REEL EQUALS
26th International Film Festival
produced by Through Women's Eyes

In Sarasota Theaters: March 7-9, 2025

twe2025.eventive.org

Through Women's Eyes
TWE
advancing gender equality

Samantha Pillay • Australia • 6 min

This groundbreaking documentary-style film uses all AI technology to shed light on the hidden impact of urinary incontinence. Blending the seriousness of a documentary with the glamour of the Oscars, the film draws the audience in with an unconventional approach—juxtaposing composite stories of everyday struggles against the backdrop of red carpets and awards.

Fama Ndiaye • Senegal • 11 min

In many communites, education for girls is discouraged, an afterthought, or outright forbiddden. Travel to Senegal to see how some women and their families are changing this.

Nasim Soheili • Iran • 20 min

An Iranian woman copes with a visual impairment by cleaning up beaches. How can a blind woman clean up trash?

Kate Kelsen • USA • 7 min

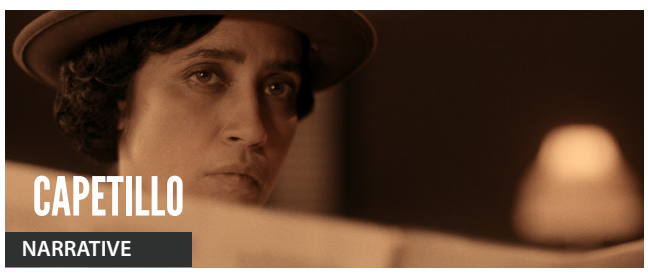
A teenage girl desperate for an abortion faces off with a physician assistant.

Olivia Hall • USA • 18 min

In "Forces of Nature", we meet and celebrate three Alabama women who, out of necessity to protect the people and places they love, answered the call to advocate for their water, land and communities.

Meg Shutzer & Brandon Yadegari Moreno • USA • 23 min

San Francisco is a city known for its vibrant gay community. Yet for Malia Spanyol, a self-identified dyke, nowhere feels like home. So, she sets out to build the space she wants.



Antonio Asencio • Puerto Rico • 22 min

In 1912, Puerto Rican feminist Luisa Capetillo, a lectora (reader) for cigar workers, made headlines when she decided to wear pants to work. And she refused to back down.

Clara Chan • Canada • 6 min

A poetic conversation between an immigrant daughter and her mother about sacrifices and dreams.

Victor Njagi • Kenya • 6 min

Did you know that land ownership is one of the biggest issues for women in Africa? Take a trip to Tanzania to find out why and see what can be done about it.

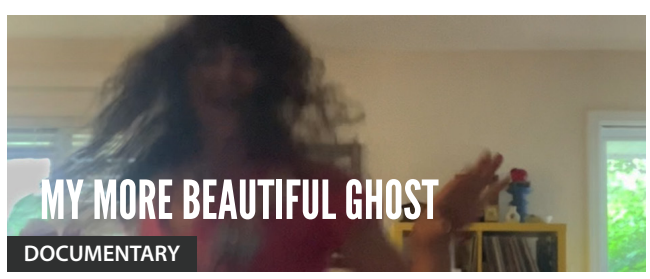
Elizabeth Sampson & Aaron Boyd • USA • 23 min

Midlife for many women brings not only menopause - a natural, even healthy process - but relationship changes. Join this star-studded cast as they navigate dating, sex, emotions, and a whole basket of midlife experiences. You will see yourself or others you know in this humorous look at 'the change.'

Christina Eliopoulos • USA • 101 min

IN PERSON ONLY

A wife's strength is tested when her husband, a Greek diner owner whose mind and memory is failing, imagines himself to be a late-night talk show host.



Kristine Trever • USA • 19 min

A fresh and creative take on disability from a self-described 'feminist, professor, mom, and hopeless romantic' who came home sick one day and didn't get better for five years.

