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CINEQUEST FILM FESTIVAL UNVEILS FILM PREMIERES LINEUP

SILICON VALLEY—**Cinequest** returns to illuminate the world with art, innovation, and community, shining a light on artists, innovators, audiences, and youth across the globe! The **2025 In-person Cinequest Film and Creativity Festival** (March 11th to 23rd in San Jose, CA) and the **Virtual Cinejoy Festival** (March 24th-31st Globally) bring an extraordinary discovery lineup of over 400 artists from 45 countries who will present their work at venues throughout San Jose, CA and online.

This year's 110 World and U.S. Premieres deliver powerful voices, strongly representing Asian, Australian, Black, European, Indian, Latinx, Middle Eastern, LGBTQIA+, and Women Artists as well as stories from divergent ways of life and thinking. The festival also proudly features groundbreaking AI-driven films, showcasing the harmonious relationship between human creativity and machine intelligence, a testament to the evolving future of storytelling. Renowned as the festival where art meets technology, Cinequest 2025 embodies the innovative spirit of Silicon Valley, luminating minds and stories through inspiring films, creativity forums, and events.

Lineup & Tix: <https://www.cinequest.org/>

FEATURE FILMS: WORLD PREMIERES

1+1+1 LIFE, LOVE, CHAOS | Comedy, Romance | 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. | Country: Canada | Director(s): Yanie Dupont-Hébert | Producers: Yanie Dupont-Hébert | Principal Cast: Noémie Yelle, Victor Andres Trelles Turgeon, Irlande Côté, Mathéo Piccinin-Savard, Matai Stevens, Dany Lefebvre, Jean-François Poirier | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - 1+1+1 LIFE, LOVE, CHAOS](#)

AGUADILLA | Drama, Romance, Thriller | A captivating, modern noir starring Lou Diamond Phillips (*La Bamba*, *Stand and Deliver*), Rene Moran (*Shameless*), and Alina Robert (*The Roar of the Butterflies*). As passions surge and secrets unravel, a lethal triangle emerges between a wheelchair-dependent ex-surfer and a Dominican migrant couple. In this labyrinth of power and intimacy, survival hinges on alliances betrayed and desires laid bare. | Country: United States, Puerto Rico | Director(s): Tom Musca, Alexander Z. Musca, | Producers: Tom Musca, Tim Sparks | Principal Cast: Lou Diamond Phillips, Alina Robert, Rene Moran, Elpidia Carillo, Jorge A. Jimenez | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - AGUADILLA](#)

AMERICAN AGITATORS | Documentary | Influential labor organizer Fred Ross (1910-1992), who trained many activists of note including Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez.

Cesar Chavez is one of San Jose's most beloved Historical leaders. | Country: United States | Director(s): Raymond Telles | Producers: Kenn Rabin, David Telles, Olivia Heffernan, John Heffernan, Margo Feinberg | Principal Cast: Fred Ross Sr. , Fred Ross Jr., Luis Valdez, Dale Minami, Satsuki Ina, Kay Uyeda Patterson, Saul Alinsky, Herman Gallegos , Eliseo Medina, Edward R. Roybal, Dolores Huerta, Paul Chavez, Cesar Chavez, | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - AMERICAN AGITATORS](#)

BAR | Documentary | The fun and inspirational story of five people from around the U.S. 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 the next generation. | Country: United States | Director(s): Don Hardy | Producers: Shawn Dailey, Don Hardy | Principal Cast: | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - BAR](#)

BECOMING VERA | Drama | In the vibrant city of Miami, an 18-year-old talented pianist named Vera navigates the complexities of being a Foster Child who just aged out of the system and is pursuing her passion for Latin Jazz. Vera embarks on a journey of self-discovery, finding her voice and carving out a future, ultimately proving that with determination and belief in oneself, anything is possible. | Country: United States | Director(s): Sergio Vizuete | Producers: Jiarui Guo, Sergio Vizuete | Principal Cast: Raquel Lebish, Gabriel Diehl, Nicolas Pozo, Mikaela Monet, Brandon Williams, Phillip Andre Botello | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - BECOMING VERA](#)

