

18th
ANNUAL

SCIENCE
FICTION +
FANTASY
SHORT
FILM
FESTIVAL

SCIENCE FICTION + FANTASY SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

#SFFSFF

MoPOP

THE MUSEUM OF POP CULTURE'S MISSION IS TO MAKE CREATIVE EXPRESSION A LIFE-CHANGING FORCE BY OFFERING EXPERIENCES THAT INSPIRE AND CONNECT OUR COMMUNITIES.



SIFF

SIFF IS DEDICATED TO FOSTERING AN INFORMED, AWARE, AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF FILM LOVERS.

SFFSFF \ THE BEST IN SCI-FI + FANTASY SHORTS

STREAMING ONLY: Youth block films are only available as a streaming package for SFFSFF ticket holders

YOUTH BLOCK

POLTERGEIST PUNK

d. Jamie Rogers

CANADA

***YOUTH WINNER**

A struggling, up-and-coming punk band rents a cabin in the woods to write and record an album in seclusion, only to find out the cabin is being haunted by a malevolent spirit. **15 min**

HUMAN ERROR

d. Madeline Schmit

USA

A scientist teaches her creation what it means to be a person. **13:46 min**

ABDUCTED ANONYMOUS

d. Ben Schwartz

USA

A fugitive on the run is forced to blend into an A.A. meeting, but soon discovers this is no ordinary fellowship. **16 min**

TAKE ME WITH YOU

d. Abraham Howard

USA

Through the power of song, dance, and a pile of old fireworks, a loner beefcake goes on a musical suicide mission to save a supernatural child. **16:23 min**

PROJECT IMAGINATION

d. Kostya Tyoschin

CANADA

A story of unfiltered imagination: When the galaxy is threatened by a poison dragon snake, the Alien Space Hero must traverse through unknown lands to heal the dragon's heart and save the day. **5 min**

SPACE MAIL

d. Nathan Worrall

UNITED KINGDOM

The epic tale of two mailmen who deliver packages... across the galaxy! **4:38 min**

FLOAT

d. Jaden Heller

USA

A penguin drifting through the polluted waters of a flooded Earth must see if he has what it takes to survive the new ways of the world. **4:59 min**

SCRIBBLE: A SPACE ODYSSEY

d. Bailey Ambrose Heller

USA

An astronaut encounters a familiar entity and attempts to escape its grasp. **12:58 min**

TEA FOR TWO

d. Skye Schoenhoef, Casey Donlan

USA

Two film students stumble upon a drag queen in an abandoned school. **6:69 min**

WELCOME

Opening remarks from Beth Barrett and Brooks Peck.

FILM BLOCK 1

HAM*d. Rudy Martinez*
USA

The year is 1961 and Ham the chimpanzee has been chosen to represent earth as the first ape in space, but a malfunction aboard his ship threatens his return home. **8 min**

RIFT*d. Farhad Bakhtiarikish*
SWEDEN

An unhappy married man who still believes in true love finds himself in a dilemma when he meets a woman in a virtual dating app called RIFT. **14:15 min**

FILTER*d. Assia Qianhang SHAO*
CHINA

Xiaomei is a heavy user of the Beauty Cam/filter and cannot extricate herself from the world dressed by the Beauty Cam/filter. However, an unexpected visit of her mother forces her to face reality. But what is reality? Who are we without the filter? What is our real appearance? The anxiety and confusion of contemporary young people fermented in the digital space. Will it quietly reform who we are in real life? **11:20 min**

SALLY'S LULLABY*d. Jonathan Cook*
USA

Mom and Dad team up with their daughter Sally to get rid of a monster in her closet. **5 min**

GLASS DOLL*d. Omorose Osagie*
CANADA

The Glass Doll is a post-apocalyptic film about a broken porcelain doll who repairs other broken toys, but must decide between giving up her closest friend and fixing herself. **5 min**

GOLEM*d. Rafael Macazaga*
MEXICO

Cristina is desperate. Her co-star is away and she has to perform for a very important agent in a matter of hours. Using her skills as an acting coach, Cristina resorts to the only available tool: her assistant — a clumsy and “unimaginative” robot named Golem. **5 min**

MORNING IS BROKEN*d. D. Matthew Beyer, Paul Stafford*
USA

Izzy is depressed. After a breakup that shattered both her friend group and her Dungeons & Dragons party, her heroic alter ego “Morwenna Morningsong” is frozen in a game that may never end. She needs bravery, imagination, and a little help to reconnect with a true friend and her true self. **12 min**

