

MINI PROGRAM GUIDE

CINEQUEST™

LUMINATE

FILM & CREATIVITY FESTIVAL - CINEQUEST.ORG



MARCH
11-23

SAN JOSE, CA



LINE UP & TIX
NOW LIVE!



COMEDY

COMEDY FILMS

A Thousand Cuts

Charismatic co-hosts of a live TV special, Frasier and Roberta, set out to unravel the chilling mystery surrounding a 30-year-old unsolved murder of a famed horror novelist. As the investigation unfolds on-air, unexpected revelations and shocking twists complicate their quest for answers. **(US Premiere)**

A Wishy Washy Man

Dumped by his girlfriend without an explanation why, Cheolsu seeks the help of a psychiatrist who tells him that to reunite with his ex, he needs to break free of the Korean male stereotypes that are holding him back. *A Wishy Washy Man* is a poignant and humorous exploration of what it means to live authentically in a world that values conformity. **(World Premiere)**

Canoe Dig It?

Laughter is on the menu with this comical look into the world of "Freestyle Canoeing," as a group of canoeists compete for the title of "Top Paddler" on a lake in Maine. **(World Premiere)**

Childish Things

A fully improvised film shot during an actual road trip across America, *Childish Things* is a heartfelt and funny film that captures the moment in every artist's life when they are deciding between continuing to chase their dreams and settling down and living a "normal" life. **(World Premiere)**

Cotton Candy Bubble Gum

After his mom gets engaged, Carter, a 21-year-old mama's boy still living at home, must secure a paid promotion at his internship by the end of the day or find a new place to live. To land the job, his boss gives him a seemingly impossible list of tasks to complete. If Carter can conquer this wildly chaotic day, he might be ready for the real world after all.

Get Lucky

After months of trying to get pregnant, but having no luck, Tim and Cathryn go to a fertility specialist who suggests they go the IVF route. But with a price tag of \$25K, desperation sets in and Tim's big plan is to "earn" the money as a bank job getaway driver. However, Tim's day is about to get even more complicated. **(World Premiere)**

Good Sport

Pat is a divorced coach of his son's youth basketball team. Over the first game of the season, he must grapple with his ex-wife and her new doctor fiancé, a vindictive parent, and an over the top opposing coach. As if the stressors of the game aren't enough, he is also forced to confront pressures from an angry business owner to whom he owes money. **(World Premiere)**

Homewrecker

Megan is devastated when her mom can no longer afford to buy her a house, due to her stepdad's financial troubles. Megan decides that she has to split them up. With the help of her boyfriend, she hatches a plan to make a sex tape of her stepdad to frame him for cheating. Things get messy. **(World Premiere)**

King Baby

A modern fairytale plays out in a crumbling "Kingdom" populated only by a King and a Servant. The arrival of a mannequin Queen throws their carefully constructed world into chaos. **(US Premiere)**

Laughs, Thrills, Secrets, and Lies

The gripping hunt for a killer, parties and secrets, a corporate improv team building group, and the search for love...this line-up has it all. Welcome to the future of episodic storytelling.

Pilgrim

An overachieving teen and her man-child father hike down the California coast. Needless to say, the journey leads to quite unexpected realizations...and some hilarious antics. Written, directed by, and starring a real life 16-year-old and her dad. **(World Premiere)**

Say Less

Cassie and Max are already not big fans of each other. With their parents out of town, the already-fraught relationship between a brother and sister is strained to its breaking point as they vie for control of the house, each inviting over a romantic interest, and making cataclysmic discoveries about their parents and each other, along the way. **(World Premiere)**

Something Funny

Thirteen comedic shorts that explore work relationships, racial preferences of aliens, and absurdity. With high-brow humor, lo-fi animations, and thoughtful laughs, this program offers something for everyone.

The Fun-Raiser

In a sharp and heartfelt comedy, a married couple who runs a small-town performing arts charter high school scramble to organize a chaotic fundraiser in a last-ditch effort to keep their school afloat. With a leaking roof, a dangerously flammable cake, a celebrity guest who barely shows up, and an unfortunate bout of food poisoning, everything that could go wrong does. **(World Premiere)**

Tiger Mom

Starring Jingchu Zhang (*Protégé*), Ken Jeong (*Crazy Rich Asians*), Michelle Krusiec (*The Invitation*), and Nathalie Boltz (*Riverdale*), a special Sneak Preview of a glorious family comedy about a first-generation Chinese-American mother who, unable to control her teenage children, enrolls them in a prestigious disciplinary school, which is capable of whipping them into Ivy League shape.



DRAMA

Time Travel Is Dangerous

Best friends Ruth and Megan run a vintage shop in North London. When they stumble across a time machine, they embark on trips to the past, 'borrowing' items to sell in the present. They don't want to change history, or rob banks, they just want to find a nice lamp...without getting sucked into the hellish time/space vortex that is the Unreason.

DRAMA FILMS

(Un) Seen

Eleven films delving into what is hidden and revealed, from art appreciation to angelic practice. This program examines the secrets and discoveries that lie beneath the surface, offering thought-provoking narratives.

1+1+1 Life, Love, Chaos

Blending drama, comedy, and a bit of quirkiness, the journey of characters who are in the fragile state of leaving behind who they were and on the brink of becoming who they truly should be. **(World Premiere)**

Becoming Vera

In vibrant Miami, an 18-year-old talented Latin Jazz pianist navigates the complexities of being a foster child who just aged out of the system. She embarks on a journey of self-discovery to find her voice and place in the world, ultimately proving that anything is possible. **(World Premiere)**

Bound in Heaven

An adaptation of Li Xiuwen's novel, *Bound in Heaven* is a tale of love, survival, and the unyielding strength of human connection. Set against the backdrops of Shanghai, Wuhan, and Chongqing, the Chinese film follows the intertwined fates of Xia Yo, a woman trapped in a controlling and abusive relationship, and Xu Zitai, a man grappling with terminal illness, and their chance encounter with each other.