BIRDSONG | Drama, Romance, Mystery | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Renso Amariz, A. Avery (A Film By Renso Amariz & Morgan Bentz) | Producers: Morgan Bentz, Margy Kennedy, Marnie Near | Principal Cast: Chloë Levine, Rebecca Knox | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - BIRDSONG](#)

THE BITTER TEARS OF ZAHRA ZAND | Drama | 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. | Country: United Kingdom | Director(s): Vahid Hakimzadeh | Producers: Reza Sixo Safai, Danny de Warren, Sameer Patel | Principal Cast: Boshra Dastournezhad, Melina Farahani, Avin Avin Manshadi, Pari Armineh, Soussan Farrokhnia, Goli Samii | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - THE BITTER TEARS OF ZAHRA ZAND](#)

BURT | Comedy | Burt, a delightful and spirited street musician with Parkinson's has his daily life shaken up when, Sammy, a wayward young man from New York shows up claiming to be his son. Having always dreamt of being a dad, Burt embraces Sammy, inviting him to stay for the weekend at the house he shares with his irritable landlord Steve. Executive Produced by David Gordon Green. | Country: United States | Director(s): Joe Burke | Producers: Joe Burke, Oliver Cooper, David Gordon Green | Principal Cast: Oliver Cooper, Burt Berger, Steven Levy, Catlin Adams | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - BURT](#)

CANOE DIG IT? | Comedy | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Samuel Dunning | Producers: Victoria

Negri, Samuel Dunning, Greg White, Kelsey Lea Jones | Principal Cast: Samuel Dunning, Doug McCue, JF Davis, Katherine Bellantone, John Michael Hardin, Kelsey Lea Jones, Sarah Baskin, Greg Dorchak, Troy Sill, Kyle Minshew, Caleb Wells, Michael Simon Hall, James M Reilly, Marc Ornstein, Molly Gurien | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - CANOE DIG IT?](#)

CHILDISH THINGS | Comedy, Romance | When a 30-year-old amateur musician faces pressure from his longtime girlfriend to get engaged, he embarks on a cross-country road trip with his camera-wielding brother to sell his beloved tour bus. A comedy for those searching inside for answers, but not knowing they may already have them. | Country: United States | Director(s): Nick Cassidy | Producers: Cash Cassidy, Nick Cassidy | Principal Cast: Nick Cassidy, Cash Cassidy, Guinevere Berthelot, Caitlin Zambito, Timothy Rhys, Kevyn Richmond, Jerry Michaels, Zach Tomasovic, Hugh MacDonald, Danielle Moreland-Ochoa | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - CHILDISH THINGS](#)

CONSTANT FLEETING | Documentary | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Ondrea Barbe | Producers: Douglas Blush, Ondrea Barbe | Principal Cast: Bobbie Barbe, Cory Coppola, Ondrea Barbe | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - CONSTANT FLEETING](#)

DON'T LET THEM OUT | Thriller, Horror | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Lila McLaughlin | Producers: Lila McLaughlin, Bonnie Root | Principal Cast: Bonnie Root, Louie Ferreira, Emily Rios | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - DON'T LET THEM OUT](#)

DOWN TO THE FELT | Thriller | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Jon Osbeck | Producers: Jon Osbeck, Dino Tripodis, Ralph Scott, Cullen Douglas | Principal Cast: Michael Stahl-David, Michael Weston, Scottie Thompson | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - DOWN TO THE FELT](#)

THE DREAMERS AND I | Documentary | 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. | Country: United States, Spain, Turkey | Director(s): Kenji Yamamoto | Producers: Nancy Kelly, Kenji Yamamoto | Principal Cast: Habibe Turfan, Carlos de la Lama-Noiega, Lucas Gozálviz, Sergey Samusev, Kenji Yamamoto | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - THE DREAMERS AND I](#)

THE FUN-RAISER | Comedy | In a sharp and heartfelt comedy, a married couple who run 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Wyatt McDill | Producers: Megan Huber | Principal Cast: Brian Sutherland, Shana Berg,

Kasper, Ella Pearl-Levy, David Tufford, Toussaint Morrison | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - THE FUN-RAISER](#)

