

SFFILM

65th San Francisco International Film Festival at

BAMPFA

April 22-May 1

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Location

2155 Center Street
Downtown Berkeley

Tickets

Available to the general public beginning April 1

Online at bampfa.org

In person at the BAMPFA admissions desk:

Wed-Sun, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Prices

General admission: \$18

BAMPFA members, SFFILM members, UC Berkeley students: \$15

Non-UC Berkeley students, 65+, disabled persons: \$16

BAMPFA's second-feature discount does not apply to these programs. Tickets are nonrefundable and may not be exchanged. SFFILM vouchers may not be redeemed in person at BAMPFA. On-site ticket sales are subject to limited availability.

Information

BAMPFA: bampfa.org / (510) 642-0808

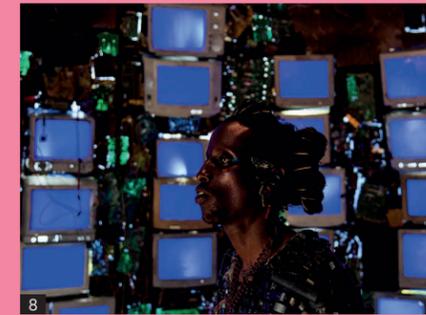
SFFILM: sffilm.org/festival

All films are in their original language, with English subtitles when necessary. Program notes adapted from SFFILM.

Ticket holders for BAMPFA screenings receive free admission to the galleries (same day as film ticket).

BAMPFA members always enjoy discounted film tickets. Join or renew today! bampfa.org/members

1. *Happening*, 4.22.22
2. *Children of the Mist*, 4.23.22
3. *Hit the Road*, 4.23.22
4. *Mars One*, 4.23.22
5. *The Exiles*, 4.24.22
6. *Fire of Love*, 4.24.22
7. *La guerra civil*, 4.24.22
8. *Neptune Frost*, 4.27.22
9. *Utama*, 4.28.22
10. *Fire on the Plain*, 4.28.22
11. *Benediction*, 4.29.22
12. *What About China?*, 4.29.22
13. Trinh T. Minh-ha: Persistence of Vision Award, 4.29.22
14. *I Didn't See You There*, 4.30.22
15. *Costa Brava, Lebanon*, 4.30.22
16. *Intregalde*, 4.30.22
17. *Midwives*, 5.1.22
18. *Riotsville, USA*, 5.1.22
19. *Klondike*, 5.1.22



SFFILM festival

BAMPFA

April 22-May 1, 2022



FRIDAY / 4.22.22

HAPPENING **7:00**
AUDREY DIWAN (FRANCE, 2021)
(L'événement). Based on Annie Ernaux’s memoir, this Golden Lion–winning drama captures the urgency and desperation of a young woman trying to exert control over her body and her future. Refusing to let an unwanted pregnancy shatter her life, working-class literature student Anne begins the quest for an abortion at a time when it is illegal and taboo in France. With a career-making performance that earned her a César, Anamaria Vartolomei captivates from the moment she appears on-screen, imbuing Anne with a remarkable sensibility along her harrowing journey. Although set in the 1960s, the narrative remains timely in an era when reproductive freedom is under assault. (**100 MINS**)

SATURDAY / 4.23.22

CHILDREN OF THE MIST **3:00**
DIEM HA LE (VIETNAM, 2021)
(Nhưng dua tre trong suong). In the misty mountains of Vietnam, insulated from the modern world, live the ethnic minority Hmong. Among them is feisty thirteen-year-old Di, who delights in her friendship with filmmaker Diem Ha Le, a rare ally and mentor. As the Lunar New Year approaches, Di faces the Hmong tradition of “bride kidnapping,” in which young girls are forced into marriage. She has witnessed the results of these matches in her parents’ toxic relationship and her sister’s fate as a wife and mother at fourteen. Foolishly, Di plays with fire and is ill-prepared for the consequences of her actions. Patiently filmed over three years, this bold and curious documentary is a rare window into a remote community on the cusp of global change and the life of an emotionally vulnerable girl on the precipice of her destiny. (**90 MINS**)

