, these films explore the winding paths that shape who we become.



I HATE HELEN by Katie Lambert

Logline: Battling her own desires, Priya struggles to resist her feelings for Helen as teenage confusion threatens to overwhelm her.



ima wa ima by *Greg Keung* (animation)

Logline: An office worker's encounter with a caterpillar unlocks a childhood memory, blurring reality as the past and present intertwine.



PUISQUE TOUT BRÛLE by *Anna Ostasenko Bogdanoff, Tessa de Baudinière*

Logline: In Marseille, a group of skaters in their twenties pursue ultimate freedom through reckless rides in forbidden places.



THE SALE by *Meera Angelica Joshi*

Logline: An immigrant encyclopedia saleswoman in 1993 California must make her first sale to support her struggling family and pursue her dreams.



THIS BLOWS by *Talia Smith*

Logline: An 11-year-old girl's misunderstanding of a "blow job" sets her babysitter on a chaotic mission to save her at a birthday party.



DRIVING LESSON by *Gillian Gordon*

Logline: A 12-year-old must drive her drunk father's car to rescue her sister, risking disaster as family roles are reversed.



SWEETWATER, TEXAS by *Kaytie Nielsen, Nick Nielsen*

Logline: A queer environmental journalist and her gun-toting grandma lock horns on their drive out to Sweetwater, Texas, where their cousins host the World's Largest Rattlesnake Roundup.

[Screening July 30 | 4:00pm at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

Environment & Science

OUR SHARED PLANET

Stories of wonder, discovery, and the fragile balance between humans and the natural world.

From the depths of the ocean to the rainforests of Sumatra, these films celebrate the scientists, conservationists, and communities working to understand and protect our planet. Through breathtaking imagery and urgent stories, they remind us that our future is inseparable from the ecosystems and species with whom we share the Earth.

Featured films:

- [NUISANCE BEAR](#)
- [NILGIRIS: A SHARED WILDERNESS](#)
- [FOREVER HOME \(& FJALLFERÐ\)](#)
- [THE \[CONSERV\]ATIVES](#)
- [THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH](#)
- [A LIFE ILLUMINATED](#)
- [THE ENDLESS FRONTIER](#)
- [THE BLUE BETWEEN US \(Shorts Block\)](#)

✨ Perfect for audiences who love...

Nature and science documentaries, stories of exploration, and films that inspire awe and action. Fans of *My Octopus Teacher*, *Fire of Love*, *Chasing Coral*, *All That Breathes*, and *Planet Earth*.

★ Don't miss...

A LIFE ILLUMINATED, an inspiring portrait of legendary marine biologist Dr. Edie Widder and her lifelong quest to reveal the mysteries of the deep sea.

The Lineup Breakdown:



NUISANCE BEAR by Gabriela Osio
Vanden, Jack Weisman, USA/Canada, 2026,
90 mins.

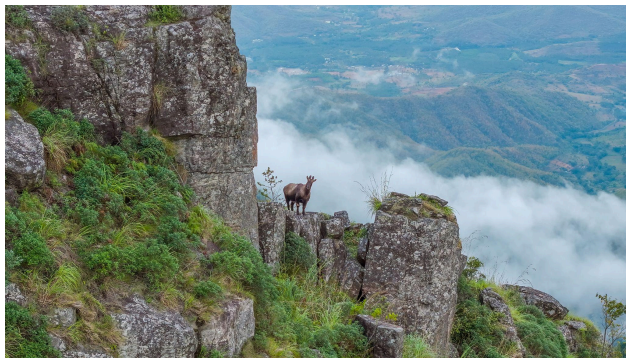
Synopsis: For thousands of years, polar bears have migrated along the shores of Hudson Bay in northern Canada. But as climate change

delays the seasonal freeze, bears are pushed closer to human settlements, where tourism, surveillance, and wildlife control reshape their existence. Set in Churchill, Manitoba—the self-proclaimed “Polar Bear Capital of the World”—**NUISANCE BEAR** follows this uneasy coexistence through the perspective of bears navigating a landscape where they are constantly watched, redirected, and commodified.

Sponsored by Climate Film Festival, New York City’s first and only climate-focused, city-wide annual film festival. Coming to NYC September 2026!

Co-presented by Video Consortium, the go-to global community supporting and connecting creatives across documentary and journalism.

[Screening July 30 | 5:15 PM at Meigs Room, MBL’s Swope Center, 5 North Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



NILGIRIS: A SHARED WILDERNESS by Sandesh Kadur, India, 2025, 52 mins.

Synopsis: Set in India’s first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, this film explores the Nilgiris—a landscape shaped by ancient natural forces and recent human impact.

Through breathtaking 4K visuals, it reveals

the lives of leopards, gaur, and hornbills as they navigate the blurred boundaries between wilderness and human development, highlighting the fragile balance and shared future of all who call these mountains home.

[Screening July 25 | 2:00PM at WHOI’s Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



FOREVER HOME by Allison Argo, USA, 2025, 56 mins.

FOREVER HOME follows two dreamers who are revolutionizing animal care through groundbreaking architecture for society’s abused and forgotten. With wild creativity and compassion, their farm animal rescue

invites us to rethink the meaning of “home” and our relationship with all beings.

Preceded by the New England Premiere of FJALLFERÐ by Jesse Smolan, a stunning short documentary that follows Icelandic farmers as they traverse mountains and valleys to round up thousands of sheep before the arrival of winter.

Sponsored by Cape Cod Winery, a beautiful local family-run winery on Oxbow Road in East Falmouth.

[Screening July 29 | 5:30 PM at Meigs Room, MBL's Swope Center, 5 North Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



THE [CONSERV]ATIVES by Nadia Gill, Dominic Gill, USA, 2026, 85 mins., New England Premiere (Festival alums)

Synopsis: Four conservative activists—an evangelical scientist, a farmer, a youth leader, and a Miami mayor—challenge party orthodoxy as they campaign for climate action within the Republican Party during the battle over the Inflation Reduction Act. Their

efforts to unite a divided nation become even more urgent when political tides shift, highlighting the precariousness of progress and the need for bipartisan support on climate issues.

