

The Film Festival for the 99%



WORKERS UNITE!
FILM FESTIVAL 10
WORKERSUNITEFILMFESTIVAL.ORG

• 2021 •

October 8-14, 2021 • New York City



THE 10TH ANNUAL WORKERS UNITE! FILM FESTIVAL

is made possible in part with public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. LMCC.net

**LOWER
MANHATTAN
CULTURAL
COUNCIL**



**We're happy to
support the 10th
Annual Workers
Unite Film Festival.**

We value your hard work and dedication.



An **Anthem** Company



NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FEDERATION

**PEF LOOKS FORWARD
TO ANOTHER YEAR OF
EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY.**



WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT

**WORKERS
UNITE**

FILM FESTIVAL



**Wayne Spence
PRESIDENT**

**Joe Donahue
SECRETARY-TREASURER**

**WE ARE THE
450,000 CAREGIVERS
OF 1199SEIU UNITED
HEALTHCARE WORKERS EAST**

We are proud to support the
Workers Unite! Film Festival.

Thank you for promoting the real stories
of working people and their global
strategies to fight for survival.

Together, we will continue
to advocate for labor
solidarity.

1199SEIU

United Healthcare Workers East

*QUALITY CARE AND
GOOD JOBS FOR ALL*



The Workers Unite! Film Festival is a Celebration of Global Labor Solidarity.



THE WORKERS UNITE FILM FESTIVAL aims to feature student and professional films from the United States and around the world. These films highlight and publicize the struggles, successes and daily lives of all workers in their efforts to unite and organize for better living conditions and social justice. We hope to illuminate, educate and motivate audiences to take action.

This past year has seen the election of one of the most pro-worker, pro-labor union administrations since President Obama. With slim Democratic majorities in the Congress, the labor movement has an opportunity to advance a pro-worker, pro-union agenda for the first time in many years. This opportunity cannot be wasted. We all must educate and motivate all our members and partners to push for both the voter reform bills in Congress and the HERO Act, which will make union organizing much more fair and possible to win.

After four horrendous years of being lied to, divided, murdered by worthless policies to fight the worst pandemic in history, we dug in and helped elect a friend of labor, President Biden. It is clear that all union members are on the frontlines of the battle to take back this country from the increasingly powerful corporate elite, who seek to crush most of the gains made by organized labor over the last 100 years and return us to another Gilded Age of gross economic inequality. The fight against “right to work” continues in many states, as does the increasingly successful “Fight for \$15”. The pandemic tragedy only increased our societal inequality and we are now seeing the

results of millions of working Americans fed up with crappy low-paying jobs with no future. We must win in 2022 and continue our efforts to bring all Americans who work into a life with dignity, purpose, healthcare and a safe and secure retirement.

We must keep the fight going and keep on guard for the attacks already coming from the right-wing corporate media and the terrorist group formerly known as the Republican Party. While they have seized control of our Supreme Court (by illegal means!) we still out-number them thousands to one and we must be ready to exercise this power as they lie, cheat and steal to hold on to their losing positions of power. We must keep fighting, keep organizing, keep telling our stories far and wide.

The goal of this tenth anniversary 2021 Workers Unite Film Festival is to bring the stories of brave workers from around the globe to an engaged, passionate, and diverse audience in New York City. The worker's voice must be brought back into popular culture in order to be heard. Now more than ever, Labor Rights are Civil Rights, and in the chorus for change, EVERY VOICE MATTERS.

— Andrew Tilson, Executive Director



**American Federation
of Labor and
Congress of Industrial
Organizations**

815 Black Lives Matter
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aflcio.org

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AMERICA'S UNIONS

September 13, 2021

To Attendees of the Workers Unite Film Festival:

What a year and a half we've all had. Film has always been an art form we can unite around, and throughout the pandemic, that's been truer than ever. I am thrilled that this year's film festival is back in person at Cinema Village Theater, while still having online components so more of us can enjoy the inspirational films of this year's festival.

