



AUSTIN

SPOTLIGHT



FILM FEST

— 2026 —

OFFICIAL
PROGRAM



Your Story. Our Stage.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

SOUTHWEST THEATERS LAKE CREEK 7

13729 RESEARCH BLVD #1500

AUSTIN, TX 78750



TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT

AUSTINSPOTLIGHTFILMFESTIVAL.COM



AUSTIN SPOTLIGHT FILM FEST — 2026 —



FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

	TIME	PROGRAM	RUNTIME
	1:00 PM – 2:05 PM	OPENING SHOWCASE	65 MIN
	2:05 PM – 2:20 PM	Q&A + AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT	15 MIN
	2:45 PM – 3:55 PM	COMEDY & SHORT FORM SHOWCASE	70 MIN
	3:55 PM – 4:10 PM	Q&A + AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT	15 MIN
	4:10 PM – 4:25 PM	INTERMISSION	15 MIN
	4:30 PM – 6:00 PM	SPOTLIGHT FEATURE FILM + Q&A	90 MIN
	6:00 PM – 6:10 PM	BREAK	10 MIN
	6:10 PM – 7:20 PM	TWILIGHT SHOWCASE	70 MIN
	7:20 PM – 7:40 PM	Q&A WITH TWILIGHT FILMMAKERS	20 MIN
	7:40 PM – 8:00 PM	REFRESHMENT BREAK	20 MIN
	8:00 PM – 9:00 PM	NARRATIVE COMPETITION – PART I	60 MIN
	9:10 PM – 10:10 PM	NARRATIVE COMPETITION – PART II	60 MIN
	10:10 PM – 10:25 PM	Q&A WITH NARRATIVE FILMMAKERS	15 MIN
	10:25 PM – 10:40 PM	SHORT SCREENPLAY Q&A	15 MIN
	10:40 PM – 11:00 PM	FEATURE SCREENPLAY Q&A	20 MIN
	11:00 PM – 11:30 PM	AWARDS CEREMONY & GROUP PHOTO	30 MIN
	11:30 PM – LATE	AFTER-PARTY MIXER	—



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BLOCK 1

OPENING SHOWCASE

1:00 PM – 2:05 PM

65 MINUTES

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

BLOCK 2

COMEDY & SHORT FORM SHOWCASE

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM

90 MINUTES

#	TITLE	CATEGORY	RUNTIME	DIRECTOR(S)
17	Birth	Micro Short	0:01:58	Jumana Radi
18	I Know I Can Crawl	Micro Short	0:00:50	Mayer Stanley
19	Key Suspect	Micro Short	0:01:35	Vivek Pranavamurthi
20	Incestry.com: Trace Your Roots	Micro Short	0:03:00	Tyler Council
21	Security	Micro Short	0:01:59	Max Hudetz
22	Home Coming	Micro Short	0:03:12	Mei Tao
23	Not So Lonesome	Micro Short	0:03:14	Kevin Barton
24	Jamba-Liar	Comedy Short	0:06:51	Miriam Pinedo
25	“TODAY ONLY!”	Comedy Short	0:04:50	David Breckman
26	The Wire On Willie	Comedy Short	0:09:03	Zach Machen
27	THE INTERVIEW	Comedy Short	0:11:43	Sheilava
28	Three Arugula Salads	Comedy Short	0:11:34	Laura Messer Jackson
29	Frank & Beans	Comedy Short	0:09:58	Eric Gonzales



BLOCK 4 | **TWILIGHT SHOWCASE** 6:10 PM – 7:20 PM | 70 MINUTES



🕒 7:20 PM – 7:40 PM | 🕒 20 MINUTES



**AUDIENCE CHOICE
AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT**

BLOCK 5 | **NARRATIVE COMPETITION – PART I** ⌚ 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM | ⌚ 60 MINUTES



REFRESHMENT BREAK

🕒 9:00 PM – 9:10 PM | 🕒 10 MINUTES



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BLOCK 6

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NARRATIVE COMPETITION – PART II

🕒 9:10 PM – 10:10 PM

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🕒 60 MINUTES

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



Q&A WITH NARRATIVE FILMMAKERS

🕒 10:10 PM – 10:25 PM | 🕒 15 MINUTES



AUDIENCE CHOICE
AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT



SHORT SCREENPLAY Q&A

🕒 10:25 PM – 10:40 PM | 🕒 15 MINUTES

Live discussion with selected short screenplay writers.



FEATURE SCREENPLAY Q&A

🕒 10:40 PM – 11:00 PM | 🕒 20 MINUTES

Live discussion with selected feature screenplay writers.



AWARDS CEREMONY

🕒 11:00 PM – 11:30 PM | 🕒 30 MINUTES

Celebrating outstanding films and storytellers.



GROUP PHOTO

🕒 11:30 PM

All filmmakers, judges, and special guests.



AFTER-PARTY MIXER

🕒 11:40 PM – LATE

Keep the conversations going. All are welcome.

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		



OFFICIAL SELECTION

SCREENPLAYS

FEATURE SCREENPLAYS

YOUR STORY.
OUR STAGE.

COMEDY FEATURE SCREENPLAY	
MOTHERSHIP	Joseph Michael Leone
Incoherent Ramblings of a Disillusioned Sycophant	Steven Michael Rodriguez
Best Friends Forever	Samuel James Ater
Neurodivirgint	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

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
Notas Del Cielo	Manuel Antonio Cantu
Mediocres	Alejandro Karam
Cursed Beachfront	Yelitza Prada
Recess	Matthew Valvardi
Monsters	Dominic Anthony

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
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	Vivianne Rosenberg
SOCIABLE WEIRDO	Nobuko Hokari
What The Boy Couldn't Say	Myrta Vida

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