GET LUCKY | Comedy | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Ingela Ogard, Torkel Knutsson | Producers: Torkel Knutsson | Principal Cast: JT Jackson, Trond Halbo, Eli Jane, Jermain Hollman | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - GET LUCKY](#)

GOOD SPORT | Comedy | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Andrew Jack Zuckerman | Producers: Dillon Orth, John Cronin, Andrew Jack Zuckerman | Principal Cast: Sari Lennick, Mike O'Gorman, Virginia Newcomb, Sam Landman, London Kim, Elizabeth Guest | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - GOOD SPORT](#)

HOMEWRECKER | Comedy | 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, Liam, she hatches a plan to make a deepfake sex tape of her stepdad to frame him for cheating. Things get messy as Megan commits to the increasingly elaborate scheme, all while grappling with the morality of her actions. | Country: United States | Director(s): Dante Marino | Producers: Dante Marino, Ross Warr, Reilly Anspaugh, Daniel Rashid | Principal Cast: Reilly Anspaugh, Daniel Rashid, Bradley Snedeker, Adria Tennor, Jorji Diaz Fadel, Manny Spero | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - HOMEWRECKER](#)

THE HOUSE WAS NOT HUNGRY THEN | Thriller | 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. | Country: United Kingdom | Director(s): Harry Aspinwall | Producers: Joel Hewett | Principal Cast: Bobby Rainsbury, Clive Russell, Bill Paterson | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - THE HOUSE WAS NOT HUNGRY THEN](#)

I SEE THE DEMON | Thriller, Sci-Fi, Horror | 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. As the evening descends into madness, Lucy must discern reality from illusion, and who of her friends are really on her side. | Country: United States | Director(s): Jacob Lees Johnson | Producers: Jordan Augustine, Ashley Cook, Barrett Burgin, Derek Romrell, Jacob Lees Johnson | Principal Cast: Jon Heder, Alexis Zollicoffer, Mallory Everton, Noah Kershnik, Archelaus Crisanto, Dave Martinez, Mac Steele Foster, Oran Stainbrook | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - I SEE THE DEMON](#)

I'M NOT AN ACTOR | Drama | 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 | Country: India, Germany | Director(s): Aditya Kripalani | Producers: Aditya Kripalani, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Faizuddin Siddiqui, Sweta Chhabria Kripalani | Principal Cast: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Chitrangada Satarupa, Naveen Kasturia, Ayushi Gupta, Yasir, Iftikhar Khan, Vibhawari Deshpande |

World Premiere [Cinequest - I'M NOT AN ACTOR](#)

THE LONG RUN | Comedy | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Mylissa Fitzsimmons | Producers: Mylissa Fitzsimmons, Don Ohmer | Principal Cast: Nicole Rodenburg, Fred Thomas, Leonora Pitts, Jennifer Lafleur, Amy Acker, Aramis Sartorio, Lindsey Black, Hilary Smith | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - THE LONG RUN](#)

MAURA & MAGGIE GET CALLBACKS (TO PLAY THEMSELVES) | Documentary | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Tennyson Bardwell | Producers: Mary-Beth Taylor | Principal Cast: Maura Campbell, Maggie Wagner, Dey Young, Sally Kirkland, Aida Turturro | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - MAURA & MAGGIE GET CALLBACKS \(TO PLAY THEMSELVES\)](#)

THE MOVE IN | Drama | 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 10-year-old son. | Country: Mexico | Director(s): RS Quintanilla | Producers: Erika Calviño, RS Quintanilla | Principal Cast: Noé Hernández, Florencia Ríos, Gerónimo Bolaños, Nora Huerta, Haydee Boetto, Daniela Luque, Mauricio Rico | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - THE MOVE IN](#)

NORA | Drama | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Anna Campbell | Producers: Anna Campbell, Sascha Fix, AJ Gordon | Principal Cast: Anna Campbell, Lesley Ann Warren, Nick Fink, Kate Miner | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - NORA](#)

