



## **SXSW ANNOUNCES 2026 FILM & TV FESTIVAL OPENING NIGHT TV PREMIERE AND INITIAL LINEUP**

*David E. Kelley's Apple TV Series **Margo's Got Money Troubles** Opening  
Night TV Premiere*

*Feature and Episodic Highlights Include Jorma Taccone's **Over Your Dead  
Body**; Jonás Cuarón's **Campeón Gabacho**; Victoria Strouse's **Seekers of  
Infinite Love**; Kyra Sedgwick and Kevin Bacon's **Family Movie**; Deon  
Taylor's **Drift**; Doug Blush and Piero F. Giunti's **Los Lobos Native Sons**;  
AMC's **The Audacity***

[Press Accreditation](#) Deadline Friday, February 13 at 11:59 pm CT  
Film Stills can be found [here](#)

**Austin, Texas, January 14, 2026** – South by Southwest® (SXSW®) Conference and Festivals unveiled today an extensive wave of programming for the highly anticipated 33rd edition of the Film & TV Festival, which for the first time will open on a Thursday evening and conclude on a Wednesday, spanning March 12–18, 2026. Featuring a momentous Opening Night TV Premiere alongside an equally stellar slate of Feature Films, TV projects, and XR projects, the Film & TV Festival draws thousands of fans, creators, press, and industry leaders to celebrate inventive storytelling, cultural discovery, and boundary-pushing screen experiences.

The 2026 SXSW Film & TV Festival's Opening Night TV Premiere is the eagerly anticipated Apple TV series *Margo's Got Money Troubles* from Emmy-winning producer David E. Kelley.

Based on the best-selling novel by Rufi Thorpe, *Margo's Got Money Troubles* is a bold, heartwarming and comedic family drama featuring an all-star cast including Elle Fanning as Margo, a recent college dropout and aspiring writer who is forced to make her way with a new baby, a mounting pile of bills and a dwindling amount of ways to pay them, Michelle Pfeiffer and Nick Offerman as Margo's ex-Hooter's waitress mom and ex-pro-wrestler dad, alongside Nicole Kidman, Thaddea Graham, Oscar winner Marcia Gay Harden, Oscar and Emmy Award-winner Greg

Kinnear, Michael Angarano, Rico Nasty and Lindsey Normington. The series will premiere at SXSW ahead of its global debut on Apple TV on April 15, 2026.

"David E. Kelley's *Margo's Got Money Troubles* has pure SXSW energy and is the perfect match for our Opening Night TV Premiere slot," said Claudette Godfrey, VP Film & TV. "Elle Fanning is absolutely magnetic as Margo, and Michelle Pfeiffer delivers a performance that reminds you why she's an absolute legend. The mother-daughter dynamic these two create together is going to really get people talking. Nick Offerman will catch people completely off guard, as will the rest of the incredibly impressive cast. With its killer soundtrack, genuine heart, and sharp attitude and edge, this show captures the exact spirit that makes SXSW special and the bold, distinctive storytelling we love to open with!"

Feature films in the SXSW 2026 lineup screen in the following categories: Headliner; Narrative Feature Competition presented by Kickstarter; Documentary Feature Competition; Narrative Spotlight; Documentary Spotlight; Visions; Midnighter; Global presented by MUBI; 24 Beats Per Second, and Festival Favorite.

The TV program consists of TV Premiere and the Independent TV Pilot Competition. The SXSW 2026 Shorts Film Program will present six competitive sections: Narrative Short Competition, Documentary Short Competition, Animated Short Competition, Midnight Short Competition, Texas Short Competition, and Music Video Competition. XR Experience Competition, XR Spotlight and XR Special Event programming round out the Film & TV Festival program. All Categories will be eligible for section-specific Audience Awards.

Thus far, the 2026 Film & TV lineup includes 58 Features including 49 World Premieres, 3 North American Premieres, 3 U.S. Premiere, 2 Texas Premieres + 52 Short Films and 20 Music Videos. The TV Program includes 9 TV projects, with 3 TV premieres and 6 Independent TV Pilots. There are 29 projects in the XR Experience Program, including 17 in XR Experience Competition, 11 in XR Experience Spotlight and 1 XR Experience Special Event. The rest of the Film & TV Festival lineup will be announced in mid-February.

"We're thrilled to unveil the first round of exciting projects joining our Opening Night Film, *I Love Boosters* for SXSW 2026!" said Claudette Godfrey, VP Film & TV. "From bold indies and can't-miss studio events to genre-bending thrillers and sharp comedies, from revelatory documentaries and innovative series to immersive XR and international discoveries—this year's program is packed with the kind of storytelling our audiences love. We can't wait to welcome filmmakers and movie lovers to Austin for another remarkable year of screenings at SXSW!"

## **FILM PROGRAM**

### **HEADLINER**

Big names, big talent featuring red carpet premieres and gala film events with major and rising names in cinema.

### ***I Love Boosters***

Director/Screenwriter: Boots Riley, Producers: Aaron Ryder, Andrew Swett, Allison Rose Carter, Jon Read, Boots Riley

A crew of professional shoplifters take aim at a cutthroat fashion maven. It's like community service. *Cast: Keke Palmer, Naomi Ackie, Taylour Paige, Poppy Liu, Eiza González, LaKeith Stanfield, Will Poulter, Demi Moore* (World Premiere)

### ***Mike & Nick & Nick & Alice***

Director/Screenwriter: BenDavid Grabinski, Producer: Andrew Lazar

A hilarious, stylized, R-rated action-comedy about two gangsters and the woman they love trying to survive the most dangerous night of their lives. As if that wasn't enough, there's one wild ingredient added to the mix: a time machine. *Cast: Vince Vaughn, James Marsden, Eiza González, Keith David, Jimmy Tatro, Stephen Root, Lewis Tan, Ben Schwartz, Emily Hampshire, Arturo Castro* (World Premiere)

### ***Over Your Dead Body***

Director: Jorma Taccone, Producers: Kelly McCormick, David Leitch, Lee Kim, Guy Danella, Nick Spicer, Aram Tertzakian, Screenwriters: Nick Kocher, Brian McElhaney

A dysfunctional couple head to a remote cabin to supposedly reconnect, but each has secret plans to kill the other. *Cast: Samara Weaving, Jason Segel, Timothy Olyphant, Juliette Lewis, Paul Guilfoyle, Keith Jardine* (World Premiere)

### ***Ready or Not 2: Here I Come***

Directors: Matt Bettinelli-Olpin, Tyler Gillett, Producers: Tripp Vinson, James Vanderbilt, William Sherak, Bradley J. Fischer, Screenwriters: Guy Busick, R. Christopher Murphy

After surviving the Le Domas attack, Grace faces the next level of the deadly game – now with her estranged sister Faith. With four rival families hunting them, Grace must survive, protect her sister, and claim the High Seat that rules it all. *Cast: Samara Weaving, Kathryn Newton, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Shawn Hatosy, Néstor Carbonell, David Cronenberg, Elijah Wood* (World Premiere)

### ***They Will Kill You***

Director: Kirill Sokolov, Producers: Andy Muschietti, Barbara Muschietti, Dan Kagan, Screenwriters: Kirill Sokolov, Alex Litvak

A high-octane horror-action-comedy in which a woman must survive the night at the Virgil, a demonic cult's mysterious, twisted death-trap, before becoming their next offering in a uniquely brazen battle of epic kills and wickedly dark humor. *Cast: Zazie Beetz, Myha'La, Paterson Joseph, Tom Felton, Heather Graham, Patricia Arquette* (World Premiere)

## **NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION Presented by Kickstarter**

World premieres showcasing the art of storytelling by emerging voices.

*Thank you to our sponsor Kickstarter, the leading crowdfunding and launch platform for creative projects of every size, for supporting the Narrative Feature Competition Film Screening section.*

### **Brian**

Director: Will Ropp, Producers: Thomas Mahoney, Casey Hanley, Will Ropp, Screenwriter: Mike Scollins

An acerbic high school student prone to panic attacks runs for class president to get closer to the teacher he's hopelessly in love with. *Cast: Ben Wang, William H. Macy, Edi Patterson, Randall Park, Natalie Morales, Joshua Colley, Sophia Macy, Peyton Elizabeth Lee, Thomas Barbusca, Jacob Moskovitz* (World Premiere)

### **Edie Arnold is a Loser**

Directors: Megan Rico, Kade Atwood, Screenwriter: Megan Rico, Producer: Bryson Alejandro  
Timid dork Edie accidentally makes waves when she starts a punk band with her fellow "turds," becoming an icon to the rest of the losers at her Catholic school while pissing off the hot girls, the nuns, and the horniest altar boy you've ever seen. *Cast: Adi Madden Cabrera, McKenna Tuckett, Cherish Rodriguez, Niki Rahimi, Alexa Paige, Luseane Pasa, Star Herrmann, Alana Mei Kern, Gabe Root, Lucas Van Orden* (World Premiere)

### **Mallory's Ghost**

Director/Screenwriter: Arabella Oz, Producer: Claire Sinofsky

An insecure young woman becomes convinced that she is being haunted by the ghost of her boyfriend's ex-lover and muse. *Cast: Arabella Oz, Nick Canellakis, Anjelica Bosboom, Delphi Harrington, Shahjehan Khan, Evangeline Beasley* (World Premiere)

