

## **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Vail Film Festival Film Program**

### **Features (rest of Feature Film line-up to be announced soon)**

#### ***The Assistants***

dir. Steve Morris, 99m

They are the eyes and ears of Hollywood. Every script, every contract, every birthday card passes through they're hands. If they ever pooled their resources there's nothing they couldn't do.

#### ***Bass Ackwards***

dir. Linas Phillips, 103m

Alternating between scripted action, improvisation, and the unpredictable spontaneity of verite encounters, BASS ACKWARDS is the semi-autobiographical story of Linas Phillips, who stars as well as directs. A captivating and consummately human film that reminds us that whatever we think the road is about, the trip is probably about something else.

#### ***Bomber***

dir. Paul Cotter, 84m

A bittersweet comedy about love, family and dropping bombs on Germany.

An 83 year-old man returns to Germany for a long planned journey of atonement. When Ross, his useless son agrees to drive him there, a nightmare family road trip ensues.

#### ***Dance with the One***

dir. Mike Dolan, 83m

An emotionally explosive thriller set in the troubled heart of Texas. Tragic family history rises to the surface when a teenager races to protect his family from a lethal drug-runner.

#### ***Disrupt/Dismantle***

dir. Jack Lucarelli & Troy Price, 110m

Eight elite L.A. undercover narcotics cops, disregard the law to bring down the most powerful drug mob in the U.S. Loosely based on the true story of Mexico's once most powerful and seductive drug cartel leader, The Black Widow,.

#### ***Forget Me Not***

dir. Alexander Holt & Lance Roehrig, 93m

Love Happens. When you least expect it...Forget Me Not is a touching, modern day love story set against a sweeping London backdrop.

#### ***The Hungry Ghosts***

dir. Michael Imperioli, 105m

According to Buddhists, hungry ghosts are the dead who cannot bid farewell to the living. They are a metaphor for spiritual hunger which we often try to satisfy by chasing the

superficial and material. This directing debut by Michael Imperioli is filled with hungry ghosts. A group of New Yorkers, of different ages, races and backgrounds, hunger for emotional, sensual, and spiritual fulfillment. Their intersecting and colliding paths reflect the zeitgeist of our times, in which the desperation of the West smacks up against the religious teachings of the East.

***Inventing Adam***

dir. Richie Adams, 90m

A young man struggles whether or not to follow his dream as he approaches his 30th birthday.

***My Girlfriend's Boyfriend***

dir. Daryn Tufts, 90m

The story of a girl who meets her one true love... Twice.

***Race Walkers***

dir. Dan Liechty, 91m

Elite race walking brothers Jeb and Joel Callahan must find a way to qualify for the Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon or suffer the reality of small town failure and the perpetual scrutiny of the athletic world.

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## **Documentaries**

***A Blooming Business***

dir. Ton van Zantvoort

*A Blooming Business* is a poetic documentary about people in Kenya who are imprisoned by the power of the global flower growing industry.

***A Surprise in Texas***

dir. Peter Rosen, 68m

In May 2009, 29 young contestants came from all over the world to compete in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Fort Worth Texas, the most prestigious prize in the music world. This is the story of one of them, a 20 year old from Tokyo, Nobuyuki Tsujii, blind from birth.

***A Village Called Versailles***

dir. S. Leo Chiang, 68m

Their homes destroyed. Their voice discovered.

***Being in the World***

dir. Tao Ruspoli, 76m

*Being in the World* is a celebration of human beings, and our ability, through the mastery of physical, intellectual and creative skills, to find meaning in the world around us. In this film, Hubert Dreyfus takes us on a gripping and surprising journey around the world

meeting extraordinary people, showing how we go from following rules to proficiency, to becoming masters in the form artists, craftsmen, athletes, and, ultimately, unique human beings attuned to the sacred.

### ***Contact***

dir. Bentley Dean, 78m

In 1964, Yuwali was 17 when her first contact with white men was filmed. Her group of 20 women and children were the last aboriginal mob living traditionally, without any knowledge of modern Australia, in the Great Sandy Desert. Now 62 she tells the story behind this extraordinary footage.