[Screening July 31 | 5:30 PM at Falmouth Academy's Simon Center, Falmouth, MA](#)



THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH by David Booth Gardner, Indonesia, 2026, 102 mins., New England Premiere

Synopsis: **THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH** is a thrilling, eight-year journey into the heart of Sumatra's 2.6 million-hectare Leuser Ecosystem — where tigers, elephants, rhinos, and orangutans still roam free – that follows a group of

extraordinary wildlife activists who risk everything to save one of Earth's last untouched wildernesses from the devastation of the illegal palm oil industry.

[Screening July 26 | 8:00 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



A LIFE ILLUMINATED by Tasha Van Zandt, USA, 2025, 89 mins. (2022 Filmmaker in Residence)

Synopsis: Marine biologist Dr. Edie Widder undertakes a daring descent 3,300 feet below the ocean's surface to document a mysterious bioluminescent phenomenon.

Combining footage from her latest expedition with archival material from her pioneering career, **A LIFE ILLUMINATED** explores her lifelong quest to illuminate the hidden wonders of the deep sea and highlights the importance of preserving its fragile ecosystems. Directed by Emmy-nominated filmmaker Tasha Van Zandt, Woods Hole Film Festival's 2022 Filmmaker in Residence.

Sponsored by The Yawkey Foundation, committed to providing charitable grants to eligible nonprofit organizations in honor of Tom and Jean Yawkey

[Screening July 25 | 6:15pm at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



THE ENDLESS FRONTIER by Marilyn Ness, USA/France, 2026, 82 mins., New England Premiere

THE ENDLESS FRONTIER tracks three scientists as their work moves between labs and field sites, from neurorobotics in Utah to immunology in New Jersey to ocean science in the South Pacific. The film is an

intimate, urgent portrait of scientists working to solve some of the most pressing challenges of

our time, from disease to climate change, while revealing the growing threat to the American research engine and what is at stake for us all if it falters.

[Screening July 28 | 8:00 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

THE BLUE BETWEEN US (Shorts Block)



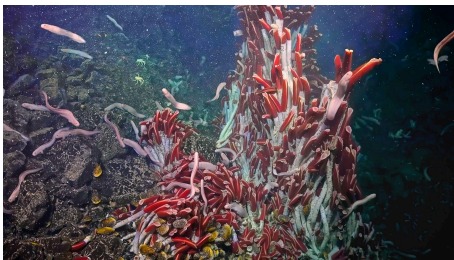
SOUND GUARDIANS by Leah Varjacques

Logline: A Balik elder races to record his forest's sounds with scientists as his ancestral land faces destruction from Indonesia's new capital.



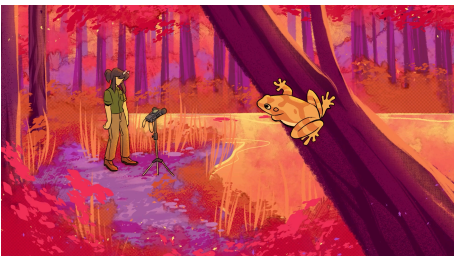
THE CORAL RESCUERS by Jason Spingarn-Koff

Logline: A team of scientists and guardians race to save Florida's last corals from extinction as climate change threatens their survival.



IMMERSIVE by Rohan Thomas

Logline: Oceanographer Thibaut Barreyre explores hydrothermal vents, racing to document their hidden life before deep-sea mining destroys these fragile ecosystems.



THE CHORUS OF TONGUES by Emma Hsiao

Logline: An ecologist, tasked with recording frogsong and surveying species presence, comes face to face with local extinction when the voices of the bog go quiet one by one.

[Screening July 28 | 5:30 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



Music

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

Stories about the sounds, artists, and communities that shape our lives.

From legendary musicians and influential critics to aspiring artists and unforgettable performances, these films celebrate the people behind the music—and the bonds forged through a shared love of song. Whether discovering a new sound or revisiting old favorites, these stories remind us why music matters.

Featured films:

- [THE LAST CRITIC](#)
- [LOS LOBOS NATIVE SONS](#)
- [YOU GOT GOLD: A CELEBRATION OF JOHN PRINE](#)
- [THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC \(Shorts Block\)](#)

✦ Perfect for audiences who love...

Music documentaries, concert films, and stories about creative communities. Fans of *20 Feet from Stardom*, *Summer of Soul*, *Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice*, *The Last Waltz*, and *Echo in the Canyon*.

★ Don't miss...

LOS LOBOS NATIVE SONS, an intimate portrait of the iconic East L.A. band celebrating fifty years of friendship, artistry, and cultural influence. Band members will be present for a Q&A following the July 26 screening.

The Lineup Breakdown:



THE LAST CRITIC by *Matty Wishnow*,
USA, 2026, 82 mins.

Synopsis: **THE LAST CRITIC** is a fascinating portrait of Robert Christgau, the legendary music writer whose sharp insights and distinctive voice helped define rock and pop criticism for more than six decades.

From his groundbreaking work at *The Village Voice* to his current writing on Substack in his

eighties, the film explores Christgau's enduring influence on music journalism amid a shifting media landscape.

[Screening July 28 | 5:30 PM at Meigs Room, MBL's Swope Center, 5 North Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



LOS LOBOS NATIVE SONS by Doug Blush, Piero F. Giunti, USA, 2026, 93 mins., New England Premiere (2024 Filmmaker in Residence)

Synopsis: LOS LOBOS NATIVE SONS chronicles the extraordinary 50-year journey of Latin rock legends Los Lobos. Tracing their journey from the streets of East L.A. to international acclaim, the film offers unprecedented access to their

archives and an intimate portrait of the brotherhood at the heart of their music. Through electrifying performances and candid interviews, the film celebrates Los Lobos as cultural trailblazers—blending rock, roots, and Mexican traditions into a sound that is unmistakably their own.

Sponsored by MVY Radio, nonprofit, listener-supported radio for Cape Cod, the Islands, and beyond and a presenting sponsor of the 35th Woods Hole Film Festival

[Screening July 26 | 2:00pm at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA*](#)

[Screening July 29 | 7:45pm at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

***Los Lobos will be present for a Q&A following the July 26 screening**



YOU GOT GOLD: A CELEBRATION OF JOHN PRINE by Michael John Warren, USA, 2025, 90 mins.