As always, this year's films will explore the most pressing issues impacting working people around the world. From the impact of COVID to women's empowerment to taking on multi-billion dollar companies, I know you will gather strength from these films.

At a time when challenges are all around us and powerful anti-worker forces are trying to silence us, these films speak for and to all of us. The labor movement is proud of your continued dedication to telling our rich stories and improving our lives.

In solidarity,

Elizabeth H. Shuler
President



Mario Cilentio
President

Terrence L. Melvin
Secretary-Treasurer

September 10, 2021

Dear Friend,

The New York State AFL-CIO is proud to support the Workers Unite Film Festival as it celebrates global labor solidarity.

Capturing the struggles and successes of working men and women through the power of film will call attention to the important stories about economic and social justice. The festival is an opportunity to raise awareness to the vital role of the Labor Movement while paying tribute to working people and their contributions to society as a whole. We are honored to be part of such an important event.

On behalf of the 2.5 million members of the New York State AFL-CIO, I wish the Workers Unite Film Festival and all its participants another rewarding gathering and continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mario Cilentio".

Mario Cilentio
President

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**NEW YORK CITY
CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO**

President
VINCENT ALVAREZ
Secretary-Treasurer
JANELLA T. HINDS

September 30, 2021

Andrew Tilson, Executive Director
Workers Unite Film Festival, Inc.
322 West 52nd St - Box 1525
New York, NY 10019

Dear Executive Director Tilson:

The New York City Central Labor Council supports the efforts of the Workers Unite Film Festival. The struggles and successes of workers in their efforts to unite and organize for social justice and better living conditions are often unknown. We commend the Festival's important work to showcase films that highlight these struggles and successes.

Now more than ever the Labor Movement needs allies such as the Workers Unite Film Festival that tell the stories of working men and women. Once heard, these stories compel us all to help empower working women and men to overcome the challenges that they and their families face.

The New York City Central Labor Council congratulates the Workers Unite Film Festival on its Tenth Anniversary Season Celebration and wishes you continued success.

In solidarity,

Vincent Alvarez
President

VA:fd
Openw:153





COREY JOHNSON
SPEAKER



THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NY 10007

TELEPHONE
(212) 788-7210

October 8, 2021

Dear Friends:

As the Speaker of the New York City Council, I'm happy to congratulate the Workers Unite Film Festival on its 10th Anniversary and extend my warmest greetings to everyone who will be attending this remarkable event!

Cultural gatherings such as yours are a vital part of our great city's stellar reputation, and have helped to make it the cultural capital of the world.

As our city emerges from the hardships of the Covid-19 pandemic, the works showcased at this year's film festival serve as a vital testament to the hardworking men, women and young people whose struggles, sacrifices and successes serve as an inspiration to us all.

Congratulations as well to all of the adventuresome story-tellers - students and professional filmmakers alike - sharing their stories while helping to lead a movement for meaningful change.

Here's wishing the Workers Unite Film Festival continued success in the years ahead and a wonderful time for all attendees!

Sincerely,

COREY JOHNSON
Speaker



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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431 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027
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www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Gale A. Brewer, Borough President



October 8, 2021

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to join you in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Workers Unite Film Festival and global labor solidarity.

Giving a voice to workers from all walks of life is vital, and film is a powerful medium for showing the struggles and triumphs that workers experience around the world. With dozens of screenings each year, you are bringing important stories from the labor movement into the spotlight. You are also inspiring the next generation of socially conscious filmmakers.

I've been proud to support airport workers, restaurant workers, fast-food workers, delivery workers, carwash workers, building service workers, and graduate-level workers at universities – and I appreciate all that WUFF does to highlight workers' stories.

On behalf of the Borough of Manhattan, I thank you for your solidarity with workers and unions. I wish you another year of success.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

GROWING & KEEPING GOOD JOBS IN NEW YORK STATE

WDI is proud to support the **Workers Unite! Film Festival** in its mission to honor working people and celebrate the power of worker solidarity in the US and around the world



**WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE**

WDI is a statewide non-profit that works to grow and keep good jobs in NYS. We use a range of tools – including “boots on the ground” information, workforce expertise, and funding – to facilitate projects that build workforce skills and strengthen employers’ ability to hire, promote, and retain workers.