THE OTHER PEOPLE | Thriller, Mystery, Horror | A claustrophobic thriller that explores our misconceptions about home, safety, and the cost of forbidden knowledge. The Marsh family loves their new home. But when their eight-year-old Abby befriends the boy who lives in the dark corners of their new home, the innocent act plunges the family into a battle this town has been fighting for a long time. | Country: United States | Director(s): Chad McClarnon | Producers: Chad McClarnon, Tony Dancy | Principal Cast: Lyndie Greenwood, Bryce Johnson, Valentina Lucido, Quinnlan Ashe, B.D. Boudreaux, Ashley Crow | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - THE OTHER PEOPLE](#)

PILGRIM | Comedy | 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. |

Country: United States | Director(s): Scout Purdy, Doug Purdy | Producers: Doug Purdy, Tom Flynn, Colette Freedman | Principal Cast: Scout Purdy, Doug Purdy, Jenica Bergere, Brooke Purdy, Ryan Bollman, Max Purdy, Colette Freedman | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - PILGRIM](#)

SAIGON SAIGON | Drama | 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." | Country: Viet Nam | Director(s): Nguyen Tran | Producers: Irene Trinh, Luu Huynh | Principal Cast: Nguyen Anh Tu, Le Ha Anh, Lam Vissay, Dam Phuong Linh | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - SAIGON SAIGON](#)

SAY LESS | Comedy | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Michael Kellman | Producers: Michael Kellman, J. Zachary Thurman | Principal Cast: Jenny Lange, Matt Linton, Genevieve Thomas, Manny Spero, Ben Taylor, Roxanne Hart, Philip Casnoff | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - SAY LESS](#)

THE SNARE | Thriller | A enthralling crime thriller following Dani, a straight-A student from the wrong side of town who's worked hard for an academic scholarship. 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Merlin Camozzi | Producers: Merlin Camozzi, Kristifor Cvijetic, Jenny Leigh Reed, Kareem Mortimer | Principal Cast: Cassady McClincy Zhang, Dempsey Bryk, Lucy Walters, Royce Johnson, Elizabeth Stahlmann | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - THE SNARE](#)

VOICES CARRY | Thriller | After Sam and Jack move into Sam's childhood home (to make a fresh start), 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. But when Sam begins sleepwalking and is mysteriously drawn to the lake, life begins to unravel. | Country: United States | Director(s): Ellyn Vander Wyden, Abby Brenner | Producers: Ellyn Vander Wyden, Abby Brenner, Jeff Ayars, Mauricio Vasquez | Principal Cast: Gia Crovatin, Jeff Ayars, Jeremy Holm, Geraldine Singer | **World Premiere**
[Cinequest - VOICES CARRY](#)

ZHAZA | Thriller | A high-octane action-thriller! In a small town, a corrupt officer learns his daughter has been violated by the chief of police. He takes the chief hostage and soon finds himself in a fight against the entirety of the police force, all while trying to save his daughter and establish a relationship with her. | Country: Kazakhstan | Director(s): Darkhan Tulegenov | Producers: Maxim Akbarov, Igor Tsay | Principal Cast: Erzhan Tusupov, Dilnaz Kurmangalieva, Gani Kulzhanov, Berik Aitzhanov, Nazar Sharkhan | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - ZHAZA](#)

FEATURE FILMS: US PREMIERES

ALIEN | Drama, Sci-Fi | In a small Ural village the local hearing-impaired Iyosha lives in a makeshift house, 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. | Country: Russia | Director(s): Ivan Sosnin | Producers: Filipp Bobrov, Natalya Bryantseva, Maksim Dobromyslov, Sofya Merkulova, Maksim Stoyanov, Adelina Nigmatova, Anton Smetanin, Igor Kuznetsov, Danya Groznykh | Principal Cast: Maksim Stoyanov, Alyona Miroshnikova | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - ALIEN](#)

BLOOD STAR | Thriller | 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. | Country: United Kingdom | Director(s): Lawrence Jacomelli | Producers: Victoria Hinks Taylor | Principal Cast: Britni Camacho, John Schwab, Sydney Brumfield, Brandon Brown, Felix Merback, Wyomi Reed | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - BLOOD STAR](#)