Synopsis: A star-studded tribute to the legendary songwriter John Prine, filmed in October 2022 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. The event brought together acclaimed artists such as Bonnie Raitt, Brandi Carlile, Tyler Childers, Lucinda Williams, Dwight Yoakam, Jason Isbell, and Bob Weir, amongst many others, as well as friends and family to share behind-the-scenes stories and perform classic songs, honoring Prine's enduring legacy.

A special pre-Festival screening event the night before the 8-day Festival begins, brought back by popular demand after several sold out year-round screenings

[Screening July 24 | 7:30pm at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC (Shorts Block)

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC is a spirited collection of six shorts about the people, places, and relationships that give music its power. From aspiring artists and lifelong collaborators to farewell performances, these shorts explore the friendships, passions, and unexpected stories behind the soundtrack of our lives.



MUSICIANS WANTED by *Emma He*

Logline: Nine struggling musicians must unite to create a hit song in three hours or risk leaving the studio empty-handed.



SHELL YEAH by *Sam Graff*

Logline: A musician, his shells, and the surprising sounds they create.



BAND PRACTICE by *Linda Denson, Diana Khong*

Logline: Two best friends in New Orleans risk their friendship and reputations as they chase their senior year dream to kiss girls.



**ROLLING FILM, ROCKING HISTORY, AL
MAYSLES CAPTURES THE BEATLES** *by Bart
Weiss*

Logline: Documentarian Al Maysles recounts filming the Beatles' 1964 New York arrival, capturing iconic moments that shaped a generation.



OH YEAH *by Nick Canfield (Festival alum)*

Logline: Two eccentric musicians recount how their experimental hit "Oh Yeah" unexpectedly shaped 1980s American pop culture and left a lasting legacy.



THE BAKER'S DOZEN *by Matt Michaud*

Logline: After their beloved venue closes, a band reunites for a possible final concert, facing uncertain futures and the loss of their musical home.

[Screening July 27 | 7:30 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

 Dark Comedy

LAUGHING THROUGH IT

Dark comedies, eccentric characters, and the absurdity of being human.

Life is messy, unpredictable, and often hilarious. From retirement homes and remote islands to zombie Friendsgiving dinners and time-traveling milkshakes, these films find humor in grief, aging, loneliness, and modern anxieties. Quirky, heartfelt, and delightfully offbeat, they're proof that sometimes the best way to cope is to laugh.

Featured films:

- [DANCING ON THE ELEPHANT](#)
- [HONEYJOON \(& WHOA\)](#)
- [YESTERDAY ISLAND](#)
- [MODERN PROBLEMS \(Shorts Block\)](#)
- [SUMMER CAMP \(Shorts Block\)](#)

✨ Perfect for audiences who love...

Little Miss Sunshine, Palm Springs, The Holdovers, Harold and Maude, Everything Everywhere All at Once, and stories where humor and heartbreak go hand in hand.

★ Don't miss...

DANCING ON THE ELEPHANT, a funny and deeply touching story about an unlikely friendship in a retirement home and the reminder that it's never too late for one last adventure.

The Lineup Breakdown:



DANCING ON THE ELEPHANT by *Julia Neill, Jacob Smith, Canada/USA, 2025, 94 mins., New England Premiere*

Synopsis: When Nora arrives at Shady Rest Retirement Home, she struggles to imagine much life left ahead of her. That is, until unfiltered firecracker Edna wheels into her life and reminds her it ain't over till it's over. The

pair kindle a friendship over carpet bowling and chair-xercise as they plot their escape from the nursing home. Edna's failing memory eventually lands her in the secure memory care wing, leaving Nora to plot one last grand adventure in hopes of reminding her friend there are still elephants left to dance on.

Starring: Sheila McCarthy, Mary Walsh, Amanda Brugel, Kevin Kincaid, and Reid Price.

Screening July 31 | 5:15pm at Meigs Room, MBL's Swope Center, 5 North Street, Woods Hole, MA



HONEYJOON by Lilian T. Mehrel,

USA/Portugal, 2025, 75 mins., Massachusetts

Premiere

Synopsis: On the romantic Azores islands, June and her Persian-British mother Lela mark a grief anniversary, each handling their emotions in her own way. Guided by a

philosophical surfer, their journey blends humor, sensuality, and poignant moments as they navigate the unpredictable tides of loss, connection, and the art of flirting. **HONEYJOON** is a surprisingly sexy, darkly funny, emotional rollercoaster.

Starring: Ayden Mayeri, Amira Casar, and Jose Condessa Joao

Preceded by the World Premiere of the short film WHOA by Elizabeth O'Donnell: A

grieving mother and daughter take mushrooms together, confronting their fears and hopes as they seek healing in a single afternoon.

Screening July 25 | 5:30 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA



YESTERDAY ISLAND by Sam Voutas,

Australia, 2025, 91 mins.

Synopsis: In **YESTERDAY ISLAND**, a failed novelist answers a midnight phone call from a friend—and ends up trapped in

a surreal time loop on a remote subantarctic island. As escape attempts spiral into chaos involving an ex-wife, old grudges, and a cast of unlikeable friends, he's forced to confront the past in this darkly comedic story of revenge, redemption, and forgiveness.

Starring: Ivan Aristeguieta, Florence Noble, Franci Greenslade, and Geneieve Neve

Screening July 27 | 6:15pm at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA

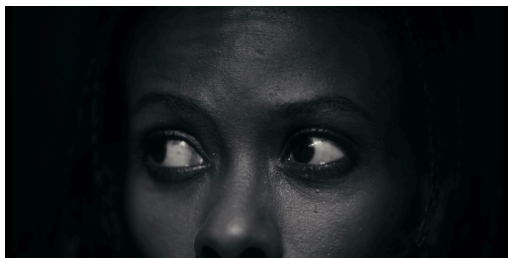
MODERN PROBLEMS (Shorts Block)

MODERN PROBLEMS brings together seven offbeat comedies and genre-bending tales that find humor in contemporary anxieties. From climate catastrophe and influencer culture to zombie Friendsgiving, these films explore the strange, absurd, and all-too-relatable challenges of modern life.



