AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MARGARET FILM MEAD FESTIVAL

ACTIVATE

October 19–22, 2017
amnh.org/mead
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special Thanks

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Isaac Zablocki  
The AMNH Audio/Visual Team  
The Richard Gilder Graduate School  
The 2017 Mead Volunteers
Welcome to the Mead

We may be less sure than ever about what tomorrow will bring.

An avalanche of disorienting unknowns frames this year’s Margaret Mead Film Festival—from American political upheaval to the effects of global climate change, the mounting refugee crisis, and the ever-increasing pace of technological transformation.

In the face of uncertainty, we sometimes prefer to turn away, escape, and retreat to the familiar. But there is far more to gain by pushing ourselves beyond our comfort zone. Come to the Mead to tune in, turn on, and pay attention.

It’s time to activate.

Activate your passion. Engage with stories that help us find genuine connections where we least expect them. Hear youth on a communal farm in Mexico debate the future of their land and their favorite pop icons (The Cloud Forest, p. 16). Meet the remarkable women of an all female regiment in Kurdistan fighting against aggression from the Islamic State (Gulistan, Land of Roses, p. 17). Meet passionate filmmakers and protagonists in person in post-screening conversations and at Mead Mixers.

Activate your awareness. Encounter voices that often go unheard—a filmmaker losing his vision (Lust for Sight, p. 5) or a coffin-maker in Ghana (Paa Joe & the Lion, p. 21). Follow people who are driving change in their own communities, seeking solutions, and doing the work, such as a grassroots resistance to a corporate land grab in Papua New Guinea (The Opposition, p. 20). These films embody Margaret Mead’s own call to “never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Activate change. Enjoy new modes and new artists in an installation by the acclaimed First Nations artist Amanda Strong, a conversation with graphic novelists, and a showcase of immersive 360-degree films.

Activate fun. Make new friends at the opening-night party. Watch as Neil deGrasse Tyson interviews octogenarian astronaut Charlie Duke live after a screening. Celebrate the contenders at the Mead Awards ceremony. The weekend promises to be a good time for the Mead’s community of globally curious and open-hearted festivalgoers.

Be sure to take in all that the American Museum of Natural History has to offer during your stay at the Mead: visit ancient mummies on the fourth floor, learn about your microbes, and pick up a calendar to learn more about other upcoming public programs.

Come see what the Mead will activate for you.

Bella Desai
Director of Public Programs and Exhibition Education

ON THE COVER
This image is from the film Brimstone & Glory, courtesy of Oscilloscope Laboratories. Learn more about this film on page 13.
In Their Own Words

Filmmakers reflect on the festival’s 2017 theme, **Activate**:

“There are powerful voices in quiet places. I hope that the film will make people reflect on how far they are willing to go to achieve their dreams, their rights, and more equality in their community.”

—Maayan Arad, *Chomo*

“I hope to activate a sense of opening up possibilities, through irony, poetry, and encounters. Making the film activated my curiosity about the details of the art practice and methods of someone whose work attracts me.”

—Luuk Bouwman, *Dick Verdult—It Is True But Not Here*

“For me as a photographer, this was a voyage of discovery, where moving forward meant shedding inhibitions, having faith in the project and my work, and relying on my senses and intuition to guide me through the unknown.”

—Rob Lewis, *Lunar Tribute*

“The Opposition is a weapon of hope created in collaboration with the Paga Hill community toward their future goals after years of human rights abuses and forced evictions. The process of making *The Opposition* has inspired me to learn from the momentous resistance movements of Papua New Guinea, which are both strong and vulnerable at the same time.”

—Hollie Fifer, *The Opposition*

“The process has activated philosophical questions about the digitization of the divine, the materiality of the sacred, the transformation of ancient art practices, and what digital religious art might mean for a growing Orthodox community in Appalachia.”

—Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, *Pixelating Holiness*

Look for more responses from our filmmakers on our website: [amnh.org/mead](http://amnh.org/mead)
MEAD+MACH FILMS

The Mead is proud to inaugurate an exciting partnership with MACH, a tech, science, and innovation news source launched this year by NBC News Digital.

MEAD+MACH films at the festival illuminate the complex interplay of science, technology, and culture in the ever-advancing technological footprint of life on Earth. These compelling stories offer new insights into how science and technology may subtly—and not so subtly—alter our cultural and personal perspectives. As these new societal shifts take hold, how can we activate a future of shared values and progress?

Look for the MEAD+NBC NEWS MACH tag accompanying the film listings in this brochure.

Lunar Tribute
Astronaut Charlie Duke describes in vivid detail the anticipation, sights, and sounds of his voyage to the Moon. Followed by a conversation with Duke, the filmmaker, and Neil deGrasse Tyson.