FILM BLOCK 1

SENTENCE*d. Seungmin Cho*
KOREA

Only a few tenacious human writers remain in the realm of creation while beautiful sentences created by Athena (an A.I. writer) bombard them every minute. Now, human writers must decide whether to survive as writers until death or leave the realm of creation to live as human beings. **9:36 min**

BACKROOM BLUES*d. Andreas Kyriacou*
CYPRUS

Three pre-teen friends come up with the ultimate 90's heist — to infiltrate the mythical “backroom” of their neighborhood video store. **13:55 min**

INTERMISSION

1 HOUR BREAK

Refreshments will be available for purchase in the lobby.

FILM BLOCK 2

TABLE 8

d. Sander van Dijk
NETHERLANDS

An anxiety-ridden man meets his friend for dinner in a shadowy restaurant to share a dark suspicion. At first, his friend doesn't believe him and tries to convince the man there's nothing going on. But the further they get into their midnight conversation, the more they both begin to fear that something about this evening isn't quite right... *10:50 min*

**BOO HAG OR
SHADOW MAN**

d. Emily Maya Mills
USA

When a career conjure woman brings home an evil spirit, she and her roommate must divide banishment duties with no time to consult the chore wheel. *10:03 min*

BETTY AND BARNEY

d. Dan Sellers
USA

A couple undergoes hypnosis to recall a horrific alien abduction. *8:11 min*

**A BLOODY
GRAVEYARD STORY**

d. Vanessa Stachel
GERMANY

Three teenagers have an unexpected encounter when they sneak into a cemetery at night to summon an exceptionally terrible ghost. *3:22 min*

THE JELLYFISH MAN

d. Ben Davis
USA

Spencer's neighbor refuses to turn off his music, but it's unclear who is disturbing the peace. *10:56 min*

**DANCE OF THE
GOLDEN MONKEY**

d. Taran Sukert
CANADA

A man on an existential quest for the meaning of life gets literally slapped in the face by a monkey-man who steals his favorite jar of marmalade and chases him through an absurdist world where he learns to live in the moment. *10:04 min*

**TANJIRO -
XAVIER GOODMAN**

d. Matt Genesis
USA

Xavier, on a mission to save Lareta, encounters armed resistance. An action-packed film that is the first installment of a coming trilogy. *3:22 min*

FILM BLOCK 2

VIBRATOR GIRL

d. Kara Strait
USA

An isolated young woman uses her vibrator compulsively — until it starts deforming her body in disturbing ways. To regain control and change the way she masturbates, she goes on a journey through a lurid underground of corporate neurologists and orgasm gurus, none of whom seem to have her best interests in mind. Ultimately, there's little she can do to withstand her vibrator's eerie influence. *13:13 min*

SECRET SANTA

d. Lynn Kristmanson
CANADA

Robin is Santa's biggest fan. It's Christmas Eve and Robin has hatched a plan to stow away in Santa's sleigh and hitch a ride to the North Pole. Won't Santa be surprised! But it's Robin who'll be getting the surprise. Robin is about to find out that you should never meet your heroes. *10:20 min*

BLONSH

d. James Werner
USA

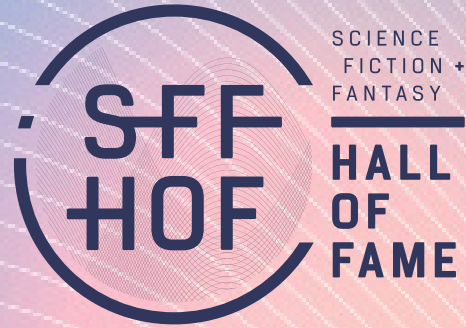
When a teenage boy embarks on a mission to find a condom at his girlfriend's house, he must face his fears (and an intergalactic alien) for a shot at losing his virginity. *6 min*

Q+A

Following the second session of films, filmmakers from some of the selections hold a question and answer session with the audience.

AWARDS CEREMONY

Jurors will be selecting films to receive: Grand Prize, Second Place, Third Place, and The Douglas Trumbull Award for Best Visual Effects



WHO WILL YOU CHOOSE TO MAKE HISTORY?

Did you know MoPOP hosts the Science Fiction + Fantasy Hall of Fame? Did you know that it's currently time to vote for the next inductee? Now you do. So go... vote! Fame? Did you know that it's currently time to vote for the next inductee? Now you do. So go... **vote!**



VOTE TODAY!