BOUTIQUE: TO PRESERVE AND COLLECT | Documentary | 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. | Country: Canada | Director(s): Ry Levey | Producers: Ry Levey, Cheryl Staurulakis | Principal Cast: Joe Rubin, David Gregory, Samm Deighan, John Huckert, Lesleh Donaldson, Frank Jaffe, Lizzie Borden, Carolyn Mauricette, Chris Alexander, Tori Potenza, David Blyth, Peter Kuplowsky, Lisa Langlois, Bill Allen, Jason Pichonsky, Andrew Williams, Oscar Becher | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - BOUTIQUE: TO PRESERVE AND COLLECT](#)

CAT'S CRY | Drama | Milena's dreams and aspirations for the future are challenged when she gives birth to a baby with a rare genetic condition. While her partner and his family refuse to take responsibility for the baby, 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 for custody of their granddaughter. | Country: Serbia | Director(s): Sanja Živković | Producers: Vladimir Paskaljević, Munire Armstrong, Nevena Savić, Irena Skorić, Petar Paskaljević, Borga Dorter, Jordan Barker | Principal Cast: Jasmin Geljo, Andrijana Djordjević, Sanja Mikitišin, Marija Škaričić, Denis Murić | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - CAT'S CRY](#)

THE COURAGEOUS | Drama | 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. | Country: Switzerland | Director(s): Jasmin Gordon | Producers: Brigitte Hofer, Cornelia Seitler | Principal Cast: Ophelia Kolb, Jasmine Kalisz Saurer, Paul Besnier, Arthur Devaux | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - THE COURAGEOUS](#)

DARK MY LIGHT | Thriller, Sci-Fi | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Neal Dhand | Producers: Sergio Uguet de Resayre, Neal Sampat, Neal Dhand, Jonathan Aranda | Principal Cast: Albert Jones, Keesha Sharp, Tom Lipinski | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - DARK MY LIGHT](#)

THE DOG | Thriller | 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? | Country: Sweden, Kenya | Director(s): Baker Karim | Producers: Olivier Guerpillon, Helene Hillerström Miksche | Principal Cast: Alexander Karim, Caroline Muthoni, Carolyn Midimo, Robert Agengo, Lorna Lemi, Benson Gaitho | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - THE DOG](#)

GUNMAN | Thriller | "El Galgo," was once the top hitman for drug organization controlling his Buenos Aires neighborhood, but a botched job has left him a fallen man. 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. | Country: Argentina | Director(s): Cris Tapia Marchiori | Producers: Pablo Udenio, Enrique Udenio, Gabriel Dieb, Antonella Lagamba, Nicolás Yannicelli | Principal Cast: Sergio Podedey, Julieta Díaz, Ramiro Blas, Maite Lanata, Mariano Torre, Matías Desiderio, Gonzalo Gravano, Bianca Di Pasquale, Susana Varela | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - GUNMAN](#)

IN A WINTRY SEASON | Documentary | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Mary Posatko | Producers: Mary Posatko, Katherine Vondy | Principal Cast: | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - IN A WINTRY SEASON](#)

IN THE NAME OF FIRE | Horror | Winner Golden Goblet Awards for Best Actor and Best Director in New Asian 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. | Country: India | Director(s): Abhilash Sharma | Producers: Vikash Sharma | Principal Cast: Chandra Shekhar Dutta, Satya Ranjan, Sonalli Sharmishta, Bulloo Kumar, Kunal Kumar, Sarbind Kumar | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - IN THE NAME OF FIRE](#)

KING BABY | Comedy, Fantasy | 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. | Country: France, United Kingdom | Director(s): Kit Redstone, Arran Shearing | Producers: Arran Shearing, Franck Priot, Ye Shu, Kit Redstone, Marc Petey | Principal Cast: Graham Dickson, Neil Chinneck, Graham Dickson | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - KING BABY](#)

A LITTLE FELLOW: THE LEGACY OF A.P. GIANNINI | Documentary | 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 within his immigrant community. But, by building trust and giving loans on a simple handshake, he created one of the largest banks in the country – Bank of America. | Country: United States | Director(s): Davide Fiore | Producers: Anna Laclergue, Davide Fiore, Sacha Smith, Joe Mancini | Principal Cast: Sacha Smith, Virginia Hammerness Giannini, Duncan Knowles, Deanna Paoli Gumina, Catherine Stefani, Marianna Gatto, Lorenzo Ortona, Claire Giannini Hoffman, Sarah Quincy, SAndra Bagnatori, Alessandro Baccari, Anne McWilliams, Alessandra Cassar | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - A LITTLE FELLOW: THE LEGACY OF A.P. GIANNINI](#)

