

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### 9TH DESTINY CITY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL LINEUP

Tacoma, Wash. - Jan. 27, 2022 - The Destiny City Film Festival (DCFF) today unveiled its full slate of in-person and virtual offerings, including a robust lineup of over 40 films, conversations and events. Passes and tickets for the 9th annual event, Feb. 25 - March 6, are now available for purchase at [destinycityfilmfestival.com](http://destinycityfilmfestival.com).

VIP Passes, which include access to all in-person events and virtual films, are \$55. Virtual VIP Passes are \$45. General Admission tickets are \$9/\$7 for seniors and military. Students are eligible to receive free passes by applying [here](#). The full lineup of film screenings and events is available at [destinycityfilmfestival.com](http://destinycityfilmfestival.com).

"We're excited to share the 9th annual DCFF with you, including dynamic films from all around the world, and opportunities to energize, discover, and be entertained. As always, we were blown away by this year's submissions, and we're honored to be able to share these phenomenal works with you," says Emily Nakada-Alm, DCFF Founder and Executive Director. "The future of filmmaking is bright!"

In addition to 10 days of film screenings, the Festival, funded by Tacoma Creates and Tacoma Arts Commission, will present the following public events curated by DCFF's Advisory Board:

- Sunday, February 27 at 1pm: Write for Fright: Mastering the Horror Genre (Virtual)
- Friday, March 4 at 5:15pm: THE SOUND OF US: DCFF Takes Over the Blue Mouse
  - In-Person at the Blue Mouse Theatre
- Friday, March 4 at 7:30pm: Common Ground: A Local Film Celebration
  - In-Person at the Blue Mouse Theatre
- Saturday, March 5 at 1pm: Ignite: IN BETWEEN
  - In-Person at ALMA Tacoma

DCFF will require all festival patrons, guests, partners, employees and staff entering DCFF's partnering venues show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 with an FDA or WHO-approved vaccine. Face coverings will also be required, regardless of vaccination status, for all guests (ages 2 and up) entering partnering venues, except when actively eating and/or drinking.

To view the film lineup, purchase passes or register to attend any free events, please visit [destinycityfilmfestival.com](http://destinycityfilmfestival.com). See below for the full film guide.

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## **DESTINY CITY FILM FESTIVAL: FULL SCHEDULE**

### **Feature Film Program**

***Anchor Point*** | Dir. Holly Tuckett, 91 min, Documentary (USA)

***Anchor Point*** is a documentary film about women changing the culture of firefighting on our nation's public lands. It's a story told through the eyes of wildland firefighters Kelly Martin and Lacey

England, whose careers have been forged by grit and perseverance. They're deeply connected to the lands they protect and determined to build an equitable workplace, free from discrimination and assault.

***Everything in the End*** | Dir. Mylissa Fitzsimmons, 74 min, Narrative (USA)

A story of a lonely traveler who finds human connections during the final days of Earth's existence.

***Landlocked*** | Dir. Timothy Hall, 81 min, Narrative (USA)

Nick, a chef on the brink of opening his first restaurant, struggles to put his life back together following the loss of his mother. At his wife's urging, he reluctantly reaches out to Briana, his estranged, transgender parent. Seeking closure with both parental relationships, he invites Briana to join him on St. Simons Island, Georgia to scatter his mother's ashes. As they journey across the American Southeast, Nick and Briana must come to terms with the rocky emotional terrain of their pasts. As they approach their island destination and circumstances conspire to bring them closer together, their tumultuous family history comes into full view. Nick and Briana are faced with the difficult task of determining a new path forward.

***Ludi*** | Dir. Edson Jean, 81 min, Narrative (USA)

Desperate to send money to her family back in Haiti, hardworking and exhausted nurse Ludi Alcidor spends a chaotic day battling coworkers, clients, and an impatient bus driver as she chases the American dream in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood.

