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The Playlist

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FECHA

2026-01-13

DIRECCION ORIGINAL

<https://theplaylist.net/slamdance-2026-lineup-sets-l-a-return-with-back-on-track-brailled-it-the-tallest-dwarf-you-look-fine-leading-unstoppable-20260113/>

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18 de agosto de 2026

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THE PLAYLIST

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FESTIVALS NEWS

Slamdance 2026 Lineup Sets L.A. Return With 'Back on Track,' 'Brailled It,' 'The Tallest Dwarf' & 'You Look Fine' Leading Unstoppable Slate

By Edward Davis January 13, 2024 12:35 PM

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ACCESO RESTRINGIDO

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The **2026 Slamdance Film Festival** unveiled its line-up today, as the artist-led organization “by filmmakers, for filmmakers” returns for its second year in Los Angeles. Running in-person from February 19 to 25, 2026, and virtually from February 24 to March 6, 2026, on the **Slamdance Channel**, the festival programs 141 films, including 50 world premieres, from over 50 countries—an international snapshot of emerging voices and boundary-pushing work.

Selected from 10,000 submissions (with 28% coming from L.A.-area filmmakers), the 2026 slate keeps Slamdance’s discovery mandate front and center. As in past years, all films chosen for the Narrative Features and Documentary Features competitions are directorial debuts without U.S. distribution, with budgets under \$1 million, thereby emphasizing new filmmakers rather than pre-sold packages.

Peter Baxter, Slamdance’s co-founder, frames the edition as a community-forward response to a shaky industry moment, with the festival committing to supporting filmmakers through free industry programming and space for meaningful conversation. The broader line-up also underscores Slamdance’s stated equity goals, with the festival noting that 50% of the 2026 films are helmed by female, trans, and non-binary directors, 41.4% are by BIPOC creators, and creators make 9.7% with visible and non-visible disabilities.

That last figure lands with particular force in the Unstoppable program, which returns in its sixth year championing filmmakers with disabilities through four features—**“Back on Track,” “Brailled It,” “The Tallest Dwarf,”** and **“You Look Fine”**—plus 13 shorts from around the world. At the same time, Slamdance also offers a fully accessible festival experience, with accessibility services sponsored by Easterseals.

Slamdance's 2026 Full Festival Line-up:

Narrative Features:

“Danny Is My Boyfriend” (Made in LA) (USA)

Directors: Mechi Lakatos, Lucy Sandler

Producers: Lucy Sandler, Mechi Lakatos, Rachel Brunner, Joey Fitzsimmons, Trace Le

Cast: Lucy Sandler, Mechi Lakatos, Brooke Smith, Rachel Brunner, Maleah Goldberg, Michelle Thompson

After discovering they're dating the same man, a recovering codependent living with her mother and a socially awkward babysitter fumble their way through a series of misguided schemes, enlisting a parade of eccentric and unqualified accomplices in a half-baked mission to get revenge.

“Dump of Untitled Pieces” (İsimsiz Eserler Mezarlığı) (Turkey) – North American Premiere

Director: Melik Kuru

Producers: Hilal Şenel

Cast: Manolya Maya, E

Yalaz

Facing imminent evic

the first time, embark

“Matapanki” (Chile) –

Director: Diego “Mapa

Producer: Tomás Sant

Cast: Ramón Gálvez, D

After obtaining super

mistake, he will end u

“TEN WILL” (Made in L

Director: Max DeFalco

Producers: Max DeFal

Cast: Mikul Robins, Do

Fisher

When his van breaks d

desperate attempt to register r

“THE KEY” (LA CLEF) (France) – North American Premiere

Director: Paul G. Sportiello

Producer: Emilie Huynh

Cast: Sylka, Bruno Clairefond, Alain Guillot, Dorothée Deblaton

The True Story of Real Hidden People.

“The Old Man and the Parrot” (El Viejo y La Cotorra) (United States) – World Premiere

Director: Gabriel de Varona

Producer: Kevin Ondarza

Cast: Ruben Rabasa, Serafin Falcon, Rene Lavan, Isabella Bobadilla, Mia Rose Chamaro

With a taxidermy parrot and pistol in hand, Praxi, breaks into the home of a mute spiritual guru who trapped his lover's soul inside the parrot years ago. Praxi must convince the guru's estranged daughter to guide her father in freeing his lover's soul in this darkly comedic tale of love and the afterlife.

“The Plan” (Made in LA) (United States) – World Premiere

Director: Jessica Barr

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Producers: Jessica Barr, Alexander Spenser Gould, Sarah Whelden, Kelly Wilcox / Executive Produced by Madhouse Films and Firestarter Productions

In one unbroken take, a group of disillusioned young adults readies themselves for an irreversible act they believe will change the world.

“Three Colors: Pan-African” (Made in LA) (USA) – World Premiere

Directors: Elijah Davis, Allison A. Waite, Tyler Ocasio Holmes

Producers: Elijah Davis, Dami Olatunji, Jack McMann, Joseph Agboola, Ben Ephraim, Christen Vanderbilt Ellis, Asar Saint Lamont, Jaala Alston, Amy Roach

Cast: Loretta Devine, Bashir Salahuddin, Peyton Alex Smith, Sibongile Mlambo, Stephen Bishop, Lathan Ava, Kimrie Lewis

A college football star scrambles to save his career after a devastating injury fractures his self-worth; an African immigrant mother evades deportation as an unlikely group of heroes rally around her; the star of a Black family sitcom questions his role as the studio forces his show into racist caricature to boost ratings.