MOONLIGHT WARRIOR | Drama | 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, escaping Gang. But when Gang pursues his wife, a youthful romance becomes a deadly contest. | Country: China | Director(s): HONG Ying | Producers: Song Dai | Principal Cast: Zuo Hang, Feng Jiamei, Bai En, Cai Heng | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - MOONLIGHT WARRIOR](#)

NEWBORN | Drama | 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. | Country: Mexico | Director(s): Alejandro Zuno | Producers: Érika Ávila, Mónica Lozano, Eamon O'Farrill | Principal Cast: Mayra Hermosillo, Andrés Delgado, Silvia Navarro, Nova Coronel | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - NEWBORN](#)

POISED | Documentary | 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. | Country: United Kingdom | Director(s): Toby Robson | Producers: Katie Elliott, Adam Donneky | Principal Cast: | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - POISED](#)

PUSH | Thriller | An edge-of-your-seat and unpredictable thriller that follows one night in the life of a pregnant realtor, the hostile invader of her open house, her premature labor, and her need to try and find a way to escape before she gives birth. | Country: United States | Director(s): David Charbonier, Justin Powell | Producers: Ryan Scaringe, David Charbonier, Justin Powell | Principal Cast: Alicia Sanz, Raúl Castillo | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - PUSH](#)

THE SALT PATH | Drama | 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. | Country: United Kingdom | Director(s): Marianne Elliott | Producers: Peter Hampden, Kristin Irving, Elizabeth Karlsen, Beatriz Levin, Lloyd Levin, Norman Merry, Thorsten Schumacher, Stephen Woolley | Principal Cast: Gillian Anderson, Jason Isaacs | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - THE SALT PATH](#)

SILENT SPARKS | Drama, Crime | Fresh out of prison, Pua is inevitably drawn back into the underworld, compelled not just by financial needs, but also by the desire to reconnect with his cellmate Mi-Ji. Pua navigates the margins of society, till his long-awaited reunion with Mi-Ji, only to find it falling short of his expectations. Amidst the complexities of the underworld, both Pua and Mi-Ji find themselves grappling with difficult choices. | Country: Taiwan | Director(s): Ping Chu | Producers: Shu Ping Li, Madeline Wu, Tzu Yuan Wang | Principal Cast: Akira Huang, Ming Shuai Shih, Jui Chun Fan, Chih Wei Cheng, Wei Jei Hu | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - SILENT SPARKS](#)

A THOUSAND CUTS | Comedy, Thriller | Welcome to live TV, where tonight our hosts Roberta and Frasier interview guests closely involved in a 30-year-old murder case. Laughs and thrills ensue as Roberta and Frasier attempt to solve a case thought to be unsolvable. And, oh how their discoveries forever alter their past and future. | Country: Canada | Director(s): Jake Horowitz | Producers: Jake Horowitz, Qihui Lim, Jason Speir | Principal Cast:

Jonas Chernick, Julian Richings, David Hewlett, Storm Steenson, Varun Saranga, Tommie-Amber Pirie | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - A THOUSAND CUTS](#)

THE UNFIXING | Documentary | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Nicole Betancourt | Producers: Nicole Betancourt, Rose Kowalski | Principal Cast: | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - THE UNFIXING](#)

A WISHY WASHY MAN | Comedy | Cheolsu is dumped by his girlfriend Saemi, but he doesn't know why. In the meantime, Cheolsu is told by a psychiatrist he is trapped in social stereotypes because he is Korean and he needs a radical change to reunite with his girlfriend. So, he travels to the satellite city. But, the trip will not be exactly what he hoped for. | Country: South Korea | Director(s): Jae Ri LEE, Si Yun CHA | Producers: Hong Ik CHOI | Principal Cast: Si Yun CHA, Jae Ri LEE, San Ha LEE, Yong Jae KIM, Jang Myun PARK | **World Premiere** [Cinequest - A WISHY WASHY MAN](#)

