



2017 Roster

OPENING AND CLOSING NIGHT

OPENING NIGHT

SATURDAY CHURCH (Presented by Samuel Goldwyn Films)

U.S.A. | 81 Min.

Wednesday 7:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4 (Premiere)

Wednesday 8:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 6 (Encore)

Directed by: Damon Cardasis

Writer: Damon Cardasis

Produced by: Mandy Tagger Brockey, Adi Ezroni, Damon Cardasis, Rebecca Miller

Cast: Luka Kain, Margot Bingham, Regina Taylor, Marquis Rodriguez, MJ Rodriguez, Indya Moore, Alexia Garcia, Kate Bornstein

Reminiscent of “La-La Land” meets “Moonlight”, this coming-out story features exhilarating and yet tender musical numbers. *Saturday Church* is the journey of Ulysses, a young gay man from the Bronx who comes to find his queer family on the piers of New York’s West Village.

Adolescent Ulysses is just beginning to explore his identity and sexuality at his home in the Bronx when his domineering Aunt Rose demands he put an end to it. He soon finds supportive friends and inspiration in the Village, but with the understanding that Aunt Rose is waiting back home. It’s a complicated life Ulysses leads, and Damon Cardasis’s musical coming-of-age story is all the better for tackling multiple sides of the young Latino and Black LGBTQ experience, with compassion and heart combined.

CLOSING NIGHT

EN EL SÉPTIMO DÍA / ON THE SEVENTH DAY

U.S.A. | 90 Min.

Saturday 6:30PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

Directed by: Jim McKay

Writer: Jim McKay

Produced by: Caroline Kaplan, Alex Bach, Lindsey Cordero, Jim McKay, Michael Stipe

Cast: Fernando Cardona, Gilberto Jimenez, Abel Perez

Acclaimed director Jim McKay's first film in over a decade is this timely, compassionate, often humorous look at life in New York as an undocumented Mexican immigrant.

José works long hours making bicycle deliveries for a restaurant in Carroll Gardens and spends his days off on the soccer fields of Sunset Park. When his team makes it to the championship, Jose suddenly finds himself forced to choose between his job and his loyalty to his team. Shot on the streets of Brooklyn, McKay's film vividly captures the everyday struggles and camaraderie that binds a community together in this universally relevant story of fortitude and dignity.

SHOWCASE PREMIERES

A CHANGE OF HEART (Presented by Estefan Enterprises)

New York Premiere | 105 Min.

Saturday 8:15PM @ Cinepolis Screen 6

Directed by: Kenny Ortega

Writers: James Orr, Luis Santeiro

Produced by: Emilio Estefan Jr.

Cast: Jim Belushi, Virginia Madsen, William Levy, Aimee Teegarden, Gloria Estefan

Frustrated with the cards life has dealt him and the product of circumstances that have driven him to fear diversity, Hank (Jim Belushi) finds himself at odds with the diversifying demographics of his central Florida town. After suffering a heart attack, Hank is given a chance at survival- but will he accept the heart of a Puerto Rican drag queen?

Playing on the literal and symbolic weight of the organs of the human body, this touching film conveys a story necessary to today's America, reminding us that even those most set in their ways can learn to embrace difference, accept love, and move on with life.

HOLD ON (Presented by Hispanicize Films)

New York Premiere | 90 Min.

Thursday 8:10PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

Directed by: Tarek Tohme

Writer: Tarek Tohme

Produced by: Ed Martin, Cemi Guzman, Tarek Tohme, Micayla De Ette, Michael Tadross Jr., Charbel Yousseff

Cast: Luis Guzman, Micayla De Ette, Tarek Tohme, Flavor Flav, Maurice Bernard, John Savage

Inspired by true events, 'Hold On' tells the story of Sidney Rhodes, a talented mixed race singer who must fight to keep her personal dreams and family life alive while working at a small Los Angeles church. As she encounters a string of disappointing auditions and struggles to save her brother from a life of addiction, Sidney eventually meets 25-year-old Vic Duran, the rebellious son of a famed music manager who greets her with an unlikely proposal. Armed with contrasting personalities and differing opinions on life and music, Sidney and Vic soon find themselves on an unexpected creative journey...where hope and redemption appear on the horizon, but the pains of the past make it difficult to hold on.