### **Plantman & Blondie: A Dress Up Gang Film**

Director: Robb Boardman, Producers: Mark Ankner, Robb Boardman, Cory Loykasek, Donny Divanian, Frankie Quinones, Jay Patumanoan, Adam Karm, Ben Wagner, Screenwriters: Robb Boardman, Cory Loykasek, Donny Divanian, Frankie Quinones

A lonely man escapes working from home when he meets Plantman...a mysterious man saving the neglected house plants of Los Angeles. *Cast: Cory Loykasek, Donny Divanian, Frankie Quinones, Kate Berlant, Blake Anderson, Kirk Fox, Brent Weinbach, Jamar Neighbors, Christian Duguay, Kevin Camia* (World Premiere)

### **Seahorse** (Canada)

Director/Screenwriter: Aisha Evelyn, Producer: Natalie Remplakowski

A struggling sous chef's pursuit of stability is tested by the return of her estranged father, now living on the streets of Toronto. *Cast: Aisha Evelyn, Ruth Goodwin, Brett Donahue, Joseph Marcell, Alden Adair* (World Premiere)

**Sender**

Director/Screenwriter: Russell Goldman, Producers: Jamie Lee Curtis, Molly Hallam, Jake Katofsky

After receiving a series of unwanted packages containing unnervingly targeted items, a woman tumbles down a paranoid rabbit hole to find her mysterious sender. *Cast: Britt Lower, Rhea Seehorn, Jamie Lee Curtis, Anna Baryshnikov, David Dastmalchian, Utkarsh Ambudkar, Mike Mitchell, Edward Torres, Alyssa Limperis, Inger Stratton* (World Premiere)

**The Snake** (Canada)

Director: Jenna MacMillan, Producers: Sharlene Kelly, Melani Wood, Screenwriter: Susan Kent  
When an ungovernable 40 something wild child collides with her venomous mother, her life blows up spectacularly leaving her newly evicted, partially single, and in bed with her best friend's husband. *Cast: Susan Kent, Robin Duke, Jonathan Torrens, Emma Hunter, Daniel Petronijevic, Jimbo, Kim Roberts, Kenny Robinson, Jacqueline Robbins, Joyce Robbins* (World Premiere)

**Wishful Thinking**

Director/Screenwriter: Graham Parkes, Producers: Matt Smith, Dan Gedman, Kara Durrett, Lewis Pullman

When a volatile couple discovers their emotional state has supernatural consequences on the world around them, they must decide whether to fight for their relationship or accept that their powerful connection might be doing more harm than good. *Cast: Lewis Pullman, Maya Hawke, Randall Park, Jake Shane, Kate Berlant, Amita Rao, Eric Rahill* (World Premiere)

**DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION**

World premieres of captivating, real stories by emerging voices.

**The Ascent**

Directors: Edward Drake, Scott Veltri, Francis Cronin, Producers: Edward Drake, Scott Veltri  
*The Ascent* is the inspiring true story of Colorado Springs bilateral-amputee climber Mandy Horvath's record-breaking attempt to crawl to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro and the mysterious circumstances under which she lost her legs at the age of 21. *Featuring Mandy Horvath, Julius John White aka 'Whitey', Carel Verhoef, Sally Grayson* (World Premiere)

**The Last Critic**

Director: Matty Wishnow, Producers: Paul Lovelace, Ben Wu  
Robert Christgau, The Dean of American Rock Critics, whose work has inspired & infuriated readers for sixty years, is still at it in his eighties—grading records, interrogating commas & listening to absolutely everything (except Metal & Prog). *Featuring Robert Christgau, Carola Dibbell, Thurston Moore, Boots Riley, Randy Newman, Colson Whitehead, Ann Powers, Joe Levy, Amanda Petrusich, Greil Marcus* (World Premiere)

**The Life We Leave**

Director: JJ Gerber, Producers: Clementine Briand, Ann Rogers, Melanie Miller, JJ Gerber

When Washington legalizes human composting, entrepreneur Micah bets everything on a new vision of deathcare. With funeral directors Brie and Katey, he builds the first large-scale terramation facility, reshaping how we grieve and return to the Earth. (World Premiere)

### ***My NDA***

Directors: Juliane Dressner, Miriam Shor, Producers: Elizabeth Woodward, Hanna Gray Organschi, Juliane Dressner, Miriam Shor

Three people bound by non-disclosure agreements face extreme personal risk to expose how a simple intellectual property contract is weaponized to silence, manipulate and control. (World Premiere)

### ***Phoenix Jones: The Rise and Fall of a Real Life Superhero***

Director: Bayan Joonam, Producers: Claire Chubbuck, Marlowe Blue, Duncan Dickerson  
Phoenix Jones is a real life superhero who fights crime on the streets of Seattle, but a recent arrest calls his motives into question. *Featuring Phoenix Jones, Rainn Wilson, Jon Ronson, Midnight Jack, Freedom Fodor, Caros Fodor, Ryan McNamee, Ghost, Lance Coulter, El Caballero* (World Premiere)

### ***Stormbound***

Director: Miko Lim, Producers: Trevor Jones, Miko Lim, Adam McKay, Todd Schulman, John Turner

Go inside the eye of the hurricane and the life of one of America's top stormchasers. Utilizing a 30-year archive and a new storm season set to be deadlier than ever, Jeff Gammons' search for the ultimate shot could see him chase his final storm. *Featuring Jeff Gammons, Sara Gammons* (World Premiere)

### ***Summer 2000: The X-Cetra Story***

Director: Ayden Mayeri, Producers/Screenwriters: Ayden Mayeri, Barry Rothbart  
Four friends reunite when the album they made as pre-teens becomes a cult hit on the internet and scores a record deal twenty years later. Together, they revisit their friendship and early 2000s girlhood. *Featuring Ayden Mayeri, Jessica Hall, Janet Kariuki, Mary Washburn, Robin O'Brien* (World Premiere)

### ***#WhileBlack***

Directors: Sidney Fussell, Jennifer Holness, Producers: Ann Shin, Mariam Bastani, Screenwriters: Ann Shin, Jennifer Holness, Sidney Fussell  
Darnella Frazier, who filmed George Floyd's death, steps forward in this powerful documentary on viral videos that ignited global movements revealing the cost of going viral while Black: trolls, surveillance, and platforms that profit from pain. *Featuring Darnella Frazier, Diamond Reynolds, Matthew Cagle, Matthew Mitchell, Safiya Noble, Allissa Richardson* (World Premiere)

### **NARRATIVE SPOTLIGHT**

Unforgettable features receiving their World, North American, or U.S. premieres.

### ***Campeón Gabacho*** (Mexico)

Director: Jonás Cuarón, Producers: Gabriela Rodríguez, Alfonso Cuarón, Jonás Cuarón, Nicolás Celis, Screenwriters: Jonás Cuarón, Aura Xilonen

*Campeón Gabacho* tells the story of Liborio, a spirited Mexican migrant who fights, literally and figuratively, for a better life in the United States, punching through prejudice with heart, humor, and hope to become an unlikely hero. *Cast: Juan Daniel García Treviño, Leslie Grace, Rubén Blades, Eddie Marsan, Rosario Dawson, Cheech Marin, Marvin Jones III, Carlos Carrasco, Dolores Heredia* (World Premiere)

### ***Downbeat***

Director: Danny Madden, Producer: Benjamin Wiessner, Screenwriters: Danny Madden, Daniel Rashid, Addie Weyrich, Arkira Chantaratananond

Fleeing mistakes in Atlanta, Mauro crashes on his sister's couch in Boston. He takes to bucket drumming on the streets for a way out, but can't stop screwing things up and drawing everyone else into his own feral shortcomings. *Cast: Daniel Rashid, Addie Weyrich, Arkira Chantaratananond* (World Premiere)

### ***Family Movie***

Directors: Kyra Sedgwick, Kevin Bacon, Producers: Kevin Bacon, Kyra Sedgwick, Sosie Bacon, Travis Bacon, Vince Jolivette, Casey Durant, Greg Lauritano, Russell Wayne Groves, Screenwriter: Dan Beers

A filmmaking family's low-budget horror movie turns into a real-life slasher when a dead body shows up on set. Chaos ensues as the Smiths fight to keep the production on track. After all - the show must go on! *Cast: Kevin Bacon, Kyra Sedgwick, Sosie Bacon, Travis Bacon, Liza Koshy, John Carroll Lynch, Jackie Earle Haley, Andrea Savage, Austin Amelio, Scoot McNairy* (World Premiere)

### ***Forbidden Fruits***

Director: Meredith Alloway, Producers: Mason Novick, Mary Anne Waterhouse, Diablo Cody, Trent Hubbard, Screenwriters: Meredith Alloway, Lily Houghton

Free Eden employee Apple leads a secret witch cult with coworkers Cherry and Fig. New hire Pumpkin questions their sisterhood, forcing them to confront inner darkness or meet violent ends. *Cast: Lola Tung, Victoria Pedretti, Lili Reinhart, Alexandra Shipp, Emma Chamberlain, Gabrielle Union* (World Premiere)

### ***Mam*** (France)

Director: Nan Feix, Producer: Marine Garnier, Screenwriters: Nan Feix, Marine Garnier