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CALL FOR ENTRIES COMING AUGUST 2023

MORE INFO AT [MOPOP.ORG/SFFSFF](https://mopop.org/sffsff)

2023 JURY MEMBERS

SFFSFF jurors an esteemed panel of media professionals and creators tasked with selecting which of this years films will receive the Grand Prize, Second Place, Third Place and The Douglass Trumbull Award for Best Visual Effects.

ISIS ASARE

Isis Asare is the CEO/Founder of Sistah Scifi (www.sistahscifi.com). Sistah Scifi is the first Black-owned bookstore focused on science fiction and fantasy in the United States as validated by the American Booksellers Association. Located in cyberspace, Sistah Scifi is a national brand with over 40K points of contacts. In February 2023, the first three Sistah Scifi Book Vending Machines were launched in California and Washington.

NATHAN DODZO

Nathan Dodzo is a passionate and innovative senior leader in knowledge and learning management, with first-class business, project management and creative sector-specific knowledge. Nathan has over a decade of solid and progressive leadership and management experience, including high-level positions over 25 years of delivering vocational learning; working as a broadcast professional, researcher, video journalist and producer; creating professional audio/visual programming for a broad range of national and international clients and broadcasters; mentoring and coaching; media consultancy and boardroom activity. He completed his MA in Media Production with Distinction, and has held Qualified Teaching Status (QTS) for almost two decades. He successfully completed the National Professional Qualification for Senior Leaders and he also obtained his Fellow to the Higher Education Academy.

AARON DOUGLAS

Aaron Douglas is best known for his portrayal of Chief Galen Tyrol on Syfy's Battlestar Galactica. With over 100 other Film-TV & Video Game credits on his impressive resume-including X-Men 2, iRobot, Stargate SG-1, The Bridge, Hellcats, Hemlock Grove, The Killing, The Returned, Falling Skies, The Strain, iZombie, The X-Files, Supernatural, The Flash, Once Upon A Time, Dirk Gently Holistic Detective Agency, Imposters, Motherland Fort Salem, Van Helsing, The Watchful Eye, Jordi Chin in Ubisoft's WatchDogs and more-Aaron is now creating and writing Comic Books for AfterShock and Dark Horse Comics.

2023 JURY MEMBERS

JUSTIN HUERTAS

Justin Huertas (he/him) is an award-winning playwright, composer, lyricist, actor, and musician best known for his original musical Lizard Boy (Seattle Rep, Diversionary Theatre, NAMT Festival of New Musicals, TheatreWorks SiliconValley, Hope Mill Theatre Manchester, Edinburgh Fringe, Original Cast Album streaming on all platforms). His performance as Trevor has earned him regional theatre awards in every U.S. city Lizard Boy has performed. Justin and collaborator Steven Tran composed original music for Marvel's Squirrel Girl: The Unbeatable Radio Show! podcast. Recently, Justin and Steven premiered a new musical at the Kennedy Center called The Mortification of Fovea Munson based on Mary Winn Heider's novel. Other works include The Last World Octopus Wrestling Champion and We've Battled Monsters Before. Lizard Boy makes its NYC Off-Broadway debut with Prospect Theater Company in June. Justin's new musical Lydia & the Troll is currently running at Seattle Rep.

BROOKS PECK

Brooks Peck worked as a curator for the Museum of Pop Culture for over 17 years. During that time he drew on his knowledge of science fiction, fantasy and horror to create exhibitions about many aspects of the fantastic in popular culture, covering topics as diverse as space-themed record album covers, Battlestar Galactica, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, and Avatar among others. Recent exhibitions include Star Trek: Exploring New Worlds, Marvel: Universe of Superheroes and Minecraft: The Exhibition. Brooks also writes fiction and comics, and is the co-author of two lowbudget, direct-to-cable monster movies. Rawr!

LEOMARY RODRIGUEZ

Leomary Rodriguez is a Dominican-American photographer, award-winning cinematographer, and seasoned film festival judge. With a background in documentary filmmaking, content acquisitions, and cinematography, she has traveled the world judging films at festivals and sharing her knowledge with emerging filmmakers. Leomary is a graduate of the University at Buffalo's Media Studies program and currently resides in The Bronx, New York. Leomary has a passion for storytelling through both photo and video, with a focus on highlighting stories in her community. She has been a member of various filmmaking and photography collectives, where she provides portfolio reviews for up-and-coming creatives. Throughout her career, Leomary has garnered extensive experience in the film industry and is always eager to share her expertise with others.

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