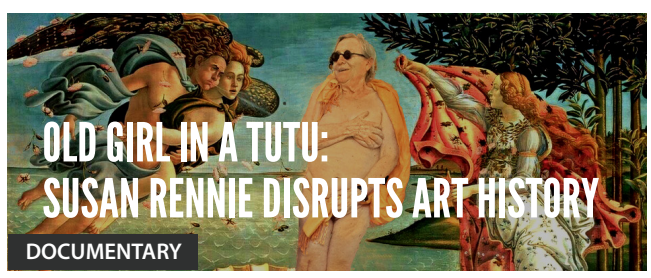
Celi Mitidieri • USA • 27 min

PANEL DISCUSSION FOLLOWS

What really happened to New College in 2023? What propelled a tiny liberal arts college on the bucolic Sarasota bayfront into national news? Hear from students and faculty about how they saw this culture war with the government.

Sadie Bones • USA • 96 min

Old story: 17 year-old gets pregnant on prom night; boyfriend leaves her. New story: 17 year-old makes her own choices, evolves, changes her mind about her choices, thrives.



Cheri Gaulke • USA • 8 min

The art gaze: who really is the audience for art? And who gets to be seen? Return TWE filmmaker Cheri Gaulke showcases feminist scholar Susan Rennie who sneaks her queer, octogenarian body into master works of art in this insightful and often hilarious send-up of "traditional" art.

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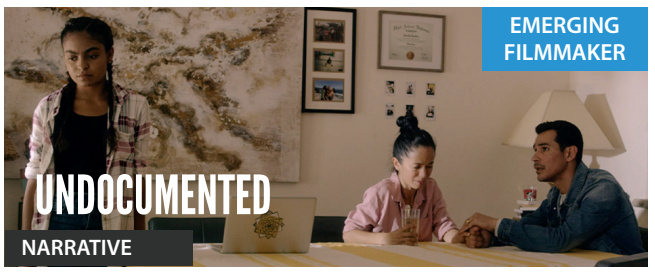
Rosie Baldwin • Netherlands / UK • 14 min

Follow two "guerilla gardeners" in London who set out to beautify spaces - and find the OGGs (Original Guerilla Gardeners) in the process. An original mockumentary that pokes fun at, and reveres, the urban gardeners in our midst.

Carol McCann • USA • 20 min

This deeply affecting story follows a woman and her granddaughter from rural Nebraska who go in search of a suit; a seemingly simple task that is ultimately revealed to have a more profound purpose.



Fernanda Belmar • USA • 9 min

RETURN SHOWING

When the Gomez family learns that their daughter has been in a tragic accident, their anguish is intensified as they must find a safe way to get to her. Without the correct documents, they risk being separated and deported. Can they make the trip from Los Angeles to New York undetected?

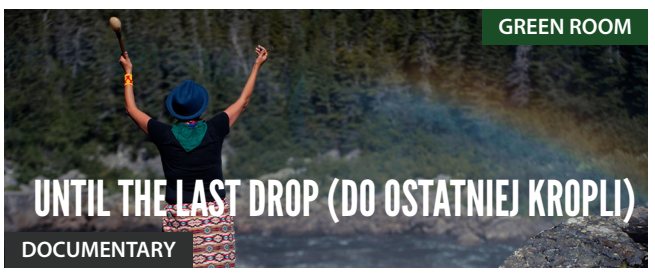
Marie-Claire Marcotte • Canada • 83 min

ONLINE ONLY

Eight year-old Billie leans on her vivid imagination, and her loyal best friend, to unravel the secrets shrouding her mother's true identity. Believing that her mother is a ballerina icon, Billie stops at nothing to try to find her.

Sahra Asadollahi • Iran • 14 min

A tragic accident in Iran kills a young child and gravely injures a father. How does a mother's grief manifest itself?



Ewa Ewart • Poland • 67 min

Filmed in 6 countries, "Drop" explores the uses of rivers around the world, and exposes the global cost and consequences of the destruction of nature "in the name of progress".