***No Visible Trauma*** | Dir. Marc Serpa Francoeur & Robinder Uppal, 99 min, Documentary (USA)

In the midst of a global uprising against police violence and systemic racism, ***No Visible Trauma***, examines a deeply troubled police department and reveals the devastating consequences of unchecked police brutality. Despite its relatively low crime rates, recent years have seen the Calgary Police Service shoot and kill more people than officers in any other Canadian city, and more than either the New York or Chicago police departments in 2018. Five years in the making, the film unravels the intertwined stories of three individuals who were the

victims of extreme violence at the hands of police officers. From the kidnapping and beating of a young immigrant from Ghana, to the fatal shooting of an unarmed man during a “wellness check”, the film exposes a criminal justice system that fails to hold police officers accountable for their actions.

***Queen of Glory*** | Dir. Nana Mensah, 79 min, Narrative (USA)

Ghanaian-American Sarah is all set to abandon her Ivy League doctoral program to follow her married lover across the country. Her plans are derailed, however, when her mother’s sudden death leaves her the owner of a neighborhood bookshop in the Bronx.

***The Sound of Us*** | Dir. Chris Gero, 118 min, Documentary (USA)

Music is the sound of truth, the sound of hope. It is the sound of unity and courage. During this critical time in history, the profound truth remains that music is the great, universal language.

***The Sound of Us*** chronicles a series of wide-ranging, diverse stories that exemplify the power of music and the triumph of the human spirit.

*Available to viewers in Washington state only.*

## **Short Film Program**

### **SHORTS: Changemakers, 85 min**

**The Beauty President** | Dir. Whitney Skauge, 22 min, Documentary (USA)

In 1992, at the height of the AIDS pandemic, activist Terence Alan Smith made a historic bid for president of the United States as his drag queen persona Joan Jett Blakk. Today, Smith reflects back on his seminal civil rights campaign and its place in American history.

**Guadalupe Maravilla and the Sound of Healing** | Dir. Rafael Salazar & Ava Wiland, 10 min, Documentary (USA)

Sculptor, performer, and sound healer Guadalupe Maravilla combines his personal experiences as a formerly undocumented immigrant and cancer survivor with indigenous knowledge to create new rituals for healing. An impressionistic look at Maravilla’s multifaceted practice and biography, the film follows the celebrated Salvadoran born artist – who immigrated alone from Central America as a child and overcame colon cancer as an adult – as he creates epic cast metal towers at Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City and conducts healing “sound baths” for his community. The film was produced by the long-running, Peabody Award-winning documentary non-profit Art21 and directed, shot, and edited by Brooklyn-based Latinx filmmakers Rafael Salazar and Ava Wiland (RAVA Films.)

**Senior Prom** | Dir. Luisa Conlon, 14 min, Documentary (USA)

At their annual “senior prom”, a community of trailblazing LGBTQ+ retirees celebrate life, love, and legacies of resistance.

**Safe Passage** | Dir. Heidi Hanson, 20 min, Documentary (USA)

In 2019, an enormous rock slide devastated the summer’s salmon run on the Fraser River in British Columbia, Canada. In 2020, during the global pandemic, a massive effort was underway to change that. **Safe Passage** explores the importance of wild salmon and offers an in-depth look at the efforts taking place to ensure that this historic run survives.

**The Queen of Basketball** | Dir. Ben Proudfoot, 22 min, Documentary (USA)

She is one of the greatest living women’s basketball players. 3 national trophies. Scored the first basket in women’s Olympic basketball at the ‘76 Olympics. Drafted to the NBA. But have you ever heard of Lucy Harris?

**SHORTS: DCFF After Dark, 79 min, Mature Audiences Only**

**Swipe** | Dir. Anthony Sneed, 5 min, Narrative (USA)

A delinquent teenage boy learns a valuable lesson about growing up.

**Affairs of the Art** | Dir. Joanna Quinn, 17 min, Narrative (UK, Canada)

How many obsessions can one family have? In Joanna Quinn and Les Mills’ **Affairs of the Art**, we reconnect with Beryl, the working-class heroine who not only reveals her own obsession with drawing but exposes the addictions of her eccentric family, which include pickling, screw threads and pet taxidermy.