Cat's Cry

Milena's dreams and aspirations for the future are challenged when she gives birth to a baby with a rare genetic condition. Her father urges Milena to return home, offering to help raise the child. Overwhelmed and fearful of her future, Milena disappears, leaving her parents to fight a flawed social system. **(US Premiere)**

Holding On, Letting Go

Eight short films exploring what happens when we try to hold on as things slip away — whether traditions, relationships, or life. These films, from seven countries, ask hard questions about identity, choices, and change through live-action and animated storytelling.

In The Name Of Fire

Winner Golden Goblet Awards for Best Actor and Best Director in Asian New Talent section at Shanghai International Film Festival: In a secluded village in India, Phekan and Rukhiya face trials; he must travel to find work and she waits in their eerie home, haunted by whispers branding her a witch. One ominous night pushes her to the brink.

La Gloria

David Morse (*The Green Mile*, *12 Monkeys*) in an absolutely enthralling story about a border rancher mistakenly shoots a migrant woman and must decide whether or not to help her and risk discovery by his son, a Border Patrol agent.

Moonlight Warrior

Dou falls in love with a pretty nurse, Jiahui. Unfortunately, Jiahui belongs to a ruthless mobster, Gang, who is brutal to her. Dou becomes Jiahui's protector, her *Moonlight Warrior*, but before he comes to harm, Jiahui and Gang leave for Japan. Years pass and Jiahui returns. But when Gang pursues his wife, a youthful romance becomes a deadly contest. **(US Premiere)**

Newborn

A beautiful tale following Maria and Nicholas, a young couple in Mexico City, after they receive the shocking news their newborn's sex cannot be determined due to a disorder. Nicholas advocates for following medical protocol, while Maria embarks on a journey of research and self-discovery. Their choice will shape the trajectory of their family's journey in ways they never imagined. **(US Premiere)**

Nora

Having given up her career in music, Nora returns to her hometown to focus on her precocious six-year-old, a new house, a new school year, and the place she deliberately left behind. Her dreams and ambitions, however, have different plans. A joyful, unflinching look at modern motherhood clashing with the artistic notion of pursuing your passion. **(World Premiere)**

Saigon Saigon

A shy, young man and a mysterious girl spend a night together in the city of Saigon. Their mutual attraction develops, and in the morning, they must decide whether their connection is worth pursuing, or if they will go their separate ways. Based on Dostoevsky's short story "*White Nights*." **(World Premiere)**

Tension Release

Nine short films exploring those moments that lead to the dam breaking. Some end explosively, and some fall almost silently into chaos and eternity. These films examine tensions in various settings, exploring the build-up and release, with relatable visions of expectation and reality, war, and peace.

The Bitter Tears of Zahra Zand

The story of Zahra Zand, a high society fashion designer who lives in the fantasy world of her glamorous apartment in 1980s London. Distraught at the loss of her country, she descends into madness and power games with her housekeeper, an elderly religious woman who raised her. **(World Premiere)**

The Friend

Bill Murray, Naomi Watts, and a charismatic Great Dane named Bing propels this wise and insightful story of love, friendship, and healing in which a writer adopts a Great Dane that belonged to a late friend and mentor. Based on the acclaimed novel by Sigrid Nunez.

The Long Run

When two oddball strangers leave their lives behind to chase their Hollywood dreams, they discover what they lack in talent, they make up for with determination and a shared delusion, leading to an unexpected friendship that will make them question the realities of chasing a dream. **(World Premiere)**

The Luckiest Man In America

An all-star cast including Paul Walter Hauser, David Strathairn, Walton Goggins, Johnny Knoxville, Patti Harrison, and Haley Bennett, the true story of the man who stepped on to the stage of "Press Your Luck" harboring a secret: the key to endless money.

The Move In

During the first night in their new home, Ana and Diego hear noises that seem to indicate someone broke into the house. Diego is paralyzed by fear. Ana, on the other hand, handles the situation. The shame Diego feels makes him deny what happened—leading him to confront Ana, his manhood, and with the way he relates to his son. **(World Premiere)**

The Summer Book

Glenn Close (*Fatal Attraction*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *The Big Chill*) stars in the beautiful story of a nine-year-old girl who is growing up fast, and her grandmother, who is nearing the end of her life. Their summer together will change them both in dramatic ways. Based on Tove Jansson's beloved novel.

Village Keeper

A widow paralyzed by anxiety struggles to protect her kids in a city gripped by violence. Finding solace in cleaning, she inadvertently uncovers her own long-buried trauma while tidying a bloody crime scene. The story of a family grappling with secrets and unanswered rage that spans generations.

Xibalba Monster

When eight-year-old Rogelio is sent away to the Yucatan jungle for the summer, he spends the excruciatingly hot days obsessing over "The Book of Spirits" which awakens in him visions and dreams of ghosts, but above all, of an old man who leaves a trace of death. That is when he finds out the man is known as the "Xibalba Monster." **(US Premiere)**

INSPIRATION FILMS

A Little Fellow: The Legacy of A.P. Giannini

Before banks in the U.S. had a branch on every corner, they were an exclusive service for the wealthy. A.P. Giannini had a dream. His goal was to serve "the little fellow" and breed prosperity. By building trust and giving loans on a simple handshake, he created one of the largest banks in the country – Bank of America. **(US Premiere)**

American Agitators

The inspiring story of influential labor organizer Fred Ross, who trained many activists of note including Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez. Cesar Chavez is one of California's most renowned historical leaders. **(World Premiere)**

Art & Artist

Ten films exploring the artistic process, healing, and meaning-making. Featuring dance, love stories, and heavy themes, this program highlights the relationship between art, the artist, and their world.