For more information contact:
Dan Cullen | dcullen@wdiny.org



2021 Festival Schedule *At A Glance*

Location: Cinema Village (22 East 12th St, Manhattan).
 Descriptions on Films & Directors List.

Note: Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination required.

Date	Start Time	FILM NAME	Runtime	Program	Q&A or Speakers
10/8/21	5:00 PM	Precarity U	13m	1	
		How to Form A Union	22m	1	
		Women of Steel	56m	1	
	7:00 PM	The Life of A Union Organizer	8m	2	
		9to5: The Story of A Movement	1 hr 26m	2	Y
	9:00 PM	Dissidents Chapter Two: Without Women There Is No Revolution	5m	3	
		Afghan Women: A History of Struggle	1 hr 9m	3	
10/9/21	5:00 PM	I, Candy	22m	4	
		Anyway, Jeff Bezos Can Kiss Our Ass	18m	4	
		Frankness	21m	4	
	6:30 PM	Dissidents Chapter Four: Art In Resistance	6m	5	
		This Is Not A War Story	1 hr 51m	5	Y
	9:00 PM	The World's Worst Oil Related Disaster You've Never Heard Of	12m	6	
		Veins of Resistance	1 hr 50m	6	
10/10/21	3:00 PM	Backstreet to the American Dream	1 hr 41m	7	Y
	5:15 PM	Committing to Make It Come True - The CISL, the Labour Union	7m	8	
		Haymarket: The Bomb, The Anarchists, The Labor Struggle	1 hr 23m	8	Y
	7:15 PM	Making the Impossible Possible: The Story of Puerto Rican Studies at Brooklyn College	33m	9	Y
		Drills of Liberation	2 hr	9	Y
10/11/21	3:00 PM	Bucky and the Design Science Revolution	1 hr 45m	10	
	5:00 PM	Feet of Earth	22m	11	
		TIED	53m	11	
	6:30 PM	The Great Strike of 1983, or How A Small Town Lost Its Edge	6m	12	
		Town of Widows	1 hr 26m	12	
	8:30 PM	Stormchaser	27m	13	
		Bone Cage	1 hr 29m	13	
10/12/21	2:45 PM	Archeology of the Workers' Dignity	30m	14	
		Handmade In Bangladesh	1 hr 16m	14	
	5:00 PM	2021 NEW Virtual Equity Awards	51m	15	Y
		Apprentice Electricians Citizen Films Showcase	1 hr 4m	15	Y
	7:00 PM	The Last Cut	13m	16	
		Night Cleaners	24m	16	
		Three Threads	24m	16	
		Woodcarver: Deborah Mills	7m	16	
		A Little Mess	6m	16	
		In the Right Frame of Mind	7m	16	

10/12/21 (Cont'd)	8:30 PM	For Armetta	5m	17	
		Sacrificial Lambs	4m	17	
		Healthcare Worker Day of Action	3m	17	
		#TimetoCare	20m	17	Y
		Last Call: The Shutdown of NYC Bars	59m	17	Y
10/13/21	2:30 PM	A Grain of Wheat In Flames	55m	18	
		Boramey: Ghosts In the Factory	1 hr	18	
	5:00 PM	Signed, Sealed and Delivered: Labor Struggle In the Post Office	38m	19	
		The Great Postal Heist	1 hr 33m	19	
	7:45 PM	Grinning Skull	21m	20	
		Black Independent Filmmaker App (Trailer)	1m	20	
		Sophia Dawson: Purpose	15m	20	
		Yusuf Hawkins: Storm Over Brooklyn (Trailer)	2m	20	
		No Leaders (Trailer)	5m	20	
		Digging for Weldon Irvine	1 hr 51m	20	Y
10/14/21	3:00 PM	The Free State of George Floyd	6m	21	
		Tales from The Long Memory	54m	21	Y
	5:00 PM	No Shortcuts to Change	4m	22	
		COVER/AGE	25m	22	
		Long Distance	28m	22	
		Limbo	19m	22	
	7:00 PM	Conversations Between Shifts	30m	23	Y
		The Coke Cartel (Trailer)	2m	23	
		Company Town	52m	23	Y
	9:15 PM	Parklife	12m	24	
		Yangzhen's Journey	1 hr 34m	24	