MELT by Daniel Young

Logline: A fractured couple's escape plan unravels when a heatwave and melting ice cube law threaten their lives and force a final reckoning.



HALFWAY HAUNTED by Sam Rudykoff

Logline: A tenant in a haunted house teams up with a ghost to stop a real estate developer from demolishing the home they share.



ULTRA JUICE by Carl Conway Maguire

Logline: A lonely man discovers companionship and purpose when his new vape, a digital pet, relies on him for care.



SPICY BOB by Adam Yates

Logline: Filmmakers follow an eccentric mathematician in the aftermath of his monumental discoveries.



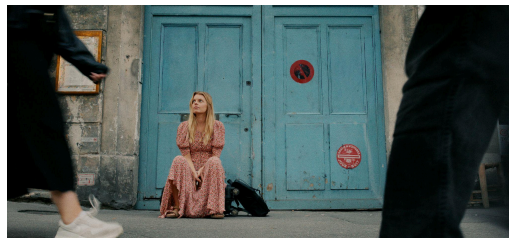
ENDZGIVING by Tina Carbone

Logline: During a Friendsgiving in the zombie apocalypse, a friend arrives late—with a fresh zombie bite.



CHRISTMAS IRL by Rochan Liu

Logline: An influencer decides what's truly important on Christmas while battling to create a flawless unboxing video for her followers.



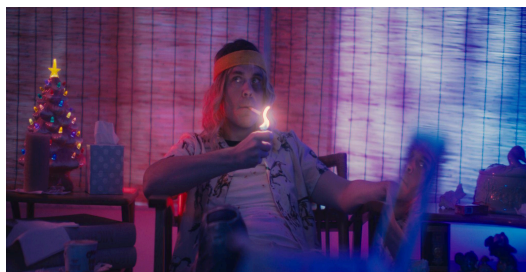
WELCOME TO PARIS by Al Oxborough

Logline: When American foot model Evie shows up for her first gig in Paris, her employers discover a problem with her feet.

[Screening July 31 | 8:45pm at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

SUMMER CAMP (Shorts Block)

This selection of short comedies puts the **CAMP** in summer camp. Camp is an aesthetic style that celebrates irony, theatricality, and eccentricity. Come for the absurd and stay for the laughs!



A GOOD SCRIPT IS HARD TO FIND by The Millers

Logline: Desperate for cash, Alex and her roommates botch a robbery and attract a dangerous fan obsessed with her twisted screenplay.



ASTRONOT by Zach Sheehan

Logline: A jealous astronaut's obsession with reaching the Moon spirals until unexpected allies offer him a chance at redemption.



BEETROOT by *Lisa Dodell*

Logline: A young woman has an unexpected reunion with a forgotten childhood toy.



IT HAPPENED: THE JUDY TENUTA STORY by *Taylor Blackwell*

Logline: Accordion-wielding comedienne Judy Tenuta rises to fame in the 1980s, battling for recognition in a male-dominated comedy world.



IT'S HARD NOT TO BE ROMANTIC ABOUT TIME TRAVEL by *Michael Charron*

Logline: Armed with weed and a half-baked theory that love can bend time, two friends land five years in the past, totally unprepared for what comes next.



MEETING YOUR MAKER by *Gregory JM Kasunich*

Logline: A puppet star's existential crisis jeopardizes his children's show's milestone episode and the future of everyone involved.



MILKSHAKE TIME MACHINE by *Kat Whalen*

Logline: Two struggling waitresses use a time-traveling milkshake machine to fix their past, only to risk destroying the world with every attempt.

Sponsored by Boston SciFi, an award-winning genre fest with indies, classics, events, industry panels & guests at Somerville Theatre in February, 2027. [Screening July 25 | 3:00 PM at Clapp Auditorium, MBL's Lillie Building, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

Mystery & Drama

INTO THE UNKNOWN

Mysteries, obsessions, and the thin line between reality and belief.

From cult leaders and ghosts and immersive virtual worlds, these narratives explore what happens when certainty begins to unravel. Atmospheric, unsettling, and deeply human, these films invite audiences into stories where truth is elusive and nothing is quite what it seems.

Featured films:

- [THE LEADER](#)
- [MALLORY'S GHOST](#)
- [HEARTWORM](#)

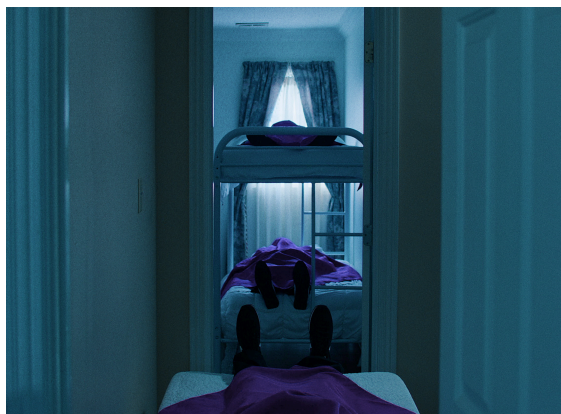
✨ Perfect for audiences who love...

Psychological thrillers, supernatural mysteries, and stories that linger long after the credits roll. Fans of *Heretic*, *Black Mirror*, *The Others*, *Ex Machina*, and *The Leftovers*.

★ Don't miss...

THE LEADER, starring Tim Blake Nelson, Vera Farmiga, Jim Parsons, and Simon Rex, a chilling retelling of the rise and fall of Heaven's Gate and one of the most infamous cult tragedies in American history.

The Lineup Breakdown:



THE LEADER by Michael Gallagher,
USA/Canada, 2026, 104 mins., New England
Premiere (Festival Alum)

Synopsis: Based on the true story of Heaven's Gate, a UFO cult that made headlines in 1997 when 39 followers committed the largest mass suicide in U.S. history. **THE LEADER** traces the cult's origins from the early 1970s meeting of its

leaders, "Ti & Do" in Houston, Texas, through its tragic conclusion in Rancho Santa Fe, California with a star-studded cast.

Starring: Tim Blake Nelson, Vera Farmiga, Jim Parsons, Grace Caroline Currey, and Simon Rex.

