



AUSTIN
SPOTLIGHT
FILM FEST
— 2026 —

— ★ —

OFFICIAL
PROGRAM

YOUR STORY. OUR STAGE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

SOUTHWEST THEATERS LAKE CREEK 7
AUSTIN, TX

Tickets: filmfreeway.com/austinspotlight

FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
SOUTHWEST THEATERS LAKE CREEK 7

	TIME	PROGRAM	RUNTIME
	1:00 PM – 2:12 PM	OPENING SHOWCASE	72 MIN
	2:12 PM – 2:30 PM	Q&A + AUDIENCE CHOICE	18 MIN
	2:45 PM – 3:45 PM	COMEDY & SHORT FORM	60 MIN
	3:45 PM – 4:00 PM	Q&A + AUDIENCE CHOICE	15 MIN
	4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	SPOTLIGHT FEATURE	60 MIN
	5:00 PM – 5:10 PM	FEATURE Q&A	10 MIN
	5:10 PM – 5:30 PM	SHORT SCREENPLAY Q&A	20 MIN
	5:30 PM – 5:50 PM	FEATURE SCREENPLAY Q&A	20 MIN
	5:50 PM – 6:00 PM	INTERMISSION	10 MIN
	6:00 PM – 7:12 PM	TWILIGHT SHOWCASE	72 MIN
	7:12 PM – 7:30 PM	Q&A + AUDIENCE CHOICE	18 MIN
	7:30 PM – 7:45 PM	BREAK	15 MIN
	7:45 PM – 8:50 PM	NARRATIVE COMPETITION – PART I	65 MIN
	8:50 PM – 9:00 PM	BREAK / SEATING	10 MIN
	9:00 PM – 10:07 PM	NARRATIVE COMPETITION – PART II	67 MIN
	10:07 PM – 10:30 PM	NARRATIVE Q&A + AUDIENCE CHOICE	23 MIN
	10:30 PM – 11:00 PM	AWARDS CEREMONY & GROUP PHOTO	30 MIN
	AFTER 11:00 PM	AFTER PARTY MIXER	—



TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT

AUSTINSPOTLIGHTFILMFESTIVAL.COM

BLOCK 1 | OPENING SHOWCASE

🕒 1:00 PM – 2:12 PM

🕒 72 MINUTES

TITLE	CATEGORY	RUNTIME	DIRECTOR(S)
Choices	Trailer	0:01:01	Brandon M. Glover
High Moon	Trailer	0:02:00	Sean Bridges
The Timika Show	Trailer	0:01:00	Timika Shay Mitchell, Funmi Ogunro
Stars Without Light	Trailer	0:04:28	Miriam Pinedo
What does it feel like to have ADHD?	Animation Short	0:01:00	Robert Glassford
King Karno	Animation Short	0:03:00	Richard Thompson
Just One Peek	Animation Short	0:04:50	MULAN FU
THE TASTE OF POWER	Documentary Short	0:03:35	Jacek Szymanski
"The Best Little Tiny Park in Texas"	Documentary Short	0:08:28	Margaret Barry
Rooted in Craft	Documentary Short	0:09:38	Richard Gordy
Realize	Music Video	0:04:12	Julianna Revilla, David Goodson
Love Myself	Music Video	0:03:31	Jeff Hilliard
Find My Way	Music Video	0:02:53	Daniel Castillo
Deer Fellow - Beautiful Gray	Music Video	0:04:41	Noah Griffin
The What Four - Long Way To Go	Music Video	0:02:57	Julius Charles Ritter
My Fantasy	Music Video	0:05:57	Jack Wilkinson
Make Believe	Music Video	0:03:45	David Wells, Jimmy Lindsey, ASC, Ruthie Craft



Q&A WITH OPENING SHOWCASE FILMMAKERS

🕒 2:12 PM – 2:30 PM | 🕒 18 MINUTES

Meet the filmmakers, ask questions, and hear the stories behind the films!