Lust for Sight (La fureur de voir)
An acclaimed director turns the camera on himself as he grapples with encroaching blindness.

Pre-Crime
Sci-fi creeps closer to reality as police use predictive software to preemptively target potential criminals.
Special Events  FREE WITH ANY MEAD TICKET OR FESTIVAL PASS

Featured events around the Museum complement the extraordinary slate of films and serve to further illuminate the many cultures celebrated at this year’s Margaret Mead Film Festival.

Stories as Living Beings: An Installation
OCT 19–22  |  Festival Hours  |  Grand Gallery

Stop-motion animation artist Amanda Strong is an Indigenous (Michif) filmmaker currently based on the unceded Coast Salish territory of Vancouver. This installation features the stunning characters and environments from her award-winning short films. Through these films, Strong peels back layers of colonial history based on her own family’s experience. Using a unique aesthetic, her hybrid, surreal work is grounded in First Nations histories and contemporary concerns.

CO-PRESENTED BY NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR MEDIA, CULTURE AND HISTORY
WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF CANADA IN NEW YORK

Mixed Media Lounge
OCT 20–22  |  Hall of Northwest Coast Indians

As an anthropologist, Margaret Mead documented cultures and helped viewers connect to communities around the world, using the groundbreaking medium of her time—film. Building on the spirit of her cutting-edge work, experience how today’s new media—virtual reality, augmented reality, and more—are being used to encounter diverse stories.

GEAR VR HEADSETS PROVIDED COURTESY OF SAMSUNG

Mead Mixers
OCT 20–21  |  Café on One

Continue the conversation! With refreshments in hand, meet filmmakers and share your Mead experiences with other festivalgoers daily in Café on One, just off the Grand Gallery.

Award Ceremony
SUN OCT 22  |  7 PM  |  Wallach Orientation Center

The Margaret Mead Filmmaker Award recognizes documentary filmmakers who embody the spirit, energy, and innovation demonstrated by anthropologist Margaret Mead in her research, fieldwork, films, and writings. The Mead Award winner will be announced in a ceremony on Sunday evening.

The evening will conclude with an encore presentation of the Award-winning film.
Mead Dialogues

These special programs offer audiences a forum for dynamic conversations about festival themes, close looks at unique collaborations, and opportunities to engage with artists and scholars.

A Tribute to Zora Neale Hurston

SAT OCT 21 | 2:30 PM | Portrait Room, Floor 2 | Program F1

In the 1930s, Zora Neale Hurston, novelist, student of anthropologist Franz Boas, and fixture in the Harlem Renaissance, filmed African American communities in the rural South, influencing her novels and plays. Join us for a screening of this pioneering footage and a conversation on Hurston's influence on American anthropology with anthropologists and filmmakers John L. Jackson, Jr. (University of Pennsylvania), Deborah Thomas (University of Pennsylvania), and Sam Pollard (New York University).

CO-PRESENTED BY THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR MEDIA, CULTURE AND HISTORY

Capturing Empathy: Photojournalism and Anthropology Today

SAT OCT 21 | 4:30 PM | Orientation Center | Program F2

Moderated by David Furst, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer at The New York Times, this event explores the power of visual media. Prominent photographers and anthropologist Zeynep Gursel explore the complex relationship between images and empathy in an age when images saturate our lives as never before. Hear directly from the image makers whose work transports you daily in print and online.

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ethno/Graphics

SUN OCT 22 | 2:30 PM | Orientation Center | Program F3

What roles do humor, activism, and ethnographic research play in writing a graphic novel? This exciting form for anthropologists, artists, and activists immerses readers in diverse cultural worlds. Join anthropologists Benjamin Dix (PositiveNegatives) and Sherine Hamdy (Lissa) and artists/writers Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez (La Borinqueña) and Lucio Zago (Williamsburg Shorts) for an illuminating discussion about comics, graphics, and culture. Their groundbreaking work explores a range of local and global issues: from urban gentrification to organ transplants, from migrant and refugee crises to cultural representation and superheroes. Moderated by Catrin Einhorn, senior staff editor, The New York Times.

