

A nighttime photograph of Knoxville, Tennessee, featuring the downtown skyline, the historic Market Square building, and the iconic green steel arch bridge spanning the Tennessee River. The city lights are reflected in the water.

# FILM FEST KNOX

PRESENTED BY VISIT KNOXVILLE & REGAL

**NOVEMBER 9-12, 2023**

[filmfestknox.com](http://filmfestknox.com)

# WELCOME

## KIM BUMPAS

### Visit Knoxville President

Knoxville continues to welcome visitors from around the world for concerts, events, conventions, sporting events, filming projects, and now a new film festival with the inaugural FILM FEST KNOX! Our Visit Knoxville Film Office is thrilled to host this event, building on its success of the last several years. The VK Film Office has recruited nearly 20 feature films since 2016, putting Knoxville on the map as a premier film location for independent films. Knoxville has even been ranked three times as one of *MovieMaker Magazine's* Best Places to Live and Work as a Filmmaker. Whether you're a casual FILM FEST KNOX attendee or you're here considering the area for your next project, the VK Film Office looks forward to showing you how great Knoxville looks through a lens!

## GLENN JACOBS

### Knox County Mayor

Welcome to Knox County! Our tight-knit community prides itself on its strong support of the arts, and offers excellent accommodations, dining, and entertainment. Additionally, Knoxville is one of the leading production towns in the country, home to Warner Bros. Discovery, Jupiter Entertainment, RIVR Media, and others. For FILM FEST KNOX festival goers and filmmakers alike, you'll find a variety of unique sites across the county ranging from urban cityscapes to the beautiful mountains of the Smokies. All this plus our genuine southern hospitality and volunteer spirit make Knox County the best place to live, work, raise a family, and visit!

## INDYA KINCANNON

### City of Knoxville Mayor

Welcome to Knoxville! We hope you'll enjoy not just the festival, but the cultural experience that Knoxville provides—especially during the beautiful fall season. Our vibrant downtown area is the perfect complement to FILM FEST KNOX, providing an unmatched walkable environment, with shops, restaurants, breweries, and more just steps away from the Regal Riviera Theatre. From the curated programming at FILM FEST KNOX to everything that Knoxville has to offer, we can't wait for you to experience it all!



## CURT WILLIS

### Director, Visit Knoxville Film Office

Thank you for joining us for the inaugural FILM FEST KNOX!

This film festival was born out of the idea that regional films have a unique quality – something that can often set them apart from projects made in traditional film hubs like New York and L.A.

I'm immensely proud of the type of festival that we have put together in partnership with The Public Cinema and Regal. It celebrates regional films and displays our appreciation for the creative producers that make them happen. If you're a filmmaker

attending the festival, I hope you take the opportunity to foster connections in the industry and spend time looking around our beautiful area to see how inspiration strikes for your next project. If you're a discerning film enthusiast, we hope you'll find a deep connection to the wide variety of films screened, enjoying an extraordinary experience at FILM FEST KNOX!



## DARREN HUGHES

### Artistic Director, FILM FEST KNOX

Welcome to the first edition of FILM FEST KNOX!

2023 is an interesting time to be launching a new film festival. Five years ago, nearly a thousand new movies screened in US theaters. In 2022, fewer than half that many were released. One takeaway from the recent box office success of *Barbie*, *Oppenheimer*, and *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour* is that there remains, even in this post-Covid, video-streaming age, a desire for a kind of communal and spectacular cinematic experience that can't be recreated at home.

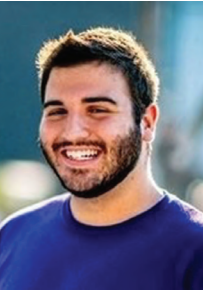
A film festival is a rare opportunity to immerse oneself for a few days not only in "the seventh art" (as the newly-invented medium was described in 1911) but also in a community of filmmakers, film enthusiasts, and supporters of local culture. When Paul Harrill and I launched The Public Cinema nearly a decade ago our goal was to program the best in film art, old and new, that wouldn't screen in Knoxville otherwise. We've carried that mission into this exciting partnership with Visit Knoxville and Regal, with a particular interest in showcasing and advocating for ambitious and personal work made outside of Los Angeles and New York City – great movies made in places like East Tennessee.