Red = Feature-length



Tickets available at the door and online via
Eventbrite: bit.ly/TixWUFF10

Price ranges from *Free* shows starting at 2:30PM through 3:00PM (except Program 7), to \$5 shows at 5:00PM, and \$9 for all others.

One Day Pass: \$25 • Two Day Pass: \$40

Full Festival Pass: \$65-\$85

Watch All the Trailers — Part 1: <https://vimeo.com/619260690>
Part 2: <https://vimeo.com/619278336>

Workers Unite! Film Festival 2021

Films and Directors

#TimeToCare (20m)

Directed by: Ky Dickens
Documentary Short (2021)
Program 17

The pandemic heightened awareness that we all need time to care — and that most of us can't afford it. Ky Dickens, the award-winning director of *Zero Weeks*, discovered an interest in an unexpected place: TikTok. The more she looked, the more she found people with zero tolerance for zero weeks of paid leave and an appetite for activism.



2021 NEW Virtual Equity Awards (52m)

Produced by: Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW)
Documentary Feature (2021)
Program 15



NEW's Equity Leadership Awards Luncheon celebrates the women building New York City. For more than 40 years, NEW has trained and placed women in the skilled construction trades and related fields, helping them secure sustainable wages for themselves and their families.

9to5: The Story of A Movement (86m)

Directed by: Julia Reichert, Steven Bognar

Documentary Feature (2019)

Program 2

When Dolly Parton sang “9 to 5,” she was doing more than just shining a light on the fate of American working women. Parton was singing the true story of a movement that started with 9to5, a group of Boston secretaries in the early 1970s. Their goals were simple — better pay, more advancement opportunities and an end to sexual harassment — but their unconventional approach attracted the press and shamed their bosses into change. Featuring interviews with 9to5’s founders, as well as actor and activist Jane Fonda, *9to5: The Story of a Movement* is the previously untold story of the fight that inspired a hit and changed the American workplace.



A Grain of Wheat in Flames (55m)

Directed by: Lee Hyung-Joon

Documentary Feature (2020)

South Korea

Program 18

Chun Tae-il, a tailor of the Pyeonghwa Market, self-immolated in protest to improve the inhumane working conditions of laborers 50 years ago in South Korea. This is the story of a Christian youth who became a ‘grain of wheat’ by igniting a spark to Korea’s labor rights movement. The documentary also observes the reality of labor in Korea, which has yet to change.

A Little Mess (6m)

Directed by: Jamie Deradorian Delia
Documentary Short (2019)
Program 16



Artist Lydia Ricci utilizes scraps from her childhood home to create miniature sculptures of nostalgic objects.

Afghan Women: A History of Struggle (69m)

Directed by: Kathleen Foster
Documentary Feature (2007) Afghanistan
Program 3

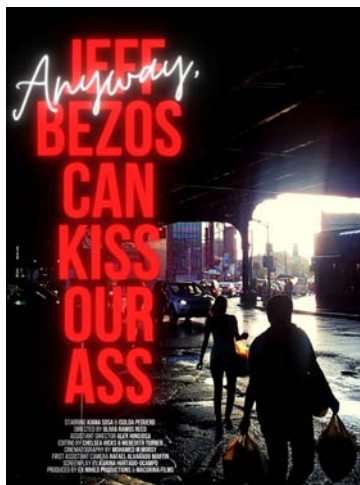


The tumultuous history of Afghanistan from the perspective of the country's female population, this feature documentary chronicles the stories of women who have risked their lives to achieve political, economic, and social equality, from the early 1970s to the present day. The authors of *American War Cinema and Media Since Vietnam* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) cited *Afghan Women: A History of Struggle* as one of only three films that “challenge the dominant ideologies found in contemporary mainstream American war films.”