MOST BEAUTIFUL ISLAND (Presented by Orion Pictures and Samuel Goldwyn Films)

U.S.A. | 80 Min.

Friday 9:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 6

Directed by: Ana Asensio

Writer: Ana Asensio

Produced by: Jenn Wexler, Chadd Harbold, Ana Asensio, Larry Fessenden, Noah Greenberg

Cast:

Most Beautiful Island is a psychological thriller set in the world of undocumented female immigrants hoping to make a life in NYC. Shot on Super 16mm with an intimate, voyeuristic sensibility, the film chronicles one harrowing day in the life of Luciana, a young immigrant woman struggling to make ends meet while striving to escape her past. As Luciana's day unfolds, she is whisked, physically and emotionally, through a series of troublesome and unforeseeable hardships. She soon finds herself the central character in a cruel game of life and death where psyches are broken for the entertainment of a privileged few.

VICO C: LA VIDA DEL FILÓSOFO

New York Premiere

Puerto Rico | 120 Min.

Saturday 8:40PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

Directed by: Eduardo Ortiz

Writer: Frankie Bracero, Vico C.

Produced by: Pedro Cruz, Socorro Torres

Cast: Luis A Lozada Jr., Mariangelie Vélez, César Farrait, Nore-Liz Latorre, Xavier Antonio Morales, Luisa Benítez, Bryan Reyes Gago, Osvaldo Otero

In Eduardo Ortiz's (*Los domirriqueños*) latest, the rise to stardom of Reggaeton's founding father, Vico C, is captured in vivid and exciting detail. A tale of redemption, Vico C rose to the top of the urban Puerto Rican rap movement only to fall into a dark world of drugs, imprisonment and near-death accidents.

DOMESTIC FEATURES

BADSVILLE

New York Premiere

U.S.A. | 96 Min.

Saturday 11:00AM @ Cinepolis Screen 6

Directed by: April Mullen

Writers: Ian McLaren, Benjamin Barrett

Produced by: David J Phillips, Douglas Spain

Cast: Emilio Rivera, Robert Knepper, Tamara Duarte, Rene Rosado, Octavio Pisano, Ian McLaren, Benjamin Barrett, Chelsea Rendon, Paul James Jordan

A violent greaser gang is ripped apart when their leader finds love and is determined to leave Badsville - a town where love doesn't exist.

Badsville is a town filled with violence and poverty. Those who reside there are destined to remain. Wink is the leader of the greaser gang The Badsville Kings. When his mom passes away he's committed to a promise he made to her long ago: to finally leave Badsville. With advice from neighborhood bar owner Lucky Lou, Wink begins tying loose ends and then meets an outsider named Suzy who is unlike anyone he's ever met. As they fall in love, Wink plans to leave with her - and save a neighborhood kid from a hopeless future. In an act of jealousy, his best friend Benny instigates a devious act of betrayal - calling in old-time rival gang leader Mr. Gavin and his ruthless son Cutter to end Wink's ambitions.

LOVE CECY

World Premiere

U.S.A. | 100 Min.

Saturday 5:45PM @ Cinepolis Screen 6

Directed by: Jay Francisco Lopez

Writer: Jay Francisco Lopez

Produced by: Kenneth Medina

Cast: Angie Marie Espinoza

Ripped from the headlines, *Love Cecy* takes audiences back to the cholo, free-style culture of 1990s California as it retells the story of 15 year old Cecilia Rios. The film follows Rios' promising beginnings- striving to become a lawyer while keeping her cholo boyfriend off the streets- to its tragic end on March 14, 1994, when her brutal murder was chronicled by newspapers across the country.

THE NAKED TRUTH

World Premiere

U.S.A. | 68 Min.