A self-taught chef from Texas arrives in New York to open a Vietnamese restaurant. Broke but relentless, he teams up with a witty waitress, and together they cook up an unlikely journey of passion, resilience, and friendship in the city's underbelly. *Cast: Jerald Head, Nhung Dao Head, Tuan Bui, Henry Wong, Linh Phan, Lang A Nguyen, Maxence Victor, Kim Hoang, Naoto Ono, An Nguyen Xuan* (U.S. Premiere)

### ***Pizza Movie***

Directors/Screenwriters: Brian McElhaney, Nick Kocher, Producers: Jeremy Garelick, Will

Phelps, Billy Rosenberg, Jason Zaro, Molle DeBartolo, Max A. Butler

A group of college students go downstairs to their dorm lobby to get a delivery pizza. There's only one issue: They're insanely high on a home-made drug, turning their simple journey down two sets of stairs into a mind-bendingly transformative quest. *Cast: Gaten Matarazzo, Sean Giambrone, Lulu Wilson, Jack Martin, Peyton Elizabeth Lee, Marcus Scribner, Caleb Hearon, Sarah Sherman, Miguel-Andres Garcia, Justin Cooley* (World Premiere)

### ***Power Ballad***

Director: John Carney, Producers: Anthony Bregman, John Carney, Peter Cron, Rebecca O'Flanagan, Robert Walpole, Screenwriters: John Carney, Peter McDonald

*Power Ballad* follows a talented but past-his-prime wedding singer and a young rockstar who uses the wedding singer's songwriting prowess to revitalize his own career. *Cast: Paul Rudd, Nick Jonas, Peter McDonald, Marcella Plunkett, Havana Rose Liu, Jack Reynor* (North American Premiere)

### ***Seekers of Infinite Love***

Director/Screenwriter: Victoria Strouse, Producers: Dylan Sellers, Chris Parker, Marty Bowen, Wyck Godfrey

After learning their youngest sister has joined a traveling cult, three estranged siblings must come together to find and bring her back. *Cast: Hannah Einbinder, Justin Theroux, John Paul Reynolds, Griffin Gluck, Justine Lupe, Greg Kinnear* (World Premiere)

### ***The Sun Never Sets***

Director/Screenwriter: Joe Swanberg, Producers: Jake Johnson, Ashleigh Snead, Joe Swanberg, Dakota Fanning, Cory Michael Smith

Wendy's life is thrown into chaos when her boyfriend, Jack, who is older and divorced with children, insists they take space to evaluate the relationship. During their break, Wendy runs into her ex, Chuck, forcing them into a volatile triangle. *Cast: Dakota Fanning, Jake Johnson, Cory Michael Smith, Debby Ryan, Anna Konkle, Lamorne Morris, Karley Sciortino* (World Premiere)

### ***Their Town***

Director: Katie Aselton, Producer: Mary Budd, Screenwriter: Mark Duplass

When Abby's boyfriend drops out of the high school play, she finds herself helping a school outlier step into the role opposite her. They spend a long night wandering around their town, examining their futures and unearthing surprises from their past. *Cast: Ora Duplass, Chosen Jacobs, Will Parker, Kim Shaw, Jeffery Self, Daveed Diggs, Leonardo Nam, Annie Henk, Brad LaBree* (World Premiere)

## **DOCUMENTARY SPOTLIGHT**

Incredible features receiving their World, North American, or U.S. premieres.

### ***Adam's Apple***

Director: Amy Jenkins, Producers: Brit Fryer, Amy Jenkins, Screenwriter: Adam Sieswerda



A transgender teen and his mother chronicle their lives, artistically weaving a rare and intimate portrait of a family in transition. Two decades of footage trace a boy's path to manhood and his parents' vulnerability as they reckon with change. (World Premiere)

***Amazing Live Sea Monkeys***

Directors/Producers: Mark Becker, Aaron Schock

From her crumbling estate on the Potomac, Yolanda Signorelli battles to wrest control of her late husband Harold's iconic toy Amazing Live Sea-Monkeys from the corporate men who stole them from her and from the stain of her husband's dark legacy. (World Premiere)

***Black Zombie*** (Canada)

Director/Screenwriter: Maya Annik Bedward, Producers: Maya Annik Bedward, Hannah Donegan, Kate Fraser

From the flickering screens of Hollywood horror, to the haunted cane fields of colonial Haiti, *Black Zombie* unearths the buried origins of the zombie, reclaiming it as a symbol of survival and spiritual resistance. *Featuring Yves-Grégory Francois, Anderson Mojica, Erol Josué, Mambo Labelle Déese Botanica, Slash, Tom Savini, Tananarive Due, Zandashé Brown* (World Premiere)

***Capturing Bigfoot***

Director: Marq Evans, Producers: Tamir Ardon, Marq Evans, Nick Spicer

A reel of 16mm film locked away for over 50 years turns the Bigfoot debate on its head. *Featuring Clint Patterson, Bob Gimlin, Bob Heironimus, Larry Lund, Greg Long, Vaile Thompson, Sandy Collier, Bill Munns, Teresa Brooks, Jeff Meldrum* (World Premiere)

***Ceremony*** (Canada)

Director/Producer: Banchi Hanuse

At ramshackled Nuxalk Radio in Bella Coola, an inquiry into the vanished ooligan run unravels a buried history of erasure and ignites the quiet revolution of a Nation that refuses to disappear. *Featuring Megan F. Moody, Qwaxw Siwallace, Snuxyaltwa Deric Snow, Nuskmata Jacinda Mack, Q'umulha Schooner, Sunhwrna Schooner, Jason E. Moody, Snxakila Clyde Tallio, Kmalsuuncw Orden Mack, Tom Swanky* (World Premiere)

***Drift***

Director: Deon Taylor, Producers: Roxanne Avent Taylor, Deon Taylor, Inbal Lessner, Kaitlin McLaughlin, Screenwriters: Kaitlin McLaughlin, Martine Biehn, Kevin Hibbard

Isaac "Drift" Wright, a self-taught photographer and Army veteran haunted by trauma, finds healing through breathtaking, illegal climbs of the world's tallest structures. But his pursuit of art sparks a high-stakes battle with law enforcement in this intimate portrait of risk, resilience, and freedom in modern America. *Featuring Isaac Wright* (World Premiere)

***My Brother's Killer***

Director: Rachel Mason, Producer: Dion Labriola

Impassioned members of the LGBTQ community band together to try to solve one of the most

gruesome and mysterious murders in Los Angeles history. *Featuring Christopher Rice, Eric Shaw Quinn, Clark Williams, ChiChi LaRue, Kevin Clarke, Krystal DeLight, Phil St. John, Sabin Grey, John Lamberti, Wendi Berndt* (World Premiere)

### **#Skyking**

Director: Patricia Gillespie, Producer: Chris Cowen

*#Skyking* tells the story of Richard “Beebo” Russell, a ground service agent who stole an airplane belonging to his employer, and took off on a flight that would come to embody the hopes, dreams, and despair of the American working class. (World Premiere)

### ***The Way We Move***

Directors/Screenwriters: Vanessa Dumont, Nicolas Davenel, Producers: Hubert Cornet, Mathieu Belghiti, Arnaud Le Guilcher, Eleonore Dailly, Edouard de Lachomette

Amber Galloway, a trailblazer in ASL interpretation, takes us on a journey into the deep bond between the Deaf world and music. We follow her as she teaches struggling recruits who she hopes will have what it takes to join her at ACL music festival. *Featuring Amber Galloway, Julian Ortiz, Angela "AV" Villavong, Joshua Goertz* (World Premiere)

### **MIDNIGHTER**

Exciting after-dark features for genre lovers and the terminally curious.

“The 2026 SXSW Film & TV Midnighters represent so many different things of what we love about genre filmmaking,” said Peter Hall, SXSW Senior Film & TV Festival Programmer.

“They’re scary, but still wildly entertaining. They’ve got dark senses of humor without sacrificing heart. They’re creative, unexpected and usher in a new round of filmmakers we are going to be proud to call alums.”

### ***American Dollhouse***

Director/Screenwriter: John Valley, Producers: David Axe, Samuel Butler, Shane Greb

Caught between a grotesque Christmas fantasy and her own childhood trauma, a woman's search for a fresh start in her home town is violently interrupted by a psychopathic neighbor.