WITH SUPPORT PROVIDED BY NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR MEDIA, CULTURE AND HISTORY
# Festival Schedule

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**Thursday October 19**

- **Honey, Rain & Dust**
  - 4 PM | 86 MIN | PAGE 18

**Friday October 20**

- **Gun Runners**
  - 12 PM | 86 MIN | PAGE 17

**Saturday October 21**

- **Emerging Visual Anthropologists Showcase**
  - 11:30 AM | 120 MIN | PAGE 10
- **Brothers**
  - 12 PM | 68 MIN | PAGE 14
- **The Valley of Salt**
  - 2:30 PM | 62 MIN | PAGE 28
- **So Long Asleep**
  - 2:30 PM | 60 MIN | PAGE 26
- **Zora Neale Hurston**
  - 2:30 PM | PAGE 7

**Sunday October 22**

- **Almost Heaven**
  - 12 PM | 75 MIN | PAGE 11
- **House in the Fields**
  - 12 PM | 86 MIN | PAGE 18
- **Into Unknown Parts • Angry Inuk**
  - 12 PM | 26 MIN • 85 MIN | PAGE 11
- **Lady Eva • A Queer Country**
  - 2:30 PM | 11 MIN • 73 MIN | PAGE 23
- **The Cloud Forest**
  - 2:30 PM | 91 MIN | PAGE 16
- **The Block • Siberian Love**
  - 2:30 PM | 10 MIN • 82 MIN | PAGE 26
- **Ethno/Graphics**
  - 2:30 PM | PAGE 7

**Additional Films**

- **Paa Joe & The Lion**
  - 4:30 PM | 72 MIN | PAGE 21
- **Four Faces of the Moon • The Road Forward**
  - 4:30 PM | 12 MIN • 101 MIN | PAGE 24
- **Pixelating Holiness • Chomo**
  - 4:30 PM | 16 MIN • 42 MIN | PAGE 15
- **Capturing Empathy**
  - 4:30 PM | PAGE 7
- **Babylon Dreamers**
  - 5 PM | 87 MIN | PAGE 12
- **Lust for Sight**
  - 5 PM | 86 MIN | PAGE 20
- **Poi E: The Story of Our Song**
  - 5 PM | 92 MIN | PAGE 21
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<td>MEAD MIXER CAFE ON ONE</td>
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<td>LONNIE HOLLEY: THE TRUTH OF THE DIRT • DICK VERDULT — IT IS TRUE BUT NOT HERE</td>
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<td>MARRIMARRIGUN • WE DON’T NEED A MAP</td>
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<td>BRASİA: LIFE AFTER DESIGN</td>
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<td>MEAD AWARDS SCREENING</td>
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<td>THE OPPOSITION</td>
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Schedule subject to change. For news and updates, please visit amnh.org/mead.
Emerging Visual Anthropologists Showcase

In this special showcase we present five exciting new ethnographic documentaries by emerging filmmakers. This screening will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers, anthropologist Dr. Faye Ginsburg and documentary instructor Dr. Pegi Vail of the New York University Center for Media, Culture and History.

SAT OCT 21 | 11:30 am | Program F4
CO-PRESENTED BY NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR MEDIA, CULTURE AND HISTORY AND SOCIAL DOCUMENTATION MFA PROGRAM, FILM-DIGITAL MEDIA DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

2017 | 22 min
(USA)

DIRECTOR Zeynep Sertbulut

Back to Me
A young filmmaker tells the story of her recovery from a temporary psychotic episode after an ISIS airport bombing in her home country.

2017 | 20 min
(USA)

DIRECTOR Samuel Contreras

The Battle for Matheny Tract
In California’s San Joaquín Valley, a community struggles to find a consistent source of clean, affordable water.

2017 | 14 min
(USA)

DIRECTOR Anisha Chadha

Chains of Custody
This story of the troubling abandonment of thousands of rape kits exposes broader issues of rape response in contemporary America.

2017 | 12 min
(USA, Peru)

DIRECTOR Vicente Ernesto Cueto

Drawing from Memory
More than 15,000 people disappeared during the internal armed conflict in Peru (1980–2000), and their loved ones demand justice.

2017 | 18 min
(USA)

DIRECTOR Marcel Aurea Salas

Ode to Fazil’s
This film offers a tribute to Fazil’s, a legendary New York City dance studio that served as many dancers’ second home.
Almost Heaven

This heartfelt coming-of-age story follows the life of Ying Ling, a 17-year-old trainee at a funeral parlor in Changsa, China. With a combination of humor and tenderness, the film captures Ying’s universal struggle to adapt to her new life: she calls her parents often, spends a night at the mall, and tries to stave off the boredom of daily work.

CO-PRESENTED BY ASIA SOCIETY, CHINA INSTITUTE, AND BRITISH CONSULATE NEW YORK

SUN OCT 22
NOON
Program F5
US PREMIERE
2017 | 75 min
(United Kingdom, China)

DIRECTOR
Carol Salter

Angry Inuk

Part exposé and part personal essay, Angry Inuk is a scathing critique of armchair activism. To many Westerners, seal-hunting is considered immoral—but to many Inuit families, seals are an essential source of food and clothing. Recent protests and bans on seal hunting have brought widespread economic hardship, and Inuk filmmaker Alethea Arnaquq-Baril tells the story of her Baffin Island hometown amid the conflict.