Saturday 8:30PM @ Julia De Burgos Cultural Center

Directed by: Guru Enlightenment
Writer: Rick "Wind" Herrera
Produced by: Rick "Wind" Herrera
Cast: Rick "Wind" Herrera

Hilarious and high energy, Rick "Wind" Herrera's semi-autobiographical one man show pays homage to John Leguizamo's shock performance piece *Freak*. In *The Naked Truth* Rick takes us on a funny and honest ride about his life growing up in the Brooklyn projects. Equal parts humorous, dramatic and therapeutic, Rick's story connects with the audience on a personal- at times familial level- raw in his elucidation of how he learned to "find the funny in pain."

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES (All Films Are Subtitled)

ANGELICA

U.S. Premiere

Puerto Rico | 100 Min.

Friday 6:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

Saturday 12:00PM @ Julia De Burgos Cultural Center

Directed by: Marisol Gómez-Mouakad

Writers: Marisol Gómez-Mouakad

Produced by: Marisol Gómez-Mouakad, Ignacio Decerega, Rocio Zambrano

Cast: Michelle Nono, Johanna Rosaly, Willie Denton, Rene Monclova, Yamil Collazo, Modesto Lacen, Kisha Tikina Burgos

After a long absence, a young woman is forced to leave her life in NYC, return to her home in Puerto Rico and grapple with the questions of family and racial identity she had left behind.

The unexpected return to the house she grew up, plus her father's illness, force Angelica to reevaluate her relationship with her mother and other family members, who have never accepted Angelica due to her race. The arrival of her partner from NY, who hopes to rescue her, only adds to the tension. As her father's condition worsens and relationships become more and more strained, Angelica is forced to decide between the security of her current life or the adventure of one that pushes her to rediscover herself as an independent woman- strong, mulatta, and Puerto Rican.

CORPO ELÉCTRICO / BODY ELECTRIC

New York Premiere

Brazil | 93 Min.

Thursday 10:20PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

Saturday 2:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

Directed by: Marcelo Caetano

Writers: Marcelo Caetano, Gabriel Domingues, Hilton Lacerda

Produced by: Beto Tibiriçá, Marcelo Caetano

Cast: Kelner Macedo, Lucas Andrade, Welket Bungué, Ronaldo Serruya, Ana Flavia Cavalcanti, Henrique Zanoni, Marcia Pantera, Linn da Quebrada

Through a series of casual encounters, a young man gets the feel of a new city.

New to São Paulo, Elias divides his days between working in a cloth factory and fleeting encounters with other men. As the end of year approaches, work intensifies, and he finds himself increasingly trapped within the factory. With limited free time, he attempts to etch a place for himself in his new social circles, creating possibility for new relationships.

AS DUAS IRENES / THE TWO IRENES

New York Premiere

Brazil | 88 Min.

Saturday 2:00PM @ Julia De Burgos Cultural Center

Directed by: Fabio Meira

Writer: Fabio Meira

Produced by: Fabio Meira, Diana Almeida

Cast: Priscila Bittencourt, Isabela Torres, Marco Ricca, Susana Ribeiro, Inés Peixoto, Teuda Dara, Maju Souza, Ana Reston

Irene, 13, is part of a traditional family. One day she discovers that her father has a second family and another daughter of the same age, also called Irene. Unbeknownst to her family, she sneaks away in order to meet her sister and discovers a new Irene, completely different from herself: more self-confident and mature. In order to share teenage adventures with her new sister, Irene enters a game of secrets and lies- an emulation of her father's double life. The two Irenes will never be the same.

O GATO DE HAVANA / THE CAT FROM HAVANA

NY Premiere

Documentary | Brazil | 89 Min.

Thursday 5:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 6

Saturday 1:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 6

Directed by: Dacio Malta

Writers: Livia Arbex, Dacio Malta

Produced by: Gretel Medina, Julia Maribal

Dacio Malta chronicles the long, fascinating story of Havana's most famous jazz club, Gato Tuerto, in all its bohemian glory and creative bliss in this captivating, star-studded documentary.