“Tony Odyssey” (Made in LA) (Antônio Odisseia) (Brazil) – World Premiere

Director: Thales Banzai

Producers: Thales Banzai, Camila Cornelsen, Mario Peixoto

Cast: Kelson Succi, Iraci Estrela, Sandro Guerra, Antônio Pitanga, Leci Brandão, Teuda Bara, Luiz Bertazzo, Chico César

Tony and his best friend embark on a journey to find his father, a Brazilian odyssey to meet God.

“WHISPERINGS OF THE WIND” (Made in LA) (USA) – World Premiere

Director: Yuqing Lai

Producers: Siddhartha Das, Siddhartha Das

Cast: Sopheanith Thol, Nisay, an actress haunted by the weight of family and society, their passion for the land.

“50 Meters” (Egypt, USA) – World Premiere

Director: Yomna Khattab

Producer: A.A. Films

Cast: Yomna Khattab, Yomna Khattab

Through a complex and emotional journey, Yomna explores her existential questions.

“A Free Daughter of the Earth” (Made in LA) (USA) – World Premiere

Director & Producer: Leigha McCann

Cast: Zere Asylbek

A fearless young singer challenges her oppressive culture through bold music videos, risking everything to amplify women’s voices despite dangerous opposition.

“HOUSE 4” (Haus 4) (Germany) – World Premiere

Director: Philipp Schaeffer

Producers: Paul Hartmann, Franzis Unger

With exceptional access, HOUSE 4 documents a year in the life of inmates at Berlin’s youth prison – can therapy change their lives?

“KINGS OF VENICE” (Made in LA) (USA)

Directors & Producers: Sveinn Ingimundarson, S.D. Saltarelli

Cast: Scotty Freedman, Ernesto Russo, Sonia Ode Lucci, Carl Tabor, Brian Wan, Larry Nagler

As pickleball sweeps the nation, the paddle tennis diehards of Venice Beach dig in for one final, ridiculous stand.

“Silver” (Poland, Norway, Finland) – North American Premiere

Director: Natalia Koniarz

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Producers: Maciej Kubicki (TELEMARK), PIRAYA, IV Films

A visual look at the inhabitants of the highest mine in Bolivia, whose deaths weigh as much as the mined silver, exploring human endurance, spirituality, and labor costs.

“SNOWLAND” (USA)

Director & Producer: Jill Orschel

Cast: Cora Lee Witt, Becca Fischer

A former child bride from a notorious polygamous sect escapes her dark past by creating a fantasy world as a way to survive.

“The Bulldogs” (USA) – World Premiere

Directors: Ori Segev, Noah Dixon

Producers: Drew Johnson, Alexander Hyde

Following a catastrophic train derailment, The Bulldogs follows the residents of a small rural community in East Palestine, Ohio, as they navigate an uncertain path to recovery.

“The LeMieurs” (USA) – World Premiere

Director: Sammy LeMieur

Producers: Collin Colaizzi, Sammy LeMieur

Cast: Beverly, Tim, Seamus

Fearing regret and dealing with the loss of her husband, a woman must reconcile her past with her present.

Spotlight Features (premiering)

“The Projectionist” (USA) – World Premiere

Director: Alexandre Roux

Producers: Quentin Tassinari, Alexandre Roux

Cast: Vondie Curtis-Hall, John C. McGinley, David Dastmalchian

A reclusive projectionist in a small town in the Midwest finds a fading art form in the town's abandoned theaters, and finds peace in the glow of the final reel.

“Under The Rainbow” (USA) – World Premiere

Directors: Seth Gordon, David Lowery

Producers: Seth Gordon, David Lowery

When the original Ruben Guthrie's story unfolds—covering a maze of clues and secrets—what remains is a story of love and loss.

Breakout Features:

“11” (Philippines) – World Premiere

Director: Bebe Go

Producer: Martika Ramirez Escobar

Cast: Gabby Padilla, Tona Lopez, Joanne Cesario, Jao San Pedro, Vi-an Tan

When an ongoing apocalypse halts the production of Gabby's new film, she escapes to see her artist friend Tona in La Union, a former booming beach town and strategic site for a U.S. military base.

“A Story About You” (USA) – World Premiere

Director: Joseph E. Austin II

Producers: Denise Yolén, Jeremy Harris, Joseph E. Austin II, Shannon Wallace, Kimberly Hines

Cast: Shannon Wallace, Pernell Walker, Denise Yolén, Monique Lindsey, Adwoa Duncan-Williams, Shiree Adkins

A man is forced to come to terms with his past as he navigates his week with various love interests.

“BRB” (Made in LA) (USA) – World Premiere

Director: Kate Cobb

Producers: Kevin Bigley, In The Rye Productions, Chicago Media Angels

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Screenwriters: Michael Waller, Sydney Blackburn
Cast: Autumn Best, Zoe Colletti, Beth Lacke, Keith Kupferer, Richard David, Dan Haller, Cristian Lager
Set in the era of dial-up and AIM away messages, a love-sick teenage girl and her older sister embark on a road trip to meet her online boyfriend, spiraling into chaos as secrets are revealed.