XIBALBA MONSTER | Drama, Mystery | 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." | Country: Mexico | Director(s): Manuela Irene | Producers: Daniel Loustaunau, Manuela Irene, Damián Aguilar | Principal Cast: Rogelio Ojeda, Teresa Sánchez, Manuel Irene | **United States Premiere** [Cinequest - XIBALBA MONSTER](#)

FEATURE FILMS: HIGH PROFILE NOTABLES

BOUND IN HEAVEN | Drama | From China, the story of a woman trapped and a man with an illness; two lonely souls tightly intertwine after a chance encounter. Through each other they find the only light in their desperate lives. A beautiful adaptation of Li Xiuwen's celebrated novel "Bound in Heaven." | Country: China | Director(s): Huo Xin | Producers: An Hanjin Justine O. | Principal Cast: Ni Ni, Zhou You, Liao Fan | **Bay Area Premiere** [Cinequest - BOUND IN HEAVEN](#)

COTTON CANDY BUBBLE GUM | Comedy | After his mom gets engaged to a vindictive cop, 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): J Pinder | Producers: Cole Dabney | Principal Cast: Nick Darnell, Morgan Jay, R. Marcus Taylor, JadaPaige, Jack Stone, Ben Scattone, Mildred Marie Langford, Rodney J. Hobbs, Jecobi Swain, Sophia Renee Sherman, Txunany Ortiz | **West Coast Premiere** [Cinequest - COTTON CANDY BUBBLE GUM](#)

FREAKY TALES | Comedy, Thriller | Starring Pedro Pascal, Tom Hanks, Ben Mendelsohn, and directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, a spectacular action comedy following four interconnected stories set in Oakland, CA. that tell about the love of music, movies, people, places, and memories beyond our knowable universe. | Country: United States | Director(s): Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck | Producers: Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck, Poppy Hanks, Jelani Johnson | Principal Cast: Pedro Pascal, Tom Hanks, Ben Mendelsohn, Angus Cloud, Keir

Gilchrist, Jack Champion, Ji-young Yoo, Dominique Thorne, Jay Ellis, Michael X. Sommers | **Bay Area Premiere** [Cinequest - FREAKY TALES](#)

LA GLORIA | Drama | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Joseph Todd Walker | Producers: Sharri Hefner, Houston Hill, Ty Roberts | Principal Cast: David Morse, Jaklyn Bejarano, Bill Heck | **Bay Area Premiere** [Cinequest - LA GLORIA](#)

LILLY | Drama | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Rachel Feldman | Producers: Allyn Stewart, Kelly Ashton, Kerianne Flynn, Jyoti Sarda, J Todd Harris, Christine Schwarzman, Julie Kaufman, Rachel Feldman | Principal Cast: Patricia Clarkson, John Benjamin Hickey, Thomas Sadoski | **Bay Area Premiere** [Cinequest - LILLY](#)

SAINTS AND WARRIORS | Documentary | 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. | Country: Canada | Director(s): Patrick Shannon | Producers: Michael Tanko Grand | Principal Cast: Desi Collinson, Gaagwiis Jason Alsop, Duane Alsop, Jesse Barnes, Nika Collison | **Bay Area Premiere** [Cinequest - SAINTS AND WARRIORS](#)

THE COMPLEX FORMS | Sci-Fi | A brilliant, visionary tale! There is an ancient villa where desperate people have the opportunity to revive their fortunes by selling their bodies to mysterious entities. When huge and age-old creatures emerge from the deep woods surrounding the villa, a series of strange and sinister events prompt three unlikely guests to band together in a desperate escape. | Country: Italy | Director(s): Fabio D'Orta | Producers: Fabio D'Orta | Principal Cast: David Richard White, Cesare Bonomelli, Michele Venni, Enzo Solazzi, Giovanni Corridori, Giovanni Pochetti | **Bay Area Premiere** [Cinequest - THE COMPLEX FORMS](#)