🕒 2:12 PM – 2:30 PM



AUDIENCE CHOICE

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

BLOCK 2 | COMEDY & SHORT FORM SHOWCASE

🕒 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

🕒 60 MINUTES

TITLE	CATEGORY	RUNTIME	DIRECTOR(S)
Birth	Micro Short	0:01:58	Jumana Radi
Key Suspect	Micro Short	0:01:35	Vivek Pranavamurthi
Incestry.com: Trace Your Roots	Micro Short	0:03:00	Tyler Council
Security	Micro Short	0:01:59	Max Hudetz
Home Coming	Micro Short	0:03:12	Mei Tao
Not So Lonesome	Micro Short	0:03:14	Kevin Barton
Jamba-Liar	Comedy Short	0:06:51	Miriam Pinedo
"TODAY ONLY!"	Comedy Short	0:04:50	David Breckman
The Wire On Willie	Comedy Short	0:09:03	Zach Machen
THE INTERVIEW	Comedy Short	0:11:43	Sheilava
Frank & Beans	Comedy Short	0:09:58	Eric Gonzales



Q&A WITH COMEDY & SHORT FORM FILMMAKERS

🕒 3:45 PM – 4:00 PM | 🕒 Laugh, learn, and chat with the filmmakers!

🕒 3:45 PM – 4:00 PM



AUDIENCE CHOICE

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



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BLOCK 3 | SPOTLIGHT FEATURE FILM

🕒 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

🕒 60 MINUTES

TITLE	CATEGORY	RUNTIME	DIRECTOR(S)
<i>Inertia</i>	Narrative Feature	0:60:00	Jackson Kibby
🎤	FEATURE Q&A	5:00 PM – 5:10 PM	10 MIN
📄	SHORT SCREENPLAY Q&A	5:10 PM – 5:30 PM	20 MIN
📄	FEATURE SCREENPLAY Q&A	5:30 PM – 5:50 PM	20 MIN
🍿	INTERMISSION	5:50 PM – 6:00 PM	10 MIN

BLOCK 4 | TWILIGHT SHOWCASE

🕒 6:00 PM – 7:12 PM

🕒 72 MINUTES

TITLE	CATEGORY	RUNTIME	DIRECTOR(S)
<i>No One Bats an Eye</i>	Arthouse Short (Student)	0:04:57	Liam Parry
<i>A Wound Breeds Flowers</i>	Arthouse Short	0:03:48	Melanie Elise
<i>How Did You Like the Book?</i>	Arthouse Short	0:04:49	Sean Zhao
<i>The Oldest</i>	Arthouse Short	0:09:48	Cathlin McCullough
<i>Chocolate Milk</i>	Horror Short	0:06:48	Wyatt Whipple
<i>Snake Eyes</i>	Horror Short	0:08:44	Costantino Ciminiello
<i>Mike Should Have Stayed Home Tonight (MA)</i>	Horror Short	0:14:58	Spencer Joseph
<i>Lullaby</i>	Horror Short	0:09:57	Drew Schwemer
<i>Arson</i>	Horror Short	0:09:41	Erin Broussard
🎤	Q&A WITH TWILIGHT FILMMAKERS + AUDIENCE CHOICE	7:12 PM – 7:30 PM	18 MIN
🍹	BREAK	7:30 PM – 7:45 PM	15 MIN

BLOCK 5 | NARRATIVE COMPETITION – PART I

🕒 7:45 PM – 8:50 PM

🕒 65 MINUTES

TITLE	CATEGORY	RUNTIME	DIRECTOR(S)
<i>Hold Still</i>	Narrative Short	0:10:15	Rob Sheehy
<i>Poachers</i>	Narrative Short (Student)	0:11:06	Zach Parker
<i>Self-Help</i>	Narrative Short	0:14:12	Cody Leveski
<i>J.J.</i>	Narrative Short	0:14:40	Adam Dietrich, Elliott Gilbert
<i>Should We Do It?</i>	Narrative Short	0:11:00	Yuqi Sun
🍿	BREAK / SEATING	8:50 PM – 9:00 PM	10 MIN



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BLOCK 6 | NARRATIVE COMPETITION – PART II