“CLOVERS” (Made in LA) (USA)
Directors & Producers: Jacob Hatley and Tom Vickers
Cast: Jennifer Paschal, JD Cranford, Sharon McNeill
The denizens of a strip-mall casino in Asheboro, North Carolina, endure two tumultuous years.

“Santa Zeta” (Spain) – North American Premiere
Director: Antonio Munoz de Mesa
Producer: Jordi Monedero
Cast: Nekane Otxoa, Africa Giron, Arlette Torres, Ivan Villanueva, Darci L. Strother, Izoko, Jordi Monedero
YouTuber by day, vigilante by night.

“Zumeca” (Dominican Republic) – World Premiere
Director & Producer: Maler
Cast: Angela Canó, R
Based on the true sto
“New World.”

Unstoppable Features

“Back On Track” (Uni
Director: Peter Tkac
Producers: Peter Tkac
Cast: Chris Rivera, Bri
After a random shooti
squad that redefines s

“BRAILLED IT” (Made
Directors: Salome Cum
Producers: Anne Edge
Cast: Salome Cummin
Blind and low-vision k
weekend of high-pres

“The Tallest Dwarf” (USA)
Director: Julie Forrest Wyman
Producers: Lindsey Dryden, Shaleece Haas, Jonna McKone, Julie Forrest Wyman
Cast: Julie Wyman, Sofiya Cheyenne, Rebecca Cokley, Chandler Crews, Sarah Folkins, Matthew Jeffers, Katrina Kemp, Mark Povinelli, Aubrey Smalls
Visually striking, humorous, and touching, THE TALLEST DWARF is both personal and political – inviting audiences to rethink identity, disability, and what it means to belong in a world that wants to change who you are.

“YOU LOOK FINE” (Made in LA) (USA) – U.S. Premiere
Director: J. Snow
Producers: Aaliyah Williams, Marlon Wayans, Rick Alvarez
Cast: J. Snow
Trapped in a hospital bed during a sickle cell crisis, a comedian turns the camera on himself – and his disease – to document the brutal, funny, and deeply human story behind the pain no one sees.

Episodes:

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“Cat & Nat” (USA) – World Premiere
Director: Aaron Hughes
Producer: Aaron Hughes
Cast: Natalie Labarre, Tom Bayne, Nina Kiernan, Susan Hwang, Nora Feher, Elise Raven, Jo Palazuelos-Krukowski, Aaron Hughes
Disturbing fortune cookie predictions send a girl and her cat into a surreal spiral.

“Daddies Boi” (Made in LA) (USA)
Director: Jason Avezzano
Producers: Louie Rinaldi (Executive Producer), Zoe Tyson (Executive Producer), Kimberly Parker, Gregory Kasunich
Cast: Louie Rinaldi, Zoe Tyson, Todd Sherry, Tarek Ziad, Milan Patel
As youth and options dry up for two aging sugar babies, they must plunge into the bizarre “desire economy” via a provocative app.

“Disc” (USA)
Director: Renzo Montoya
Producer: Renzo Montoya
Cast: Prentice Myles, Soulo Smith, Dominic Wong, Whitney Sarah Louis
A street rapper promotes his latest single in the Big Apple, but he is challenged by the arrogant competition around the block.^x

“Puke Bitch” (United States)
Director: Sam Tricom
Producers: Sam Tricom
Cast: Kimberly Cruchet, Siblings Dove and Lar
to death.

“Soft Boil” (Made in LA)
Director: Alec Goldber
Producers: EP: Camille
Robertson, Hunter Mil
Cast: Camille Wormse
Soft Boil is a comedy
expected.

“The Human, Will : Will”
Director: Edward Burs
Producer: Edward Bur
Cast: Joe Pera, Will St
A depressed insurance claims

“Vicky Wakes Up” (Made in LA) (USA) – World Premiere
Director: Victoria Blade
Producers: Victoria Blade, Aaron Pagniano, Lisa Anderson, Sheila Kennedy, Dani Abraham, Maria Mercedes
Cast: Victoria Blade, Mario Silva, Yvonne Senat Jones, Matt Wool
Stuck in a dead-end office job, Vicky lives an uninspired existence until she’s confronted by a mystical pop star.

Narrative Shorts:

“After That” () (Made in LA) (United States) – World Premiere
Directors: Xinhao Lu & Mufeng Han
Producers: Savory Liu & Yuqin Hong
Cast: Jim Lau
A man named Xinhao wanders the uninhabited city of the future. After memorializing his past, he disappears.

“Beaks” (Becs et Ongles) (France) – North American Premiere
Director: Xavier Demoulin

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Producer: Melcoton Films

Cast: Lauréna Thellier, Raphaël Thierry, Michel Masiero

When 20-year-old Anaïs, burdened with debt, inherits her father's last fighting rooster, she has no choice but to learn how to make it fight. And mourn the past.



“Beneath the Night” (Germany) – North American Premiere

Director: Maximilian Karakatsanis

Producers: Maximilian Karakatsanis, Linus Krömer

Cast: Peter Schneider, Daniela Holtz, Flavia Hunziker, Fehmi Göklü, Stefan Lampadius

A metro driver with colorful hair is unexpectedly chosen as the face of a public transport advertising campaign, blurring the lines between the visible and hidden. Shot on 16mm analog film.