### ***Operation Babylift: The Lost Children of Vietnam***

dir. Tammy Nguyen Lee

“Operation Babylift” was a \$2 million dollar US initiative that airlifted over 2,500 Vietnamese orphans out of a war-torn country to protect them from the impending threat of the Communist Regime. Coined by some as "one of the most humanitarian efforts in history," it was also plagued by lawsuits and political turmoil. Even with the best intentions, these adoptees grew up facing a unique set of challenges in America, including prejudice overshadowed by a controversial war and cultural identity crisis. Nearly 35 years later, this documentary takes a candid look at a significant yet untold event as seen through the eyes of the volunteers, parents, and organizations directly involved, as well as uncovers the "lost" stories of the adoptees and who they have become as adults.

### ***Saving Carren***

dir. Heather Arment & Deborah Gragory, 53m

Saving Carren documents the true story of a retired cop who watches his daughter fall prey to the destructive power of methamphetamines, a young woman whose father risks everything to save her, and the love that brings them both back from the brink of death. Alternating between intimate filmed monologue and stark animation Saving Carren is at once haunting and beautiful.

### ***The Elephant in the Living Room***

dir. Michael Webber, 100m

A film about the controversial world of exotic animal ownership within the suburbs of the United States. *The Elephant in the Living Room* offers an unprecedented glimpse into the fascinating subculture of raising the most deadly and exotic animals in the world as common household pets.

### ***Turning a Corner***

dir. Salome Chasnoff, 57m

*Turning a Corner* was created in a media activism workshop that director Salome Chasnoff facilitated with 15 women who were street prostitutes in Chicago. Shot on the street corners across Chicago where they once traded sex, the film features the women's survival and triumph over sexual abuse, homelessness, violence and injustice.

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## Shorts

### ***5 Recuerdos***

dir. Oriana Alcaine, 12m

Irma walks up and down the aisles of a market repeating a list of ingredients to herself. She can remember the first four but keeps forgetting the fifth ingredient. To retrieve the lost memory, Irma embarks on a journey to the deepest part of her consciousness.

### ***Alice Jacobs is Dead***

dir. Alex Horwitz, 21m

A scientist races to find the cure to a horrific virus before it turns his wife into something monstrous.

### ***Amona Putz!***

dir. Telmo Esnal, 9m

Sometimes, couples who have children miss Grandma... But only sometimes.

### ***Ana's Playground***

dir. Eric D. Howell, 18m

Ana's Playground depicts just another day for children surrounded by armed conflict. When Ana is forced into a sniper zone to retrieve a soccer ball, she finds herself in a game of cat-and-mouse with a mysterious shooter.

### ***Black Ops Arabesque***

dir. Jared Drake, 5m

A secret service agent yearns to be a dancer.

### ***Blue Sucker***

dir. Moxie Black, 12m

A story of the connections between people who receive "kill orders" from an unknown figure.

### ***Carl's Lament***

dir. Brandon Breault, 9m

### ***Everything Is As It Should Be***

dir. Jennifer Ruff, 17m

Struggling to find meaning in her wealthy housewife life, a beautiful young Chinese woman explores a wilder side of the jungle and herself. Christmas in the tropics sounds more like falling apart with purpose.

### ***Evilgreen***

dir. Bobby Willis, 2m

Maybe a fake Christmas tree isn't so bad after all.

***The Extraordinary Monday of Herman Brumby***

dir. Ari Levinson, 5m

Herman Brumby was not a man who enjoyed Mondays. But this Monday was not like other Mondays.

***Kavi***

dir. Gregg Helvey, 19m

The 2010 Oscar nominated short film, *Kavi*, is about a boy in India who wants to play cricket and go to school, but instead he is forced to work in a brick kiln as a modern-day slave. Unsatisfied with his fate, Kavi must choose to either accept what he's always been told, or fight for a different fate even if he's unsure of the ultimate outcome.

***Lights***

dir. Giulio Ricciarelli, 15m

A tragicomic story of a small-town police officer who dreams of being a hero. As his peaceful village offers no opportunity for heroism, he decides to take matters into his own hands. He puts up a traffic light on a rarely used bridge in the middle of nowhere—and the fight begins.