SATURDAY / 4.23.22

HIT THE ROAD **5:30**
PANAH PANAHİ (IRAN, 2021)
(Jaddeh khaki). An eccentric family takes a road trip through sun-drenched Iranian landscapes to a mysterious destination in Panah Panahi’s auspicious first feature. As the mother worries that they are being followed, the eldest brother pensively drives on, rarely stopping even to stretch. Only the irrepressible younger son, a little boy embracing adventure, enjoys the journey, unaware that his big brother is fleeing trouble. Panahi, the son of auteur Jafar Panahi, makes an assured debut with this gorgeously lensed feature. (**94 MINS**)

SATURDAY / 4.23.22

MARS ONE **7:45**
GABRIEL MARTINS (BRAZIL, 2022)
(Marte um). This charming and humorous film centers on the Martin family, which meets the shifting politics of modern-day Brazil with grit and determination. Featuring four vibrant characters—the matriarch Tércia, who struggles to move past a shocking experience; her husband, Wellington, a man of appetites and *futebol* superfan; their bookish son, Deivinho, who obligingly absorbs his father’s athletic ambitions while harboring a secret desire to colonize Mars; and Eunice, a young woman discovering her sexual identity—this tender film is a delightful portrait of a bombastic clan who dares to dream. Tensions flare and disaster looms, but this ensemble of strivers finds strength in one another. (**115 MINS**)

SUNDAY / 4.24.22

THE EXILES **2:00**
BEN KLEIN, VIOLET COLUMBUS (US/TAIWAN/FRANCE/CHINA, 2021)
Never-before-seen footage of Chinese dissidents enmeshed in the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests and their bittersweet reflections thirty years later anchor this part cine-memoir, part archival excavation focused on *Who Killed Vincent Chin?* (1988) documentary firebrand Christine Choy. Relinquishing control of the camera to her students Ben Klein and Violet Columbus, the filmmaker is freed to ruminate over her personal journey to the United States and her complicated relationship with her homeland. In Choy’s past and present interviews with her subjects, we see connections made and witness the tremendous sacrifices undertaken by those who held onto the ideals of democracy. A trailblazing provocateur returns center stage, bringing compatriots along in a film that won the Documentary US Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival. (**96 MINS**)

SUNDAY / 4.24.22

FIRE OF LOVE **5:00**
SARA DOSA (US/CANADA, 2021)
A couple’s passion is inextricably bound with the explosive geology that is their life’s work in Sara Dosa’s stunning documentary portrait of French volcanologists Katia and Maurice Krafft. After meeting in the late 1960s, the pair embarked on a nonstop expedition to the sites of violent eruptions and the very edges of active volcanoes. Given access to the Kraffts’ rich archive of video, photographs, and recordings, along with news footage and their television appearances, Dosa has crafted an almost tactile re-creation of the duo’s perilous explorations. Narrated by Miranda July, this gorgeous film and its vivid images of scarlet lava flows are a moving testament to love and science. (**93 MINS**)

SUNDAY / 4.24.22

LA GUERRA CIVIL **7:45**
EVA LONGORIA BASTÓN (UK/US/MEXICO, 2022)
Within the confines of the boxing ring, the famous rivalry between Mexican Julio César Chávez and Mexican American Oscar De La Hoya reveals complexities of identity, culture, and legacy. *La guerra civil* documents the cultural divide of the 1990s through the lens of the epic Chavez vs. De La Hoya showdown. Directed by Mexican American actor and producer Eva Longoria Bastón, the documentary intricately weaves rich archival footage with exhilarating recounts leading up to the 1996 fight. Interviewees include family members, trainers, and journalists, as well as fans like George Lopez and Mario Lopez. The sport of boxing takes on new meaning with the spectacle of Mexican identity at center stage. (**102 MINS**)

WEDNESDAY / 4.27.22

NEPTUNE FROST **7:00**
ANISIA UZEYMAN, SAUL WILLIAMS (RWANDA/US, 2021)
Replete with mind-altering visual and sonic imagery, this Afrofuturist mélange of music, poetry, and resistance is hypnotic and visionary. Set in Rwanda, the film depicts a genderqueer community of hackers and techno poets. Though plot is secondary to style and rhythm, a young man named Matalusa mines coltan, an essential ingredient of cell phones. He meets Neptune, a messianic figure able to change genders. Other characters offer bits of wisdom or a simple invitation to put on headphones and join their dance. As one of them observes, “The war forced us into other dimensions,” and *Neptune Frost* brings a few of those dimensions to vivid life, carving out a bold new vision for Black cinema. (**105 MINS**)