SUN OCT 22
NOON
Program F6
2016 | 85 min
(Canada, Inuk, Belgium)

DIRECTOR
Alethea Arnaquq-Baril (Inuk)

NY PREMIERE
2015 | 26 min
(Canada, Inuit)

DIRECTOR
Lisa Stevenson & Eduardo Kohn

Into Unknown Parts

Members of an Inuit community recount harrowing stories of being forced to go to a tuberculosis sanatorium thousands of miles from home.

PLAYS WITH
ANGRY INUK
Babylon Dreamers
(*Hacholmimn Mibabylon*)

**SUN OCT 22**
**5 PM**
Program F7

**US PREMIERE**
2016 | 87 min  
(Assia)

**DIRECTOR**
Roman Shumunov

**Director in Attendance**

**Protagonists in Attendance**

Headspins, windmills, and b-boying: a group of immigrants from the former Soviet Union form a breakdancing troupe in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Israel. They dream of competing in the International Breakdancing Competition in Germany, but the road is paved with hardship and crisis. Lacking an instructor, they learn moves from videotapes and move one step closer to their goal.

**CO-PRESENTED BY DANCE FILMS ASSOCIATION AND OTHER ISRAEL FILM FESTIVAL**

**WITH SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CONSULATE GENERAL OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK**

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Brasília: Life After Design

**SAT OCT 21**
**8 PM**
Program F8

**US PREMIERE**
2017 | 78 min  
(Canada, Brazil, United Kingdom)

**DIRECTOR**
Bart Simpson

**Director in Attendance**

Brasília is a bold urban experiment and a city unlike any other. Conceived in 1956 on an uninhabited site in the geographic center of Brazil, the city was intended to be a fresh start for the new political order, free from the messy colonial baggage of the previous capital, Rio de Janeiro. This atmospheric tribute to the sights and sounds of Brasília’s large-scale modernist achievement pans across urban vistas and images of city dwellers moving through the enormous spaces between buildings.

**CO-PRESENTED THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF BRAZIL IN NEW YORK AND OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK**
Brexitannia

FRI OCT 20
9 PM
Program F9

US PREMIERE
2017 | 80 min
(United Kingdom)

DIRECTOR
Timothy George
Kelly

This is the very first documentary on Brexit, the historic June 2016 referendum that began Great Britain’s secession from the European Union. The film explores the furor that followed the vote, when many deep cultural schisms rose to the surface: the old against the young, nationalists against migrants, the uneducated against the elite. With commentary by Noam Chomsky, Saskia Sassen, Guy Standing, and many others.

CO-PRESENTED BY THE BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL NEW YORK

Brimstone & Glory

THU OCT 19
7 PM
Film Program F10
Film and Reception F34

NY PREMIERE
2017 | 67 min
(USA, Mexico)

DIRECTOR
Viktor Jakovleski

Once a year, an annual pyrotechnics festival erupts through the small city of Tultepec, Mexico, transforming it into a blaze of sparks and flames. In the climactic “burning of the bulls,” the bravest participants run amid toritos, bull-shaped floats rigged with fireworks that rain burning ash and light on the city.

CO-PRESENTED BY CINEMA TROPICAL
Brothers (Bracia)

Alfons is a painter and eternal dreamer. Mieczyslaw is a scientist with a deep pragmatic streak. Together, they form an inseparable odd couple of elderly brothers who have lived together in rural Poland for many decades. In the 1940s, they escaped a Stalinist labor camp together, and through many squabbles and triumphs they somehow have never escaped from each other.

WITH SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE NEW YORK
Activism isn’t always loud. At a nunnery in the Himalayas, a young woman named Chomo fills her days with meditation and study. She is in the first class of senior nuns to receive the prestigious Geshema degree, and this quiet portrait contemplates the future of women in her field.

CO-PRESENTED BY THE ASIA SOCIETY

How do you modernize Russian Orthodoxy through megapixels? Iconography and sacred art have developed alongside Christianity since its beginnings; paintings, sculptures, and stained glass representing Biblical themes have been repeatedly reimagined to suit the times. Now, West Virginia priest Father Jonah Campbell is ushering iconography into the digital age with computer-generated sacred icons.
**The Cloud Forest**

*(Bosque de Niebla)*

Sometimes, ordinary people can create extraordinary positive change. In a small community in the Mexican tropics, sixteen families redesign their lives to create an entirely self-sustaining and independent society, hoping to save their sacred and fog-laden land. *The Cloud Forest* weaves this community’s singular quest with gorgeous scenes of their endangered surroundings.