**Tim Travers & the Time Traveler’s Paradox** | Dir. Stimson Sneed, 19 min, Narrative (USA)

It is called the Time Traveler’s Paradox. In which a scientist creates a Time Machine and kills their younger self. So now a man who should not- can not- exist, somehow does. That is the Paradox, and Paradoxes are impossible.

**Babatoura** | Dir. Guillaume Collin, 11 min, Narrative (Canada)

Benoit and Catherine, a couple in their late twenties, go to his parents’ house for dinner. It is with surprise and apprehension that they learn that the whole family is invited for supper and that the evening may not go as planned!

**The Night Passenger** | Dir. Josh Bowman, 27 min, Narrative (USA)

Marty is going through a crisis and is hanging on by a thread. After discovering a man tied up in his trunk things go from bad to worse. Worse being a psychopathic Irishman who joins Marty on a journey through the city of LA.

### **SHORTS: Evergreen Shorts, 90 min**

***Swipe Right for Emotional Baggage*** | Dir. Shelby Smout, 7 min, Narrative (USA)

Lillian and Sam are on a first date where their romance blossoms until they reach the ever-looming topic of the emotional baggage they each carry. They unpack their pasts to see if they have a future together.

***When the Storm Passes*** | Dir. Luke W.R. Sarabacha & Benjamin D. Sarabacha, 8 min, Narrative (USA)

“Then, in one moment, she put forth the charm of woven paces and of waving hands, and in the hollow oak he lay as dead, and lost to life and use and name and fame. Then crying ‘I have made his glory mine, ‘ and shrieking out ‘O fool!’ the harlot leapt adown the forest, and the thicket closed behind her, and the forest echo’d ‘fool.’”

***Honor Thy Mother*** | Dir. Lucy Ostrander, 31 min, Documentary (USA)

***Honor Thy Mother*** tells the untold story of Bainbridge Island’s Indipino community. Descended from Indigenous mothers and Filipino fathers, the Indipinos reflect on their lives growing up mixed race with no sense of belonging in either culture. Their stories reveal the effect historical trauma had on their childhood as the children of mothers who attended Canadian Indian residential schools.

***Slow Moving Houses*** | Dir. Mischa Jakupcak, 8 min, Narrative (USA)

While a man is in the midst of an existential crisis, a mysterious young girl appears and leads him into a future he can’t imagine for himself, forever altering the course of his life.

***Mike Sizzer | a chair wrestling documentary*** | Dir. David Over, 7 min, Documentary (USA)

Meet Mike. He wrestles chairs. And yeah, he’s pretty dang good at it.

***life is a gift*** | Dir. gloria joy kazuko muhammad, 3 min, Documentary (USA)

what does it mean to be liberated? to be free? for yourself and those you love? in “life is a gift,” mu knowles (born & raised on the hilltop in tacoma, wa) takes us on a journey through these questions. this film was co-directed by gloria joy kazuko muhammad and mu knowles as a part of the iMPACT LENS Narrative Justice HILLTOPIA Film Fellowship.

***What the Wood Wants to Be*** | Dir. Danny Hoffman, Lynn M. Thomas & Michael Sanderson, 7 min, Documentary (USA)

A mill in northwest Washington specializes in finding the guitars in felled trees, discovering what the wood wants to be.

***Squatch Man*** | Dir. Hanna Mae, 12 min, Narrative (USA)

A clueless man is determined to hunt down the Sasquatch he believes kidnapped his father. However, Bigfoot isn't the only animal in the woods.

***The Black Stonefly*** | Dir. Cody Lewis & Marc Rotse, 6 min, Documentary (USA)

Gian Lawrence is a fly fisherman and outdoorsman with a unique origin story. Growing up in Puyallup and Tacoma's Hilltop, he fell into a life of crime, violence and destitution until a near-death experience opened his eyes and his soul to the outdoors and a sport largely inaccessible for young black men like himself, fly fishing.

**SHORTS: The Next Dimension, 71 min**

***All that was new is old again*** | Dir. Jason Biehner, 7 min, Narrative (USA)

An experimental film utilizing outdated technology questioning and exploring the impact of our tech heavy lifestyles on the rest of the world.