FILM FEST KNOX will likely be your only opportunity to see these films on a big screen with an audience. Take a risk on a movie you wouldn't typically watch. Put away your phone. Introduce yourself to a stranger. And enjoy the show!

Darren Hughes is a longtime University of Tennessee employee and a freelance film critic and programmer who has covered American and international festivals for more than two decades. He is a regular contributor to *Filmmaker*, *Cinema Scope*, *MUBI's Notebook*, and *Senses of Cinema* and has published dozens of interviews with some of the world's leading filmmakers.



## AMERICAN REGIONAL FILM



### JASPER BASCH

Jasper Basch joined Variance Films as Head of Distribution in 2023, handling theatrical distribution of films on behalf of MUBI, Sideshow/Janus Films, Samuel Goldwyn Pictures, Apple, National Geographic Documentary Films, Screen Media Films, and Universal Pictures Content Group. He moved to Variance Films after serving as IFC Films' Head of Distribution, where he oversaw more than thirty theatrical releases annually. Previous roles include Vice President of Theatrical Sales at Greenwich Entertainment and Founder-Operator of Cartilage Films, an independent film distributor and theatrical booking agency.



### BEATRICE LOAYZA

Beatrice Loayza is a Brooklyn-based writer and editor. She is a contributing film critic at the *New York Times*, and her work appears regularly in *Artforum*, the *Criterion Collection*, *4Columns*, *Film Comment*, *The Nation*, *Cinema Scope*, *Sight & Sound*, *Reverse Shot*, and other publications. For the *Metrograph Journal*, she writes a monthly column, "Strange Pleasures," which explores unconventional desires found across underground and mainstream cinema alike.



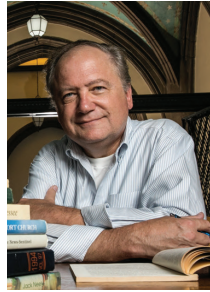
### KELLY WILLIAMS

Kelly Williams is a creative producer and co-founder, with Jonathan Duffy, of Ten Acre Films. His credits include six features that have premiered at Sundance, including *Light from Light*, *Sorry to Bother You* (Independent Spirit Award winner), *The Long Dumb Road*, and *Pit Stop* (Independent Spirit Award nominee). Other films include: *Mark, Mary & Some Other People* (Tribeca 2021), *No Future* (Tribeca 2021), and *I Used To Go Here* (SXSW 2020). His latest production, *What Happens Later*, stars Meg Ryan and David Duchovny and opens in cinemas this November.

## MADE IN TENNESSEE

### JACK NEELY

Jack Neely is the Executive Director of the Knoxville History Project. He has become one of Knoxville's most popular writers and its unofficial historian who has been writing about his hometown's character and heritage for many years. Neely is well known for his thoughtful, well-researched, and provocative pieces of long-form journalism, not to mention his books, speeches, and other public appearances. He has earned numerous awards, including an honorary doctorate from Maryville College; the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the University of Tennessee's History Department; Awards of Distinction from the East Tennessee Historical Society; and a place in the University of Tennessee Educators Hall of Honor.



### VARADILA NURDIN

Varadila Nurdin is a specialist in documentary project development and film financing forum management. She was a Program Director for Docs by the Sea, a documentary incubator and pitching forum for Southeast Asian documentaries held annually in Indonesia. In addition, she has years of experience in film curation and programming through her works with Jakarta International Film Festival, Minikino, and Erasmusindocs. She has served as a member of the selection committee, panel speaker, moderator, pitch trainer, and juror for international and regional film festivals including Sheffield DocFest, Open City Documentary Festival, Nordisk Panorama Forum, Festival Film Dokumenter Yogyakarta, and Luang Prabang Film Festival.