Bar

The fun and inspirational story of five people who descend on the Culinary Institute of America in NYC, along with seventy other students, to participate in the world's premiere educational program on distilled spirits and mixology. While the competition is intense, the folks in this community strive to lift each other up and inspire. **(World Premiere)**

Boutique: To Preserve And Collect

The thoroughly exhilarating history of physical media and the rise of boutique specialty collector labels unfolds and celebrates the role they have played in film restoration, preservation, and elevation of underrepresented voices. Featuring a wild array of clips and voices from the films and game changers who made it all happen. **(US Premiere)**

Burt

Burt, a spirited street musician with Parkinson's has his daily life shaken up when a wayward young man from New York shows up claiming to be his son. Having always dreamt of being a dad, Burt invites him to stay for the weekend at the house he shares with his irritable landlord Steve. Executive Produced by David Gordon Green. **(World Premiere)**

Constant Fleeting

A poignant exploration of the complex dynamics of family relationships, addiction, grief, and the enduring power of love. At its heart is the story of a decades-long estrangement between an ailing mother and her daughter, which finds unexpected revival through the birth of a grandson. **(World Premiere)**

Docunation

Ten short documentaries exploring diverse lives, from taxidermy enthusiasts to Disney attractions, blending verité, animated, and found footage to present fantastical realities and new perspectives.

I'm Not An Actor

Starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui (*The Lunchbox*) and Chitrangada Satarupa (*Mariam*), the story of two people, one online audition, and their connection that leads to a long video call over a day that unravels their pasts, their fears, their pains, their joys, and leaves each of them forever changed. **(World Premiere)**

In Wintry Season

What seems at first like a fairy tale story of a nun and a priest evolves into a kaleidoscopic examination of gender, fallibility, family inheritance, and the place of faith in a modern world. **(US Premiere)**

Lilly

When a hard-working Alabama factory supervisor discovers her company has been paying her half of what her male counterparts received for 20 years, she begins a historic fight towards justice. Academy Award nominee Patricia Clarkson fiercely portrays the remarkable life of fair pay activist Lilly Ledbetter.

Maura & Maggie Get Callbacks (To Play Themselves)

For decades, Maura tried to shed her small town, move to New York, and be an actress. But, life always stopped her...until now. In the Big Apple, Maura meets fellow actor Maggie. Together, they defy naysayers and the long odds of show business—leading to crazy, humorous ride, where dreams are not what they seem, and truth is truly stranger than fiction. **(World Premiere)**



INSPIRATION

On the Field

Shorts exploring the world of sports and games, including musicals, science fiction, and documentaries. These films depict stories of love, resilience, and triumph in the sporting life.

Poised

A once proud region of industry, Sunderland, North East England is now a wasteland scattered with the relics of the past. 'Hope' is a word rarely spoken, even more so in context with the region's youth. That is, until community activist and mixed martial arts coach Steven France makes it his mission to help and inspire the community. **(US Premiere)**

Saints & Warriors

An exciting and inspiring story that takes its audience on a journey over the course of the Haida basketball season, when leaders of iconic rez ball team the Skidegate Saints compete for two titles - defending their All Native Basketball Championship, while battling for title to their land and waters with the government that stole it from them with the Indian Act.

Student Shorts, Part One

Animation, comedies, art, dance, and a bit of cultural pride round out this year's Student Shorts line-up. And they're all here to inspire you. Catch PART ONE the first weekend and then PART TWO the second weekend.

Student Shorts, Part Two

A pinch of science fiction, a dash of thrills, and a sprinkle of inspiration. The recipe for the Student Short line-up is as tasty as ever. Catch PART ONE the first weekend and PART TWO the second weekend of the festival.

The Courageous

In a small town on the edge of wild country, an eccentric and delinquent mother has had enough of the rules. Crushed by her mistakes and by a society that doesn't give a damn - or a second chance - to people like her, she'll do anything to prove to her children, and to herself, that she still is a good person. **(US Premiere)**

The Dreamers and I

An emotionally complex story about dreams grappling with reality, following several global entrepreneurs who come to Silicon Valley to make their high-tech dreams a reality—with the help of one man and his vision: running Startup Embassy, a special "hacker house" that offers an affordable, welcoming community to migrants. **(World Premiere)**

The Salt Path

Gillian Anderson (*The Crown*, *The X-Files*) and Jason Isaacs (*Harry Potter*, *The OA*) star in the superb real-life story of a couple who, after losing their home and livelihood, impulsively set out on a 630-mile walk along the southwest English coast, a walk complicated to no small degree by the recent diagnosis of a terminal neurodegenerative disease. **(US Premiere)**

The Unfixing

A joyful tapestry of life and landscape, *The Unfixing* reveals one mother's path from illness to healing and from climate despair to environmental awakening. It's a visual diary of destruction, grief, pain, love, and transformation. **(US Premiere)**

THRILLER, FANTASY & SCI-FI FILMS

Aguadilla

A modern noir starring Lou Diamond Phillips (*La Bamba*), Rene Moran (*Shameless*), and Alina Robert (*The Roar of the Butterflies*). As passions surge and secrets unravel, a lethal triangle emerges in this labyrinth of power and intimacy. **(World Premiere)**

Alien

In a small village, the local hearing-impaired Iyosha draws strange circles on the fields and tries to catch radio waves in hopes of contacting representatives of extraterrestrial civilizations. The villagers laugh at Iyosha and his strange hobbies, but everything changes when the one he has been calling for so long finally visits him. **(US Premiere)**

Animated Worlds

Seventeen animated shorts showcasing diverse styles and stories, from deeply personal tales to joyous discoveries. Experimental animations, hand-drawn works, and artistic visions explore themes of grief, trauma, and joy in this global array of animated filmmaking.