***Moustachette***

dir. Patrick Stump, 16m

A quest for truth in a blanket of stupidity.

***The New Tenants***

dir. Joachim Back, 20m

2010 Oscar nominated short. A prying neighbor, a glassy-eyed drug dealer, and a husband brandishing both a weapon and a vendetta make up the welcome wagon. Set amidst the as-yet-unopened boxes and the hopes for a fresh start of two men on what might just be the worst moving day ever, their new apartment reveals its terrifying history in a film that is by turns funny, frightening, and unexpectedly romantic.

***Pastrami on Rye***

dir. Gio Toninelo, 6m

Two soldiers have a day long conversation about the field manual and going back home.

***Path Lights***

dir. Zachary Sluser, 22m

Bobby (John Hawkes) is the voice of pulpy detective serials on audio, as well as the automated answering service of a tree cutting company. One day, when walking his dogs in the Pasadena arroyo, a bottle falls from the sky, almost hitting him. Bobby decides, based on the obscure brand of beer, to trace down the culprit.

***Piquo***

dir. Paul Yee, 19m

Piquo lives on the Arctic tundra. There are only five students in her high school class, and she is the only one without a date to the prom. She spends a quiet day all by herself.

***Poi Dogs***

dir. Joel Moffett, 12m

Poi Dogs is the story of two local Hawaii teenagers who take a small step towards love by moving beyond their desires to act cool.

***Predilection***

dir. Marcio Garcia, 17m

Seven men, one woman, one plan: the perfect bank job. But one small unforeseen glitch leads the band of robbers into a deadly shootout throughout the city of Rio de Janeiro...or was it really unforeseen?

***Rapper-O's – Dumbfoundead***

dir. Adam Stanzak, 4m

Dumbfoundead the Rapper makes a music video for his hit single “Rapper-O’s,” a song about eating wacky Emcees for breakfast.

***Refresh***

dir. David Orr, 12m

A wealthy but chronically depressed businessman at the end of his rope hires a mysterious company who provide an effective—but irrevocable—solution.

***Shop Secret***

dir. Danny Prussman, 14m

Scotty Kapoor (Ravi Patel) is a secret shopper whose dream is to be a secret agent. In order to prove his worth to the FBI, his father / boss (Kumar Pallana), and his ex-girlfriend, he must solve a case at one of his “shop” locations before he gets fired for not focusing on his job.

***Skylight***

dir. David Baas, 5m

An animated mock documentary about the ecological plight of penguins in the Antarctic, possibly foretelling cataclysmic results for the rest of the world.

***Sunshine***

dir. Terence Beesley, 17m

***The Action Hero's Guide to Saving Lives***

dir. Justin Lutsky, 15m

When lives are on the line... When there's danger at every turn... When clichés run amuck... Sometimes the best thing to do is call Mulligan! Ace Mulligan! No matter how villainous the madman... How numerous the henchmen... How sexy the damsel, one thing is for sure: Ace Mulligan will always come out on top. Sometimes.

***Whirling Dervish***

dir. Rory Bain, 28m

A Muslim boy on a spiritual path and trying to win the approval of his Sheikh, discovers temptation when he meets his enticingly beautiful next door neighbor.

**Preview Shorts Showcase**

Award-winning films from festivals around the world

***Lessons From a Tailor***

dir. Galen Summer, 8m

A portrait of a holocaust survivor who learned the art of tailoring while imprisoned in a concentration camp. After being liberated and emigrating to America, Martin Greenfield rose from floor boy, to manager, to owner of a garment factory producing custom men's suits in Brooklyn, NY. He now provides jobs for hundreds of working class people, most of them immigrants, and produces top quality clothing the old-fashioned way. This film tells his story, and offers a glimpse inside one of the few remaining hand-made suit factories in the world.

***The Lost Tribes of New York City***

dir. Andy London & Carolyn London, 3m

Urban anthropologists Andy & Carolyn London interview some of New York City's more overlooked citizens.

***Team Taliban***

dir. Benjamin Kegan, 12m

Adeel Alam struggles to balance his pro-wrestling career, where he portrays a terrorist in the ring, with his Muslim faith.