“Charlie is Not a Boy” (Made in LA) (USA) – World Premiere

Director: Pol Kurucz

Producers: Judit Stalter, Pol Kurucz, Ernest Faisztli, Gabor Rajnai

Cast: Brooks Ginnan, Máté Mészáros, Gigi Spelsberg, Ágnes Bánfalvy

In a crumbling household ruled by a perverted father, a hushed soul clings to the magic of his eccentric grandmother until his safe haven unravels, forcing him to choose between the masks he wears and the truth of who he is.

“Child’s Fare” (United Kingdom)

Director: Kirsty McLean

Producer: Kieran Pádraig

Cast: Neil Leiper, Kate

When lonely twelve-year-old

to a violent outburst.

“Clarities” (USA) – World Premiere

Directors: Daniel Jaffe

Producers: Chloe Sab

Cast: Michelle Uranow

Wilkas

An ominous chain tex

“Closer in Strife” (Canada)

Director: Alec Nikogho

Producer: Alec Nikogho

Cast: Rosalia Everekli

A grandmother and her

Beirut.

“Crazy For You” (Loquita por ti) (Spain)

Director: Greta Díaz Moreau

Producer: Pau Pérez Puig

Cast: Irene Balmes, Jon López

Rural Spain, Y2K. Alma is 16 years old and desperate to be seen by José, the star bullfighter, but it will be harder than she expects.

“Deadweight” (Dögsúly) (Hungary) – North American Premiere

Director: Bese Komáromy

Producer: Gábor Osváth

Cast: Csilla Pásztor, Gáspár László, Gergely Váradi, Bálint Kuttner

A young woman attempts to connect, even as bodies pile up, while something lurks behind her and eats everything.

“Dyspepsia by Salty Biscuits” (Jonmo Theke Jolchi) (Bangladesh) – North American Premiere

Director: Ahsabul Yamin

Producer: Emon Bin Anwar

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Cast: Saroar Mim, Aung Shing Thowai Marma, Moin Khan

A paranoid young man, convinced a bug he swallowed is living in his stomach, embarks on a darkly absurd quest with his friend to find relief before his mind and body spiral out of control.

"Fantasies of a Rescue Dummy" (UK)

Director: Adrian Maganza

Producers: Adrian Maganza, Alisa Tritenko

Cast: Jack Worsnop, Ginevra Casati, Cary An, David Blair

A rescue dummy gets forgotten at the bottom of a swimming pool.

"Harajuku, FL" (United States / Japan) – World Premiere

Director: Andrés Gimenez

Producer: Lakshmi Ruiz

Cast: Orlando Urdaneta, Tomas Ryu Perez, Eric Taveras, Daniela Llanes, Eigo Tanaka, Eita Ishizaka, Mica Moses
Miami, Tokyo, expensive fish eggs, and father-son turmoil... in a blender.

"In Another Life" (Made in LA) (United States of America)

Director: Tristan Blue

Producer: Tristan Blue

Cast: William Robert J

An elder queer hermit
commune with a past

"It Means Hope" (Yar

Director: Shadi Karam

Producers: Shadi Kara

Cast: Shadi Karamrou

An encounter between

"Jonathan" (Belgium

Director: Lieven Corth

Producers: Lieven Cor

Cast: Nyawel Maluth M

After years of war, Ny
and mother. On the lo
them, or is everything

"KARUPY" (Canada) –

Director: Kalainithan Karaichery

Producers: Shaista Roshan, Al

Cast: Sumathy Balam, Arrthami Siva-Kuruvinth, Smrithi Dhanasekar, Unnikannan S S, Umeash Siva, Ranjith Joseph

At her 65th birthday, Karupy makes an unexpected announcement: she will be ending her own life that very night, sparking a whirlwind of emotions amongst her family.

"Levantamueritos: Cumbia for the Dead" (Levantamueritos) (Mexico)

Director: José Eduardo Castilla Ponce

Producers: Magnolia S. Orozco Osegueda, Claudia Garcés, Jose Eduardo Castilla Ponce

Cast: David Illescas, Vitter Leija, Lyn May, Ruben Cristiany, Kala Martínez

With his unique gift of communicating with the dead, a cumbia-loving embalmer sets out on a highway road trip with a corpse, searching for the money that the deceased had hidden.

"Lost Wax" (Canada / Nigeria) – U.S. Premiere

Director: Omorose Osagie

Producers: Grace Shutti, Momo Spaine

Cast: Eyiymí Olívia Rogbinyin as Osas; Wumi Tuase as Mercy's Mom; Diana Egwuatu as Mercy; Pamilerin Ayodeji as Egie

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When a young girl disappears from a Benin city apartment complex, a bronze caster is haunted by grief for this stranger in unexpected ways.



“SPEEDY!” (South Korea / USA) – North American Premiere

Director: OH Jiin

Producer: OH Jiin

Cast: Kim Gyuna, Lee Kyoung Hoon, Hong Sung Choon, Leem Seung-min, Ban Hae Young, Bae Yeonwoo

Seoul, 1989. Jung-min wants to become a speed-reading prodigy, just like Dong-hyun—the coolest guy in town, who can finish an entire book in just 60 seconds!

“The Chair” (Made in LA) (USA)

Director: Dustin Tan

Producers: Maleah Goldberg, Davin Tan

Cast: Al Warren, Jakob Longcob

A carpenter makes a chair for a customer, but it’s not a normal chair.