*Cast: Hailley Lauren, Kelsey Pribilski, Tinus Seaux, Danielle Evon Ploeger, Richard C. Jones* (World Premiere)

### ***Drag***

Directors/Screenwriters: Raviv Ullman, Greg Yagolnitzer, Producers: Jake DeVito, Lucy DeVito, Danny DeVito

A routine robbery at a rural house turns into a nightmare for two amateur burglars when one of them throws out her back. Things spiral out of control as they try to escape before the homeowner returns. *Cast: Lizzy Caplan, Lucy DeVito, John Stamos, Christine Ko* (World Premiere)

### ***Fifteen*** (Argentina, Mexico)

Directors: Jack Zagha, Yossy Zagha, Producers: Jack Zagha, Yossy Zagha, Elsa Reyes,

Valentín Javier Diment, Vanesa Pagani, Screenwriters: Andrzej Rattinger, Ricardo Álvarez Canales

A Mexican girl's quinceañera spirals into chaos when supernatural rumors and small-town gossip collide, forcing her to face adulthood sooner than expected. *Cast: Greta Marti, Macarena Oz, Aminta Ireta, Martha Claudia Moreno, Enrique Arreola, Mercedes Hernández, Malena Sandy, Cloe Juresa Furgan, Andre Fajardo, Silvia Villazur* (World Premiere)

### ***Grind***

Directors: Brea Grant, Ed Dougherty, Chelsea Stardust, Producer: Chelsea Stardust, Screenwriters: Brea Grant, Ed Dougherty

Four interconnected tales of workplace horror tackle the most terrifying aspect of modern life: making a living! With a wild tone as darkly comic as it is relevant, *Grind* is the most fun you'll have in a late stage capitalistic hellscape. *Cast: Rob Huebel, Barbara Crampton, Vinny Thomas, Jessika Van, Christopher Rodriguez-Marquette, James Urbaniak, Courtney Pauroso, Jon Gabrus, Ify Nwadiwe, Aubrey Shea* (World Premiere)

### ***Imposters***

Director/Screenwriter: Caleb J Phillips, Producers: Thomas Bond, Sara Seligman, Joe Bandelli  
After a couple's baby boy is taken, the desperate mother learns of a way to bring him back. However, her husband begins to suspect that what she returned with isn't their son. *Cast: Jessica Rothe, Charlie Barnett, Yul Vazquez, Bates Wilder, Luisina Quarleri, Thomas Parobek, Ian Lyons, Taylor Karin, Lee Bennett, Declan Bennett* (World Premiere)

### ***Monitor***

Directors/Screenwriters: Matt Black, Ryan Polly, Producers: Marty Bowen, Wyck Godfrey, Isaac Klausner, John Fischer, Adrian Guerra  
A social media moderator unleashes a deadly terror when she refuses to publish a cryptic video. *Cast: Brittany O'Grady, Taz Skylar, Viveik Karla, Ines Høysæter Asserson, Gunner Willis, Sara Alexander, Camila Wahlgren* (World Premiere)

### ***Never After Dark*** (Japan)

Director/Screenwriter: Dave Boyle, Producers: Dave Boyle, Kento Kaku, Kosuke Tsutsumi  
A medium travels deep into the Japanese countryside to perform a routine exorcism, where she is forced to confront the most terrifying enemy of all: the living. *Cast: Moeka Hoshi, Kento Kaku, Kurumi Inagaki, Mutsuo Yoshioka, Bokuzo Masana, Tae Kimura* (World Premiere)

## **FESTIVAL FAVORITE**

Acclaimed standouts from festivals around the world.

### ***The AI Doc: Or How I Became an Apocaloptimist***

Directors: Daniel Roher, Charlie Tyrell, Producers: Jonathan Wang, Daniel Kwan, Shane Boris, Diane Becker, Ted Tremper

A father-to-be tries to figure out what is happening with the AI insanity, exploring the existential dangers and stunning promise of this technology that humanity has created. (Texas Premiere)

### ***Erupcja***

Director: Pete Ohs, Producers: Pete Ohs, Charli xcx, Luke Arreguin, Jeremy O. Harris, Josh Godfrey, Screenwriters: Pete Ohs, Charli xcx, Lena Góra, Jeremy O. Harris, Will Madden  
Set in Poland, *Erupcja* follows two women as they complicate their romantic lives. Nel lives in Warsaw where she works at a flower shop. When her childhood friend Bethany comes to visit with a new boyfriend, a volcano erupts. *Cast: Charli xcx, Lena Góra, Jeremy O. Harris, Will Madden* (U.S. Premiere)

### ***Obsession***

Director/Screenwriter: Curry Barker, Producers: James Harris, Haley Nicole Johnson, Christian Mercuri, Roman Viaris  
After breaking the mysterious “One Wish Willow” to win his crush’s heart, a hopeless romantic finds himself getting exactly what he asked for but soon discovers that some desires come at a dark, sinister price. *Cast: Michael Johnston, Inde Navarrette, Cooper Tomlinson, Megan Lawless, Andy Richter*

### ***See You When I See You***

Director: Jay Duplass, Producers: Fred Bernstein, Jay Duplass, Kumail Nanjiani, Emily V. Gordon, Adam Cayton-Holland, Screenwriter: Adam Cayton-Holland  
With the help of his family, a comedy writer battles PTSD after the tragic death of his sister. *Cast: Cooper Raiff, David Duchovny, Kaitlyn Dever, Hope Davis, Lucy Boynton, Ariela Barer* (Texas Premiere)

### **VISIONS**

Audacious, risk-taking artists who demonstrate innovation and creativity.

### ***And Her Body Was Never Found***

Director: Polaris Banks, Producers: Polaris Banks, Mor Cohen, Hilarion Banks, Screenwriters: Polaris Banks, Mor Cohen  
A couple treks deep into the wilderness to make a movie about their troubled relationship, but takes the opportunity to kill each other instead. *Cast: Mor Cohen, Polaris Banks, Grae Drake* (World Premiere)

### ***Daughters of the Forest: Mycelium Chronicles* (Mexico)**

Director/Screenwriter: Otilia Portillo Padua, Producers: Paula Arroio, Elena Fortes, Otilia Portillo Padua  
Deep in Mexico’s forests, this immersive sci-fi doc follows the unusual, fungi-driven paths of two indigenous mycologists as they seek to reconcile the past and present while reimagining the future for themselves and the changing world they inhabit. *Featuring Eliseete Ramirez Carbajal, Julieta Serafina Amaya, Julia Dolores Raimundo, Zenaida Perez, Magdalena Martínez, Olivia Ayala* (North American Premiere)

### **24 BEATS PER SECOND**

Vibrant films showcasing the sounds, culture and influence of music and musicians.

***Los Lobos Native Sons***

Directors/Screenwriters: Doug Blush, Piero F. Giunti, Producers: Robert Corsini, Doug Blush, Piero F. Giunti, Flavio Morales, Rafael Augustin, Patricia Harris DiLeva

*Los Lobos Native Sons* is the definitive chronicle of the global Latin rock 'n' roll legends Los Lobos, offering an unparalleled 50-year musical journey through exclusive access to the band's personal archives and extraordinary legacy. *Featuring Cesar Rosas, Louie Perez, David Hidalgo, Conrad Lozano, Steve Berlin, Linda Ronstadt, Tom Waits, George Lopez, Cheech Marin, Danny Elfman* (World Premiere)

***We Are The Shaggs***

Director/Screenwriter: Ken Kwapis, Producers: Reynolds Anderson, Jeremy Seifert

*We Are The Shaggs* is a music documentary about The Shaggs, an all-girl band that created some of the most provocative and polarizing music in rock-and-roll history. *Featuring Dorothy Wiggins, Betty Wiggins* (World Premiere)

**GLOBAL Presented by MUBI**

Artful international films, featuring premieres, festival favorites, and more.

*Thank you to our sponsor, MUBI: the global streaming service, production company and film distributor dedicated to elevating great cinema, from iconic directors to emerging auteurs.*

"The SXSW Global program has always showcased audacious, fearless creativity from an international perspective and this year is no exception. These first three features include a world premiere from Mexico by a Global alum and debuts from France/Lebanon/Germany/Qatar and the Dominican Republic, said Jim Kolmar, SXSW Consulting Film Programmer. "Each of these documentaries paint well outside conventional lines, taking bold artistic risks to convey deeply personal stories with vibrant conviction. It's a privilege to introduce this first wave of international titles."

***Do You Love Me* (Lebanon)**

Director: Lana Daher, Producers: Jean-Laurent Csinidis, Lana Daher, Screenwriter: Lana Daher, Qutaiba Barhamji

Welcome to Beirut. Disorientation is part of the journey. (U.S. Premiere)

***Mickey* (Mexico)**

Director: Dano García, Producers: Dano García, Indira Cato, Joceline Hernandez, Alejandra Guevara Castillo, Christian Giraud, Screenwriters: Dano García, Tonatiuh Israel

A journey through self-perception and the anti-punitive confrontation of the past. *Featuring Mis\$ Mickey, Jesse Sakeri López, Arturo Cundapí Bustamante, Angélica María Bustamante Andrews, Loreto Pozos Trejo, Javier Lizárraga Contreras, David Allegre* (World Premiere)

***Scarlet Girls* (Dominican Republic, Germany, Mexico)**

Director: Paula Cury, Producers: Paula Cury, Samuel Didonato, Screenwriters: Claudia Galeano, Paula Cury

What does it mean to be a woman in a country where abortion is banned in all circumstances? (North American Premiere)

## **TV PROGRAM**

### **TV PREMIERE**

World premieres of prestige TV series premieres from acclaimed showrunners and directors.