PANEL DISCUSSION FOLLOWS

Laura Palacio • USA • 15 min

An isolated teenager with autism struggles to let go of his imaginary friends.

Lindsay Nyman • Vietnam • 14 min

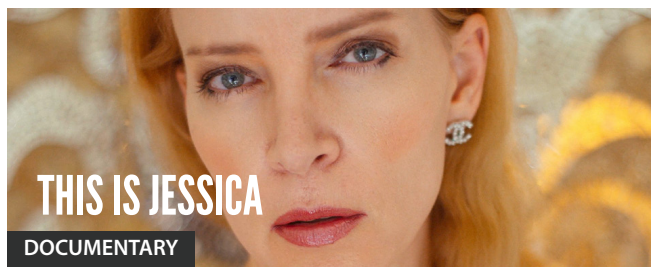
In Hanoi, Vietnam, tattoo artist Tran Ngoc specializes in the rare and challenging art of tattooing over scars. Despite the social stigma surrounding tattoos in Vietnam, Ngoc empowers her clients, including breast cancer survivors and women with self-harm scars, to reclaim their bodies, demonstrating that her work is a profound act of compassion and resilience.

Matthew Harmer • Netherlands / UK • 12 min

In 2017, whale biologist Nan Hauser had an extraordinary experience with a whale. Watch, then ask yourself: how much do different species understand about one another?

Adesola Thomas • USA • 18 min

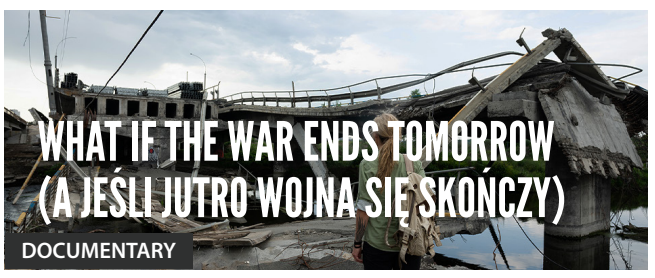
What would YOU do if your ultra-religious father had planned an arranged marriage for you? And your older sister's soul was trapped? Well, if you are Nigerian-American daughter Deborah, you enlist your purported fiance to help - in highly unexpected ways.



Andrea Meyerson • USA • 81 min

RETURN SHOWING

Jessica Bair, a longtime LGBTQIA+ rights advocate with Human Rights Campaign, shares her struggle to remain in her Mormon faith despite coming out as transgender.

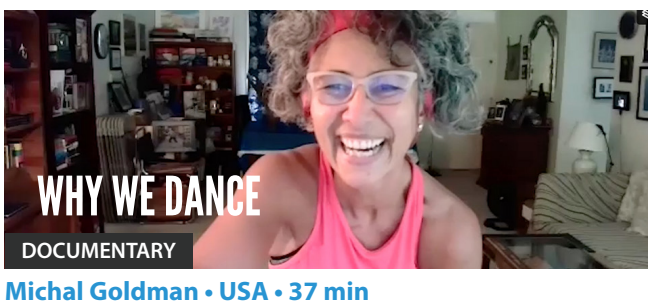


Martyna Wojciechowska & Hanna Jewsiewicka • Poland • 55 min

The war in Ukraine began in the Donbas in 2014 and continues to this day. These women refuse to be called victims - they are survivors. And they call upon you not to look away.

Kateryna Kurganska • USA • 19 min

After a man-made disaster decimates an evergreen island, a stranded 11-year-old girl must find the tenacity to leave behind her home with the help of an unlikely ocean friend.



Michal Goldman • USA • 37 min

BRING YOUR DANCE SHOES!

To cope with the COVID pandemic, a dance teacher goes online. Now we get to join her international, diverse age group of students and experience the joy of dance.

Streaming on demand: March 6-11

Green Room Panel Discussion: Saturday, March 8