“The Fan Man” (Canada) – World Premiere

Director: Austin Hutchings

Producers: Zenna Dav

Cast: Nathan Hare, Fe

A lonely tenant finds a



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tel bar crawl in

“To All The Girls I Never

Director: Harry Plowd

Producer: Harry Plowd

Cast: Joe Pass, Billy H

A dark secret is expos

Budapest.

“To Continue Knowin

Director: Beth Barnes

Producer: Zurich Univ

Cast: Isabelle von Sta

As an irritable young c

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“We Used to Take the

Director: An Nguyen

Producers: Max Retik,

Cast: Thao Hien, Cong

Returning to Vietnam for the fi

roadtrip to “Lake Perfect”.

for a nostalgic summer

Documentary Shorts:

“_____ in Paris” (USA) – World Premiere

Director & Producer: Mark Elijah Rosenberg

Cast: Mark Elijah Rosenberg, Anonymous

When we took a trip to France to decide our future, I filmed everything but you—shielding our affair lest your husband find out. Do these secrets still sting?

“Correct Me If I’m Wrong” () (Germany, USA)

Director: Hao Zhou

Producer: Tyler Hill

Torn between love and tradition, a southwest Chinese family tries to purge a mysterious entity from their queer heir.

“Domestic Demon” (Հնտանեկան Հարաման) (Made in LA) (USA, Portugal) – North American Premiere

Director & Producer: Anahid Yahjain

Cast: Anahid Yahjian

A housebound mother's hunger for agency and control among the mutating textures and temporalities of her home sets off an uncanny transformation.

“For Every Apricot” (Canada, Iceland)

Director & Producer: Kaia Fortis Scott

Cast: MaryBeth Ryan Larone

The unlikely story of a daughter in search of a ‘miracle’.

“In Exchange For Flesh” (USA)

Directors: Sandro Ramani, Corey Devon Arthur

Producer: Sandro Ramani

When two incarcerated artists secretly document a routine prison practice, they risk their lives to expose a state policy that blurs the line between safety and sexual abuse.

“La Mayordomía” (Canada)

Director & Producer: M

In Xochimilco, families

“Leveret Road” (Ran

Director: Tim Bouvett

Producer: Jeanne Go

Cast: Jeanne Baribeau

10-year-old Jeanne, c

learn to succeed in so

“Mother’s Influence”

Director: Meg Wriggles

Producer: Léa Luiz de

A young filmmaker tric

“No Matter The Weat

Director: Florence Laf

Producers: Patrick Fra

Cast: Renée Lafond M

After Renée, 83, break

grief, and the heartbreaking aw

“Panther Pat” (USA) – World Premiere

Director: Ashley Brandon

Producers: Dennis Hohne, Nevo Shinaar, Mark Mitten

Cast: Patricia Palinkas

In 1970, Patricia Palinkas became the first woman to play professional football. Panther Pat traces this high-stakes moment in sports history and the shattering of the gender barrier in America's game.

“Ramón Who Speaks to Ghosts” (Spain, Canada, Mexico) – U.S. Premiere

Director & Producer: Shervin Kermani

Cast: Pedro Moisés Herrera Concepción, Ida Joa Langer López, Tamara Batista Moreno, Tiziana Maio

After a volcanic eruption, Ramón walks the island of La Palma with his microphone, looking for ghosts.

“STILL STANDING” (USA)

Directors & Producers: Victor Tadashi Suarez, Livia Albeck-Ripka

After the Los Angeles wildfires leave thousands of homes contaminated with toxic ash, residents face an impossible choice: should they risk their health to return home?

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"SWEET WATER" (Maya Hilwa) (Iraq) – World Premiere

Director & Producer: Ali Nabeel

Cast: Qisma

Sixty-year-old beggar Qisma wants to end her life. But her dog, Bobby, is holding her back.

"The Good Farmer and the Failed Son" (Ireland) – North American Premiere

Director: Ailill Martin

Producer: Peter Kilmartin

Cast: Jack Rogers, Bryan Rogers

A drag queen and his father consider the traditions around inheritance and what they may mean for the future of their family farm.

Animated Shorts:

"A Bloody Situation" (ميمعة دموية) (UK, Palestine) – U.S. Premiere

Director & Producer: Nerian Keywan

Cast: Aida Kaadan, Mouna Hawa

Through radio snippets and salon chatter, teen Nara meets Ms Moodswings, the personified menstruation blood blob. A tapesu^xy of interrupted life, wh

"A Flame the Colour"

Director, Producer, Sc

Cast: Jessica Mensch

A speculative vision e

"blinks in mimi's sing"

Director, Producer, Sc

Cast: Christy Karacas,

Sleep paralysis and gl

"Bootstrapping for t"

Director & Producer: S

Cast: Stella Chen, Kea

Maxed out, burnt out,

repression into posse

"Brain to Meninges"

Director & Producer: C

After living with holes in my m... memories are passed between my brain and meninges. Throug...

"Busy Bodies" (Made in LA) (USA)

Director: Kate Renshaw-Lewis

Producer: Eric Ackerman

Screenwriter: Kate Renshaw-Lewis

Tiny workers run a domesticated factory under the supervision of giant hands. This absurdly inefficient yet fantastically convenient solution to disposable creation poses a question: how do we get rubber gloves?

"How To Build A Sand Castle" (UK)

Director: Nour Khamis

A shore, a call, a castle, and what is carried back.

"Hungry Hollow" (USA)

Director: Sarah Ruyle

Cast: Sarah Ruyle, Phillip Walker

A girl left for dead gets devoured by forest spirits.