Birdsong

Held captive in an eerily perfect apartment, where time is frozen and needs are magically provided for, Bird lives a life of lonely monotony. Her only chance for freedom: entice someone into the apartment and her heart, and betray them by leaving them trapped in her place. **(World Premiere)**

Blood Star

A petty thief driving through the New Mexico desert finds herself the target of a psychopathic small-town sheriff who views his badge as a license to prey on vulnerable young women. She must use all of her street-smarts to survive in a high stakes game. **(US Premiere)**



THRILLER, FANTASY & SCI-FI

Dark My Light

A genre-bending sci-fi tale following Mitchell Morse's investigation into a beachside serial killer that is complicated by his fracturing relationship with his wife, an unpredictable new partner, and his own slipping sanity. **(US Premiere)**

Don't Let Them Out

Inherit the house, inherit the terror. Every family has skeletons, some want revenge. A woman journeys to a desert property she's inherited in hopes of selling it to pay off her debts, erase her past mistakes, and start a new chapter. But she soon realizes she didn't just inherit their property, but also their past sins and terror. **(World Premiere)**

Down To The Felt

One gambler. One hitman. Two weeks. With the deck stacked against him and life calling his bluff, a compulsive gambler makes a desperate deal with a psychopathic hitman to kill him in two weeks. But then, life suddenly starts dealing him aces. **(World Premiere)**

Genre Quest

A showcase of science fiction, fantasy, and horror films, blending retro throwbacks, dramatic explorations of love, literary adaptations, and bold new stories. This program offers international short films featuring genre legends and cutting-edge narratives.

Gunman

Fresh out of prison, El Galgo is approached one night with what seems like a simple task: to shoot up the front of a business that's behind on its payments. Yet, nothing is ever as easy as one thinks, and he finds himself on a roller coaster ride where everyone is after him. **(US Premiere)**

I See the Demon

After seeing a strange object floating in the sky, Lucy comes home to a surprise birthday party with all her favorite people. She's overjoyed, but when asked about her day, she realizes she can't remember anything about it. What happened? **(World Premiere)**

Mindbenders

Thirteen mindbending shorts that twist reality, from serial killers to singing cakes. These odd, experimental visions explore self-delusion, patriarchy, and more, offering thrilling, chilling, and disorienting experiences.

Push

An edge-of-your-seat thriller that follows one night in the life of a pregnant realtor trying to escape the hostile invader of her open house before she gives birth. **(US Premiere)**

Silent Sparks

Fresh out of prison, Pua is drawn back into the dangerous underworld where he reconnects with Mi-Ji, the cellmate he quietly loved from afar. Amid shifting allegiances and personal battles, the two face life-altering decisions that draw them deeper into the harsh reality of their existence. **(US Premiere)**

The Complex Forms

There is a villa where desperate people sell their bodies to mysterious entities in exchange for money. When creatures emerge from the woods, a series of sinister events prompt three guests to attempt a desperate escape.

The Dog

MZ works the frantic streets of Mombasa in Kenya. He's hired to drive a young escort to and from assignments, with the instruction to not, under any circumstances, get involved with her. But he falls in love the minute he lays eyes on her. What else can go wrong? **(US Premiere)**

The House Was Not Hungry Then

While searching for her estranged father, a young woman breaks into an empty house in the countryside where every visitor disappears. Now she must avoid the man posing as a real estate agent who lures the victims inside. **(World Premiere)**

The Other People

The Marsh family loves their new home. But when eight-year-old Abby befriends the boy who lives in the dark corners of their house, they are plunged into a battle the town has been fighting for a long time. **(World Premiere)**

The Snare

Dani, a straight-A student from the wrong side of town, worked hard for an academic scholarship. After getting busted with a small amount of drugs, the police pressure her to become an informant — forcing her to choose between the people she loves and the future she's worked so hard to create. **(World Premiere)**

Voices Carry

After Sam and Jack move into Sam's childhood home, they struggle to settle in as memories boil to the present. The discovery of a necklace and antique diary leads Sam to believe the spirit of her ancestor is trying to reach her and life begins to unravel. **(World Premiere)**

Zhaza

When a corrupt officer learns his daughter has been violated by the chief of police, he takes the chief hostage and finds himself in a war against the entire police force. **(World Premiere)**

CINEQUEST WILL LUMINATE YOU

Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival invites you to discover the world's finest new films, experience thrilling world premieres, and engage in inspiring conversations with visionary artists, innovators, and luminaries.

Guided by this year's theme, *Luminate*, Cinequest programs and social events will ignite joy, creativity, and connection. Together, we celebrate the transformative power of art, innovation, storytelling, and community to illuminate and uplift.

Cinequest *Luminate* takes place March 11–23 in Silicon Valley and March 24–31 online.
We can't wait to see you there!

DETAILS AVAILABLE AT [CINEQUEST.ORG](https://www.cinequest.org)

March 11-23: Cinequest In-Person at the California, 3Below, and Hammer Theatres in San Jose, CA
March 24-31: Cinejoy Virtual Festival

SPECIAL EVENTS AT CINEQUEST



CINEQUEST OPENING EVENT

MARCH 11, CALIFORNIA THEATRE @ 7:15PM

**PREMIERE SCREENING, AI PRESENTATION,
ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION, and PARTY**



Cinequest opens at the palatial California Theatre with a spectacular screening of *The Luckiest Man in America* as presented by its director. An all-star cast including Paul Walter Hauser (*Black Bird*), Walton Goggins (*Justified*), Shamier Anderson (*John Wick*), David Strathairn (*Good Night, and Good Luck*), Maisie Williams (*Game of Thrones*), and Patti Harrison (*Together Together*) tell the true story of the man who stepped on to the stage of 'Press Your Luck' harboring a secret: the key to endless money. Pre-screening AI & Film presentation features the winners of the MIT AI Filmmaking Competition. Afterwards, ticket/pass holders join Artists for a fabulous party of food, drink, music, and sharing.