Screening July 31 | 6:15pm at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA



MALLORY'S GHOST by Arabella Oz, USA, 2026, 48 mins.

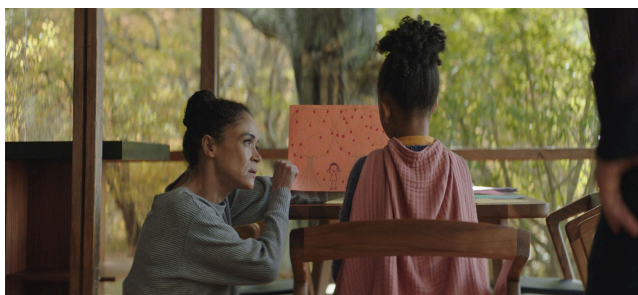
Synopsis: Jealousy, obsession, and the ghosts we create for ourselves take center stage in **MALLORY'S GHOST**. When a timid young woman accompanies her playwright boyfriend to a creative retreat on the Maine coast, she

becomes increasingly fixated on his glamorous former lover and muse. As reality begins to blur and strange visions draw her into a surreal journey through time, Mallory is forced to confront her own insecurities and sense of self.

Starring: Arabella Oz, Nick Canellakis, Anjelica Bosboom, Delphi Harrington, Shahjehan Khan, and Evangeline Beasley.

Sponsored by SAG-AFTRA, the world's largest labor union representing performers, broadcasters and recording artists

Screening July 26 | 7:00pm at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA



HEARTWORM by Miriam Louise Arens, Mitchell Arens, USA, 2026, 107 mins.

Synopsis: In a future shaped by immersive virtual reality, a woman fights to save her husband from a digital refuge designed for the grieving called NeuroLife. As memories,

simulations, and reality begin to blur, she is forced to confront the cost of escaping pain—and what it truly means to let go. Filmed all over Martha's Vineyard.

Starring: Amber Gray, Juan Riedinger, Ellie Reine, and Tony Award-winner Lillias White

Screening July 30 | 8:30pm at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA

 Woods Hole After Dark

WOODS HOLE AFTER DARK

For night owls, thrill seekers, and lovers of the delightfully bizarre. A series of films best experienced after dark, curated by Narrative Programmer Sean Volk.

For moviegoers who like their cinema weird, wild, and unforgettable. From folk horror and psychological thrillers to pitch-black comedies and supernatural nightmares, these films embrace the uncanny, the offbeat, and the deliciously unsettling. Equal parts eerie, funny, and unpredictable, they're perfect for adventurous audiences looking for something a little darker.

Featured films:

- [THE PERIL AT Pincer Point](#)
- [Party USA](#)
- [Third](#)
- [A Safe Distance](#)
- [BYEEEE](#)
- [NOT YOUR AVERAGE BEDTIME STORY \(Shorts Block\)](#)

✦✦ Perfect for audiences who love...

Midnight movies, dark humor, unsettling mysteries, and genre films that defy easy categorization. Fans of *The Lighthouse*, *Twin Peaks*, *Beau Is Afraid*, *Midsommar*, *The Substance*, and *Coherence*.

★ Don't miss...

THE PERIL AT Pincer Point, winner of SXSW's NEON Auteur Award, a striking black-and-white folk horror tale about artistic ambition, ghostly legends, and an isolated island where recording the perfect sound may cost more than a career.

The Lineup Breakdown:



THE PERIL AT Pincer Point by Noah
Stratton-Twine & Jake Kuhn, UK, 2026, 83
mins.

Synopsis: A struggling sound designer travels to an isolated island in search of the perfect recording for a horror film. Instead, he encounters unsettling local legends, eccentric residents, and a prophecy that suggests artistic ambition may come at a terrifying cost. Shot in striking black-and-white and winner of the NEON Auteur Award at the SXSW Film & TV Festival, this New England Premiere is a must-see for lovers of bold, atmospheric cinema.

Starring: Jack Redmayne, Alyth Ross, Os Leanse, and Dashiell Upton

[Screening July 28 | 8:30 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



PARTY USA by Jared Sprouse, USA, 2026,
89 mins., New England Premiere

Synopsis: When Taylor can't get her party store shift covered after her dad dies, she makes a deadly mistake plunging her into chaos amid mounting family pressures and suspicion from her boss's daughter, all as the

Fourth of July approaches in her Southern hometown. PARTY USA is a darkly comedic mix of grief, guilt, and suspicion.

Starring: Ainsley Seiger, Philip Andre Botello, Ben Weinswig, Sharahya Carter, and Joe Hoenig

[Screening July 30 | 7:30pm at Meigs Room, MBL's Swope Center, 5 North Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)



THIRD by Alexander Parkinson, USA, 2026,
84 mins., New England Premiere

Synopsis: Thomas and Sandra have reached an uneasy point in their marriage—love remains, but intrigue has faded. So, when Ernesto mysteriously falls into their lives,

charming and reigniting Sandra's desire for excitement, she is quick to embrace him. All Thomas can do is acquiesce, as his marriage gets reinvigorated by Ernesto. But, as similar unexplainable figures begin appearing in their neighbors' lives, and as Sandra's connection to Ernesto deepens

and her grip on reality loosens, Thomas starts looking for answers. By the time he uncovers Ernesto's real motives, it's too late.

Starring: Alexander Parkison, Coley Company, Norio Nishimura, Veanna Black, and Kim Berrios Lin

Screening July 28 | 7:30pm at Meigs Room, MBL's Swope Center, 5 North Street, Woods Hole, MA



A SAFE DISTANCE by Gloria Mercer, Canada, 2026, 85 mins.

Synopsis: Things take a dangerous turn in **A SAFE DISTANCE**, a tense and atmospheric thriller as part of the Woods Hole After Dark series. After being abandoned by her boyfriend in the forest, she forms an

unexpected bond with two notorious fugitives on the run. As their relationship deepens, she finds herself drawn into a dangerous entanglement where trust, desire, and survival collide.