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“ima wa ima (now is now)” (UK, Taiwan, Hong Kong)

Director & Producer: Greg Keung Chun Yam

Cast: Hebe – Ting-Jui Chen, Mike – WeiFan Wang, Brocaster – MCJJ

An office worker’s encounters with a caterpillar unlock childhood memories, looping through time, blending the mundane and the magical.

“One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six” () (Made in LA) (USA) – North American Premiere

Director: Yingdan Lai

Producer: Kangmin Kim

Cast: Jenny Jingyi Wang, Zhen Li, Lydia

In a confined world of discipline, a girl’s quiet longing unfolds through a box of chocolate, where desire and control begin to dissolve.

“Play Fighti” (USA)

Director & Producer: Katrina Larner

Cast: Anna Macleod, Jewel Lee-Johnson, Sophia Gatti, “Creature”, Katrina Larner

Five little girls play games, tell secrets, run, jump, and giggle... and jump and jump and jump and jump and–

“Starlit” (Made in LA)

Director & Producer: S

Cast: Molly Blakowski,

Three teenage girls sr

“Tears” (Rozdarcia) (C

Director: Paulina Ziolk

Producers: Karsten M

A film about the impos

at all.

“Transitional Object

Director: Shayna Stry

Producer: Steve Coss

A young girl’s beloved

“Wan Wan” (USA, Jap

Director & Producer: M

Cast: Noriko Ooshima

A film about a grandm

“Witness: An Organima Film”

Director & Producer: Nik Arthur, Ben Wittkugel

Meticulously hand-animated with organic matter, the film renews our child-like ability to see hidden life in small universes.

Spotlight Short:

“OKAY” (Made in LA) (United States) – World Premiere

Director: Andrew Kightlinger

Producer: Lila Yacoub

Screenwriter: Andrew Kightlinger

Cast: Kathleen Quinlan, David Warshofsky, Amy Huckabay

Struggling with the loss of her husband, a widow processes her grief by searching for him amidst the cosmos.

Experimental Shorts:

“Climate Control” (USA, Germany)

Director: Sarah Lasley

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Producer: Nicola Waugh
Doc Cast: Hannah Huber, Branden Brown, Andres Barajas, Mallory Merlo, Luke Wilson
A director making a documentary about the perils of fossil fuel extraction is subverted by an AI agent that wants to tell a generic love story.

“Diana & Minerva” (Italy) – World Premiere
Director: Francesca Occhionero
Producer: -orama
Cast: Chloe Crawford, Patricia Bermúdez, Diana Arevalo De Facundo, Minerva Juarez De Facundo
In a retro pink Mexican kitchen, the never-told encounter between mythological goddesses Diana and Minerva resurfaces in two contemporary women whose drifting voicemails unravel a new debate around empathy, civility, and the natural world.

“Ghost of Home” () (China/USA) – World Premiere
Director: Chen Xie
Producer: Guang Ren
Cast: Meiyue Huang, Qingsheng Xie, Chenke Xiao, Feiping Huang
On the day my grandfather’s spirit was to depart and enter his new home, I began searching for the traces he left behind through different visual forms.

“I Was There” (UK, Po
Director: Kamila Kuc
Producer: Reed O’Beir
Cast: Kamila Kuc
A haunting exploration
Kamila Kuc steps into
blur.

“I would have liked to
Premiere
Director: Suse Itzel
Producers: Academy o
How can I talk about s

“Now That We Are Se
Director: Blake Knech
Producer: Isaac Knech
Cast: Finley Berkabile
A young girl predicts t
collapse.

“SOMEONE TO STEAL HORSES WITH” (USA, Italy) – North American Premiere
Director: Dylan Pailles-Friedman
Producers: 56 Bones, Il Varco Cinema
Cast: Masaki Ishikawa, Anna Lawrence, Tino Martyn Kellighan, Corey Hughes, Cara Jocelyn Delevingne
A horse reflects on memory, disturbing the daily routines of citizens in Los Santos, San Andreas, during the press release for his new book “Someone to Steal Horses With.”

“Whose Woods Are These” (USA)
Director: Kate Nartker
Producer: Kate Nartker
A haunting family mystery unfolds through woven fabric, exploring memory, heritage, and the connection between cloth and narrative.

Unstoppable Shorts:

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"BEAR" (Scotland, UK)

Director: Kate Hammer

Producer: Isabella Bassett

Cast: Kate Hammer, Hannah Jarrett-Scott, Susannah Laing, Joshua Haynes

When Jude wakes up and remembers she has a job interview that she's already late for, she must try to get across town to land the job, along with the giant, sentient teddy bear that follows her everywhere.

"Becoming Ollie" (England) – World Premiere

Director: Annalise Valentino

Producer: Annalise Valentino

Cast: Ollie Robinson, Lisa Robinson, Matt Robinson, Victoria Kendrick-McGavigan, Poppy Parker

At age nine, a childhood stroke reshapes a family's world; creating a film together gives two siblings a way to share what had previously been difficult to explain.

"BLINDSIDED" (Made in LA) (USA)

Director: Patrick Hogan

Producer: Ana Krista Johnson

Cast: Crystal Loverro, Florence Wilder, Jaime Lewis

The most terrifying thing is that you're not alone.