***Jack the Radio: Creatures*** | Dir. Justin Zimmerman, 3 min, Music Video (USA)

Jack confronts creatures both real and imaginary on an extraordinary visual animated roller coaster, created with some of the comic world's finest artists. Jack emerges triumphant, reborn – and the singer of the best band around to boot.

***TANGO BODY ~ A LOVE STORY*** | Dir. Philip Kan Gotanda & Chelsea Eng, 10 min, Narrative (USA)

A dreamscape milonga. An intimate embrace. A quirky trip into new terrain. Argentine tango, the walking dialogue of infinite possibility, is re-envisioned as a physically integrated partner dance: an interplay of legs, feet – and wheels – in this visually stunning film. A heartening affirmation of freedom, of unity in diversity. Musical score by Latin Grammy-nominated Max Masri/Tanghetto. (milonga – an Argentine tango social dance venue)

***Ink*** | Dir. AJ Fuller, 3 min, Narrative (USA)

***Ink*** is a narrative about the anxiety of starting a creative project, facing the anxiety head-on, and emerging from a dark place to a state of acceptance.

***Is this foreal*** | Dir. TJ Walker, 3 min, Music Video (USA)

***An Approaching World*** | Dir. Andy Motz, 3 min, Narrative (USA)

***An Approaching World*** is an experimental film reflecting on the journey so many queer people, take from rural to urban, from unsafe to safe, and from storm to shelter in search of liberation.

***Red Gate Sessions*** | Dir. Marvin Glover, 17 min, Documentary (USA)

Modeled after the video series NPR Tiny Desk, the film shows an intimate performance of select material from Tacoma musician Marvin Glover spanning his career in a stripped-down set, and an intimate setting.

***demand me for the reckoning*** | Dir. Dean Moss, 14 min, Narrative (USA)

A woman contemplates cross racial rage from a cocoon of sexual bliss, in “demand me for the reckoning”. With its sober inquisition spoken in Japanese, this short experimental work juxtaposes a surface of fleshy intimacy, with fragments of monster movies and molecular imaging, to excavate her lover’s layers of internalized oppression.

***Squeeze*** | Dir. Adam Mehr & Mario Tofano, 11 min, Narrative (USA)

Awakened from his routine by a mysterious operatic song, Curtis must decide whether the voice calling him is an invitation or a snare.

### **SHORTS: The Stories We Tell, 94 min**

***Therefore, Socrates is Mortal*** | Dir. Alexandre Isabelle, 13 min, Narrative (Canada)  
*French with English subtitles*

Facing the climate crisis, Louise, a philosophy teacher, turns words into action.

***Blunt*** | Dir. Hisonni Mustafa, 19 min, Narrative (USA)

An interracial lesbian couple attempts to ease the racial tension between them and their parents using the power of straight talk and a little bit of Cannabis.

***Novenario*** | Dir. Alberto Triana, 20 min, Narrative (USA)

With the passing of her grandfather, Adrianna struggles to find her identity as a Hispanic woman and reconnect with her estranged family.

***Myrtle*** | Dir. Patricia McCormack, 16 min, Narrative (UK)

Myrtle is preparing her ingredients, she sure knows what she's doing, she has, after all, been practicing but something's not quite right. As her composure unravels, we learn that 21 grams is all that separates life from death.

***The Other Border*** | Dir. Justin Zimmerman, 8 min, Documentary (USA)

High school student Gerardo was arrested by ICE in Ohio, spent almost 2 months in prison and is scheduled to be deported. ***The Other Border*** is his American story, told through intimate interviews and shot exclusively on 8mm and 16mm film.

***Americanized*** | Dir. Erica Eng, 17 min, Narrative (USA)

Growing up in Oakland's hip-hop culture, Eng struggles with her Chinese American identity. To her high school basketball team, she's just that girl who sits on the bench; but to the Asian kids she's "Americanized." As her sophomore year of high school comes to an end, Eng tries to find a sense of belonging within the two worlds that don't accept her.