THURSDAY / 4.28.22

UTAMA **6:00**
ALEJANDRO LOAYZA GRISI (BOLIVIA/URUGUAY/FRANCE, 2022)
Elderly Quechua couple Virginio and Sisa live quiet lives in the Bolivian highlands, tending to their herd of llamas. But the passage of time and an unusually long drought brought on by environmental change threaten their pastoral existence. When their grandson Clever comes to visit and help with the animals, he also tries to persuade them to join him in the city, where family can care for them. Bolivian director Alejandro Loayza Grisi employs luminous cinematography in this Sundance Film Festival World Cinema—Dramatic Grand Jury Prize winner, as he examines the intricate relationship between land and humanity in a drama that provides subtle commentary on the impact of climate crisis and the loss of Indigenous traditions. (**87 MINS**)

THURSDAY / 4.28.22

FIRE ON THE PLAIN **8:00**
ZHANG JI (CHINA, 2021)
(Ping yuan shang de mo xi). In this drama set in the bitter winter landscape of China’s industrial northeast in 1997, Shu, the taciturn son of a local gangster, and Fei, the introspective daughter of a factory worker, conspire to flee their desperate lives as a serial killer runs rampant in their hometown. The young lovers’ secret rendezvous hits an unexpected dead end, causing a ripple effect into a near future neither of them foresaw. Balancing family melodrama and hard-boiled film noir, veteran cinematographer Zhang Ji’s auspicious directorial debut luxuriates in a Chinese mindset of fatalism, reconciliation, and scarcity. (**113 MINS**)

FRIDAY / 4.29.22

BENEDICTION **4:00**
TERENCE DAVIES (UK, 2021) US PREMIERE
Terence Davies separates man from myth in his masterly re-creation of acclaimed English poet Siegfried Sassoon’s life. Battles still rage when Sassoon’s impassioned antiwar verse leads to the decorated World War I hero’s commitment to a psychiatric hospital. Rejoining society in the early 1920s, Sassoon falls in with London’s Bright Young Things and into affairs with composer Ivor Novello and other men before marrying, fathering a son, and converting to Catholicism. Rather than present the story sequentially, Davies ingeniously shifts between eras, presenting a life often in contradiction and conversation with itself. With the same sort of restlessness, Davies brilliantly uses archival footage, gleefully catty dialog, and the moving poetry of Sassoon and contemporary Wilfred Owen to mine the complex emotional territory of his subject. (**88 MINS**)

FRIDAY / 4.29.22

TRINH T. MINH-HA: PERSISTENCE OF VISION AWARD + WHAT ABOUT CHINA? **7:00**
TRINH T. MINH-HA (US/CHINA, 2021)

Filmmaker, writer, and composer Trinh T. Minh-ha is a Distinguished Professor of the Graduate School at the University of California, Berkeley, whose work runs the gamut from feature films to multimedia installations to books. Her many awards include the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women’s Caucus for Art; the 2006 Trailblazers Award at MIPDoc in Cannes, France; and the 1991 AFI National Independent Filmmaker Maya Deren Award. This year’s POV program will feature Trinh in conversation with Rizvana Bradley, assistant professor of film and media at UC Berkeley, followed by the North American premiere of Trinh’s latest film, *What About China?*

Nearly a half century after China’s Cultural Revolution, images of the Asian superpower as friend or foe to a beleaguered, industrialized West belie a mercurial nature that fascinates in this latest video essay by esteemed UC Berkeley professor and experimental filmmaker Trinh T. Minh-ha. Similar to *Forgetting Vietnam* (2015), low-res video footage shot thirty years ago of Chinese rural life is reanimated and reframed through photomontage, oral histories, travelogs, poetry, and folk songs in order to interrogate what China has been, is, and could be. The

generational transmission of values and ideas weighs heavily, impacting identity formation at home and in diaspora. As in her seminal works, the materiality of texts (video, sound, this film) captures the effect experienced by global citizenry. (**135 MINS**)

SATURDAY / 4.30.22

I DIDN’T SEE YOU THERE **3:00**
REID DAVENPORT (US, 2022)
Oakland resident and filmmaker Reid Davenport reflects on matters of visibility, family, and the freak show in his latest personal film, winner of Sundance’s Directing Award for US Documentary. Visits to his family in Connecticut prompt memories of growing up before moving west to be an artist. A circus tent erected near his apartment elicits thoughts about America’s fascination with freak shows and how his disability affects the perceptions of those around him. As he reveals his observations in voiceover, Davenport’s movements are depicted from the vantage point of his wheelchair, so the frustrations caused by people blocking sidewalks and access ramps or bus drivers issuing unachievable demands are made abundantly clear. (**76 MINS**)