***Thompson***

dir. Jason Tippet, 10m

Since second grade Matt and Ryan have shared the bond of speech impediments, weapons, and things that go fast. But as their last days of high school speed by, the two friends find that their go-carts, dirt bikes, and RC cars can't outrun adulthood.

***Unattached***

dir. J.J. Adler, 24m

Student Academy Award Winner. For you Modern Orthodox Jews, moving away from home unwed has traditionally been considered scandalous. Most married and started families in their early twenties. But lately, singles have begun thwarting tradition by moving out and forming small religious communities of their own—the most concentrated of which exists on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

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## Activism Showcase

### *Climate Refugees*

dir. Michael Nash, 83m

*Climate Refugees* is a documentary film that uncovers the unbelievable plight of people around the world displaced by climatically induced environmental disasters.

### *Split Estate*

dir. Debra Anderson, 74m

Imagine discovering that you don't own the mineral rights under your land, and that an energy company plans to drill for natural gas two hundred feet from your front door. *Split Estate* maps a tragedy in the making, as citizens in the path of a new drilling boom in the Rocky Mountain West struggle against the erosion of their civil liberties, their communities and their health.

### *When the Dragon Swallowed the Sun*

dir. Dirk Simon, 112m

The lack of progress toward a free, or even a truly autonomous Tibet, urges more and more young Tibetans to consider alternatives to the Dalai Lama's Middle Way Policy, a compromise on Tibet's Independence. The controversial discussion about the right strategy for achieving a free Tibet—non-violent or violent, autonomy or complete independence—is becoming more emotionally charged day by day.

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## Family Showcase

### *City LAX: An Urban Lacrosse Story*

dir. Gabriela Cowperthwaite, 80m

Born out of Denver, Colorado's poorest and most disadvantaged neighborhood, a small group of African American and Latino kids are introduced to the game of lacrosse. They begin not knowing what a lacrosse stick looks like, and advance toward the state championship.

### *The Secret of Kells*

dir. Tomm Moore, 75 min

Award-winning animated masterpiece from the producers of *Triplets of Belleville!* *Kells* has taken top prizes at festivals worldwide and has been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature! Magic, fantasy, and Celtic mythology come together in a riot of color and detail that dazzle the eyes, in a sweeping story about the power of imagination and faith to carry humanity through dark times. Young Brendan lives in a remote medieval outpost under siege from barbarian raids. But a new life of adventure beckons when a celebrated master illuminator arrives from foreign lands carrying an ancient but unfinished book, brimming with secret wisdom and powers. To help complete the magical book, Brendan has to overcome his deepest fears and venture into the

enchanted forest where mythical creatures hide. It is here that he meets the fairy Aisling, a mysterious young wolf-girl, who helps him fulfill his dangerous quest.

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## **Family Films Shorts — Animated**

**Recommended for ages 3 to 8**

65 minutes total

### ***7 Days of the Week***

Animation, dir. McBride/Cowles, USA, 3 min

### ***Knuffle Bunny***

Animation, dir. Mo Willems, USA, 8 min

### ***Breaking the Mould***

Animation, dir. Manley/Paulli, UK, 1 min

### ***The Bridge on the River Zzzeee***

Animation, dir. Thomas Szabo, France, 5 min

### ***Dinosaur Song***

Animation, dir. Christian Robinson, USA, 3 min

### ***Hedgehug***

Animation, dir. Dan Pinto, USA, 5 min

### ***Horsie***

Animation, dir. Sarah Wahl, Finland, 2 min

### ***The New Species***

Animation, dir. Evalds Lacis, Latvia, 10 min

### ***No Monkey***

Animation, dir. Harry Flosser, Germany, 4 min

### ***Sooner or Later***

Animation, dir. Jadwiga Krystyna Kowalska, 5 min

### ***Spot and Splodge in Snowstorm***

Animation, dir. Geffenblad, Sweden, 8 min

### ***The True Story of the Three Little Pigs***

Animation, dir. Konstantin Bronzit, USA, 10 min

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## **Family Films Shorts - Animated**