#### ***The Audacity***

Showrunner/Screenwriter: Jonathan Glatzer, Director: Lucy Forbes, Producer: Gina Mingacci  
A would-be tech titan and his therapist play dangerous games with privacy while trying to find happiness. *Cast: Billy Magnussen, Sarah Goldberg, Zach Galifianakis, Lucy Punch, Simon Helberg, Rob Corddry, Meaghan Rath, Paul Adelstein* (World Premiere)

#### ***Margo's Got Money Troubles***

Showrunner/Screenwriter: David E. Kelley, Directors: Dearbhla Walsh, Kate Herron, Producers: David E. Kelley, Elle Fanning, Dakota Fanning, Nicole Kidman, Matt Tinker, Brittany Kahan Ward, Per Saari, Michelle Pfeiffer, Rufi Thorpe, Eva Anderson, Boo Killebrew  
*Margo's Got Money Troubles* is a bold, heartwarming, and comedic family drama following recent college dropout and aspiring writer Margo as she's forced to make her way with a new baby, a mounting pile of bills, and a dwindling amount of ways to pay them. *Cast: Elle Fanning, Michelle Pfeiffer, Nick Offerman, Thaddea Graham, Nicole Kidman, Greg Kinnear, Marcia Gay Harden, Michael Angarano, Rico Nasty, Lindsey Normington* (World Premiere)

#### ***Monsters of God***

Showrunner: Jeremy McBride, Director: Eric Goode, Producers: Tom Petersen, James Liu, Callie Barlow, Lissa Rivera, Charles Divak, Adrienne Gits, Daniel Johnson, Screenwriters: Jeremy McBride, Eric Goode, Tom Petersen  
A group of reptile fanatics builds a global smuggling empire, while a scrappy team of animal cops risks everything to stop them. (World Premiere)

### **INDEPENDENT TV PILOT COMPETITION**

Discover new pilots from indie talent.

#### ***Are We Still Married?***

Showrunner/Director/Screenwriter: Kit Steinkellner, Producer: Barry Galperin  
Over the course of one night Laura must decide if she will invite her husband Jack, who has recently been turned into a vampire, back into their house. *Cast: Taylor Misiak, Dustin Milligan* (World Premiere)

#### ***Birth is For P\*ssies***

Showrunner/Screenwriter: Hannah Shealy, Directors: Hannah Shealy, Celine Sutter, Producer:

Celine Sutter

A rookie doula is thrust into her first birth with a mother she's never met. After a rocky start, she quickly learns supporting women through labor is messier, funnier, and more profound than any training could have prepared her for. *Cast: Hannah Shealy, Madeline Wise, Danny Deferrari, Evelyn Howe, Peter Jay Fernandez, Sohina Sidhu, Katherine George, LA Head* (World Premiere)

### **Codependent**

Showrunners/Screenwriters: Wade McElhaney, Weston McElhaney, Director: Caitlyn Phu, Producers: Emily Ince, Rosie Cummings, Emily Partida

After getting fired, dysfunctional twin brothers secretly apply for the same position and fly to New York to compete against each other, only to have their crippling codependency sabotage their chances. *Cast: Wade McElhaney, Weston McElhaney, Riley Sigler, Rhoda Bell, Josie Totah, Lola Berry, Payson Mitchell, Alex Tobias, Eliot, Edgar Garcia* (World Premiere)

### **Cold Call**

Showrunner/Director: Elise Kibler, Producer: Manon Blackman, Screenwriter: Emma Lenderman  
*Cold Call* is a twisted dark comedy about a cult of office workers attempting to return to their home planet by scamming strangers out of credit card information, and Penny, the office superstar, on the day a caller threatens to force her off script. *Cast: Emma Lenderman, Gabriel Ebert, Daniel Pearce, Amelia Workman* (World Premiere)

### **In My Blood**

Showrunner/Director/Screenwriter: Alex Bendo, Producers: Alex Bendo, Yumeng Han, Elias Putnam, Max Wilson, Jorge Sistos Moreno

Desperate to live up to his father's expectations, a talented but inconsistent minor league baseball player turns to steroids, igniting a dangerous transformation of body and mind.

*Cast: Daniel Diemer, Will Chase, Ian Blackman, William Hill* (World Premiere)

### **Son of a Bikram**

Showrunners/Screenwriters: Ash T, Johnny Rey Diaz, Director: Johnny Rey Diaz, Producers: Johnny Rey Diaz, Christian Rose, Ash T

After discovering he's the illegitimate son of yoga guru Bikram Choudhury, an office worker is thrust into a heated identity crisis, desperate to connect with the father he never knew.

*Cast: Ash T, Carlos Santos, Jeffrey Nicholas Brown, Vee Kumari, Anwar Molani, Zhaleh, David Chernyavsky, Melanie Johnson, Max Cutler, Matthew Peschio* (World Premiere)

### **SHORT PROGRAM Presented by Vimeo**

*Thank you to our Shorts Program Presenting sponsor, Vimeo: the premier home for video professionals and the best short films on the internet.*

"This year's shorts program reflects how absurdity has become our shared language for making sense of the world," said Francis Román, SXSW Senior Film & TV Festival Programming Manager and Gabe Van Amburgh, SXSW Senior Manager Film & TV Programming. "When

reality seems stranger than fiction, these filmmakers turn to the surreal to capture what it truly feels like to be human right now. We're incredibly proud to champion these storytellers as they lean into the unusual, and sometimes uncomfortable, taking you on a wild ride where bodies revolt, identities fracture, and intimacy gets redefined. Through it all, these films dig at deeper truths and help us find connection in the chaos."

### **NARRATIVE SHORT COMPETITION**

Exceptional storytelling that captivates, surprises, and excites.

#### ***Achiever***

Director: Charlie Traisman, Producers: Katherine Romans, Sarah Whelden, Elizabeth Valenti, Chelsea Pace, Screenwriter: Claire McFadden

When Alexa finds she can no longer orgasm due to her new Lexapro prescription, she embarks on a desperate journey to get off by any means possible, only to find herself "getting close" through an unexpected connection. (World Premiere)

#### ***Best Friends with the Devil***

Director/Screenwriter: Hugo De Sousa, Producers: April S. Chang, Vicki Syal, Sarah Whelden, Kelly Wilcox

Lola's looking for her best friend. A stranger offers to help. One lie changes everything. (World Premiere)

#### ***Buah*** (Singapore)

Director/Screenwriter: Jen Nee Lim, Producer: Ke Ning Lee

In a time and place where abortion is illegal, a pregnant woman's repeated attempts to end her pregnancy fail until she crosses paths with a strange bus driver. (Texas Premiere)

#### ***Can I Put You On Hold***

Director: James Cutler, Producer: Jack Hessler, Screenwriter: James Cutler, Matthew Cutler

A man struggles with the crushing bureaucracy of immigration as he waits on hold with his immigration lawyer, trying to keep hope alive for his future with his fiancée, only to face a devastating setback that forces him to reconsider everything. (World Premiere)

#### ***Copy, Save***

Director/Screenwriter: Alyssa Loh, Producers: Katherine Romans, Charlie Traisman, Jessica Li

When two teen sisters discover each other's secret internet cash schemes, they're forced to confront the murky morals of their digital lives. (World Premiere)

#### ***Dua Ji***

Director/Screenwriter: YuHan Tsai, Producers: CheKuei Chang, YuHan Tsai

At her mother's funeral, the eldest daughter challenges the patriarchal traditions of her rural Taiwanese family, confronting loss and the quiet burden of duty. (World Premiere)

#### ***Gamberra*** (Spain)



Director: Marine Auclair March, Producers: Cristina Bas, Sergi Casamitjana, Screenwriters: Marine Auclair March, Lucía G Romero, Dante Schmitz

Marta lives in a religious student residence affiliated with the far-right. Sexual misinformation leads her to seek the morning-after pill, while her colleagues prepare an unforgettable hazing. (World Premiere)

### ***Gender Studies***

Director/Screenwriter: Jamie Kiernan O'Brien, Producer: Kirsten Pasewaldt

When a trans college student learns the girl she idolizes is sleeping with their teaching assistant, she takes drastic steps to emulate her. (Texas Premiere)

### ***I Saw You In The Flood***

Director/Screenwriter: Kevin Xian Ming Yu, Producers: Shayan Ajmal Farooq, Camila Grimaldi, Kevin Xian Ming Yu

As their grandfather's health worsens in Northeast China, Kai, a genderqueer Chinese-American in Queens, is visited by a familiar ghost while helping their mother, Li, deal with a heavy storm. (World Premiere)

### ***Imago***

Director/Screenwriter: Ariel Zengotita, Producers: Juan J. Arroyo, Colt Kozal, Sonia Rivera

When Ana's mom starts transforming into a bug, their codependent relationship reaches its boiling point. (U.S. Premiere)

### ***Marga en el DF***

Director/Screenwriter: Gabriela Ortega, Producers: Karla Luna Cantu, Carlos Lopez Estrada, Natalia Gonzalez, Eugenio Valero, Glenn Kiser, Amanda Schneider

A Dominican woman's life unravels at 21 weeks pregnant during a surprise visit to Mexico City in the aftermath of Selena Quintanilla's murder. (Texas Premiere)

### ***A Shot at Art*** (Netherlands)

Director/Screenwriter: Ilke Paddenburg, Producers: Layla Meijman, Maarten van der Ven, Marcelle Bartels

When two seasoned volunteers at an international art festival start participating in a highly controversial art installation, the situation spirals completely out of control... but who was actually crossing the line here? (North American Premiere)