Starring: Bethany Brown, Tandia Mercedes, Cody Kearsley, and Chris McNally

Screening July 27 | 8:30 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA



BYEEEE by Chell Stephen, Canada, 2026, 88 mins., New England Premiere

Synopsis: After getting busted for defrauding her investors, tech girlboss entrepreneur Andy is heading to her family's abandoned lakeside cottage for one last weekend before she kills herself when her solitude is interrupted by nihilistic loner

Ryland. As the clock ticks down toward Monday's inevitable fraud charges, the pair strike up an unlikely friendship while contemplating: if you've got two days left on earth, how should you spend them?

Starring: Romina D'Ugo, Augustus Rivers, and Djouliet Amara

Screening July 30 | 6:30 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA

NOT YOUR AVERAGE BEDTIME STORY (Shorts Block)

NOT YOUR AVERAGE BEDTIME STORY offers a collection of dark tales where folklore, family secrets, and supernatural forces collide. From sleep demons and werewolves to haunted legacies and eerie encounters in the woods, these films transform familiar stories into unsettling modern fables.



DEFNE by *Hamdi Furkan Yildirim*

Logline: Seeking a doctor for her grandmother, Defne sees three men bury a bag in the woods, and soon the danger finds her home.



BEAST OF THE SEINE by *Jon Portman*

Logline: A heroic dog's river rescues turn suspicious as a Parisian village confronts a chilling truth behind its children's peril.



SILVER ANNIVERSARY by *D.M. Harring*

Logline: A housewife's bourgeois existence unravels when faced with the consequences of her husband's insatiable lycanthropy.



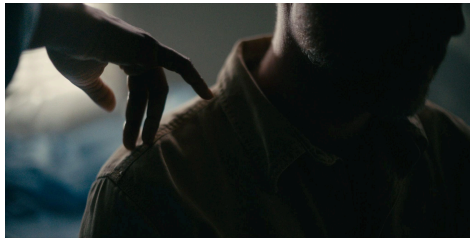
THE AXE FORGETS by *John Christopher*

Logline: Haunted by his Congo expedition, the heir to the Jameson Whiskey dynasty struggles to reclaim normalcy in Ireland as dark choices threaten his legacy.



MALORUM by *Arthur Ericsson, Jack Anderson*

Logline: In a secluded clearing where time stands still, Malorum has accepted his eternal punishment of pulling a heavy rope.



OGUN ORU by *Christopher Rucinski*

Logline: A single mom fights to protect her young son from a ruthless sleep demon.

[Screening July 29 | 8:30 PM at WHOI's Redfield Auditorium, 45 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA](#)

The Spirit of Massachusetts

THE SPIRIT OF MASSACHUSETTS

A special section promoting short films from local filmmakers.

Massachusetts has always been a place of storytellers. This shorts block collection showcases local filmmakers capturing the landscapes, traditions, challenges, and humor that shape life across the state. From Cape Cod waters and Fenway Park to lighthouses, lobstermen, and community activists, these films reveal the many ways local stories can resonate far beyond our borders.

THE SPIRIT OF MASSACHUSETTS (Shorts Block)



LATE FALL by Abigail Jean Lucas, Alecia Orsini
Lebeda

Logline: Misaligned under the pressure of new parenthood, a couple's separate encounters with a stranger reveal the partner behind the parent.



THE LAST LOBSTERMAN by Jason Conforti

Logline: When a government mandated closure threatens the end of year round lobstering, Mike Lane turns to new experimental technology to survive.



HOUSE OF LIGHT by A.B. Zax

Logline: As retirement nears, Dr. Sally Snowman struggles to let go of her lifelong bond with America's oldest lighthouse.



THE DREAMING GAME by Jordan
Salvatoriello

Logline: After spending 47 years in prison for a murder he did not commit, 71-year-old Raymond Gaines returns to Fenway Park, where baseball once again becomes a source of strength.



BUZZARD'S BAY by *Torey Strahl*

Logline: It's summer 2003 on Cape Cod, and four teens are living their beach town dreams: working at a pizza shop by day and swappin' spit under the docks at night.



ON THE TIDE by *Mimi Malicoat Bois*

Logline: An insider's perspective on the cultural, community, and environmental importance of shellfishing in Wellfleet, Cape Cod.



**OLD LADIES AGAINST UNDERWATER
GARBAGE** by *Liz McGregor*

Logline: At 85, Susan Baur leads a fearless crew of women to clean polluted ponds of Cape Cod, proving adventure and activism have no age limit.



COMEDY DAMAGE by *Mark Kiefer*

Logline: In a dystopian world where comedy is regulated, a washed-up comedian seeks an entertainment psychologist to reclaim his comedy license.

Sponsored by Cape Cod Blue Economy, a local non-profit with a mission to grow the region's economy in a sustainable and balanced way, focusing on protecting and promoting the Cape's water and coastal resources.

[Screening August 1 | 5:00 PM at Falmouth Academy's Simon Center, Falmouth, MA](#)

Classes & Panels

BEYOND THE SCREEN

Go behind the scenes with some of the industry's most accomplished filmmakers, editors, producers, journalists, and casting professionals.

From Oscar-winning documentary storytelling and music filmmaking to climate communication and the business of acting, these master classes and panels offer rare insight into how great films are made—and how creative careers are built. Whether you're an emerging filmmaker, an actor, a student, or simply a passionate film lover, this special series of master classes and panels provides practical advice, candid conversations, and inspiration from artists working at the highest level of the industry.

Featured events:

- [Master Class: How to Make a Music Documentary with Doug Blush](#)
- [Master Class: The Art of Discovery: Directing and Editing Documentary with Lindsay Utz](#)
- [Panel: From Indie to Oscar](#)
- [Film & Science Panel: Making Science/Climate-Focused Films in Challenging Times](#)
- [Panel: The Business of Acting](#)
- [Workshop: How to Repurpose Your Film... Or How Not to Get Burned in the YouTube Furnace](#)



MASTER CLASS – HOW TO MAKE A MUSIC DOCUMENTARY

What makes a music documentary sing — and what makes it fall flat?

Few filmmakers are better positioned to answer that question than **Doug Blush**.