THE FRIEND | Comedy, Drama | Bill Murray, Naomi Watts, and a charismatic Great Dane named Bing propel 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 | Country: United States | Director(s): Scott McGehee, David Siegel | Producers: Liza Chasin, Scott McGehee, David Siegel, Mike Spreter | Principal Cast: Naomi Watts, Bill Murray, Sarah Pidgeon, Carla Gugino, Constance Wu, Noma Dumezweni, Ann Dowd, Felix Solis, Owen Teague, Bing | **Bay Area Premiere** [Cinequest - CLOSING NIGHT: THE FRIEND](#)

THE LUCKIEST MAN IN AMERICA | Thriller, Drama | 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. | Country: United States | Director(s): Samir Oliveros | Producers: Amanda Freedman | Principal Cast: Paul Walter Hauser, Walton Goggins, Shamier Anderson, David Strathairn, Maisie Williams, Patti Harrison, Brian Geraghty, Haley Bennett, Johnny Knoxville, David Rysdahl, Shaunette Renée Wilson, Ricky

Russert, Lilli Kay, James Wolk | **Bay Area Premiere** [Cinequest - OPENING NIGHT: THE LUCKIEST MAN IN AMERICA](#)

THE SUMMER BOOK | Drama | Glenn Close 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, | Country: Finland | Director(s): Charlie McDowell | Producers: Alex Orlovsky, Duncan Montgomery, Aleksi Bardy, Charlie McDowell, Kevin Loader, Kath Mattock | Principal Cast: Glenn Close, Anders Danielsen Lie, Emily Matthews | **Bay Area Premiere** [Cinequest - THE SUMMER BOOK](#)

TIGER MOM | Comedy, Family | Starring Jingchu Zhang (*Protégé*), Ken Jeong (*Crazy Rich Asians*), Michelle Krusiec (*The Invitation*), and Nathalie Boltt (*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 called Tiger Academy, which is capable of whipping them into Ivy League shape. | Country: United States | Director(s): Shawn Shao-Wen Chou | Producers: Shaun Redick, Yvette Yates, Stefanie Huang, Shawn Chou | Principal Cast: Jingchu Zhang, Ken Jeong, Michelle Krusiec, Nathalie Boltt, Lochlyn Munro | **Sneak Preview Screening** [Cinequest - TIGER MOM](#)

TIME TRAVEL IS DANGEROUS! | Comedy, Sci-Fi | 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. | Country: United Kingdom | Director(s): Chris Reading | Producers: Chris Reading, Anna Shakespeare, Hillary Shakespeare | Principal Cast: Johnny Vegas, Stephen Fry (narrated by), Jane Horrocks, Mark Heap, Sophie Thompson, Tom Lenk, Guy Henry, Tony Way, Kiell Smith Bynoe, Laura Aikman, Brian Blessed, Ruth Syrratt, Megan Stevenson | **Bay Area Premiere** [Cinequest - TIME TRAVEL IS DANGEROUS](#)

VILLAGE KEEPER | Drama | 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. | Country: Canada | Director(s): Karen Chapman | Producers: Enrique Miguel Baniqued, Karen Chapman | Principal Cast: Olunike Adeliyi, Zahra Bentham, Maxine Simpson, Micah Mensah-Jat�e | **Bay Area Premiere** [Cinequest - VILLAGE KEEPER](#)

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low Theaters & Café, The Morrison & Foerster Foundation, Highland Park Whisky, The Glasshouse, J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines, Drake's Brewing Company, and Redwood City Arts Commission. (This is a partial list.)

About Cinequest: Cinequest fuses innovation with the arts to empower great creations and to connect audiences, youth, artists, and innovators with these creations and with each other—forging community, joy, and our future. Set in Silicon Valley, Cinequest's uniqueness, impact, and legacy result from applying this powerful integration of creativity and technology to democratize opportunity and to transform lives. Cinequest does this through the Cinequest Film & Creativity Festival, Cinejoy Virtual Festival, and Picture The Possibilities global youth programs.

About Creatics: Creatics Enterprises is a Cinequest partner, providing the online platform for the Cinejoy Virtual Festival.

Please watch [The Story of Cinequest](#).

Please watch [Cinejoy Highlights](#).