**SUN OCT 22**

*2:30 PM*

Program F13

**NY PREMIERE**

2016 | 91 min

(Mexico)

**DIRECTOR**

Mónica Álvarez Franco

**Director in Attendance**

**CO-PRESENTED BY CINEMA TROPICAL**

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**Dick Verdult – It Is True But Not Here**

Dick Verdult is a shape-shifting, multifaceted artist, activist and musician. He was born in the Netherlands, grew up in Guatemala, and studied film in Paris in the aftermath of the ’68 student revolts. His diversity of experience has led him to create art that defies categorization—what reviewers have described as “unfathomable,” “illogical,” and “unsettling.” Elusive and unshakably cheerful, Verdult has forged a path for himself that inspires and delights at every turn.

**FRI OCT 20**

*6:30 PM*

Program F14

**US PREMIERE**

2017 | 70 min

(Netherlands, Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Spain)

**DIRECTOR**

Luuk Bouwman

**Director in Attendance**

**CO-PRESENTED BY CINEMA TROPICAL**

**WITH SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE DUTCH CULTURE USA, A PROGRAM OF THE NETHERLANDS CONSULATE GENERAL, EYE INTERNATIONAL, AND CONSULATE GENERAL OF ARGENTINA IN NEW YORK**

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**Lonnie Holley: The Truth of the Dirt**

This vérité mid-length film captures Lonnie Holley, self-taught Birmingham, Alabama, musician and visual artist in all his unconventional brilliance.

**US PREMIERE**

2017 | 33 min

(USA)

**DIRECTOR**

Marco Williams

**Director in Attendance**

**PLAYS WITH**

**DICK VERDULT—IT IS TRUE BUT NOT HERE**
Gulîstan, Land of Roses

SAT OCT 21
8 PM
Program F15
NY PREMIERE
2016 | 86 min
(Canada, Iraqi Kurdistan)
DIRECTOR
Zaynê Akyol

Witness modern warfare through the eyes of women soldiers. In the mountains of Kurdistan, a left-wing military force works to keep its territory safe from the aggressive Islamic State. Remarkably, one of the army’s greatest assets is an all-female regiment, made more legendary and fearsome by ISIS’s belief that men killed by women on the battlefield are denied eternal paradise.

WITH SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT OFFICE IN NEW YORK

Gun Runners

SAT OCT 21
NOON
Program F16
2016 | 89 min
(Canada, Kenya)
DIRECTOR
Anjali Nayar

This remarkable story of two warriors is an inspiring reminder that cycles of violence can be broken with vision and willpower. Julius Arile and Robert Matanda were among the fiercest militiamen in Northern Kenya for years. As part of an ongoing initiative to disarm the conflict-ridden region, Arile and Matanda trade in their guns for sneakers and pursue the lifelong dream of becoming professional marathon runners.

CO-PRESENTED BY AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL, INC.
Honey, Rain & Dust

FRI OCT 20
4 PM
Program F17

US PREMIERE
2016 | 86 min
(United Arab Emirates)

DIRECTOR
Nujoom Alghanem

Aisha, Fatima, and Ghareeb are three of the United Arab Emirates’ leading experts on honey. Follow their work in the mountains against the backdrop of a rising honey crisis as bee colonies cope with climate change and the ensuing survival challenges. Unwittingly, the lives of these three people have become predicated on a very fragile species, and they begin to wonder how long they will be able to continue their work.

CO-PRESENTED BY THE IMAGINE SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL, ANDREW’S HONEY, AND NEW YORK CITY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

House in the Fields

SUN OCT 22
NOON
Program F18

NY PREMIERE
2017 | 86 min
(Morocco, Qatar)

DIRECTOR
Tala Hadid

Meet Khadija, a 16-year-old Amazigh girl whose dreams defy traditional roles. High in the mountains of Morocco, her community has maintained an agrarian existence for over a thousand years, relatively undisturbed by globalization. Khadija aspires to be a judge, but is uncertain whether her male elders will permit such an ambitious path.

CO-PRESENTED BY AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL, INC.
In Procedure

SAT OCT 21
2:30 PM
Program F19

US PREMIERE
2016 | 58 min
(Netherlands, Syria)

DIRECTOR
Jiska Rickels

Bureaucracy begets heartbreak in this intimate story about Syrian refugees in the Netherlands. Hassan hopes to save his family from civil war, but the asylum procedure is filled with red tape, and each passing day is filled with anxiety about his seriously ill daughter back home. As he waits and waits, he begins to doubt the decision to leave his family behind.

CO-PRESENTED BY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH FILM FESTIVAL

Lunar Tribute

FRI OCT 20
7 PM
Program F20

WORLD PREMIERE
2017 | 40 min
(Switzerland, USA)

DIRECTOR
Robert Lewis

In April 1972, astronaut Charlie Duke became the tenth (and youngest) person to walk on the Moon. Duke describes the anticipation, sights, and sounds of his voyage in vivid detail—from seeing Earth from space to life in zero gravity. Interviews are intercut with captivating footage of drummer Jojo Mayer, echoing the thrill of travel through the cosmos.