SILENT CINEMA EVENT

MARCH 21, CALIFORNIA THEATRE @ 7:00PM

Nosferatu

Quite possibly the most terrifying film ever made, F.W. Murnau's *Nosferatu* remains a haunting masterpiece that continues to influence filmmakers even a century later. Although Cinequest normally looks to the future, annually we turn back to the roots of film language and storytelling where the technologies were sprocket celluloid, carbon arc burning dual projectors, and organists. Step into the glamorous era of the 1920s and enjoy the thrilling experience of *Nosferatu*. You might very well see that the original overshadows all the remakes. Taking the experience to the ethers, virtuosic organist, Dennis James provides the soundtrack and the emotions via his accompaniment.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT CINEQUEST



MAVERICK SPIRIT EVENT

MARCH 22, CALIFORNIA THEATRE @ 5:45PM

Premiere Screening and Gillian Anderson Conversation

Cinequest's highest honor, the Maverick Spirit Award, reflects the best of the worlds of innovation and artistry. It has been received by J.J. Abrams, Tatiana Maslany, Nicolas Cage, Sir Ian McKellen, Rosario Dawson, Harrison Ford, Michael Keaton, Sir Ben Kingsley, Spike Lee, Elle Fanning, Gemma Arterton, and Jim Gaffigan.

Cinequest proudly announces Gillian Anderson as the distinguished recipient of the 2025 Maverick Spirit Award. Renowned for her roles in *The X-Files*, *The Crown*, *Sex Education*, *The Fall*, *Bleak House*, and so many others, Ms. Anderson will receive the award during a moderated conversation following the United States Premiere of her latest film, *The Salt Path*. Anderson, along with the magnificent Jason Isaacs (*Harry Potter*; *The OA*), star in the real-life story of a couple who, after losing their home and livelihood, impulsively set out on a 630-mile walk along the southwest English coast, a walk complicated to no small degree by the recent diagnosis of a terminal neurodegenerative disease.



CLOSING EVENT

MARCH 23, CALIFORNIA THEATRE @ 6:00PM

The Friend

Cinequest in person concludes with the spectacular new film *The Friend*, starring Naomi Watts (*King Kong*), Bill Murray (*Lost in Translation*), Constance Wu (*Crazy Rich Asians*) Ann Dowd (*Garden State*), Noma Dumezweni (*Presumed Innocent*), Sarah Pidgeon (*Tiny Beautiful Things*), Owen Teague (*Bloodline*), and Carla Gugino (*Watchmen*). It is a wise and insightful story of love, friendship, and healing in which a writer adopts a Great Dane that belonged to a late friend and mentor. Based on the acclaimed novel by Sigrid Nunez. Pre-screening Jury & Audience Awards announcement. Post-screening celebration for ticket/pass holders

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS & PASSES

Cinequest remains as affordable as it is spectacular and has not only refrained from inflationary price increases but added new ticketing options. You can buy an Individual Ticket(s) for any Film Screening or Special Event OR you can buy Screening 10-Packs, or Special Access Passes.



Go here for
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Table 1

Film Title	Category	Language	Date	Time	Theater	Mini Guide
1+1+1 Life, Love, Chaos	Drama	French/ English	3/13/25	6:35PM	3Below	2
1+1+1 Life, Love, Chaos	Drama	French/ English	3/17/25	12:20PM	3Below	2
A Little Fellow: The Legacy of A.P. Giannini	Inspiration	English	3/13/25	7:10PM	Hammer	3
A Thousand Cuts	Thrills	English	3/15/25	9:15PM	CAL	1
A Wishy Washy Man	Comedy	Korean/ English	3/18/25	7:15PM	3Below	1
Alien	Thrills	Russian/ English	3/12/25	9:30PM	3Below	4
Alien	Thrills	Russian/ English	3/14/25	2:45PM	3Below	4
American Agitators	Inspiration	Spanish	3/16/25	6:45PM	CAL	3
Aquadilla	Thrills	English/ Spanish	3/15/25	6:45PM	CAL	4
Aquadilla	Thrills	English/ Spanish	3/19/25	4:40PM	CAL	4
Bar	Documentary	English	3/14/25	7:10PM	CAL	3
Bar	Documentary	English	3/23/25	1:30PM	CAL	3
Becoming Vera	Drama	English	3/16/25	4:25PM	Hammer	2
Becoming Vera	Drama	English	3/18/25	5:00PM	3Below	2
Birdsong	Thrills	English	3/16/25	2:05PM	CAL	4
Birdsong	Thrills	English	3/21/25	2:20PM	3Below	4
Blood Star	Thrills	English	3/22/25	6:45PM	3Below	4
Bound in Heaven	Drama	Mandarin	3/12/25	4:30PM	CAL	2
Bound in Heaven	Drama	Mandarin	3/18/25	9:10PM	3Below	2
Boutique: To Preserve and Collect	Inspiration	English	3/15/25	2:30PM	3Below	3
Boutique: To Preserve and Collect	Inspiration	English	3/17/25	2:40PM	3Below	3
Burt	Inspiration	English	3/16/25	2:05PM	3Below	3
Canoe Dig It?	Comedy	English	3/15/25	2:30PM	Hammer	1
Canoe Dig It?	Comedy	English	3/21/25	12:10PM	3Below	1
Cat's Cry	Drama	Serbian	3/15/25	11:30AM	CAL	2
Cat's Cry	Drama	Serbian	3/20/25	2:45PM	3Below	2
Childish Things	Comedy	English	3/16/25	8:45PM	3Below	1
Constant Fleeting	Inspiration	English	3/16/25	2:00PM	3Below	2
Cotton Candy Bubble Gum	Comedy	English	3/19/25	7:10PM	CAL	1
Dark My Light	Thrills	English/ Portuguese	3/15/25	9:15PM	Hammer	5
Don't Let Them Out	Thrills	English	3/14/25	9:30PM	CAL	5
Don't Let Them Out	Thrills	English	3/17/25	9:30PM	3Below	5