🕒 9:00 PM – 10:07 PM | 🕒 67 MINUTES

TITLE	CATEGORY	RUNTIME	DIRECTOR(S)
<i>Fatal Mistake</i>	Narrative Short	0:11:29	Lauren Lewis
<i>Insensible Losses</i>	Narrative Short	0:08:20	Amanda Williams
<i>El Bohemio Dorado</i>	Narrative Short	0:05:23	Samantha Aldana
<i>Those Who Love Me Will Follow Me</i>	Narrative Short (Student)	0:17:58	Alessandro Giovanni Lunghi
<i>Sick Enough</i>	Narrative Short	0:14:59	Allegra Venturi
OPENING DAY	Narrative Short	0:09:45	Max Isaac Sackett



NARRATIVE Q&A + AUDIENCE CHOICE

🕒 10:07 PM – 10:30 PM | 🕒 23 MINUTES

Live discussion with the filmmakers. Then it's your turn — vote for your favorite film!



AUDIENCE CHOICE

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



AWARDS CEREMONY

🕒 10:30 PM – 11:00 PM | 🕒 30 MINUTES

Celebrating outstanding films, screenplays, and the amazing artists who make this community shine.



GROUP PHOTO

🕒 11:00 PM

All filmmakers, judges, and special guests — let's capture the 10th year together!



AFTER-PARTY MIXER

🕒 AFTER 11:00 PM

Keep the conversations going. Filmmakers, attendees, and special guests are all welcome!



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COMEDY SHORT SCREENPLAY

Old Sycamore	Ellis Lee Neary
Ruff Ruff Rapture Care	David R. Schleicher, Michelle Morgan
Two Lesbians and Their Dog Max	Alyssa Hawkinson, David R. Schleicher
Lemuel's Chariot	Kristofer R. Schleicher, David R. Schleicher
Lumen (working title)	Michael Napisa



HORROR SHORT SCREENPLAY

BE MY BABY	Lynda Hilliker
For Dad	Maddie Smith
Welcome To The Night	Rickey Dawkins
Coercion	Liam Mathison Farmer
A Bad Day in Hell	David R. Schleicher, Bradyn Braziel
The Mowers	Liam Mathison Farmer



NARRATIVE SHORT SCREENPLAY

Making Up	David Austin Veal
Mirror Mirror	Saskia Lynge
BUTCHER	Michele Love Santoro
Roses are Red	Leah Gabriel
The Pixel Cartel	Robert A Breedlove
A Small Living Thing	Thadeus Kevin Brown
Upstate	Theo Stockman
Drag Queen Story Hour	Jackie Shelton
Laundry	Nathan Carr Westfall
Crush	Laurie Gamble
ATTU	John Norris Ray
Exit Interview	Skyler Gray
Fruit de Mer	John Christopher Klauder



TV PILOT SCREENPLAY (LONG FORM)

Family Business	Karie Evans
Sass	andrea marion
Belgium	Andrea Marion
Black Asphalt	Kelly Wiseman
F.O.M.O Squad	Michael Dennis Estrella
Free Florida	Steven Nemerovski
Sharon	Kirill Naumov
Trillionairess	Giulie Speziani
OXY	Tony Blankenship
Love's History	Dale Brandenburg
No Shortcut to Freedom	Rita Cornelia Reinecker
Normal and Other Sins	Molly J Waterman
MindState	Pamela D Williams, Njema Williams
SHADOW SERVICE	David Bryant Perkins
Project Bloodborne	Jason D Cundiff
When We Were Young	Nicholas J. Penkala
Trinity West	MG Hardie
Vintrospection	Lisa Nagy Isaacson
New Religion	Galen Ryan Kane
Taming Wildcats	John Christopher Klauder, Christine Berardo Klauder
The Last Town Hall	Monte Albers de Leon
FURY ISLAND	SCOTT DANIEL WHEELER



TV PILOT SCREENPLAY (SHORT FORM)

Uncle Dave's	JC Best	Swan Valley (Working Title)	John Rider
Lucky?	Tom E. Nicholson	Birdies	Tara Kaye Burgh
eMpTy	Kato Buss	Accidental Assassins Pilot	Evan Elise Owens
Throuple Trouble	Avory Alexander Bays	Chubbies	Jeremy Ray Burchard
BiggsFaithexe 30 min Pilot	Bongo Jack Hooper)	Tattys	Bobby Tarron, Dustin Valenta
Unchosen Ones	John Bakker	York	Jamie Charleston
Relatable	Arjuna Mahenthiran		
DEAD EAST "Nippon Flight 319"	Paul Alan Gober		