Anyway, Jeff Bezos Can Kiss Our Ass (18m)

**Directed by: Olivia Ramos
Documentary Short (2019)
Program 4**

Amid NYC's fight against Amazon, Aurelia must decide what it means to be "crazy" in a crazy world for the sake of her neighborhood and her small family.



Apprentice Electricians Citizen Films Showcase - IBEW Local 3 (1 hr 4m)

**Films From the Frontlines (2020-2021)
Program 15**

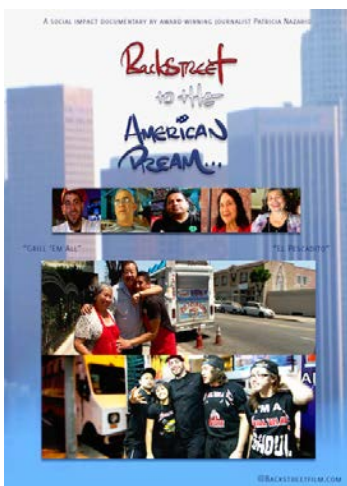


For the 5th year, apprentice electricians from SUNY Empire State's Harry Van Arsdale Jr. School of Labor Studies are empowered to share a snapshot of their working lives by creating their own short 5-6 min films. Using only a smartphone, they are taught how to shoot and edit video in order to depict a personal truth that might otherwise be framed incorrectly in the mainstream media, where stories about workers and their unions are often distorted and not truthful. Our goal is to create 100,000 Citizen Journalists from the labor union side to help balance the stories about workers and their unions.

Archeology of the Workers' Dignity (30m)

Directed by: Uli Stelzner
Documentary Short (2020)
Guatemala
Program 14

In neo-liberal times, trade unions and labor rights are increasingly a topic for archaeologists. This film portrays an old trade unionist in Guatemala, delving into shameful working conditions and the devastating consequences of the pandemic.



Backstreet to the American Dream (101m)

Directed by: Patricia Nazario
Documentary Feature (2020)
Program 7

Backstreet to the American Dream is a modern-day look at the classic American Dream, and it's done through the quintessential 21st Century entrepreneurial endeavor — food trucks! This deep dive into the birthplace of the global phenomenon, Los Angeles, profiles two trucks and juxtaposes the

experiences of American entrepreneurs and Mexican immigrants. A bilingual documentary, it takes the audience on a journey, and it depicts the perseverance, resilience, and tenacity of immigrants and first-generation Latino/Latina/Latinx individuals fighting for their place of inclusion.



Bone Cage (90m)

Directed by: Taylor Olson

Narrative Feature (2020)

Canada

Program 13

Jamie works a wood processor, clear-cutting for pulp in small-town Nova Scotia. At the end of each shift, he walks through the destruction he has created looking for injured animals and rescues those he can. Adapted from a play by Nova Scotian author Catherine Banks, *Bone Cage* is an impressive first feature from Halifax actor/filmmaker Taylor Olson that sensitively excavates the tragedy of how young people in rural communities, employed in the destruction of their environment, treat the people they love at the end of their shift.

Boramey: Ghosts In the Factory (60m)

Directed by: Tommaso Facchin, Ivan Franceschini
Documentary Feature
(2021) Cambodia
Program 18

Sreyra, Ponler, and Sreyven are three young garment workers in Cambodia. Day after day, they produce clothes for the most important global brands, until something exceptional disrupts their routine: suddenly they pass out in the workplace, an event that is followed by their colleagues fainting en masse. According to trade unionists and government officials, this is caused by long work hours, high temperatures, and malnutrition. However, workers tell a different story: what happened to them is caused by spirits (boramey), angered by the lack of respect shown by the factory owners. Starting from this enigmatic background, *Boramey: Ghosts in the Factory* offers insight into the lives of Cambodian garment workers at the intersection of work, religion, family, and spirituality.