Film Title	Category	Language	Date	Time	Theater	Mini Guide
Down to the Felt	Thrills	English	3/14/25	9:30PM	Hammer	5
Down to the Felt	Thrills	English	3/17/25	9:25PM	CAL	5
Freaky Tales	Thrills	English	3/13/25	7:00PM	CAL	
Get Lucky	Comedy	English	3/14/25	7:00PM	3Below	1
Get Lucky	Comedy	English	3/20/25	12:30PM	3Below	1
Good Sport	Comedy	English	3/14/25	9:15PM	3Below	1
Good Sport	Comedy	English	3/20/25	5:00PM	3Below	1
Gunman	Thrills	Spanish	3/21/25	9:30PM	CAL	5
Gunman	Thrills	Spanish	3/23/25	2:00PM	3Below	5
Homewrecker	Comedy	English	3/16/25	6:30PM	3Below	1
Homewrecker	Comedy	English	3/19/25	12:00PM	3Below	1
I See the Demon	Thrills	English	3/20/25	7:00PM	3Below	5
I See the Demon	Thrills	English	3/23/25	3:30 PM	CAL	5
I'm Not an Actor	Inspiration	Hindi/ English	3/16/25	6:40PM	Hammer	3
I'm Not an Actor	Inspiration	Hindi/ English	3/18/25	4:15PM	CAL	3
In A Wintry Season	Inspiration	English	3/22/25	11:45AM	3Below	3
In the Name of Fire	Drama	Magahi	3/12/25	4:35PM	Hammer	2
In the Name of Fire	Drama	Magahi	3/19/25	7:00PM	3Below	2
King Baby	Comedy	English	3/13/25	9:30PM	CAL	1
King Baby	Comedy	English	3/14/25	12:30PM	3Below	1
La Gloria	Drama	English	3/20/25	9:30PM	CAL	2
La Gloria	Drama	English	3/23/25	11:00AM	CAL	2
Lilly	Inspiration	English	3/22/25	1:00PM	CAL	3
Maura & Maggie Get Callbacks	Inspiration	English	3/12/25	7:15PM	3Below	3
Maura & Maggie Get Callbacks	Inspiration	English	3/15/25	12:15PM	Hammer	3
Moonlight Warrior	Drama	English/ Chinese	3/13/25	4:30PM	CAL	2
Moonlight Warrior	Drama	English/ Chinese	3/18/25	7:00PM	CAL	2
Newborn	Drama	Spanish	3/13/25	4:45PM	Hammer	2
Newborn	Drama	Spanish	3/17/25	7:10 PM	CAL	2
Nora	Drama	English	3/15/25	6:45PM	Hammer	2
Nora	Drama	English	3/18/25	12:20PM	3Below	2
Pilgrim	Comedy	English	3/15/25	1:50PM	CAL	1
Pilgrim	Comedy	English	3/17/25	4:30PM	CAL	1
Poised	Inspiration	English	3/16/25	11:45AM	3Below	4
Push	Thrills	English	3/14/25	7:15PM	Hammer	5

Film Title	Category	Language	Date	Time	Theater	Mini Guide
Push	Thrills	English	3/18/25	9:30PM	CAL	5
Saigon Saigon	Drama	Vietnamese	3/22/25	3:15PM	CAL	2
Saints and Warriors	Inspiration	English	3/12/25	5:00PM	3Below	4
Saints and Warriors	Inspiration	English	3/14/25	4:45PM	3Below	4
Say Less	Comedy	English	3/15/25	4:25PM	CAL	1
Say Less	Comedy	English	3/16/25	9:00PM	CAL	1
Shorts Program 1: Tension Release	Tension	English	3/15/25	11:55 AM	3Below	
Shorts Program 10: (Un)SEEN	Hidden Things	English	3/23/25	9:15 AM	3Below	
Shorts Program 11A: Student Shorts Part One	Dramas	English	3/15/25	9:30AM	Hammer	
Shorts Program 11B: Student Shorts Part Two	Drama Thrills Inspiration	English	3/22/25	9:00AM	3Below	
Shorts Program 12: Laughs, Thrills, Secrets, and Lies	Laughs,Thrills Secrets	English	3/23/25	4:10PM	3Below	
Shorts Program 2: Holding On, Letting Go	Changes	English	3/16/25	11:30AM	Hammer	
Shorts Program 3: Genre Quest	SciFi Fantasy	English	3/22/25	2:00PM	3Below	
Shorts Program 4: Animated Worlds	Animation	English	3/22/25	9:05PM	3Below	
Shorts Program 5: Mindbenders	Mindbenders	English	3/16/25	9:25PM	Hammer	
Shorts Program 6: Docunation	Documentaries	English	3/16/25	9:30AM	Hammer	
Shorts Program 7: Something Funny	Humor	English	3/21/25	7:05PM	3Below	
Shorts Program 8: On The Field	Sports	English	3/19/25	9:15PM	3Below	
Shorts Program 9: Art & Artist	Arts	English	3/20/25	9:15PM	3Below	
Silent Cinema: Nosferatu	Thrills	English	3/21/25	7:00PM	CAL	6
Silent Sparks	Thrills	Mandarin	3/12/25	9:30PM	CAL	5
Slon	Drama	Russian	3/12/25	7:10PM	3Below	
Slon	Drama	Russian	3/13/25	2:00PM	3Below	
Storytelling Celebration	Forum	English	3/22/25	10:30AM	CAL RH	
The Bitter Tears of Zahra Zand3	Drama	Persian	3/17/25	7:05PM	3Below	3
The Bitter Tears of Zahra Zand3	Drama	Persian	3/21/25	4:40PM	3Below	3
The Complex Forms	Thrills	English	3/12/25	2:45 PM	3Below	5
The Complex Forms	Thrills	English	3/13/25	2:15PM	3Below	5
The Courageous	Inspiration	English	3/20/25	5:00PM	CAL	4
The Courageous	Inspiration	English	3/21/25	9:30PM	3Below	4
The Dog	Thrills	Swahili/ English	3/12/25	9:15PM	Hammer	5
The Dog	Thrills	Swahili/ English	3/14/25	4:45PM	Hammer	5
The Dreamers and I	Inspiration	English	3/15/25	4:40PM	Hammer	4
The Friend	Closing Night		3/23/25	6:00PM	CAL	3
The Fun-Raiser	Comedy	English	3/16/25	12:00PM	CAL	