### ROBIN WILHOIT

In 1992, Robin Wilhoit joined the WBIR news team as a reporter and weekend anchor and was eventually given the opportunity to anchor the weekday morning newscasts. In 1998 she joined long-time Channel 10 Anchor Bill Williams at the news desk. She is passionate about issues involving women and children, and a member of several community organizations including Variety of East Tennessee, A Children's Charity, The Next Door, and the University of Tennessee School of Nursing Advisory Board.



## ELEV8OR LIVE JUDGING PANEL



### PAUL HARRILL

Paul Harrill's films have screened in cinemas, on television, and via streaming platforms around the world. Harrill's second feature, *Light From Light*, premiered at Sundance and was theatrically released by Grasshopper Film, and named to several year-end lists. His previous films include *Something, Anything* (New York Times Critics' Pick) and the short *Gina, An Actress, Age 29* (Sundance Jury Prize). He has led workshops and/or mentored lab projects for IFP/The Gotham, Oolite Arts (Miami), Sidewalk, and the Nashville Film Festival. Harrill is Co-Chair of the University of Tennessee Cinema Studies program and one of FILM FEST KNOX's Co-Founders.



### KRISTIN SHRADER

With 20 years of experience in entertainment publicity, Kristin Shrader is currently an independent awards consultant working alongside the public relations teams at Warner Bros. Discovery, FOX Entertainment, and Netflix. Prior to launching her own firm, she oversaw communications for series and brand initiatives at the #1 entertainment cable network, USA. She previously held positions at Bravo, Oxygen Media and Fuse TV where she executed unscripted series campaigns and corporate PR initiatives. Shrader began her publicity career at the original entertainment PR firm, Rogers & Cowan, training under Co-Chairman, Paul Bloch, where she worked with the biggest stars in Hollywood.



### KEITH THOMAS

Keith Thomas is Head of Development for Marcus Entertainment. Thomas has created memorable television series, branded content, and short films as a producer, director, and director of photography for over 25 years. His television credits include *The Craftsman*, *Snapped*, *Say Yes to the Dress*, *My Strange Addiction*, and *Fatal Attraction*, among many others. Prior to joining Marcus Entertainment, Thomas was a launch executive at Magnolia Network, where he became a key player in one of the most successful rollouts of a linear channel in this century.

### CURT WILLIS

**Director, Visit Knoxville Film Office**

Since 2014, Curt Willis has served as the Director of the Visit Knoxville Film Office where he recruits feature films to shoot in Knoxville. Knoxville currently sits on *Moviemaker Magazine's* list of Best Places to Live & Work as a Filmmaker. Willis is also a filmmaker, having written and produced three feature films and co-directed one of those films, *Little Ponderosa Zoo* which aired on HBO and Cinemax. Curt is also an actor, appearing on such shows as *Burn Notice*, *Under The Dome*, *The Outsider*, *Halt & Catch Fire*, and *Devious Maids* to name a few.



### BOB RAINES

**Executive Director, Tennessee Entertainment Commission**

Bob Raines has been with the TEC since 2002. In his current role as Executive Director of the TEC, Raines administers the state's film and TV incentive program; negotiates film, television and music projects; and markets the unique aspects of doing business in Tennessee to companies throughout the country and around the world. Active in several entertainment and community organizations, Raines serves on the boards of Film Nashville and the Nashville Film Festival. He also has close partnerships with Regional Film Commissions in Memphis, Knoxville and Chattanooga.



### EMILY BEST

**Founder and CEO, Seed&Spark**

Emily Best created the prototype for film-centric crowdfunding and VOD distribution platform Seed&Spark while raising funds for their feature film *Like the Water* in 2010.