To this day, Havana remains that rare city where music-lovers can still wander into a small club and, for a nominal fee, witness some of the world's most vibrant sounds as they are generated by some of its greatest talents. Perhaps the most illustrious of all Havana's clubs is Gato Tuerto, now in its sixth decade of existence. Its stage is small but has hosted giants, among them Omara Portuondo, Pablo Milanés and Cucho Valdés, who have played for the likes of Gabriel García Márquez and Julio Cortázar.

¿QUIÉN ERES TÚ? / WHO ARE YOU?

World Premiere

Puerto Rico | 98 Min.

Thursday 9:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 6

Friday 4:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 6

Directed by: Arí Maniel Cruz

Writer: Arí Maniel Cruz

Produced by: Esteban Lima

Cast: Jose Felix Gomez, Teresa Hernandez, Fernando Tarrazo, Kisha Tikina Burgos

Cruz aims to combine a highly personal story – that mixes elements of tragic loss with hopes for renewal – with criticism of the social and political situation in Puerto Rico in his feature film.

The Secretary of Health of Puerto Rico, Dr. Eduardo Suarez, is forced to resign after disagreeing with the Governor's new health reform. To make things worse, his wife has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, which effectively takes over his wife after only a couple of years. Eduardo and his six children try their best to face the gradual disappearance of the woman who was once their wife and mother, and eventually Eduardo begins a new relationship. Ernesto, the youngest of the children, disagrees with his father's actions and does what he can to stop it, pushing the family towards crisis at an already difficult time.

EL SILENCIO DE LOS FUSILES / WHEN THE GUNS GO SILENT

New York Premiere

Documentary | Colombia | 120 Min.

Saturday 3:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 6

Directed by: Natalia Orozco

Writers: Natalia Orozco

Produced by: Julián Giraldo, Natalia Orozco

In *When the Guns Go Silent*, journalist and filmmaker Natalia Orozco portrays both parties throughout a peace process that may allow the transition of the world's oldest guerrilla group into democracy. For four years, Orozco followed very closely, both in Colombia and in Havana, the difficulties, the fears, the obstacles and the dreams of the negotiating teams of both the

Colombian government and the FARC. This documentary reveals the numerous challenges of the process that remain in spite of the signature of the agreement.

LA SOLEDAD / THE SOLITUDE

New York Premiere

Venezuela | 89 Min.

Directed by: Jorge Thielen Armand

Thursday 10:00 PM @ Julia De Burgos Cultural Center

Saturday 4:20PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

This poetic fusion of fact and fiction presents a human face to the economic crisis that's tearing Venezuela apart. When José, a young handyman who spends a good portion of his days standing in long lines for food and medicine, learns that the house will be demolished, he begins a search for a cursed treasure that, legend has it, is buried somewhere in the house. That treasure could very well save him and his family from living in one of Caracas' slums.

**DOMINICAN NIGHT (Presented by: FUNGLODE- Global Foundation for
Democracy and Development)**

LUIS

New York Premiere Dominican Republic | 98 Min.

Friday 8:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

Directed by: Archie López

Writer: Archie López, Amelia del Mar Hernández, Alejandro Andújar

Produced by: Archie López, Desiree Reyes Peña

An honest and decorated Chief of Police struggles to keep his spoiled teenage son on the right track. When he is eventually caught in a transgression of the law, they will both have to confront the true meaning of justice, compliance and privilege in a society marked by deep social contradictions.

DOCUMENTARIES

AFROLATINOS "AN UNTAUGHT HISTORY"

Documentary | Colombia | 64 Min.

Saturday 4:00PM @ Julia De Burgos Cultural Center

Directed by: Renzo Devia

Produced by: Renzo Devia, Alicia Anabel Santos

Giving voice to communities throughout the Caribbean, Central and South America that have been excluded from history for centuries, this provocative documentary delves into the Afro-Latino experience, covering topics such as history, identity, language, religion, traditions, art and social issues.

CADA PASO DEL CAMINO / EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

New York Premiere

Documentary | U.S.A. | 90 Min.