Film Title	Category	Language	Date	Time	Theater	Mini Guide
The Fun-Raiser	Comedy	English	3/17/25	5:00PM	3Below	
The House Was Not Hungry Then	Thrills	English	3/22/25	4:30PM	3Below	5
The Long Run	Drama	English	3/13/25	9:00PM	3Below	3
The Long Run	Drama	English	3/18/25	2:45PM	3Below	3
The Luckiest Man in America	Opening Night	English	3/11/25	7:15PM	CAL	6
The Move In	Drama	Spanish	3/15/25	4:45PM	3Below	3
The Move In	Drama	Spanish	3/21/25	4:55PM	CAL	3
The Other People	Thrills	English	3/22/25	9:15PM	CAL	5
The Other People	Thrills	English	3/23/25	11:30AM	3Below	5
The Salt Path	Inspiration	English	3/22/25	5:45PM	CAL	4
The Snare	Thrills	English	3/16/25	4:00PM	3Below	5
The Snare	Thrills	English	3/19/25	2:15PM	3Below	5
The Summer Book	Drama	English	3/20/25	7:15PM	CAL	3
The Unfixing	Inspiration	English/ Spanish	3/15/25	6:50PM	3Below	4
The Unfixing	Inspiration	English/ Spanish	3/15/25	6:50PM	3Below	4
Tiger Mom	Comedy	English/ Chinese	3/16/25	4:25PM	CAL	1
Time Travel is Dangerous	Comedy	English	3/14/25	4:15PM	CAL	2
Time Travel is Dangerous	Comedy	English	3/12/25	7:10 PM	CAL	2
Village Keeper	Drama	English	3/22/25	11:00AM	CAL	3
Voices Carry	Thrills	English	3/15/25	9:00PM	3Below	5
Voices Carry	Thrills	English	3/19/25	4:45PM	3Below	5
Xibalba Monster	Drama	English	3/12/25	7:00PM	Hammer	3
Xibalba Monster	Drama	English	3/14/25	2:30PM	Hammer	3
Zhaza	Thrills	English/ French	3/13/25	9:15PM	Hammer	5
Zhaza	Thrills	English/ French	3/19/25	9:30PM	CAL	5

CINEQUEST SCHEDULE



MARCH 11 THRU 23, 2025 | Downtown San Jose | California Theatre & Rehearsal Hall, Hammer Theatre Center & 3Below

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE												THE LUCKIEST MAN IN THE WORLD + AI SHORT FILMS 7:15 PM-9:25 PM				

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE									BOUND IN HEAVEN 4:30 PM-6:19 PM			TIME TRAVEL IS DANGEROUS 7:10 PM-8:50 PM		SILENT SPARKS 9:30 PM-10:48 PM		
HAMMER THEATRE									IN THE NAME OF FIRE 4:35 PM-6:14 PM		XIBALBA MONSTER 7:15 PM-8:47 PM		THE DOG 9:15 PM-11:02 PM			
3 BELOW						THE COMPLEX FORMS 2:45 PM-4:20 PM			SAINTS AND WARRIORS 5:00 PM-6:37 PM		MAURA & MAGGIE GET CALLBACKS (TO PLAY THEMSELVES) 7:15 PM-8:51 PM		ALIEN 9:30 PM-10:50 PM			

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE									MOONLIGHT WARRIOR 4:45 PM-6:36 PM			TBA 7:15PM – 9:00PM		KING BABY 9:30 PM-11:05 PM		
HAMMER THEATRE									NEWBORN 4:45 PM-6:29 PM		A LITTLE FELLOW: THE LEGACY OF A.P. GIANNINI 7:10 PM-8:36 PM		ZAHZA 9:15 PM-10:50 PM			
3 BELOW						THE COMPLEX FORMS 2:15 PM-3:50 PM					1 + 1 + 1, LIFE, LOVE, CHAOS 6:35 PM-8:12 PM		THE LONG RUN 9:00 PM-10:35 PM			

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE									TIME TRAVEL IS DANGEROUS 4:15 PM-5:55 PM			BAR 7:10 PM-8:45 PM		DON'T LET THEM OUT 9:30 PM-11:02 PM		
HAMMER THEATRE							XIBALBA MONSTER 2:30 PM-4:02 PM		THE DOG 4:45 PM-6:32 PM		PUSH 7:15 PM-8:51 PM		DOWN TO THE FELT 9:30 PM-11:05 PM			
3 BELOW					KING BABY 12:30 PM-2:05 PM		ALIEN 2:45 PM-4:05 PM		SAINTS AND WARRIORS 4:45 PM-6:22 PM		GET LUCKY 7:00 PM-8:34 PM		GOOD SPORT 9:15 PM-10:37 PM			

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE				CAT'S CRY 11:30 AM-1:08 PM		PILGRIM 1:50 PM-3:41 PM			SAY LESS 4:25 PM-6:02 PM		AGUADILLA 6:45 PM-8:31 PM		A THOUSAND CUTS 9:15 PM-10:49 PM			
HAMMER THEATRE		SHORTS PROGRAM 11A: STUDENT SHORTS, PART 1 9:30 AM-11:27 AM		MAURA & MAGGIE GET CALLBACKS (TO PLAY THEMSELVES) 12:15 PM-1:48 PM		CANOE DIG IT? 2:30 PM-3:55 PM		THE DREAMERS AND I 4:40 PM-5:59 PM		NORA 6:45 PM-8:26 PM		DARK MY LIGHT 9:15 PM-10:51 PM				
3 BELOW				SHORTS PROGRAM 1: TENSION RELEASE 11:55 AM-1:45 AM		BOUTIQUE: TO PRESERVE AND COLLECT 2:30 PM-4:05 PM		THE MOVE IN 4:45 PM-6:10 PM		THE UNFIXING 6:50 PM-8:17 PM		VOICES CARRY 9:00 PM-10:31 PM				