**SEED&SPARK**  
ART OF THE PITCH

**FILM/KNOX**  
FILMING IN TENNESSEE

### ART OF THE PITCH

Expanding on best practices from The Art of the Pitch, Founder and CEO of Seed & Spark, Emily Best, will show you how to make an effective pitch deck, covering what you need a pitch deck for, what to include, how to design it, and nailing the structure and flow alongside your verbal pitch.

### MADE IN TENNESSEE

Join Executive Director of the Tennessee Entertainment Commission, Bob Raines, and Visit Knoxville Film Office Director, Curt Willis, for a conversation about filming in Tennessee and Knoxville. Information on state and local film incentives, crew base, and other resources available as well as processes important to producers will be covered.



## AN EVENING SONG (for three voices)

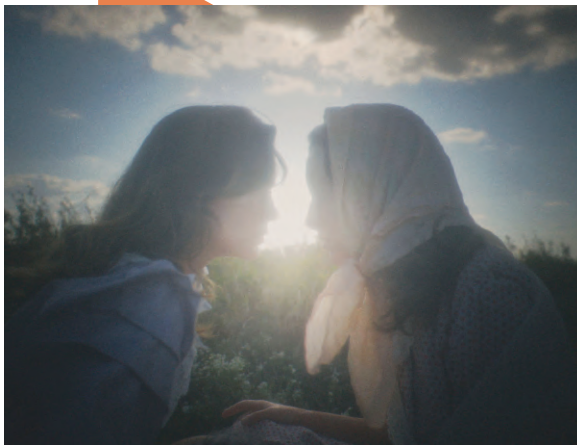
**Saturday 12:30PM • Theater 3**

**Dir. Graham Swon**

**Prod. Lio Sigerson, Graham Swon,  
Jeremy Ungar, Mustafa Uzunur**

**86 minutes, 2023, US**

Barbara, a writer and former child prodigy, moves to the Midwest with her novelist husband Richard, and they soon find themselves caught in a love triangle with their pious housekeeper Martha. Like a Henry James ghost story transposed to the rural landscapes of a Willa Cather novel, *An Evening Song (for three voices)* is a Gothic romance in the guise of a 1930s pulp mystery.



## KICK ME

**Friday 9:45PM • Theater 2**

**Dir. Gary Huggins**

**Prod. Betsy Gran, Gary Huggins, Leone  
Anne Reeves**

**86 minutes, 2023, US**

A self-described “knock-knock joke ten years in the making,” Gary Huggins’ debut feature *Kick Me* has to be seen to be believed. The film ostensibly tells the story of a high school guidance counselor who goes into Kansas City, Kansas one night to buy a pet bunny and meet with a delinquent student before attending his daughter’s choral concert. But nothing — nothing — goes as planned.



## LOUSY CARTER

**Sunday 1:30PM • Theater 3**

**Dir. Bob Byington**

**Prod. Bob Byington, Chris McKenna**

**80 minutes, 2023, US**

After receiving a grim diagnosis, middle-aged literature professor Lousy Carter reevaluates the relationships in his life – with his best friend and fellow teacher Kaminsky, with Kaminsky’s wife Olivia, who he’s been sleeping with; with his ex-girlfriend Candela; and with the students in his graduate seminar on *The Great Gatsby*. It doesn’t go well.



## MOUNTAINS

**Saturday 3:15PM • Theater 3**

**Dir. Monica Sorelle**

**Prod. Robert Colom, Tristan  
Scott-Behrends**

**95 minutes, 2023, US**

While looking for a new home for his family, Xavier Sr., a Haitian demolition worker, is faced with the realities of redevelopment as he is tasked with dismantling his rapidly gentrifying Miami neighborhood. Little Haiti has for decades been home to working-class immigrants, mostly of Caribbean descent, but as the value of their land skyrockets, their culture and community have come under increasing threat.



## PEAK SEASON

**Friday 5:30PM • Theater 3**

**Dir. Henry Loevner, Steven Canter**  
**Prod. Lovell Holder, Steven Kanter,**  
**Henry Loevner, Patrick Ward**

**82 minutes, 2023, US**

New Yorkers Amy and Max arrive in the resort town of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for a relaxing getaway while they finalize wedding plans. When Max is called away on business, Amy finds a friend in Loren, a local wilderness guide. They spend the week together, flyfishing and exploring the mountains. Lonely and lost in their lives, Amy and Loren share an instant connection.