"Everhand" (United States)

Director: Shane Hillier

Producers: Sarah Beth Budick

Cast: Sarah Beth Budick

When a one armed father

their humanity.

"explant / implant" (USA)

Director: Josh Weiss

Producer: Josh Weiss

A lifetime of surgeries

original pacemaker re

"Familiar Stranger" (USA)

Director: Ace Mahbaz

Producer: Sophie Stach

Cast: Rachel Shenton

First date. Unexpected

"Girl Of Wind" (China)

Director: Nanxi Yuan

Producer: Wu Yujie

Cast: Yangyang

Yang Yang, a solitary deaf girl with a passion for free climbing skyscrapers, lives in a silent world without wealth or power, driven only by her untamed and free spirit.

"Going Nowhere Fast" (Made in LA) (Canada / USA) – World Premiere

Director: Dylan Paffe

Producers: Dylan Paffe, Andres Torres, Sofia Bonami

Cast: Margo Mooney, Austin Robert Smith, Patrick Trudeau

Three adults living with disabilities navigate an unconventional love triangle in this bittersweet portrait of resilience and connection.

"HERE WE ARE AGAIN" (Made in LA) (United States of America) – World Premiere

Directors: Hughes Ransom, Justin Lee

Producers: Veronica Kompalic, Gia Rigoli

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Cast: Eros de la Puente, Shiv Nadkarni, Lizzy McGroder
A depressed man decides to finally get out of bed, except his bed won't let him.

"Murphy's Ranch" (Made in LA) (USA)

Director: John Michael Riva Jr.
Producers: Indeana Underhill, Hosea Chanchez, John Michael Riva Jr.
Cast: Lee Pugsley, Hosea Chanchez, Edward Fletcher, Jack Doke
A routine pool-cleaning job leads two brothers into a hidden compound where curiosity quickly becomes a threat.

"The Bear Hunt" (Australia) – North American Premiere

Director: Lily Drummond
Producer: Sarah Moulton
Cast: Alexandra Davis, Lauren Koopowitz, Chrissie Page
A 12-year-old's attempt to make her teddy bear "normal" before her birthday becomes a poignant journey toward embracing difference.

"The Knight" (Australia) – North American Premiere

Director: Lotte Sweeney
Producers: Morgan W
Cast: Isadora Sweeney
Claude has urges that lead her to her bedroom.

"Unlimited, Forever"

Director: Jayme Cove
Producers: Mitchell C
Cast: Lisa Coveliers, A
When a chronic pain first strikes a daughter first.

99 Special:

"DEAD GRANDMA" (U

Directors: Rachel Kem
Producers: Rachel Kem
Cast: Dawn Linneman
Grandma died at the v

"Monkey Bar" (Canada)

Director: Mya Van Dyk
Producer: Jacinta Gaspar
A sad monkey grapples with their harsh reality while having a smoke.

"Paul's Portrait" (Made in LA) (USA) – World Premiere

Director: Andrea Gonzalez Mereles
Producers: Rebecca Blumhagen, Andrea Gonzalez Mereles; Associate Producer: Jessie Epstein
Cast: Paul Chiou, Kun Sheng Hou
Paul has a physical disability: he's paralyzed from the neck down. He cares about helping others and works on digital accessibility.

"Pickup" (Пикап) (Russia, USA) – World Premiere

Director: Viktoriia Lapushkina
Producers: Anzhelika Tokar, Viktoriia Lapushkina
Cast: Elizaveta Ishchenko, Arseny Sergeev, Evgeniya Lazareva
Trying to complete a pickup-class assignment, a shy girl slips past her confident rivals and ends up on a rooftop smoking area where she finds a guy about to jump.

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“Staring Contest” (USA) – World Premiere

Director: Courtney Sposato

Producers: Mark Sposato, Courtney Sposato

Two friends are having a staring contest when something enters and everything changes.

“The Stars, and All the Planets and the Moon” (USA)

Director: Shayna Strype

Producers: Lisa Cisneros, Mark Roberts

Cast: Mark Roberts

A man reflects on losing his best friend.

“Three Thousand Five Hundred” (Trois mille cinq cent) (Canada) – World Premiere

Director: Jèrèmi Roy

Producers: Jèrèmi Roy, Camille Demers-Lambert, Patrice Lavoie

Cast: Rose-Anne Lavoie, Patrice Lavoie, Camille Lavoie-Beaudoin

When the housing market comes knocking on a cardboard house door.

“You, Rock” (Made in LA) (USA)

Director: Daniel Magg

Producer: Leo Lauchere

Cast: Leo Lauchere

An angry man makes

Revolution Short Film

“an excision spell” (U

Director: Kearra Amaya

Producer: Kearra Amaya

Cast: Kearra Amaya G

an excision spell (202

“ANIMIST UNCONSCIO

Directors: Zion Estrad

Producer: Zion Estrad

When sound, abstract

to reckon with its hist

“Auras” (Made in LA)

Director: Tenzin Phuntsog

Cast: Tenzin Phuntsog

an experimental self portrait

“DZATA: The Institute of Technological Consciousness” (South Africa)

Directors: Francois Knoetze, Amy Louise Wilson, Russel Hlongwane

Producers: Francois Knoetze, Amy Louise Wilson, Russel Hlongwane

Cast: Thulisa Mayalo, Jacques Lukoji, Anesu Alex, Philimon Rukodzi, Ragel Mahera, Peacemore Patsika, Nicole Goto, Gomez Bakwene

In fabricating a fictional institute and its archive, the artists explore and imagine vernacular technological practices operating across the African continent.