### ***Souvenir*** (Australia)

Director/Screenwriter: Renée Marie Petropoulos, Producer: Yingna Lu

While stuck on a family vacation, a young closeted teen must confront the unnerving hold her girlfriend has over her after she takes unwarranted photos of her during sex. (North American Premiere)

### ***Stairs***

Director/Screenwriter: Riley Donigan, Producers: Anton Vicente Klot, Sam Callahan

A woman's life unravels after she becomes addicted to throwing herself down flights of stairs.  
(Texas Premiere)

***Supper***

Director/Screenwriter: Savannah Braswell, Producers: Mariah Christian, Savannah Braswell  
A lonely man's obsession with an online mukbang livestreamer leads to a tense confrontation with an unsuspecting dinner guest. (World Premiere)

***Talk Me*** (Spain)

Director/Screenwriter: Joecar Hanna, Producers: Joecar Hanna, María Belén Poncio, Patricia Picazo, Mai Batalla, Lina Badenes, Ana Camacho  
In a world where words replace intimacy, a local outsider in a Spanish village must choose between a loveless marriage and the promise of true connection with a kindred stranger.  
(U.S. Premiere)

***Them That's Not***

Director/Screenwriter: Mekhai Lee, Producers: Charles Hopkins, Redd Coltrane  
A sudden prison furlough unexpectedly bonds an estranged father with his emotionally avoidant daughter at their matriarch's repass. (Texas Premiere)

***Visitors***

Director/Screenwriter: Minnie Schedeen, Producers: Zola Elgart Glassman, Sabina Friedman-Seitz, Gilana Lobel, Sarah Yarkin  
A young woman in the throes of early pregnancy starts to question her own reality when strange things begin to happen to the people closest to her. (World Premiere)

***Vomit***

Director/Screenwriter: Roi Cydulkin, Producers: EJ Argenio, Roi Cydulkin, Miles Skinner  
Wildcard addict on the run from trouble shows up bloodied and battered at the door of his home health aide ex-girlfriend, turning both their lives upside down in this super dark comedy about love, death, drugs, and ferrets. (World Premiere)

***We Were Here*** (India)

Director/Screenwriter: Pranav Bhasin, Producer: Yash Gonsai  
In a crumbling Indian town, three retired men stage a protest against machines taking over human jobs, by pretending to be household appliances. (North American Premiere)

**DOCUMENTARY SHORT COMPETITION**

Authentic storytelling that captivates, surprises, and excites.

***Air Horse One*** (Belgium, Switzerland)

Director/Screenwriter: Lasse Linder, Producers: Philipp Ritler, Valentin Leblanc, Delphine Duez  
Training, Take-Off, Grand Prix. Legacy is one of the most valuable and celebrated horses in show jumping. In pursuit of victories, she is flown between competition venues across the globe.

(North American Premiere)

***Divorce Resort***

Director: Coby Becker, Producers: Marco Meily, Alana Saad, Coby Becker

Married in a country where divorce is prohibited, a 72-year-old lovelorn man finds a legal loophole requiring a seven-day stay on the island of Guam. As he wanders through this tropical limbo, he reckons with his loss and newfound freedom. (World Premiere)

***Eructation***

Director: Victoria Trow, Producer: Jeremy Schneier

The world record for loudest female burp is 107.3 decibels. Kaylee wants to beat it. (World Premiere)

***Glacier's Requiem*** (United Kingdom)

Director: Saddiq Abubakar, Producers: India Lee, Tarquin Ramsay, Screenwriters: Saddiq Abubakar, Collins "Colloboh" Oboh

Amid Iceland's melting glaciers, modular synthesis artist Colloboh records the dying rhythms of ice and sea, uncovering a living language within nature itself – a requiem for the planet and for us. (World Premiere)

***He's Out There***

Directors/Producers: Kurt Andrew Schneider, Sam Davis

An Autistic Bigfoot hunter meets his heroes. (World Premiere)

***How To Catch A Butterfly*** (Netherlands)

Director/Screenwriter: Kiriko Mechanicus, Producer: Ilja Roomans

Filmmaker Kiriko Mechanicus writes letters to a young mass shooter to find the root of their mutual obsession for one another. (World Premiere)

***I Got My Brother***

Director: Victor K. Gabriel, Producer: Rachel Earnest

Two brothers reflect on their candid and often humorous memories of surviving the foster care system and prison, realizing along the way that their path to healing has always been each other. (World Premiere)

***In the Morning Sun*** (Canada, Philippines)

Director: Serville Poblete, Producers: Nicole Dane, Serville Poblete

A Filipino mother finds comfort in her Alexa — weather updates, love songs, and the time back home become a magical link to the Philippines, gently reflecting the quiet struggles of immigration and the comforts that sustain us. (World Premiere)

***A New Inferno***

Directors/Producers: Nita Blum-Reddick, Jonathan Pickett

Filmed during the hottest days of Phoenix, Arizona's summer heatwave, *A New Inferno* follows paramedics as they race to save the lives of heatstroke victims using a radical new treatment:

ice immersion therapy. (World Premiere)

***Not Scared, Just Sad*** (Bulgaria, Lebanon)

Director: Isabelle Mecattaf, Producers: Kamen Velkovsky, Atilla Yücer, Diane Daccache  
November 2024, as the war escalates in a nearby suburb, a family in Beirut tries to live as normally as possible. (U.S. Premiere)

***A Wolf in the Suburbs*** (Canada)

Director/Screenwriter: Amélie Hardy, Producer: Rosalie Chicoine Perreault  
Welcome to Mississauga where lawns are clipped, neighbors are watchful and no blade of grass dares misbehave. Except at Wolf Ruck's place. His lawn grows wild, and so does the trouble. (World Premiere)

***Yiyiists'áá' (Listen)***

Director/Screenwriter: Malakye Zaayin Tsosie, Producer: Kaitlyn Sanchez  
The Navajo language is spoken less often across generations. However, its resilience continues through a small Navajo radio station, the director's family members, and the people of the Navajo Nation. (Texas Premiere)

**ANIMATED SHORT COMPETITION**

A whirlwind tour of hand drawn, stop-motion, and digital revelries.

***Hag*** (United Kingdom)

Director: Anna Ginsburg, Producer: Becky Perryman, Screenwriters: Anna Ginsburg, Miranda Latimer  
One woman's search for love and meaning in a hellscape of waning fertility, dating apps and the rotten stench of the patriarchy. In a world where being yourself makes you monstrous, what is the cost of compromise and repressing your authentic self? (World Premiere)

***Im Auto Tapes und Butterbrot*** (Germany)

Director/Screenwriter: Kiana Naghshineh, Producers: Henrik von Müller, Antoine Liétout, Ivan Zuber, Kiana Naghshineh  
In the face of her body fading into stardust, Shari realizes what truly matters to her. (North American Premiere)

***In The Beginning*** (Poland, Portugal, Spain)

Director: Ala Nunu, Producers: Bruno Caetano, Bruno Simões, Carlota Pou, Marcin Podolec, Screenwriters: Ala Nunu, Sophie Colfer  
A spaceprobe called Beresheet, legless birds of paradise, hamster cull and humanity trying to make the world make sense. (World Premiere)

***Paper Trail***

Director/Producer/Screenwriter: Don Hertzfeldt  
A life, seen through paper. (Texas Premiere)

***Praying Mantis*** (Taiwan)

Director: Joe Hsieh, Producer: Yonfan, Screenwriters: Joe Hsieh, Jie Zhan

A praying mantis mutant seduces and preys on men out of desperation to save her child. A failed mission led to revelations of her past and dark secrets as the story unfolds.

(U.S. Premiere)

***Tell Me When You Get Home***

Director/Screenwriter: Tshay, Producers: Sydney Rodriguez, Jackie Payton, Patrice Worthy

During a reggae house party, 15-year-old Honest Cardamom encounters the spirit of a lost loved one. (World Premiere)

***What We Leave Behind*** (Canada)

Directors/Producers/Screenwriters: Jean-Sébastien Hamel, Alexandra Myotte

Dan has a gaping hole in his neck that won't heal. Why? He can't remember, nor talk about it. Back in the sinister arena of his childhood, he must find the part of himself he once left behind that prevents him, now an adult, from being whole. (U.S. Premiere)

**MIDNIGHT SHORT COMPETITION**

Indulge your cravings for horror, gore, and dark comedy.

***Jealous People Are Ugly People*** (United Kingdom)

Director/Screenwriter: Theo James Krekis, Producer: Isabel Pritchard-Smith

Consumed by his jealousy of his best friend's sudden career success, Vasily's resentment festers, feeding a dark, supernatural force within him. (International Premiere)

***Man Eating Pussy***

Director/Screenwriter: Emily Lawson, Producers: Emily Lawson, Lucy Belgum

A dying man seeks the ultimate release: birth in reverse. (World Premiere)

***Mantis Stream! Like & Subscribe***

Directors/Screenwriters: Lincoln Robisch, Sarah Maerten, Producer: Mark Neil

A livestreamer's boyfriend chokes to death on an egg. His friends, family, paramedics and the police performatively profit off of his suffering as his life fades away. (Texas Premiere)

***The Seeing Eye Dog Who Saw Too Much***

Director/Screenwriter: Eric Jackowitz, Producer: Colton Mastro

A blind violinist ascends to first chair at the Rome Symphony, just as a black-gloved killer begins stalking the orchestra. The only witness to the murders is her loyal seeing-eye dog.