Friday 7:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 6

Directed by: Alberto Ferreras

Produced by: Trina Bardusco, d expósito & Partners

Cada paso del camino is an emotive chronicle of the day-to-day experiences of five caregivers, as they share the challenges, hardships and solutions that come with caring for loved ones who can no longer look after themselves. Both moving and heart-wrenching, this short documentary humanizes the unsung heroes who dedicate themselves to providing those they love with dignified care- whether or not they are ready for this new stage in life.

EL PANTERA

World Premiere

Documentary | Mexico | 108 Min.

Saturday 6:00PM @ Julia De Burgos

Directed by: Landon Dyksterhouse

Produced by: Jason Bowles, Nancy Bowles, Landon Dyksterhouse, Kevin Kerslake

A documentary film chronicling the rise of Mexican UFC fighter Yair Rodriguez. The film documents Yair's training camp leading up to his biggest UFC fight of his career vs Alex Caceres and then follows him down back through the US/Mexico border to his hometown Parral, Chihuahua and then into the Tarahumara mountains where a survivor like adventure unfolds. The film addresses topics ranging from the American dream, immigration and life as a fighter.

RESIDENTÉ

New York Premiere

Documentary | Puerto Rico | 90 Min.

Thursday 8:00PM @ Julia De Burgos Cultural Center

Directed by: René Pérez Joglar

Produced by: Marc de Beaufort

How did a struggling artist become the founder of Latin America's most influential alternative rap group, Calle 13, and go on to become one of the region's most outspoken critics of injustice and

corruption? Why, at the peak of the group's success, did Rene Perez (a.k.a. Residente) leave the group to embark on a global adventure, to trace the footsteps of his ancestors and record his latest album? Music guides Residente's genetic, cinematic, and creative journey of self-discovery, framing each destination and informing every conversation- be it with the indigenous tribes that first crossed the Bering Strait from Siberia to to America, the victims of war in Georgia, Armenia and South Ossetia, the exiles of West Africa or the aspiring artists of Beijing.

Cultural curiosity, social sensitivity and fierce creativity are central to this 90 minute autobiographical documentary- offering a glimpse into the mind and personality of the artist and a manifesto of values for his audience to aspire to.

Short Documentary Program

Thursday 6:00PM @ Julia De Burgos Cultural Center

Friday 4:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

CAPOEIRA IN OUR LIVES

New York Premiere

Documentary | U.S.A. | 20 Min.

Directed by: Patricia C. Ovando

Produced by: Patricia C. Ovando

True to its title, this documentary proves a passionate and, at times humorous, exploration of the role of *capoeira* in the lives of its practitioners. The Brazilian martial art has touched the hearts of a growing number of people around the world, and in doing so has challenged preconceived notions of gender as women continue to take on important roles and gain international recognition.

CLEVER

New York Premiere

Documentary | U.S.A. | 32 Min.

Directed by: Alan Dominguez

Produced by: Alan Dominguez, Daniel Junge

With gang violence a popular topic amongst media pundits and politicians, this short documentary proves a powerful counterpoint- exposing the life and work of Gerardo Lopez (a.k.a. Clever), a Denver-based gang interventionist. Formerly of the notorious MS13 from Los Angeles, Clever details his escape from gang life, his work keeping at-risk youth from making the same mistakes, and his extraordinary tale of survival once he made the decision to extricate himself and his family from the negative influences of his past.

SUNUNÚ: THE LOVE REVOLUTION

U.S. Premiere

Documentary | U.K. - Ecuador | 25 Min.

Directed by: Olivia Crellin

Produced by: Clothilde Redfern, Flora Gregory, Clara Nugent, Olivia Crellin

This is the true story of how a transgender family in Ecuador became an international news sensation when the father gave birth.

Follow the story of trans father Fernando Machado and his trans girlfriend Diane Rodriguez in this intimate and touching portrayal of a couple getting a grip on parenthood as they challenge complex ideas of gender roles. With exclusive access to the new family in its earliest days, we see how this remarkable duo manage to balance parenting with a career in activism.

SPECTRUM (MULTICULTURAL - BEYOND THE LATINO EXPERIENCE)

Saturday 10:30PM @ Cinepolis Screen 6

CHATSWORTH

World Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 19 Min.