## SOMEWHERE QUIET

**Saturday 8:30PM • Theater 3**

**Dir. Olivia West Lloyd**  
**Prod. Eamon Downey, Emma**  
**Hannaway, Taylor Shung**

**98 minutes, 2023, US**

Meg is trying to readjust to normalcy after surviving a traumatic kidnapping, but her sense of reality soon starts to deteriorate when she travels with her husband Scott to his family's isolated compound. Things become even more tense when Scott's cloying cousin Madelin arrives unannounced.



For two months, 26 filmmaking teams in Knoxville developed and produced short films as a proof-of-concept for a feature film. Come see the world premiere of the top 8 projects, and then hear the filmmakers pitch their features to a panel of judges in front of a live audience!

## THURSDAY LIVE PITCH COMPETITION

**6:00PM • Theatre 2**

Below are the top 8 teams from the Elev8or Pitch Competition that will have their 5-to-8-minute proof-of-concept short films screened, followed by their feature concept pitch and a Q&A session with a panel of judges in front of a live audience.

**ALONG CAME**  
**CATACOMBS**  
**FIELD CALL**  
**NEON SHADOWS**

**ROCK-A-BYE**  
**SECRET CITY**  
**SOLIDARITY**  
**TENEBRIS**

## SATURDAY ELEV8OR PITCH SCREENINGS

**4:00 & 6:00PM • Theatre 2**

All proof-of-concept short film submissions for the Elev8or Pitch Competition will be screened.

### 4:00 BLOCK

**NEON SHADOWS**  
**RONNIE GOES ON TOUR**  
**SOLIDARITY**  
**THE FAMILY BUSINESS**  
**NIGHT OF THE HOGMAN**  
**CYCLEBREAKER**  
**ROCK-A-BYE**  
**MISSING PERSON SIGN**  
**INTERTWINED**  
**CATACOMBS**

### 6:00 BLOCK

**ALONG CAME**  
**DON'T IGNORE ME**  
**FIELD CALL**  
**TENEBRIS**  
**MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**  
**THE FEED**  
**SCATTER**  
**PAST SINS**  
**SECRET CITY**