An award-winning director, producer, editor, writer, and cinematographer with over 200 feature and television projects to his name, Blush has been behind some of the most celebrated documentaries of the last decade. His credits include, as supervising editor, the Grammy and

Oscar-winning *20 Feet from Stardom* (2013), and as Executive Producer on multiple Academy Award-winning films: *Icarus* (2018), *Period. End of Sentence* (2019), *The Elephant Whisperers* (2023), and the Critic's Choice and Peabody Award-winning *Mr. Soul!* (2020).

His latest project brings him back to Woods Hole: *Los Lobos Native Sons*, a documentary about the legendary East LA band that Blush is co-directing, screening at this year's festival.

In this hands-on workshop, Blush will dig into the unique storytelling challenges of the feature-length music documentary — how to structure a film around sound and performance, how to capture a band's essence on screen, and how to balance biography, music, and cultural context into a cohesive and compelling whole. He'll draw directly on his experience making *Los Lobos Native Sons* to illustrate the creative decisions, the pitfalls, and the possibilities that define the genre.

Whether you're developing a music doc of your own or simply want a masterclass in nonfiction storytelling from one of the field's most accomplished practitioners, this workshop is not to be missed.

[Monday, July 27 | 12:00 PM at Woods Hole Community Hall, Woods Hole, MA](#)



MASTER CLASS – THE ART OF DISCOVERY: DIRECTING AND EDITING DOCUMENTARY

Lindsay Utz is an award-winning director, producer, and editor who has helped shape some of the most acclaimed documentaries of the past decade.

Lindsay Utz returns to Woods Hole as the 2026 Filmmaker In Residence after screening her directorial debut *Prime Minister* (2025) in last year's festival. *Prime Minister*—a

revealing portrait of former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern—premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, winning the World Cinema Documentary Audience Award.

In this masterclass, Lindsay Utz explores the creative exchange between directing and editing—and how each discipline shapes the other. Drawing on her work across films including *Prime Minister*, *American Factory*, and *Billie Eilish: The World's a Little Blurry*, she reveals how decisions made in the field directly inform the editorial process, and how the edit ultimately becomes a powerful act of authorship. Through clips and discussion, the session examines how structure is built, character is revealed, and meaning evolves over time.

Designed for directors and editors alike, this class offers a practical approach to thinking across both roles to create intentional, emotionally resonant films.

[Monday, July 27 | 2:00 PM at Woods Hole Community Hall, Woods Hole, MA](#)

PANEL – FROM INDIE TO OSCAR

Join Woods Hole Film Festival alumni for a candid conversation about the long, winding, and often surprising road from indie filmmaking to Oscar recognition.

This panel brings together a remarkable group of documentary artists whose work has been nominated for — and in several cases won — the Academy Award. The panelists represent a breadth of roles and approaches in the documentary world. **Kate Davis** and **David Heilbroner**, co-founders of the Woods Hole Film Festival itself, have built a body of work that has earned them a place in the Academy conversation. **Lindsay Utz** is an award-winning editor whose work on *American Factory* took her to the Oscar stage in 2020, when the film won Best Documentary Feature. **Doug Blush** is an AMPAS member whose producing and editing credits span multiple Oscar-winning documentaries, including *Icarus*, *Period. End of Sentence*, and *The Elephant Whisperers*. **Jason Spingarn-Koff**, formerly Director of Original Documentary programming at

Netflix, shepherded films including *My Octopus Teacher* and *The Last Repair Shop* to Academy glory. **Robin Hessman** is a filmmaker whose career has spanned decades of internationally recognized work, most recently as Executive Producer of *Mr. Nobody Against Putin*, winner of the 2026 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. And **Josh Seftel** is a two-time Oscar-nominated director, most recently recognized for *All the Empty Rooms*, a deeply human film about the families of school shooting victims.

Together, these filmmakers will pull back the curtain on what it means to navigate the awards landscape while staying true to independent storytelling — and what it looks like when the work you believe in gets recognized on the world's biggest stage.

[Tuesday, July 28 | 12:30 PM at Woods Hole Community Hall, Woods Hole, MA](#)

FILM AND SCIENCE PANEL – MAKING SCIENCE/CLIMATE-FOCUSED FILMS IN CHALLENGING TIMES

At a moment when scientific consensus is contested in the public square and climate stories face mounting political headwinds, how do filmmakers keep telling these essential stories — and getting them seen?

This panel brings together documentary filmmakers working at the intersection of science, climate, and storytelling for a frank conversation about the craft, the challenges, and the stakes of making science-focused films right now. From navigating skeptical audiences and shifting funding landscapes to finding the human stories that make complex data emotionally resonant, the panelists will explore what it takes to do this work with rigor, creativity, and urgency.

The conversation will be hosted by **Miles O'Brien**, one of America's most trusted science journalists. A veteran of nearly four decades in broadcasting, O'Brien serves as science correspondent for *PBS NewsHour* and is a producer, director, and correspondent for *NOVA* and

FRONTLINE. He has spent years documenting climate change and its consequences — and more recently, turning his lens toward solutions — making him an ideal guide for this discussion.

Whether you're a filmmaker grappling with how to frame a story about melting ice sheets, a scientist wondering how to collaborate with documentary makers, or simply someone who cares about how these stories reach the public, this panel offers rare, behind-the-scenes insight into one of the most important — and difficult — genres in independent film today.

[Thursday, July 30 | 2:00 PM at Woods Hole Community Hall, Woods Hole, MA](#)

PANEL – THE BUSINESS OF ACTING

Think you have what it takes to make it in the industry?

Join Angela Peri, founder of Boston Casting, as she pulls back the curtain on the real business of acting — from auditions and agents to building a sustainable career in film and television.

Whether you're just starting out or ready to take your craft to the next level, this session delivers the insider knowledge you need to navigate the industry with confidence. Don't miss one of the most anticipated panels of the festival!

[Friday, July 31 | 2:30 PM at Woods Hole Community Hall, Woods Hole, MA](#)

WORKSHOP – HOW TO REPURPOSE YOUR FILM... OR HOW NOT TO GET BURNED IN THE YOUTUBE FURNACE

What happens when a veteran documentary filmmaker decides to bet on himself— and build his own audience from scratch?