Directed by: La Monte Edwards

Deep in the San Fernando Valley, 3,000 miles from the bright lights of Broadway, Foster struggles to finish writing his latest musical. He longs for success, and hopes this new play will be his ticket out... if he could only finish it. Danice, the beautiful actress next door, complicates things. Not only has Foster developed secret feelings for her, but her abusive movie producer boyfriend refuses to let her follow her dreams of stardom by playing the leading role in Foster's production. Will these two be able to achieve their dreams... together? With a little help from their "friends," they just might make it.

WE ALL WE GOT

Documentary | U.S.A. | 9 Min.

Directed by: Carlos Javier Ortiz

Produced by: Carlos Javier Ortiz

We All We Got captures the poetic language of the streets: police helicopters flying over the city, music pooping out of cars, people talking smack on street corners, ambulances on the run and preachers hollering for the violence to stop after another young man is senselessly gunned down in the streets of Chicago. In this necessary documentary, Ortiz explores the consequences and devastation of youth violence in Chicago, IL.

ELEVATED REMEDIES

New York Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 15 Min.
Directed by: Andre J. Ray

A man on the brink of suicide reconsiders his decision when he looks out the window and sees another man about to jump.

THE NIGHT SHIFT

Short | U.S.A. | 16 Min.
Directed by: Marshall Tyler

Olly, an on-again off-again actor whose career has stagnated over the years, ends up gigging as a bathroom attendant at "The Fix," an LA nightclub where the money comes easy as long as Olly is "invisible." Working in such intimate quarters with complete strangers offers an odd window to study human behavior, but one night proves too much and Olly is forced to confront the disrespect, degradation and disregard he has suffered at the hands of his customers.

MARZ

Short | U.S.A. | 12 Min.
Directed by: Bobby Yan

A young rapper on the brink of success must come to terms with himself after a one night encounters with his best friends, which stirs up emotions and feelings he never knew he had. Childhood memories collide with the present as he is now faced with the difficult positions of following his heart or running away.

MIDNIGHT (EXPERIMENTAL / OFFBEAT)

Friday 11:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 6

THE SWEETEST KISS

Short | U.S.A. | 4 Min.
Directed by: Alina Landry Rancier

A mysterious white liquid covers two lovers as they gently, freezing them mid-embrace- a statement on how intoxicating the sweetness and passion of love can be.

THE THING INSIDE

NY Premiere
Short | Puerto Rico | 12 Min.
Directed by: Johnny Ray Rodriguez

On a stormy night, a security guard wakes up dazed on the warehouse floor only to realize a malignant force has taken hold of the empty building. Unable to escape, she makes calls her wife for help. Will the two women be able to survive this nightmare?

MUERTE SÚBITA / SUDDEN DEATH

New York Premiere

Short | Costa Rica | 15 Min.

Directed by: Kenneth Sanabria

Feeling neglected by his wife after the recent birth of his child, Rolando decides to take the necessary measures to make things like they were before.

¡AY QUE SUSTO! / WHAT A FRIGHT!

World Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 16 Min.

Directed by: Mauricio Zapata

Hell-bent on achieving higher ratings on his make-shift “ghost chasing” cable show, a man is willing to “get real” to improve his contract.

DESAGRAVIO / ATONEMENT

NY Premiere

Short | Puerto Rico | 16 Min.

Directed by: Ray Figueroa

A tale of superstition, justice and vengeance: a widow is forced to confess her infidelities at her deceased husband’s wake in order to appease his ghost and the spooked townsfolk.

SHORT FILM

Shorts Program 1

Thursday 6:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

REDEMPTION

World Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 18 Min.

Directed by: Cesar Encalada

Winter 1886: After gunning down the authorities of their local town, three outlawed brothers flee North towards the border. Exhausted and without resources, they plan to raid a sick man’s farmhouse, only to be confronted with past demons and overwhelming lust for revenge.

LA CUCARACHITA MANDI / MANDI: THE LITTLE COCKROACH

North American Premiere

Short | Panama | 9 Min.