# FILM FEST KNOX FULL SCHEDULE

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THURSDAY



**THURSDAY  
LIVE PITCH COMPETITION**  
6:00PM • Theatre 2

WORKSHOPS

**SATURDAY**

**SEED & SPARK**

ART OF THE PITCH

HYATT PLACE - SEC ROOM  
11:30AM

**SUNDAY**

**FILM/KNOX**

FILMING IN TENNESSEE

HYATT PLACE - SEC ROOM  
1:30PM

FRIDAY

REGAL RIVIERA  
THEATER 2



**TIME OF THE HEATHEN**  
5:15PM



**HERE**  
7:30PM



**KICK ME**  
9:45PM

REGAL RIVIERA  
THEATER 3



**PEAK SEASON**  
5:30PM



**COUNTRY BRAWLERS**  
7:45PM

SATURDAY

REGAL RIVIERA  
THEATER 2



**THE TWO FACES OF  
A BAMILEKÉ WOMAN**  
12:00PM



**MADE IN TN SHORTS**  
1:45PM



**ELEV8OR PITCH #1**  
4:00PM



**ELEV8OR PITCH #2**  
6:00PM



**A HARD PROBLEM**  
8:00PM

REGAL RIVIERA  
THEATER 3



**AN EVENING SONG (for three voices)**  
12:30PM



**MOUNTAINS**  
3:15PM



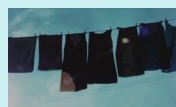
**ANSELM**  
5:30PM



**SOMEWHERE QUIET**  
8:30PM

SUNDAY

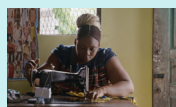
REGAL RIVIERA  
THEATER 2



**NEW YORK STORIES: JIM JENNINGS**  
11:15AM



**MUSIC**  
1:00PM



**MAMBAR PIERRETTE**  
3:20PM



**ABOUT THIRTY**  
5:20PM



**FALLEN LEAVES**  
7:30PM

REGAL RIVIERA  
THEATER 3



**I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE**  
11:30AM



**LOUSY CARTER**  
1:30PM



**ONE MORE WEEK**  
3:45PM



**AWARDS CEREMONY**  
6:00PM

## MADE IN TENNESSEE



### COUNTRY BRAWLERS

Friday 7:45PM • Theater 3

Dir. Curren Sheldon

88 minutes, 2023, US

Filmed over the course of two years, *Country Brawlers* is a raw and intimate look into an eclectic cast of characters that make up rural boxing in Central Appalachia – a region struggling with poverty, addiction, and hopelessness – and how the sport of boxing can be a vehicle for change, purpose, and redemption.



### A HARD PROBLEM

Saturday 8:00PM • Theater 2

Dir. hazart

109 minutes, 2021, US

After the death of his mother, Ian begins cleaning out the family home while his estranged sister Lisa makes funeral arrangements. The tensions between them become more heated after Ian hides a precious memento from Lisa, forcing her to call in help from a mysterious investigator.



### ONE MORE WEEK

Sunday 3:45PM • Theater 3

Dir. Samuel Wayne Scott

71 minutes, 2023, US

The seniors of the West High football team are on pace to be the winningest in program history despite never having made it past the semi-finals of the playoffs. *One More Week* is the journey of their final attempt to win a state championship as they come to terms with the end of high school.

## MADE IN TENNESSEE SHORTS

Saturday 1:45PM • Theater 2

90 minutes

### AFTER, LIFE.

Dir. Jakey Lutso

3 minutes, Hixson, TN

### BASEBALL WITH DAD

Dir. Cody McHan

15 minutes, Knoxville, TN

### BLACK & WHITE

Dir. Nick Jackson

6 minutes, Nashville, TN

### CART RETURN

Dir. Matt Webb

4 minutes, Maryville, TN

### DISTANT PEOPLE

Dir. Nathan Swann

7 minutes, Knoxville, TN

### FISH

Dir. Eli Heaton

18 minutes, Knoxville, TN

### MK ULTRA VIOLENCE

Dir. Jay Curtis Miller

14 minutes, Lebanon, TN

### SWORD, SKILL & SORCERY

Dir. Shayna Raye Funderburk

15 minutes, Franklin, TN

## FOLLOW

# FILM FEST KNOX

PRESENTED BY VISIT KNOXVILLE & REGAL







## ABOUT THIRTY

Sunday 5:20PM • Theater 2

Dir. Martín Shanly

92 minutes, 2023, Argentina

This comedy of errors revolves around a hapless 30-year-old named Arturo. His penchant for indiscretions is as impossible to overlook as the finesse with which the film glides from March 2020 to the preceding decade and back again.



## ANSELM

Saturday 5:30PM • Theater 3

Dir. Wim Wenders

93 minutes, 2023, France/Germany

A 3D study of the artist Anselm Kiefer that documents his work by navigating through his massive studio spaces and installations. *Anselm* is the portrait of an artist who, like famed director Wim Wenders (both were born in 1945), has spent a lifetime reckoning with Germany's past.



## LABERINT SEQUENCES

Saturday 5:30PM • Theater 3

Dir. Blake Williams

21 minutes, 2023, Canada

Shot in Barcelona's Laberint d'Horta, the film charts several journeys into the garden in search of its center, where a statue of Eros waits. As the film navigates the maze's false pathways, its structure begins to crack, and a mysterious underworld floods its gates.