In 2021, with little roadmap and even less certainty about where it might lead, British documentary filmmaker **John Edginton** launched his own YouTube channel. He had a simple but pressing question: could YouTube offer documentary makers something real — new outlets, new audiences, new sources of funding — or was it just a furnace waiting to consume your hard-won work?

Five years later, he has his answer. The channel has grown to over 50,000 subscribers, and along the way Edginton has accumulated scores of hard-earned lessons about what works, what doesn't, and what no one tells you before you hit upload for the first time.

A veteran of the documentary world and a returning favorite at the Woods Hole Film Festival, Edginton brings a filmmaker's eye and a practitioner's candor to this conversation. He'll walk through the real experience of repurposing documentary content for digital platforms — the creative decisions, the algorithmic realities, the unexpected opportunities, and the traps that catch even experienced filmmakers off guard.

This is a must-attend session for any filmmaker wondering whether YouTube is a viable next chapter for their work — or anyone curious about what independent distribution actually looks like in 2025, without the gatekeepers.

You can explore John's channel at youtube.com/@JOHNEDGINTONDOCUMENTARIES.

[Thursday, July 30 | 12:00 PM at Woods Hole Community Hall, Woods Hole, MA](#)



Parties

AFTER HOURS

Where the Festival Comes Alive

The conversations don't end when the credits roll. Each night, the Woods Hole Film Festival transforms into a gathering place for filmmakers, audiences, and special guests to connect, celebrate, and keep the energy going. From waterfront parties and live local music to the Closing Night Awards Celebration, these events are where new friendships are formed, collaborations begin, and festival memories are made.

Whether you're dancing to a Cape Cod favorite, discussing a film you just discovered, or raising a glass with visiting filmmakers, **After Hours** offers a chance to experience the community spirit that has always been at the heart of the Woods Hole Film Festival.



Featured Events:

- [Opening Night Party with Super Soulshine](#)
- [Wednesday Night Party featuring Saltclouds](#)
- [Thursday Night Party with Pat Ryan & Olivia Yingling](#)
- [Friday Night Party featuring Paradise Rock Band](#)
- [Closing Night Party & Awards Celebration](#)

OPENING NIGHT PARTY WITH SUPER SOULSHINE

Kick Off the Festival in Style

Celebrate the launch of the annual Woods Hole Film Festival at our official Opening Night Party! Immediately following the opening night screening, head over to the iconic Captain Kidd for an unforgettable evening. Join filmmakers, film lovers, and special guests to swap stories, enjoy delicious local bites, and raise a glass to independent cinema.

Taking the stage is **Super Soulshine**, a premier Cape Cod-based band formed in 2012. Known for delivering high-energy performances that blend soulful originals with crowd-favorite covers, their sound is rooted in soul, rock, funk, reggae, and blues. They'll be creating the ultimate upbeat, feel-good atmosphere to keep you dancing from the first note to the last encore. It's the perfect kickoff to an incredible week of film!

[Saturday, July 25 | 10:30 PM at The Captain Kidd, Woods Hole, MA](#)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PARTY

Keep the Mid-Week Energy Rolling

Officially halfway through the festival! Celebrate the milestone at our Wednesday Night Party, hosted at the iconic **Captain Kidd**. It's the perfect mid-week opportunity to catch up with filmmakers, talk shop with fellow cinephiles, and enjoy great food and drinks in a relaxed waterfront setting.

Providing the night's soundtrack is **Saltclouds**, a dynamic band that brilliantly bridges the gap between the raw energy of indie and the nostalgic warmth of retro. Featuring seasoned veterans from acclaimed bands like *Elixir*, *The Oxford Drive Band*, *The Rhythm Method*, and *The Rhythm and Blues Conspiracy*, this powerhouse group delivers harmonies that are as powerful as they are soulful. Come for the films, stay for the music, and keep the festival vibes going strong!

[Wednesday, July 29 | 10:00 PM at The Captain Kidd, Woods Hole, MA](#)

THURSDAY NIGHT PARTY

The Weekend Warm-up

As we head into the final days of the festival, join us at **The Leaside** for our Thursday Night Party! It's the perfect spot to relax after a full day of screenings, compare notes on your favorite films, and swap stories with filmmakers and fellow film lovers.

Providing the perfect soundtrack for the evening is the dynamic acoustic duo **Pat Ryan and Olivia Yingling**. Blending soulful vocals and rich harmonies, Pat and Olivia bring emotional depth and spontaneity to an eclectic mix of classic favorites and modern hits. Drawing from jazz, rock, pop, and soul, their intimate yet energetic performance creates a feel-good atmosphere that is both personal and authentic. Stop by, grab a drink, and enjoy a wonderful night of music and community!

[Thursday, July 30 | 10:00 PM at The Leaside, Woods Hole, MA](#)

FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY

The Ultimate Friday Night Throwdown

The weekend has officially arrived, and we are celebrating in true local fashion! After Friday's incredible slate of films, join the festival crowd at Falmouth's legendary **Grumpy's Pub** for a fun unforgettable night of music, drinks, and dancing.

Taking the stage is none other than the **Paradise Rock Band**. Born right here in Woods Hole and named after the iconic rock off Stoney Beach, these hometown legends have been rocking Cape Cod since 1980. Get ready for a high-energy night packed with your favorite classic rock anthems from the Woodstock era and beyond. If you want a genuine taste of the Cape's local music scene, this is the party you can't miss!

[Friday, July 31 | 10:30 PM at Grumpy's Pub, Falmouth, MA](#)

THE GRAND FINALE: CLOSING NIGHT PARTY & AWARDS CELEBRATION

The Grand Finale: Closing Night Party & Awards Celebration

This is it—the ultimate night of the festival! After eight days of incredible independent cinema, it's time to crown the winners and celebrate the filmmakers. Join us for the official Closing Night Party and Awards Celebration, where we'll roll out the red carpet for a night of suspense, celebration, and pure fun. Bring your noise makers, bring your energy, and get ready to cheer on your favorite films as we announce the Jury, Audience, and Director's Choice awards! Complete with great food, celebratory drinks, and a room full of your festival friends, it's the perfect, high-voltage send-off to an unforgettable week.

[Saturday, August 1 | 10:00 PM at The Captain Kidd, Woods Hole, MA](#)