(World Premiere)

***A Stable Marriage***

Director: Josephine Decker, Producers: Kristin Slaysman, Josephine Decker, Sean Drummond, Screenwriters: Kristin Slaysman, Josephine Decker

A woman's sexual fantasy is fulfilled – with surprising ramifications. (World Premiere)

***Tongue*** (Korea, Republic of)

Director/Producer/Screenwriter: Lim Da Seul

After enduring her husband's incessant chatter, a wife finally decides to cut out his tongue. (North American Premiere)

***Wax*** (Canada)

Director/Screenwriter: Alexandre Forgues, Producer: Hanna Donato

With finals approaching, a university student ignores a growing ear infection, spiraling into psychological distress as the pressure mounts. (World Premiere)

**TEXAS SHORT COMPETITION**

Vibrant work filmed in, inspired by, or connected to the Lone Star State.

***Forcefield of Love***

Directors: Liz Moskowitz, Riley Engemoen, Producer: Liz Moskowitz

Doris and Dan's lives are full of dancing, sex, and other intimate pleasures as they defy traditional expectations of how we can embrace life, death, and aging. (World Premiere)

***Freedom At Stake***

Directors: Raeshem Nijhon, Stacey Young, Producers: Karlie Kloss, Phoebe Gates, Nicole Galovski, Carri Twigg, Lauren Cynamon

Activists in Texas fight back against Prop A, a measure targeting those who help others seek abortions across state lines. As legal risks grow, so does their determination to protect access and bodily autonomy. (World Premiere)

***Una Nave Fragil / A Fragile Vessel***

Director: Samuel Díaz Fernández, Producer: Ái Vuong, Screenwriters: Samuel Díaz Fernández, Ái Vuong, Rafa V Fernando

As the world around them scorches under record heat, a family walks into the woods, asking what the future holds in this thermal dystopia. Their conversations map survival in a world reshaped by heat. (World Premiere)

***Shut The Fuck Up When We Speak***

Director: Ryan Darbonne

Five Black musicians reflect on art, identity, and the radical act of making noise in a world that wants them silent. (Texas Premiere)

***Stalin Boys***

Directors: Ora DeKornfeld, Bianca Giaever, Producers: Alejandra Vasquez, Ora DeKornfeld, Bianca Giaever

Four middle-school boys in a Texas border town have developed an unusual obsession: Joseph Stalin. When they hear about the Texas State History Fair, they write a play about the Soviet

dictator and his efforts to destroy all who opposed him. (Texas Premiere)

***Winter Ceremony***

Director/Screenwriter: Sidi Wang, Producers: Santiago Pacheco, Erik Skattum

In a Texas winter, a long-divorced Chinese couple comes together for their daughter's college graduation. (World Premiere)

**MUSIC VIDEO COMPETITION**

A dynamic mix of creativity and stylish visuals where music and storytelling collide.

***Bricknasty - 'Vinland'*** / Director: Hugh Mulhern

***Chappell Roan - 'The Subway'*** / Director: Amber Grace Johnson

***Confidence Man & Jade - 'Gossip'*** (United Kingdom) / Director: India Rose Harris

***Doechii - 'Anxiety'*** / Director: James Mackel

***Dzsúdló - 'Presso'*** (Hungary) / Director/Screenwriter: Viktor Horvath

***Ed Sheeran - 'Azizam'*** / Director: Saman Kesh

***FKA twigs - 'Eusexua'*** / Director: Jordan Hemingway

***Funny Weather - 'Time Bandit'*** (Sweden) / Director/Screenwriter: Unlimited Time Only

***Great Grandpa - 'Doom'*** / Director: Chamberlain Staub

***Hot Chip - 'Devotion'*** (United Kingdom) / Director/Screenwriter: Will Kindrick

***Kendrick Lamar & SZA - 'Luther'*** / Director: Karena Evans

***This Lonesome Paradise - 'Blue For You'*** (Canada, Mexico) / Director/Screenwriter: Sebastian Ortiz Wilkins

***Lowswimmer - 'IRL'*** (United Kingdom) / Directors/Screenwriters: Victor Nauwynck, Leo Villares

***Model/Actriz - 'Cinderella'*** / Director/Screenwriter: Nathan Castiel

***OK Go - '"Love"'*** / Directors: Aaron Duffy, Miguel Espada, Damian Kulash

***People R Ugly - 'Wake Up'*** / Directors: Joseph Larkin, Tristan Kevitch, Zak Dossi,  
Screenwriters: Zak Dossi, Tristan Kevitch, Nick Furlong, Bill Biers, Julian Del grosso

***Rawayana, Bomba Estereo - 'Fogata'*** (Colombia) / Director/Screenwriter: Paola Ossa

***Tyler, The Creator - 'Sugar On My Tongue'*** / Director: Tyler Okonma

***Woodz - 'I'll Never Love Again'*** (Korea, Republic of) / Director/Screenwriter: Lafic

***Xinobi - 'Strides'*** / Director: Ben Callner, Screenwriters: Ben Callner, Adam Callner

### **XR EXPERIENCE**

The immersive arts enhance and redefine how we experience the world. These projects emphasize ingenuity and storytelling across diverse industries.

#### **XR Experience Competition**

World premieres of mind bending immersive art.

***Ascended Intelligence*** (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom)

Director/Screenwriter: Karen Palmer, Producer: Diane Knarr

Ascended Intelligence is an emotionally responsive XR experience set in a 2030 Smart City, where your voice becomes the interface—translating tone into branching cinema and shifting AI from a system of control into a mirror for human agency. (World Premiere)

***The Baby Factory is Closed*** (United Kingdom)

Director/Screenwriter: Deepa Mann-Kler, Producer: Eva Robinson

You fall inside a body that refuses to behave. The system wants obedience. Zoraan wants a riot. (World Premiere)

***Body Proxy***

Directors/Screenwriters: Danny Cannizzaro, Samantha Gorman, Producers: Yuxin Gao, J Noland

Human-as-a-Service: The AI does the thinking, you do the heavy lifting. (World Premiere)

***Crafting Crimes: The Mona Lisa Heist*** (France)

Director: Chloé Rochereuil, Producer: Victor Agulhon

This immersive podcast lets you reconstruct legendary crime scenes as miniatures in mixed reality. Relive the theft of the Mona Lisa at the Louvre and uncover how her disappearance turned absence into legend. (World Premiere)

***Cycle*** (Netherlands)

Directors/Screenwriters: Matunda Groenendijk, Amit Palgi, Producer: Amit Palgi

Cycle starts with three words: Endlessly, we repeat, alone. Depending on how you order them, you craft a personalised vr poem composed of music, recorded movement and interactive moments. (World Premiere)

***A Deception of Senses*** (Italy)



Directors/Screenwriters: John Volpato, Valentina Temporin, Producers: Ultra, Ferryman Collective

A Deception of Senses is a narrative experience exploring humanity's enduring fascination with the deception of perception as a gateway to alternate understandings of reality. (World Premiere)

***Escape The Internet (Part 1)***

Director/Screenwriter Lucas Rizzotto, Producers: Carolina Rizzotto, Esme Robinson

Imagine you enter a movie theater, but instead of watching a movie you & the entire audience play a game using your phones. A game about escaping the internet and discovering who the people in the room really are. Yeah, it's going to be crazy. (World Premiere)

***Fabula Rasa: Dead Man Talking*** (Brazil)

Directors: Luiza Justus, Marcelo Marcati, Producer: Erika Nakayama, Screenwriters: Eduardo Nicolau, Pedro Penna

An interactive VR experience where the story unfolds through real-time conversations with AI-powered characters. Each character listens and talks back with a unique personality, creating an improvised storyline that unfolds differently every time. (World Premiere)

***The Forgotten War*** (Republic of Korea, France)

Director: Hayoun Kwon Producer: Jang Hyunhee

In June 1950, the United Nations sent military forces under American command to support the South Korean army, attacked by North Korea and China. The Forgotten War is based on the testimonies of the various protagonists of this major war event. (World Premiere)

***Frustrain: Trainman*** (Estonia, France)

Director: Pavel Pavlyukov, Producers: Georgy Molodtsov, Pavel Pavlyukov, Screenwriters: Pavel Pavlyukov, Anna Pimen, Kirill Komarov

A first-person anti-utopian narrative blending puzzles and psychological horror, set in a surreal Eastern European world where a train becomes a gateway to fragmented memories and distorted realities. (World Premiere)

***The Great Dictator: A participatory AI installation about power, rhetoric, and memory***

Director: Gabo Arora, Producers: Prashast Thapan, Nishant Mohanchandra, John Clendenen, Yuval Shapira, Wilson Brown, Gabo Arora

Like Chaplin's masterpiece, we use performance and cinema to examine the power—and danger—of rhetoric. (World Premiere)

***Inter(mediate) Spaces*** (Germany)

Director/Producer: Chloé Lee

Inter(mediate) Spaces is a poetic mixed-reality encounter where two strangers reshape a shared world through dialogue and proximity, moving through collective memories to ask whether AI can support deeper connection in an age of disconnection. (World Premiere)