This screening will be accompanied by a conversation with Charlie Duke, filmmaker Robert Lewis, and Neil deGrasse Tyson, Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium.
Lust for Sight (La fureur de voir)

What happens when a filmmaker loses his eyesight? Over the last five years, award-winning documentarian Manuel von Stürler’s vision has gradually faded and the reality of encroaching blindness has set in. Now, von Stürler turns the camera on himself and grapples with the loss of his most essential sense.

CO-PRESENTED BY NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR DISABILITY STUDIES AND THE REELABILITIES FILM FESTIVAL

WITH SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN NEW YORK

The Opposition

Local residents face off against real estate developers in a story that highlights the dramatic change underway in Papua New Guinea. The 3,000 residents of the Paga Hill settlement are in danger of being forcibly evicted as developers plan a five-star hotel and marina. Community leader Joe Moses, an anthropologist/activist, battles in court for the rights of his people amid bigger questions about the ethics of globalization in developing countries.

CO-PRESENTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE-GENERAL NEW YORK
Paa Joe & the Lion

SAT OCT 21
4:30 PM
Program F23
NY PREMIERE
2016 | 72 min
(United Kingdom, Ghana)
DIRECTOR
Benjamin Wigley

A fisherman is buried in a fish-shaped tomb. A heavy drinker is buried in a beer bottle. For the Ga tribe of coastal Ghana, funerals are colorful and impressive affairs, with custom-made, stylish coffins for the departed. Ghana Master coffin craftsman Paa Joe and his son work together to keep this tradition alive, and a big commission gives them a once-in-a-lifetime chance to win international recognition for their art.

CO-PRESENTED BY THE AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL, INC., AND THE BRITISH CONSULATE NEW YORK

Poi E: The Story of Our Song

SUN OCT 22
5 PM
Program F24
NY PREMIERE
2016 | 92 min
(New Zealand, Australia, Māori)
DIRECTOR
Tearepa Kahi (Māori)

A chart-topping, best-selling single and the country’s first-ever non-English hit? In 1984, that was “Poi E,” a song performed by the Pātea Māori Club in New Zealand. Sung in the Indigenous Māori language and set to a lively, hip-hop infused beat, the song’s cultural impact was immediate and long-lasting, setting in motion a resurgence of Māori music and a fusion of traditional song with Western pop. “Poi E” tells the story of this unlikely hit and its smooth-voiced, charismatic singer and producer, Dalvanius Prime.
Pre-Crime

Sci-fi inches closer to reality in this unsettling echo of Phillip K. Dick’s “The Minority Report.” Dick envisioned a future policing system in which suspects are arrested preemptively based on predictive technology—now, the internet offers police unprecedented access to citizens’ criminal records, mental-health records, and social-media activity. What are the perils of ubiquitous surveillance, amplified by new technologies, for our justice system?

WITH SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY NEW YORK

SAT OCT 21
8 PM
Program F25
NY PREMIERE
2017 | 88 min
(Germany, USA, France, United Kingdom)

DIRECTOR
Matthias Heeder & Monika Hielscher
Tel Aviv is home to a vibrant LGBT community, celebrated in the world’s largest Pride parade every June. But this outward expression of progressivism is at odds with the nation’s legal and social structures, which adhere strictly to the ideals of Orthodox Judaism. Is Israel’s public celebration of LGBT rights “pinkwashing,” as some critics argue, a cynical ploy to establish liberal credibility? *A Queer Country* reveals the contradictions and complexities of LGBT life in Israel.

**A Queer Country**

**SUN OCT 22**
**2:30 PM**
Program F26

**NY PREMIERE**
2016 | 73 min
(United Kingdom, Israel)

**DIRECTOR**
Lisa Morgenthau

**NY PREMIERE**
2017 | 11 min
(USA, Kingdom of Tonga)

**FILMMAKERS**
Dean Hamer,
Joe Wilson,
Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu

**Lady Eva (Leiti Eva)**

Meet Eva Baron, a Tongan transgender woman, or *leiti*, and beauty-pageant contestant. In Tonga, *leitis* often live in shelters and are expelled from their homes as teenagers. When Eva enters the Miss Galaxy 2016 pageant, she is instructed to pack her bags and move to the local shelter. Fiercely determined, she sets off on a journey to become her true self—with a little inspiration from Tina Turner along the way!
The Road Forward
Gripping and genre-bending, this musical documentary explores First Nations activism yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Part music video, part Indigenous Canadian cinema, and part Western doc, the film defies expectations at every turn as it chronicles an empowering movement. There have been many starts and stops since the beginnings of Indian Nationalism in the 1930s. Partake in both the celebration and the urgent call to action, replete with memorable tunes.

WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF CANADA IN NEW YORK

NY PREMIERE
2016 | 12 min
(First Nations, Canada)

DIRECTOR
Amanda Strong
(Michif)

Four Faces of the Moon
In this stunning, award-winning stop-motion animation, follow a First Nations photographer as she travels into the past. Through a series of encounters with her Métis, Cree, and Anishnaabe ancestors, she reconnects with family history while learning about colonial invasions, the legacy of Canadian railways, and the systemic slaughter of buffalo. There is no English dialogue—only sound, visuals, and voiceovers in multiple Indigenous languages (with English subtitles) propel this poetic and political tale.

CO-PRESENTED BY NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR MEDIA, CULTURE AND HISTORY

WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF CANADA IN NEW YORK
Sacred Water

The beloved and extravagant Rwandan radio host Vestine Dusabe guides us through an ode to the female orgasm. Peer into sexuality and attitudes toward sex in modern-day Rwanda through bliss, humor, and intimacy. As the tradition goes, female ejaculation originates from a queen whose orgasmic flow was so copious that it formed Lake Kiku. Intrigued by the legend, Vestine sets out to keep the story alive.

FRI OCT 20
6:30 PM
Program F28

US PREMIERE
2017 | 60 min
(Belgium, Rwanda, Uganda)

DIRECTOR
Olivier Jourdain
**Siberian Love**

**SUN OCT 22**  
2:30 PM  
Program F29  
**US PREMIERE**  
2016 | 82 min  
(Germany, Russia, Siberia)  
**DIRECTOR**  
Olga Delane

How do we reconcile who we are with where we came from? At age 16, Olga Delane moved from her family’s small Siberian village to Berlin. Twenty years later, she returns home as a single woman and is forced to confront the cultural differences between her upbringing and those of her current Western community. Back home, age-old attitudes toward love and marriage run deep. Despite her initial distaste for these values, Olga calls into question her own preconceptions about love.

**CO-PRESENTED BY THE HARRIMAN INSTITUTE**

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**The Block**

High in the remote mountains of Kyrgyzstan, a lone stone block provides a rare spot of cell phone service. Observe the action at the “water cooler” of this isolated area.

**PLAYS WITH**  
**SIBERIAN LOVE**

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**So Long Asleep: Waking the Ghosts of a War**

**SAT OCT 21**  
2:30 PM  
Program F30  
**US PREMIERE**  
2016 | 60 min  
(USA, South Korea, Japan)  
**DIRECTOR**  
David Plath

Healing the wounds of war, Japanese priest Yoshihiko Tonohira began a movement to exhume, memorialize, and repatriate the remains of Korean men who died in 1940s Japan. In squalid, brutal conditions, more than 100 lost their lives, becoming war’s anonymous casualties. Tonohira’s drive to recover these victims raises important questions about war memory, postmortem rituals, and international cooperation.

**CO-PRESENTED BY THE ASIA SOCIETY**
Spirit Game: Pride of a Nation

It’s a game as old as time. According to Iroquois legend, animals faced off against each other long before humans learned to play. Today, lacrosse remains as spiritual as it is recreational for the Iroquois team as they fight to represent their nation on the field.
The Valley of Salt

*(La Vallée du Sel)*

In the wake of the Arab Spring and Egypt’s political turmoil, the young filmmaker Christophe Saber returns to his childhood home in Cairo. While his camera rolls, a typical reunion and family holiday turns into a dramatic and unnerving ordeal as his Christian parents receive death threats from the newly empowered Muslim Brotherhood.

**SAT OCT 21**

2:30 PM

Program F32

**NY PREMIERE**

2016 | 62 min

(Switzerland, Egypt)

**DIRECTOR**

Christophe M. Saber

CO-PRESENTED BY AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL, INC., AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND
We Don’t Need a Map

Racist nationalism is on the rise of Australia, and it’s swallowing up the stars. A constellation with tremendous cultural importance to Australia’s Indigenous peoples has been adopted as the “Aussie Swazi” by white Australians associated with extreme nationalism. Award-winning Indigenous filmmaker Warwick Thornton returns to the Mead for a feature-length exploration of this urgent topic.

**FRI OCT 20**
**6:30 PM**
**Program F33**

**US PREMIERE**
2017 | 86 min
(Australia)

**DIRECTOR**
Warwick Thornton
(Kaytej)

CO-PRESENTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE-GENERAL NEW YORK AND ROOFTOP FILMS

Marrimarrigun

Learn the legend of Marrimari, a giant spirit man who protects the ancestors of the Yawuru people of Western Australia. In this beautiful short film, two young men were hunting when tides ripped them from land onto a deserted island. Their families mourned their deaths, but they were saved by Marrimari and his daughters. After a spiritual journey, the two men and Marrimari’s daughters go to the mainland where the Yawuru people are born.