*Screening before Anselm.*

## FALLEN LEAVES

Sunday 7:30PM • Theater 2

Dir. Aki Kaurismäki

81 minutes, 2023, Finland/Germany

In modern-day Helsinki, Ansa and Holappa, two lonely souls in search of their first love, meet by chance in a local karaoke bar. However, the pair's path to happiness is beset by numerous obstacles—from lost phone numbers to mistaken addresses, alcoholism, and a charming stray dog.



## THE DAUGHTERS OF FIRE

Sunday 7:30PM • Theater 2

Dir. Pedro Costa

9 minutes, 2023, Portugal

Three young sisters are set apart by the eruption of Fogo. But they sing. One day, we will know why we live and why we suffer.

*Screening before Fallen Leaves.*



## HERE

Friday 7:30PM • Theater 2

Dir. Bas Devos

82 minutes, 2023, Belgium

Set in Brussels, *Here* revolves around a potential love story between a Romanian construction worker and a Belgian-Chinese doctorate student, who cross paths just before the former is about to move back home.





## MAMBAR PIERRETTE

Sunday 3:20PM • Theater 2

Dir. Rosine Mbakam

93 minutes, 2023, Cameroon

Pierrette is a single mother in Cameroon, where the beginning of the school year brings more work for her business as a seamstress, along with mounting expenses. As flooding rains and other misfortunes gather around her, Pierrette carries on as best as she can, laughing and commiserating with her neighbors.

## TIME OF THE HEATHEN

Friday 5:15PM • Theater 2

Dir. Peter Kass

75 minutes, 1961, US

In the opening moments of *Time of the Heathen*, a wandering drifter named Gaunt happens upon the murder of a Black woman, Marie. The murderer and his father spot the stranger and conspire to pin the crime on him, so Gaunt flees into the woods, taking with him the only other witness, Marie's deaf son.



## MUSIC

Sunday 1:00PM • Theater 2

Dir. Angela Schanelec

108 minutes, 2023, France/Germany/  
Greece/Serbia

Abandoned as a baby, Jon finds himself in prison on a manslaughter charge. He falls in love with prison guard Iro, unaware of their fateful connection. Schanelec's tenth feature film is a uniquely elliptical, mysterious, and personal adaptation of *Oedipus Rex*.

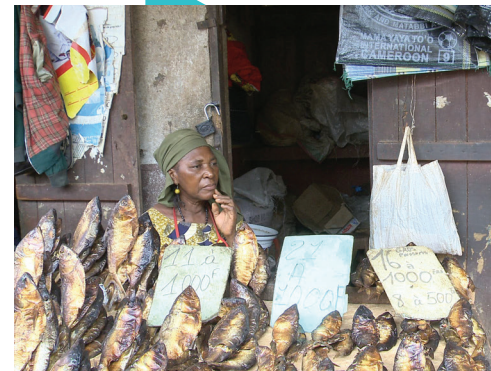
## THE TWO FACES OF A BAMILÉKÉ WOMAN

Saturday 12:00PM • Theater 2

Dir. Rosine Mbakam

76 minutes, 2018, Cameroon

Mbakam's first feature-length film documents her first return to Cameroon after seven years of living abroad, when she reunites with her mother, introduces her family to her French husband and their son, and processes in real time the split consciousness of the immigrant experience.







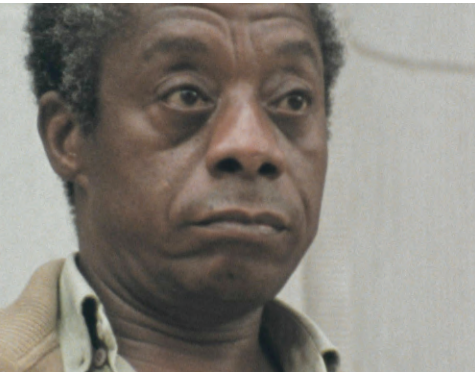
The Visit Knoxville Film Office serves to strengthen Knoxville's economy through the promotion of the city as a premiere filming location. By attracting motion media companies to Knoxville through the marketing of its locations, accommodations, services, crew, and talent, the Film Office fosters the creation of jobs in the area, stimulates business opportunities, and generates exposure. Knoxville has three times been named one of *MovieMaker Magazine's* Best Places to Live and Work as a Moviemaker. For more information visit [filmknoxvilletn.com](http://filmknoxvilletn.com) and follow on Facebook and Twitter.