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OFFICIAL SELECTION
SCREENPLAYS

FEATURE SCREENPLAYS, SHORT SCREENPLAYS & TV PILOTS



COMEDY FEATURE SCREENPLAY

MOTHERSHIP	Joseph Michael Leone
Incoherent Ramblings of a Disillusioned Sycophant	Steven Michael Rodriguez
Best Friends Forever	Samuel James Ater
Neurodivergint	Anney Kat Klein
Big Rig Karl	Trevor J. Miller
Not So Alone	Emma Prescott
Car Wash II: Don't Quit Your Day Job	Tony W Bennett
VOODOO VALENTINOS	Michael Louis Gould
Love Somebody	CJ Colando
The Trencherman	Ryan Clarke
Ghost of the Highway	Ryan Clarke
Mogul	Eric Escanelas
The Gospel According To Chad	Liam Mathison Farmer
The Roosevelt	Beau Adams
Unleashed	Allison M Sullivan



NARRATIVE FEATURE SCREENPLAY

Death in Poland	Grant Huffman
Kanawha	Robert D Palmer
CODE: 143	Emma Prescott, Kyler Prescott
7 The Legend	Randall Paul Swearingen
Long Dead	Chad Jackson
Golden Slumbers	MP Soldo
Surf City	Robert A Breedlove
CAINE	Eduardo Muniz, Danilo Moraes
The Cow	Jonathan Face
Shadow Self	Tom Zimmerman
Joan Bressler Set in Philadelphia Screenwriting Competition (SIP)	Linda J Collier
After the Sirens Fade	J Vantor, William Suit
What Waters Stain the Innocent	Eric Jared Cook
MINA	Negar Saddigh
Half-Day	Zen Zielke
Entanglements	Amelia Kaya Kazmierczak
LUPAE	Jean Kim Messin
Green Falcons	Patricio O'Donnell
Till the Sun Grows Cold	John Bebout
Transference	Jackie Shelton
Crossroads Texas	Marcus Miller
The Strong	Joshua Rutherford
CLOUD ZERO	Julie Lilly-Belote, Michael Schultz, Duane Humeyestewa
Cracker Jax	Peter William Hassinger
HUMAN	Hüseyin KÜÇÜK
Brink	Beau Adams
The Foundling	Elizabeth Rackley
Bulowville	Beau Adams
Dolla Bill	Anthony Cross
MONTY	Negar Saddigh, Rocsana Saddigh
HEARTSTONE	Michael Williams
Echo Protocol	Ali Muhana
THE MAN WHO BEAT MARK SPITZ	David Bryant Perkins
Themselves	Penelope Kate Pena
Lord High Executioner	Grant Huffman
Nothing But the Truth	Rebecca Abigail Clark
Notas Del Cielo	Manuel Antonio Cantu
Holy Cow, I'm In Love	Jeff Brazzle
Richard Spong	Terry Luke Podnar
The Empire of the Little Ones	Alejandro Karam
Souled Weight	Adonis Joseph Anthony
The Connecting Betrayal Part One and Part Two	Nobuko Rosenberg
SOCIABLE WEIRDO	Myrta Viokari



HORROR FEATURE SCREENPLAY

Bitchlorette	Randi Krasny
Feral Mountains	Terry Luke Podnar
Kooshma	Seth Beaugh
Spoon-fed Addiction	Silvano Williams
Crow Girl	Tabitha Potts
North of the Vineyards	Garrett William Grundman
Old Green Eyes	C.S. Simpson
The Hunter Within	Lamar D. Vine
The Shed	Siobhan Finkielman
Lord Of The Tank	David Charles Rivera
Mediocres	Alejandro Karam
Cursed Beachfront	Yelitza Prada
Recess	Matthew Valvardi
Monsters	Dominic Anthony



TV PILOT SCREENPLAYS (SHORT FORM)

Uncle Dave's	JC Best	Swan Valley (Working Title)	John Rider
Lucky?	Tom E. Nicholson	Birdies	Tara Kaye Burgh
eMpTy	Kato Buss	Accidental Assassins Pilot	Evan Elise Owens
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