**Recommended for ages 9 to 16**

60 minutes total

### ***Animacat***

Animation, dir. Andreani/Schwizgebel/Delachaux, Switzerland, 6 min

### ***Attraction***

Animation, dir. Rachinta Platts, UK, 2.5 min

### ***Don't Let It All Unravel***

Animation, dir. Sarah Cox, UK, 2 min

### ***Flatlife***

Animation, dir. Jonas Geirnaert, Belgium, 11 min

### ***Fuggy Fuggy***

Animation, dir. The Brothers McLeod, UK, 5 min

### ***KFJG No. 5***

Animation, dir. Alexey Alexeev, Hungary, 2 min

### ***Lifeline***

Animation, dir. Tomek Ducki, Hungary, 6 min

### ***The Mouse that Soared***

Animation, dir. Kyle T. Bell, 6m

A famous flying circus mouse reflects on his humble beginnings in this high-altitude

### ***Post!***

Animation, dir. Asmussen/Bruhn, Germany, 14 min

### ***Zoologic***

Animation, Nicole Mitchell, USA, 5 min

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## **Adventure Film Showcase**

### ***Mount St. Elias***

dir. Gerald Salmia, 110m

A dramatic and awe-inspiring feature documentary following three of the world's greatest ski mountaineers to the Mount St Elias in Alaska in their attempt to realize the longest ski descent of the world.

***Ride the Divide***

dir. Mike Dion & Hunter Weeks, 82m

A small group of adventurous mountain bikers attempt to race the longest mountain bike route in the world traversing over 2700 miles along the Rocky Mountains from Banff, Canada to the Mexican border.

***[SHOT FROM DARK]***

dir. Dustin S. Thompson, 55m

*[SHOT FROM DARK]* supports rollerblading—the bastard-child action sport and culture. Endorsing both the underground rollerblading scene from East to West coast, and highlighting the Los Angeles underground music scene.

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**Student Films**

***A Soldier in Skirts***

dir. Sarah Balin, 10m

This documentary explores the experience of the Women’s Army Corps through the eyes of Ruth Blanton, a Bald Knob, Arkansas woman who went overseas as a stenographer during a time when most men believed that a woman’s patriotic duty was taking care of hearth and home.

***Down the Rabbit Hole***

dir. Brandon Fryman, 14m

What happens to Alice after Wonderland? Struggling with her grip on reality under scrutiny of parents and doctors, Alice begins to doubt her trip to Wonderland ever happened just as old familiar characters return to beckon her back.

***Head in the Sand***

dir. David Baldwin Jr., 15m

Henry goes to war in Afghanistan. It’s not at all what he imagined.

***Little Old Ladies***

dir. John Varvir, 13m

*Little Old Ladies* follows a down-on-his-luck gumshoe, Detective Dansin, who has had nothing but small time cases of missing little old ladies. Until a mysterious, red headed, fem fatal comes in and offers him a job that’ll put him back in the big leagues.

***Once in a Lullaby***

dir. Josh Minor, 5m

***Steadfast***

dir. Nathan Schneider, 11m

In this Uplifting Drama, Calvin finds himself stuck in purgatory. Through his travels across this desolate land he comes across an elderly man who, Calvin will soon find out, is his only ticket out of this world.

***The Godmother***

dir. Lior Chefett, 15m

In this quick paced romantic-action-comedy, Rosella Wu is convinced by her mother to kill her mobster husband Danny. But when Danny quits the mob and cleans up his act, she tries to cancel the hit.

***The Great Rock, Paper, Scissors War***

dir. Mary Odbert, 7m

A short animation detailing the perils of dictatorship and war in the office place.

***The Show Must Go On***

dir. Sean O'Brian, 19m

In an attempt to entertain a jaded society, a devoted clown plays Russian Roulette to please the crowd.

***TypeA***

dir. Erick Fefferman, 15m

A team of technological pioneers awaken a terrifying force when their science violates the natural order.

***Wandering Star***

dir. Anthony Hayes, 8m

A child uses his imagination to escape the troubles of his reality.

***Victor Fibbs***

dir. Tony Castle