**US PREMIERE**
2017 | 13 min
(Australia, Yawuru)

**DIRECTOR**
Kimberley West
(Yawuru)

PLAYS WITH
**WE DON’T NEED A MAP**
Margaret Mead Filmmaker Award

The Margaret Mead Filmmaker Award recognizes documentary filmmakers who embody the spirit, energy, and innovation demonstrated by anthropologist Margaret Mead in her research, fieldwork, films, and writings.

The award is given to a filmmaker whose feature-length documentary displays artistic excellence and originality of storytelling technique while offering a new perspective on a culture or community remote from the majority of our audiences’ experience. Filmmakers with works making their U.S. premieres at the festival are eligible. On Sunday evening, the Mead Award winner will be announced in an awards ceremony and will be shown in an encore presentation.

2017 MARGARET MEAD FILMMAKER AWARD JURY:

Alice Apley is the executive director of Documentary Educational Resources.

Sally Berger is a film and media curator, lecturer, writer, and fellow at NYU Center for Media, Culture and History.

Bonni Cohen is a director and producer whose work includes An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power (2017).

Lewis Erskine is an Emmy-winning New York-based editor. He has worked on films with Walter Cronkite, Michael Moore, and Ken Burns.

Andrew Okpeaha MacLean is an award-winning Iñupiaq filmmaker (On the Ice, 2011) who teaches in the Kanbar Institute of Film & TV, NYU.

2017 MARGARET MEAD FILMMAKER AWARD CONTENDERS:

Nujoom Alghanem, director, Honey, Rain & Dust

Luuk Bouwman, director, Dick Verdult — It Is True But Not Here

Marie Clements, director, The Road Forward

Olga Delane, director, Siberian Love

Olivier Jourdain, director, Sacred Water

Timothy George Kelly, director, Brexitannia

David Plath, director, So Long Asleep: Waking the Ghosts of a War

Carol Salter, director, Almost Heaven

Roman Shumunov, director, Babylon Dreamers

Bart Simpson, director, Brasilia: Life After Design

Wojciech Staroń, director, Brothers (Bracia)

Manuel von Stürl, director, Lust for Sight (La fureur de voir)

Warwick Thornton, director, We Don’t Need a Map
Festival Information

ENTRANCE
Entrance for screenings is on 77th Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue.

GETTING HERE
Take the B train (weekdays only) or C train to 81st Street–Museum of Natural History, or the 1 train to 79th Street.
Bus: M79, M7, M11, M86, M10, M104

WEBSITE
Watch trailers, see photos, hear more from directors, and find the latest festival information at amnh.org/mead.

FOOD AND DRINK AT THE MUSEUM
Café on One will be open during the festival from 11 am until 10 pm, Thursday to Sunday. The Café is located immediately left of the Grand Gallery on the way to the Kaufmann and Linder Theaters, on the first floor of the Museum.

BUY TICKETS NOW
Online: Visit amnh.org/mead
By phone: 212-769-5200
Monday–Friday: 9 am–5 pm
On-site purchase:
Early September–October
Tickets may be purchased during Museum hours at the Advance Group Sales desk in the Theodore Roosevelt Rotunda (Central Park West at 79th Street entrance) and at the Rose Center for Earth and Space (81st Street entrance).
Have your credit card, membership category, and program codes (F1–F33) ready when you call.

During the festival:
October 19–22
Tickets may be purchased one hour prior to show time at the 77th Street entrance only, between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue.

Please note:
Tickets are not refundable.
Programs are subject to change. Please check our website for the most current schedule and updated information.

Tickets may be purchased in advance for any program on the festival schedule. Each program is identified by a program code (F1–F33). Please refer to the program code when purchasing tickets.

TICKET PRICES
$12 | General Public*
$15 | Opening Night
($13 Members, Students, Seniors)
$10 | Members, Students, Seniors

TICKET PACKAGES*
$45 | Opening Night Film PLUS reception with the filmmakers
$24 | Student Pass
Three programs of your choice over the course of the festival. Passholder also gets access to standby tickets on a first-come, first-served basis. Includes all Mead events, dialogues, and parties (except the opening-night reception).

$50 | Film Lover Pass ($45 Members)
Five programs of your choice over the course of the festival. Passholder also gets access to standby tickets on a first-come, first-served basis. Includes all Mead events, dialogues, and parties (except the opening-night reception).

$30 | One-Day Pass ($27 Members)
Valid on Saturday or Sunday only. Three films of your choice that day. Passholder also gets access to standby tickets on a first-come, first-served basis. Includes all Mead events, dialogues, and parties on that day.

* Except for Special Presentation Lunar Tribute
$20 ($18 Members)

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