Directed by: Martanoemí Noriega

One morning while cleaning her house, our cockroach heroine finds a small treasure and begins to fantasize what the future holds. Surrounded by the pressure to get married, she imagines that she is the jury on a matchmaking reality show that will help her discover what she truly wants.

EL ÚLTIMO BESO / THE LAST KISS

US Premiere

Short | United Kingdom | 4 Min.

Directed by: Michael Jaffer

The morning after a night of passion...

IN A PARALLEL WORLD

NY Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 13 Min.

Directed by: Mario Genel

In a parallel world a homeless American man flees a deep crisis in his homeland, only to be met with bigger challenges as he crosses into Mexico.

SOME BAD NEWS

World Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 8 Min.

Directed by: Alain Alfaro

A routine visit to the doctor turns dire when some bad news forces Eduardo to make a very hard decision.

FLUFF

New York Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 8 Min.

Directed by: Zoe Salicrup Junco

The loss of a dear family member forces a young woman and her mother to close a chapter in their lives, whether or not they are ready to let go.

BEBÉ

New York Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 15 Min.

Directed by: Ryan Zaragoza

A young illegal immigrant crosses the border with a lunchbox full of cash in search of a wealthy American family.

INDENTURED SERVANT / SIRVIENTE POR CONTRATO

Short | U.S.A. | 14 Min.
Directed by: Bobby DeJesus

Detective Aquile Rodriguez finds himself at a crossroad after he is accidentally robbed by a clearly troubled teen one night in the park. Does he do his job and destroy this kid's life or does he follow his heart and try to find him help? Regardless of his decision, rest assured he will teach the teen a lifelong lesson.

Shorts Program 2

Friday 10:15PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

ZAPATOS / SHOES

World Premiere
Short | U.S.A. | 8 Min.
Directed by: Ignacio Garcia

Mexico has just passed a law prohibiting the transport of American products and people across the border. An unlucky man finds himself detained by an overworked border agent who has little sympathy for his sad story.

VICI

New York Premiere
Short | U.S.A. | 16 Min.
Directed by: Johnny Kirk

A young woman enters a boxing match as a means to overcome her haunting past.

LESSON #6

NY Premiere
Short | U.S.A. | 4 Min.
Directed by: Alberto Ferreras

"Did you see who won best actress last night? Did you see what she was wearing..." A catty comment backstage at the drag bar triggers an unexpected rant.

SOMBRAS / SHADOWS

New York Premiere
Short | Mexico - U.S.A. | 9 Min.
Directed by: Jon Ayon

Sombras is a poetic reflection and examination of the effects of living undocumented in the U.S. Using archival footage to explore the psychological toll that "illegal" status imparts upon different generations, the film invites us to contemplate the full weight of the terms "illegal" and "alien" and the stigmas forced upon the immigrant class.

PINK PUNK "THE MIRROR"

US Premiere

Short | Colombia | 11 Min.

Directed by: Pipe Ospina

Everybody struggles in their own way just to get by. Naomi, a trans woman, and Winny, a punk, face everyday discrimination in the city, and, when their paths cross, find friendship despite their differences.

DESDE EL PRINCIPIO

Short | U.S.A. | 10 Min.

Directed by: Miguel J. Soliman

In the darkness of a soundproof recording studio, a conversation sparks between two voice actors struggling with a shared tragedy.

LAST SHOT

World Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 16 Min.

Directed by: James "Latin" Clark

A stripper past her prime makes the decision to get black market butt injections hoping to stay relevant in the world of instagram and social media. Unfortunately, the procedure jeopardizes her health and drags her family through yet another emotional roller coaster.

Shorts Program 3
Saturday 12:00PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

SWIMMING IN THE DESERT

New York Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 15 Min.

Directed by: Alvaro Ron

In the drought-stricken town of Agua Dulce, in the California High Desert, a ten-year-old girl challenges her grandfather, a cranky retired firefighter, to follow a crazy plan and bring water back to the dry river.

#BUFFALOPLAID

New York Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 13 Min.