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE				THE FUN-RAISER NOON-1:21 PM		BIRDSONG 2:05 PM-3:38 PM			TIGER MOM 4:25 PM-6:01 PM		AMERICAN AGITATORS 6:45 PM-8:04 PM		SAY LESS 9:00 PM-10:37 PM			
HAMMER THEATRE		SHORTS PROGRAM 6: DOCUNATION 9:30 AM-11:04 AM		POISED 11:45 AM-1:22 PM		BURT 2:05 PM-3:37 PM			BECOMING VERA 4:25 PM-5:55 PM		I'M NOT AN ACTOR 6:40 PM-8:40 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 5: MINDBENDERS 9:25 PM-11:13 PM			
3 BELOW				SHORTS PROGRAM 2: HOLDING ON, LETTING GO 11:30 AM-1:17 PM		CONSTANT FLEETING 2:00 PM-3:10 PM			THE SNARE 4:00 PM-5:50 PM		HOMEWRECKER 6:30 PM-8:01 PM		CHILDISH THINGS 8:45 PM-10:24 PM			

MONDAY, MARCH 17

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE									PILGRIM 4:30 PM-6:21 PM		NEWBORN 7:10 PM-8:54 PM		DOWN TO THE FELT 9:25 PM-11:00 PM			
3 BELOW					1+1+1 LIVE, LOVE, CHAOS 12:20 PM-1:57 PM		BOUTIQUE: TO PRESERVE AND COLLECT 2:40 PM-4:15 PM		THE FUN-RAISER 5:00 PM-6:21 PM		THE BITTER TEARS OF ZAHRA ZAND 7:05 PM-8:45 PM		DON'T LET THEM OUT 9:30 PM-11:02 PM			

CINEQUEST

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LINEUP & TICKETS NOW LIVE!

CINEQUEST SCHEDULE



MARCH 11 THRU 23, 2025 | Downtown San Jose | California Theatre & Rehearsal Hall, Hammer Theatre Center & 3Below

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE									I'M NOT AN ACTOR 4:15 PM-6:15 PM		MOONLIGHT WARRIOR 7:15 PM-9:06 PM		PUSH 9:30 PM-11:06 PM			
3 BELOW					NORA 12:20 PM-2:01 PM		THE LONG RUN 2:45 PM-4:20 PM		BECOMING VERA 5:00 PM-6:30 PM		A WISHY WASHY MAN 7:15 PM-8:25 PM		BOUND IN HEAVEN 9:10 PM-10:59 PM			

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE									AGUADILLA 4:40 PM-6:26 PM		COTTON CANDY BUBBLE GUM 7:10 PM-8:49 PM		ZHAZA 9:30 PM-11:05 PM			
3 BELOW				HOMEWRECKER NOON-1:31 PM			THE SNARE 2:15 PM-4:05 PM		VOICES CARRY 4:45 PM-6:16 PM		IN THE NAME OF FIRE 7:00 PM-8:39 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 8: ON THE FIELD 9:15 PM-11:05 PM			

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE									THE COURAGEOUS 5:00 PM-6:35 PM		THE SUMMER BOOK 7:15 PM-8:48 PM		LA GLORIA 9:30 PM-11:19 PM			
3 BELOW					GET LUCKY 12:30 PM-1:35 PM		CAT'S CRY 2:45 PM-4:23 PM		GOOD SPORT 5:00 PM-6:22 PM		I SEE THE DEMON 7:00 PM-8:32 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 9: ART & ARTIST 9:15 PM-11:05 PM			

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE									THE MOVE IN 4:55 PM-6:15 PM		SILENT CINEMA: NOSFERATU 7:00 PM-9:00 PM		GUNMAN 9:30 PM-11:00 PM			
3 BELOW				CANOE DIG IT? 12:10 PM-1:35 PM		BIRDSONG 2:20 PM-3:53 PM		THE BITTER TEARS OF ZAHRA ZAND 4:40 PM-6:20 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 7: SOMETHING FUNNY 7:05 PM-8:52 PM		THE COURAGEOUS 9:30 PM-11:05 PM				

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE			VILLAGE KEEPER 11:00 AM-12:36 PM		LILLY 1:00 PM-2:33 PM		SAIGON SAIGON 3:15 PM-4:55 PM		THE SALT PATH 5:45 PM-8:30 PM		THE OTHER PEOPLE 9:15 PM-11:08 PM					
3 BELOW		SHORTS PROGRAM 11B: STUDENT SHORTS, PART 2 9:00 AM-10:59 AM		IN A WINTRY SEASON 11:45 AM-1:18 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 3: GENRE QUEST 2:00 PM-3:50 PM		THE HOUSE WAS NOT HUNGRY THEN 4:30 PM-6:06 PM		BLOOD STAR 6:45 PM-8:22 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 4: ANIMATED WORLDS 9:05 PM-10:56 PM				
CALIFORNIA THEATRE REHEARSAL HALL			STORYTELLING CELEBRATION 10:30 AM-3:00 PM													

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

	9AM	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
CALIFORNIA THEATRE			LA GLORIA 11:00 AM-12:49 PM		BAR 1:30 PM-3:05 PM		I SEE THE DEMON 3:30 PM-5:22 PM		CLOSING NIGHT: THE FRIEND 6:00 PM-8:30 PM							
3 BELOW		SHORTS PROGRAM 10: (UN)SEEN 9:15 AM-10:47 AM		THE OTHER PEOPLE 11:30 AM-1:23 PM		GUNMAN 2:00 PM-3:30 PM		SHORTS PROGRAM 12: LAUGHS, THRILLS, SECRETS, AND LIES (EPISODIC STORIES) 4:10 PM-6:13 PM								

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