Bucky & The Design Science Revolution (106m)

Directed by: Noel B. Murphy
Documentary Feature (2021)
Program 10

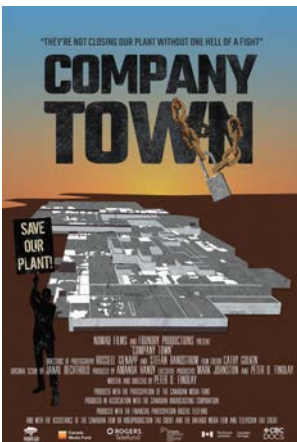
This documentary presents the full scope of the inventions of design genius Buckminster Fuller. This is the second in a trilogy of films featuring Jeff Bridges, Jay Leno, Marianne Williamson, and many others.



Committing to Make It Come True - The CISL, the Labour Union (7m)

Directed by: Giovanni Panozzo
Documentary Short (2020) Italy
Program 8

The temptations to stay separated, to reason with the "I" and not with the "we", are just around the corner today, even in the world of work. This is the beginning of a journey into the social commitment in the Labour Union of young and old which tells us that it's time to commit, all together, to build a better world: a moral obligation to "commit to make it come true".



Company Town (52m)

Directed by: Peter Findlay
Documentary Feature (2020) Canada
Program 23

On the anniversary of General Motors' 100th year of manufacturing vehicles in Oshawa, Canada, the union is forced into a life-and-death fight to save their members' jobs when the company announces it will be shuttering the plant at the end of the next year.



Digging for Weldon Irvine (111m)

Directed by: Victorious DeCosta
Documentary Feature (2019)
Program 20

A documentary about the life and influence of heralded writer, arranger, composer and pianist Weldon Irvine, Jr. Weldon Irvine's socio-culturally evocative work in music and theater drew appreciation from the likes of Freddie Hubbard and Nina Simone to Mos Def and Q-Tip.

The film studies his influence on the Black Arts Movement of the 1970s, the evolution of hip-hop, and the development of some of the most well-known figures in jazz today.

Dissidents Chapter Two: Without Women There Is No Revolution (4m)

Produced by: Milla Films & VlopCinema Collective
Films from the Frontlines (2020)
Chile
Program 3

Thousands of women take to the streets to dance and protest against femicides, as well as sexual, political, and social violence. *Dissidents* is a web series made up of four 5 min chapters that immerse you in the first-person lived experiences of the Social Revolts in Chile that began on October 18, 2019.



Dissidents Chapter Four: Art in Resistance (6m)

**Produced by: Milla Films & VlopCinema Collective
Films from the Frontlines (2020) Chile
Program 5**



Different expressions, various techniques, and thousands of formats are born and mask the streets of Santiago. Art is reborn in the streets as a political-corporal

necessity for resistance, transforming public spaces and bodies into spaces of struggle.

Drills of Liberation (120m)

**Directed by: Juan C. Dávila Santiago
Documentary Feature (2021)
Program 9**

After experiencing a ten-year economic crisis, and facing the perils of climate change, the Puerto Rican youth does not trust the State anymore. They take to the streets to demand accountability from the government, and organize autonomous community centers to ensure their survival as People of



Puerto Rico. The director captures a series of major historical events as they unfolded right at the frontlines, including the protests against a U.S. appointed Control Board, the aftermath of Hurricane María, and the notorious Summer of 2019.

Feet of Earth (22m)

Directed by: Ümit Güç
Documentary Short (2020) Turkey
Program 11

Shoemakers in Turkey, including Syrian immigrants, speak out about low wages, child labor, health/safety issues, and the ongoing power struggle with their bosses. A strike is organized in the end.



For Armetta (5m)

Directed by: Kevin Wilson, Jr.
Narrative Short (2021)
Program 17



To commemorate the one-year COVID-19 lockdown anniversary, we look at the profound sacrifices that

essential workers have made since March 2020. *For Armetta* is a story of loss and reflection that acknowledges we all have an essential story to tell. The Essential Campaign is a national storytelling-in-action effort that spotlights the essential workers who keep our communities and families running.