***Lionia Is Leaving*** (Slovakia)

Director/Producer: Volodymyr Kolbasa, Screenwriter: Lucas Abrahao

In war-torn Ukraine, an elderly man must decide whether to abandon his lifelong home or face destruction — an immersive mixed-reality drama based on the true story of Lionia and his account of the war's beginning in the small town of Okhtyrka. (World Premiere)

***loss·y***

Director: Lisa Jamhoury

Situated at the physical-virtual threshold, loss·y memorializes corporeal passing and digital rebirth. The work intertwines animated sculptural “dances” with interactive spatial audio, inviting audiences to navigate invisible thresholds as they move. (World Premiere)

***Love Bird***

Director: Cameron Kostopoulos

Welcome to Love Bird, the reality dating show where YOU are the star. Win hearts, stir drama, charm the nation—or crash and burn while trying. (World Premiere)

***Watsonville***

Director: Cory McKague

In this immersive VR horror set in 1990s Watsonville, navigate a surreal childhood haunted by generational trauma, vanishing identity, and monsters both real and imagined—where memory itself becomes a maze. (World Premiere)

***Winterover*** (Canada)

Directors/Screenwriters: Nir Saar, Ido Mizrahy, Producers: Nimrod Shanit, Francois Le Gall, Marion Guth, Ido Mizrahy, Nir Saar

A groundbreaking discovery on Mars delays your return to Earth, sending your daughter into a tailspin. Caught between saving her and completing your mission, you must navigate these clashing paths in a gripping VR thriller. (World Premiere)

**XR Experience Spotlight**

Masterful immersive art from around the world.

***The Clouds Are Two Thousand Meters Up*** (Taiwan)

Director: Singing Chen, Producers: Singing CHEN, SUNG Chin-Hsuan, Screenwriters: Singing CHEN, LOU Yi-An

Guided by fragments of a lost voice, a man journeys through memory and myth to find what was left unsaid. (North American Premiere)

***The Dollhouse*** (Canada, Luxembourg)

Directors/Screenwriters: Charlotte Bruneau, Dominic Desjardins, Producers: Rayne Zukerman, Hélène Walland, Christian Newman,

In the unfolding paper world of The Dollhouse, a little girl uses the power of play to untangle her troubled memories. (U.S. Premiere)

***Fillos do Vento: A Rapa*** (Spain)

Directors: Brais Revalderia, Maria Fernanda Ordonez Morla, Producers: Maria Fernanda Ordonez Morla, Alberto Jose Rey Basteiro

In the hills of Galicia, the ancient Rapa das Bestas festival becomes a modern-day Quixote story, as villagers battle to preserve their wild horses and cultural heritage against the looming “giants” of industrial wind farms. (North American Premiere)

***The Great Orator*** (Netherlands)

Director: Daniël Ernst

Visitors join the Great Orator, once a famous TV preacher and now an AI, in a nonlinear VR Story World. Her followers join her in a shared consciousness, where a live news feed and their memories feed her stories. The Great Orator is never the same. (North American Premiere)

***Insider Outsider*** (France)

Director: Philippe Cohen Solal, Producers: Lucid Realities (Alessandra Bogi), Science & Mélodie (Philippe Cohen Solal), Grand Palais RMN, Centre Pompidou, CDA Enghiens Les Bains

INSIDER-OUTSIDER is an interactive virtual reality musical experience inspired by the life of Henry Darger, a world-renowned "outsider artist" whose work remained unknown until his death. (North American Premiere)

***Lacuna*** (Netherlands)

Directors: Maartje Wegdam, Nienke Huitenga Broeren, Producer: Corine Meijers and Ilja Kok, Screenwriter: Maartje Wegdam

Sonja has no memory of the crucial moment in her childhood that saved her life. The discovery of three long-lost rings spark a riveting journey into imagination. Wander through a deeply personal VR documentary between what is left and what is lost. (North American Premiere)

***Lesbian Simulator*** (Netherlands)

Director: Iris van der Meule, Producer: Corine Meijers, Screenwriter: Iris van der Meule  
'Lesbian Simulator' is an interactive virtual reality artwork and videogame that immerses the user in the experiences of a lesbian. It's an ode to sexual orientation and love with a serious issue: the discrimination that lesbians still face today. (International Premiere)

***A Long Goodbye*** (Belgium)

Directors: Kate Voet, Victor Maes, Producers: An Oost, Emmy Oost, Donato Rotunno, Richard Valk, Screenwriters: Kate Voet, Victor Maes

The heart remembers. (North American Premiere)

***Lost Love Hotline*** (United Kingdom)

Directors: Niki Harman, Producer: Lee Nicholls, Niki Harman, Screenwriter: Niki Harman

An immersive XR experience transforming personal heartbreak into a reverent, evolving audio archive, where participants leave a message for their heartbreak, lost, forgotten or imagined.

Together, they form a collective mythology of longing. (International Premiere)

***Out of Nowhere*** (Austria, Germany)

Directors: Kris Hofmann, Andreas Wuthe, Producers: Kris Hofmann, Richard Pusch,

Screenwriter: Ira Wedel

Our weather is getting angrier. Everywhere. By protecting nature, we can protect ourselves.  
What happens if we fail to do that? (North American Premiere)

***Spectacular: The Art of Jonathan Yeo in Augmented Reality*** (France, United Kingdom)

Director: Jonathan Yeo

A unique artistic experience conceived by British artist Jonathan Yeo in collaboration with Snap AR Studio Paris. It offers a playful, futuristic vision of museum visitation and a personalized journey into the heart of Yeo's pictorial universe. (International Premiere)

**XR Experience Special Event**

Celebrating exciting, out-of-the-box ways artists are using technology to bring their art to life.

***Layers of Place: Austin*** (U.S.)

Producers: [MIT Open Documentary Lab](#), Sarah Wolozin, Akmyrat Tuyliyev, Courtney B. Cook, Rashin Fahandej, Halsey Burgund

Layers of Place encourages exploration of often unseen dimensions of Austin's public spaces—changing our relationship to place and each other through a co-created collection of six location-based AR experiences. (World Premiere)

Projects include:

***The Founders Pillars***

Directors: Meghna Singh, Lesiba Mabitsela, Simon Wood.0

Transform neoclassical pillars into memorials confronting histories of slavery through futurist AR

***Humble Monuments***

Directors: Nadav Assor, Rashin Fahandej, Joanna Wright

Reimagine overlooked urban ecology as living monuments to coexistence, resilience & climate futures

***Moving Memory***

Director: Lori Landay

An AR experience bridging memory, nature, and technology through layered public art ft. Kempelen's Owls

***Open Access Memorial***

Director: Yucef Merhi

AR memorial honoring Aaron Swartz, internet pioneer, activist, and advocate for open access

### ***Oryza: Healing Ground***

Director: Tamara Shogaolu

AR installation using Afrocentric AI to reimagine colonial archives, centering Black land stewards

### ***Paper Boat***

Directors: Mathieu Pradat, Sahar Sajadieh

Playable AR artwork confronting sea level rise through floods, melting glaciers & plastic waste

## **COMPETITION AWARDS**

The Narrative Feature Competition, the Documentary Feature Competition, and Special Awards will be announced on Wednesday, March 18 along with all the Short Film Program winners, which are eligible for Jury Awards within their respective screening categories, and XR Experience Competition. 2026 Special Awards include the SXSW Best of Texas Award, Redbreast Unhidden Award, Vimeo Staff Pick Award, Agog Immersive Impact Award, and the Janet Pierson Champion Award presented by *Indiewire*. All film categories, except Special Events, will be eligible for category-specific Audience Awards, which will be certified by the accounting firm of Maxwell Locke & Ritter and announced via [sxsw.com](https://sxsw.com) the following week.

SXSW is proud to be an official qualifying festival for the Academy Awards® Short Film competition. Winners of our Best Animated, Best Narrative and Best Documentary Short Film categories become eligible for Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awards (Oscars). Any British Short Film or British Short Animation that screens at SXSW is eligible for BAFTA nomination. Films are also eligible for the Independent Spirit Awards, more information on eligibility [here](#).

### **Press Links:**

- Film Stills can be found [HERE](#)
- Publicists for projects in the 2026 program can be found [HERE](#)
- [Press Accreditation](#) Deadline February 13 at 11:59 CT
- [Film & TV Festival Helpful Links](#)

### **About SXSW Film & TV Festival**

Now in its 33rd year, SXSW Film & TV Festival brings together creatives of all stripes to experience a diverse lineup and access to the music and comedy festivals plus conference sessions with visionaries from all corners of the entertainment, media, and technology industries.

### **About SXSW**

SXSW dedicates itself to helping creative people achieve their goals. Founded in 1987 in Austin, Texas, SXSW is known worldwide for conferences and festivals that celebrate the convergence of technology, film and television, music, education, comedy and culture. The

annual event serves global professionals through sessions, showcases, screenings, exhibitions, and networking that consistently generates unexpected discoveries when diverse communities come together. SXSW 2026 runs March 12-18 in downtown Austin, preceded by SXSW EDU March 9-12. Learn more at [sxsw.com](https://www.sxsw.com).

SXSW 2026 Driven by Rivian.

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Editor's Note: Media Registration for SXSW is open until Friday, February 13, 2026. Please go to <https://www.sxsw.com/press-center/press-accreditation> to apply.

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