The Public Cinema was created to share vital works of contemporary international and American cinema—works that might otherwise be unseen or overlooked by Knoxville audiences. Most of the films screened are discoveries from the festival circuit; many are Tennessee or regional premieres. Whatever is screened, the only agenda is to create a space for cinema as an art form and to promote discussion among discerning moviegoers. For more information visit [publiccinema.org](http://publiccinema.org).



Regal, a subsidiary of the Cineworld Group, operates one of the largest and most geographically diverse theatre circuits in the United States, consisting of 5,818 screens in 429 theatres in 41 states along with the District of Columbia and Guam as of July 31, 2023. We believe that the size, reach and quality of the company's theatre circuit provides its patrons with a convenient and enjoyable moviegoing experience. We are committed to being "The Best Place to Watch a Movie!" Additional information is available on Regal's website: [REGmovies.com](http://REGmovies.com).



## I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

**Sunday 11:30AM • Theater 3**

**Dir. Dick Fontaine, Pat Hartley**

**95 minutes, 1982, US**

A documentary of James Baldwin's return to America in 1980, when he revisited several locations of violent struggle during the Civil Rights movement. At each stop – in Atlanta, Birmingham, Selma, Jackson, St. Augustine, and then up to Newark – he laments with old allies in the struggle.



## NEW YORK STORIES: JIM JENNINGS

**Sunday 11:15AM • Theater 2**

**Dir. Jim Jennings**

**60 minutes, 1974-2006, US**

In 1967, at the age of 16, Jim Jennings got his hands on a 16mm Keystone camera and began his five-decade avocation as a painter, sculptor, photographer, and experimental filmmaker. This program of new 2K scans of several key films is presented in memory of Jennings, who passed away in 2022.

## MADE IN TENNESSEE SELECTION COMMITTEE



### AMANDA THORNTON

Amanda Thornton works at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, but her passion has always been movies. She previously managed film festivals nationwide for Regal and has volunteered at Nashville and Knoxville Film Festivals.



### ELENI PALIS

Eleni Palis is an Assistant Professor of English and Cinema Studies at the University of Tennessee. She is the author of the book *Classical Projections: The Practice and Politics of Film Quotation* (Oxford University Press, 2022).



### ERIC DAWSON

Eric Dawson is Manager of the Knox County Public Library's Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection. Previously, he served as head of the Library's A/V archive, TAMIS. He is a writer and archival filmmaker whose films include *Electric Appalachia* and *Suttree*.

## ELEV8OR FINAL ROUND COMMITTEE



### AMY HUBBARD (ELEV8OR PITCH COORDINATOR)

Amy Leigh Hubbard has worked in tv, film and digital media since 2012. Notable work includes co-producing *If Dreams were Lightning: a Rural Healthcare Documentary*, a film for ITVS by Ramin Bahrani, *Light from Light*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2019 and director/producer on several holiday themed digital pieces with HGTV.



### GARRY WILLIAMS

Garry Williams has written screenplays for MGM, UA, Paramount, FoxTV, and the BBC. He has worked with directors including Stephen Gyllenhaal, as well as producer Sydney Pollack, and has a co-story credit on *Larger than Life*, starring Bill Murray and Matthew McConaughey, and a co-screenplay credit on *SO B. IT*, starring Alfre Woodard, John Heard, and Cloris Leachman.



### VARADILA NURDIN

Varadila Nurdin is a specialist in documentary project development and film financing forum management. She was a Program Director for Docs by the Sea, a documentary incubator and pitching forum for Southeast Asian documentaries held annually in Indonesia.

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