Directed by: Carolina Korth and Jessica Robinson

Andrea is nursing her broken heart when she discovers that her ex-boyfriend committed a social media faux pas so hurtful that she feels compelled to enact her vengeance via the

internet and a newly minted hashtag. This spirited comedy poses the question: who's crazier in a breakup- the emotional or the emotionless?

BORDERS

Short | U.S.A. | 6 Min.

Directed by: Michael Martinez

A poignant look at immigration as told through the experiences of a Mexican woman who comes to the United States illegally in search of a better life.

SKIN

Short | U.S.A. | 10 Min.

Directed by: Dominic Colón

In this dramedy about learning to love and accept yourself, a man who recently lost 200 pounds must overcome his fear of having sex with his boyfriend without his shirt.

THESE COLORS DON'T RUN

New York Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 10 Min.

Directed by: Via Bia

A tattooed woman who hides behind eyeliner and an attitude tells the story of her first ink. Will she drop the act and reveal something real?

VALENTINA

US Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 9 Min.

Directed by: Mary Angélica Molina

During the hottest day ever recorded in human history, a fastidious maid's duties are interrupted when her vagina comes to life. What starts as a simple cry for air turns into an intervention as Valentina's vagina asks after her wages and demands better working conditions

WELCOME BACK

NY Premiere

Short | U.S.A. - Mexico | 21 Min.

Directed by: Matias Nilsson

After she is deported to Mexico, Carmen must survive in a country she no longer understands. Follow her struggles as she looks for an answer to where she is really from, and which country is truly her home.

LIKE FINE SILK

Short | U.S.A. | 8 Min.

Directed by: Sandra Manzanares

Eva, a young Afro-Latina, takes her Spanish- speaking black mother shopping at the neighborhood black hair care store. The Korean proprietor becomes a little too interested in the older woman's cultural and racial background, leading to a humorous, but tense conversation in which Eva acts as the cultural interpreter and ambassador for a host of characters who both play up and suffer from stereotypes.

Shorts Program 4

Saturday 10:50PM @ Cinepolis Screen 4

NO LE DI A GUS / DON'T TELL GUS

New York Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 13 Min.

Directed by: Jeff Lucky

A young woman relives moments of her turbulent relationship as she prepares to make the biggest decision of her life.

SO FAR FROM GOD

New York Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 14 Min.

Directed by: Bret Polish

Determined to find her father in the U.S., a rebellious Mexican teen risks her life to make a perilous solo journey hiding in a truck with 15 undocumented immigrants and a limited air supply.

CEVICHE

New York Premiere

Short | Mexico | 9 Min.

Directed by: Domenica Garcia

Through individual cooking tasks, five women unearth the emotions behind meal preparation. They celebrate the process and shine a light on the other world that hides within a ceviche cart.

SUEÑOS AMERICANOS / AMERICAN DREAMS

East Coast Premiere

Documentary | Mexico | 4 Min.

Directed by: Josue Oropeza

A mood piece that highlights the lives of the children who panhandle at the San Ysidro Port of entry- those who dream of crossing the border into the U.S.A. to live the American Dream.

GRAPES

Short | U.S.A. | 7 Min.

Directed by: Ramon Pesante

After an evening of of booze and weed Ray, our stoner protagonist, stumbles home only to be intercepted by his vexing grandmother who seizes the opportunity to give him a much unwanted Spanish lesson. In this battle of the generations, the ungrateful pothead attempts to solve the riddles of his shrewd abuela while our lord and savior looks on.

SOLEÑIDAD

Short | U.S.A. | 5 Min.

Directed by: Jon Navarro

A woman revisits the place filled with her happiest moments and most tragic memory, and in a moment of solitude decides to let go of it all and take a leap of faith.

ALTERATIONS

New York Premiere

Short | U.S.A. | 18 Min.

Directed by: Juan Carlos Zaldivar

Alterations is a short comedy that follows J (an adolescent trans women previously known as Jesus), as she sets out to reconnect with her amnesic mother for the first as a woman.

TO INFINITY

Short | U.S.A. | 13 Min.

Directed by: Gabriel Savodivker

A dying father helps his young daughter carry out an imaginary mission into space to reunited with her mother, ultimately leading to an unimaginable revelation.