“IAM” (Nigeria / Ghana / Turtle Island)

Director: Ijeoma Iloputaife

Ijeoma Iloputaife's filmic poem attesting to autonomy, spiritual expansiveness, spacetime and belief in one's self reflects on life over the sounds of Fela and the Africa 70 while luxuriating in the aesthetic beauties of nature.

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“maono mzimi / unbroken spaces of vision” (Canada / Uganda)

Director: Sonya Mwambu

Cast: Sonya Mwambu

Maono Mzimi is a 30-minute 16mm and digital hybrid performance in which loss is explored through space and motion.

“Nsala” (Democratic Republic of Congo) – U.S. Premiere

Director: Mickael-Sltan Mbanza

Producer: Petna Ndaliko

Colonialism, Extractivism, Body and Land

“You Do Not Exist” (Made in LA) (USA) – North American Premiere

Director: Dwayne LeBlanc

Producer: Dwayne LeBlanc

Cast: Barrington Darius, Maurice Powell, Andrea Ellsworth, Cam Lee

A young man lingers in his yard beneath the flight paths of South Central Los Angeles, listening to planes overhead as he reflects on distance, memory, and the worlds just beyond his reach.

“Za Mwezi” (Made in LA) (Turtle Island / Tovaangar) – North American Premiere

Director: Matazi Weat

A true happening of s

DIG – Digital Interacti

“A Voice from the Hu

Director & Producer: P

Cast: Medhavi Pandit,

A talented 13-year-old

during menstruation.

“Before Closure” (

Director & Producer: P

Cast: Kehara Edirising

While Murph is moving

things and sorts throu

“Corpse Pose” (Made

Director & Producer: S

Cast: Jaed Footitt, Br

Richmond

An experimental musical follow

“The Time Before” (UK) – North American Premiere

Directors: Leo Metcalf, Mike Golembewski (Interactive Design)

Producer: Leo Metcalf

Cast: Anouk Lawless-Monnot, Simon Chambers, Bean Downes, Leo Metcalf

Caught between waking life and dreams, Olly delves into his childhood memories, navigating fantastical dream worlds his sister created to shield them from family strife.

“This is buzz” (Made in LA) (USA)

Director: Mark Pellington

Producers: Mark Pellington, Liza Hughes, EB George

Cast: The Edge, Adam Clayton, Chris Gore, Michael Franti

A mind-blowing music documentary about the first immersive TV show on MTV when MTV was cool.

“WebDoc Memoria Rocas (Forging Dreams)” (Chile)

Director & Producer: Ivan Torres Zagal

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Cast: Ana Becerra, Cosme Caracciolo, Jorge Silva, Miguel Lawner, Javier Rebolledo

MemoriaRocas uncovers the silenced history of a former Chilean detention and torture center, tracing the origins of state repression during Pinochet's dictatorship through an immersive interactive documentary experience.



Shorts curated by Film Independent's Project Involve to showcase at Slamdance 2026:

"In Sickness and In Health" (Made in LA) (United States) – World Premiere

Director: Alexandria Collins

Producer: Masora Fukuda

Screenwriter: Montserrat Luna-Ballantyne

Cast: Yumarie Morales, Rufino Romero, Luis Fernandez-Gil

While on a romantic getaway to reconnect as a couple after her husband's grueling exorcism, a devout wife must confront her fears that the ritual failed and her husband is still possessed.

"Keepsake" (Made in LA) (United States) – World Premiere

Director: Ritvik Dhavale

Producers: Eduardo Ayres Soares, Connie Qin

Screenwriter: Bushra Burney

Cast: Nida Khurshid, A

A year after her father's death, a woman returns to her hometown to have moved on without her by starting

"Pack" (Made in LA) (United States) – World Premiere

Director: Peiqi Peng

Producer: Aishwarya S

Screenwriter: Jax Bal

Cast: Kory Mann, Ama

A young werewolf tries

"Seaweed Snacks" (Made in LA) (United States) – World Premiere

Director: Sylvia Ray

Producer: Andrés L. C

Screenwriter: Brandy

Cast: Patrick Cage II, K

A hard-edged dad just

things get real awkward

"Tradwife" (Made in LA) (United States) – World Premiere

Director: Jacob Combs

Producers: Casey Naranjo, Jay

Screenwriter: Laura Hunter Drago

Cast: Madeleine Arthur, Alex Rich

An actress turned tradwife influencer finally finds her dream audience, but when a troll exposes the cracks in her picture-perfect marriage during a livestream, she stages a high-stakes dinner that might just save her show—or end the act for good.

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Almacenar la información en un dispositivo y/o acceder a ella

Tus datos personales se tratarán y la información de tu dispositivo (cookies, identificadores únicos y otros datos en el dispositivo) podrá ser almacenada y consultada por 207 partners y compartida con ellos, o bien usada específicamente por este sitio. Tanto nosotros como nuestros partners podemos usar datos precisos de geolocalización. [Lista de partners](#).

Es posible que algunos proveedores traten tus datos personales en virtud de un interés legítimo, algo a lo que puedes oponerte gestionando tus opciones a continuación. En la parte inferior de esta página o en el menú del sitio, busca un enlace para gestionar o retirar el consentimiento en la configuración de privacidad y cookies.