SATURDAY / 4.30.22

COSTA BRAVA, LEBANON **5:30**
MOUNIA AKL (LEBANON/FRANCE/SPAIN/SWEDEN/DENMARK/NORWAY/QATAR, 2021)
Set in the near future but reflecting on current crises in present-day Lebanon, this tense debut portrays three generations of the Badri family, who retreat from the chaos of Beirut to a rural homestead. Eight years later, familial tensions rise just as the government responds to a garbage crisis by annexing property adjacent to theirs for a “green landfill.” Husband Walid and his wife, Soraya, bicker over the raising of their two children and how to address the trash being dumped just over their fence, while aging matriarch Zeina’s health begins to decline. As detritus piles up both literally and metaphorically, the Badris are forced to decide whether to fight the government and stay put or leave the home they’ve created and rejoin society in Beirut. (**106 MINS**)

SATURDAY / 4.30.22

ÎNTEGALDE **7:45**
RADU MUNTEAN (ROMANIA, 2021)
Wryly funny and suspenseful, this Cannes hit portrays a trio of Romanian aid workers whose SUV gets stuck on a logging road in remote Transylvania. Their day begins genially enough, but the journey takes a turn for the worse after they give a lift to a desperate old man. As the day darkens, camaraderie between the threesome turns to sniping, and one leaves the others behind to get help. Matters intensify when a driver reeking of booze and machismo stops to offer assistance. With nuanced characters and dialog, Radu Muntean’s film explores potent issues of bias and privilege by putting those whose very job is to give aid in need of aid themselves. (**104 MINS**)

SUNDAY / 5.1.22

MIDWIVES **2:30**
SNOW HNIN EI HLAING (MYANMAR (BURMA)/CANADA/GERMANY, 2022)
Buddhist midwife Hla runs a tight ship ministering health care to the Rohingya, the Muslim ethnic minority that has lived in Myanmar for generations. Muslim midwife apprentice Nyo Nyo trains under her, assisting with translation and overseeing many patients from her community. Due to ingrained power dynamics and their respective cultural prejudices, the two women often clash. With unparalleled access to their lives over five years, director Snow Hnin Ei Hlaing captures the heart of a war-weary nation through the strength of its most vulnerable citizens in her documentary feature debut, the winner of the Sundance Film Festival’s Excellence in Verité Filmmaking World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award. (**89 MINS**)

SUNDAY / 5.1.22

RIOTSVILLE, USA **4:30**
SIERRA PETTENGILL (US, 2022)
A treasure trove of archival footage taken from US military recordings and 1960s broadcast TV forms the foundation for Sierra Pettengill’s stunning essay film, a piercing interrogation into the origins of American police militarization. Through a meticulous and creative assemblage of images and sounds, it charts the machinations of the Kerner Commission, President Lyndon B. Johnson’s task force on civil disorders, and the creation of model towns used to train police and military in techniques to pacify antiwar protestors. The palpable fear of all-out domestic terrorism born of the Civil Rights Movement materializes in these eerie simulations positioning law enforcement and civilians as actors in scenes straight out of mid-twentieth-century science fiction/dystopian films in which the true enemy is often hidden in plain sight. (**91 MINS**)

SUNDAY / 5.1.22

KLONDIKE **7:00**
MARYNA ER GORBACH (UKRAINE/TURKEY, 2022)
Armed conflict hits home in the most vivid way imaginable when mortar fire decimates one wall of the farmhouse belonging to married Ukrainian couple Irka and Tolik. A subsequent plane crash nearby leaves the couple wondering if they should relocate, but stubbornness sets in over being driven from their home by external forces. Winner of the Directing Award in the Sundance Film Festival’s World Cinema Dramatic competition, and based on real events, *Klondike* unveils its harrowing story in striking widescreen compositions, often framed by the shattered space of Irka and Tolik’s living room. Set in 2014, when conflict in the Donbas region began, Maryna Er Gorbach’s powerful drama takes on even greater pertinence as a precursor to the current war in Ukraine. (**100 MINS**)