Frankness (21m)

Directed by: Aviva Skye Tilson
Documentary Short (2019)
Program 4

Frankness is a family portrait, a meditation, a love letter, and a eulogy to the strong, funny, loud Jewish matriarchs of the Frank family. The topics of unionization, love and death are all woven together with archival footage that spans generations to bring these women to life and bind them together in the fabric of inheritance, belonging, and time.



Grinning Skull (21m)

Directed by: Sikivu Hutchinson
Narrative Short (2018)
Filmed theatrical performance
Program 20

Set in Los Angeles in 1946, Black and Latina female washroom attendants

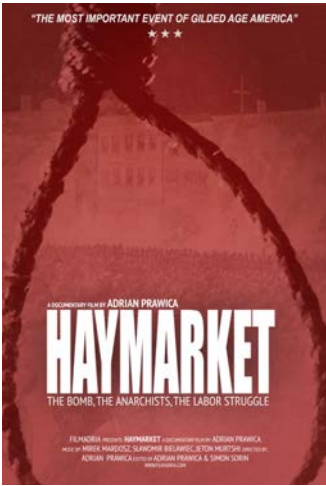
wrestle with the decision to unionize, bucking racism, sexism, and class discrimination at the Pacific Electric Railway subway terminal.

Handmade In Bangladesh (76m)

Directed by: Florian Wehking, Liz Bachhuber
Documentary Feature (2020)
Program 14

The stories of average working people who live in a rich cultural heritage of artisan handicraft and creativity. They invent many ways of recycling in order to make a living out of basically nothing.





Haymarket: The Bomb, The Anarchists, The Labor Struggle (83m)

Directed by: Adrian Prawica
Documentary Feature (2021)
Program 8

The Chicago Haymarket Affair, where a bomb thrown into the ranks of Police was followed by an eruption of panic and violence resulting in a trial and execution of presumably innocent workers' rights activists, is examined in this feature documentary film. Expert historians and professors

present the history of the bomb, the anarchist movement of the 19th century, and the labor struggle of working people fighting for a shorter workday during the industrial might of America's Gilded Age.

Healthcare Worker Day of Action (3m)

Directed by:
Eloise Sherrid,
Yoni Golijov
Documentary
Feature (2020)
Program 17



A nurses day of action at Kingsbrook Hospital in Brooklyn, where they lost 5 co-workers to COVID-19.

How to Form A Union (22m)

Directed by: Gretta Wing Miller

**Documentary Short (2021)
Program 1**



Willy Street Grocery Co-op workers began organizing in 2019 after management implemented a new attendance policy that was harsher than that of Whole Foods (a corporate competitor in the natural-foods market). In addition, despite a 2017 promise that the Co-op would move towards paying a “livable wage” within two to three years, in 2019 the starting wage rate was cut from \$12.40 to \$12.10 per hour.



I, Candy (22m)

Directed by: Candy Kugel

**Documentary Short/
Animation (2018)
Program 4**

Filmmaker Candy Kugel deconstructs a drawing she did when

she was 6 years old to explore her life — touching on family history, current events and societal norms of the time.

In the Right Frame of Mind (7m)

Directed by: Veronique Engel

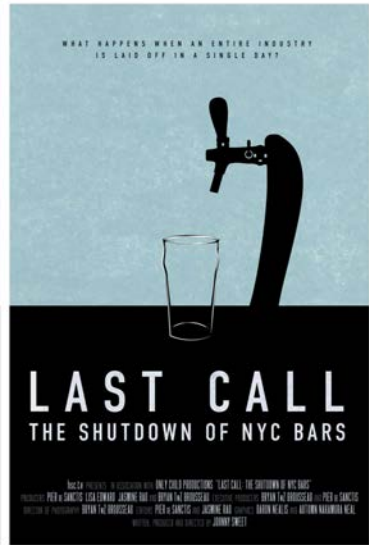
**Documentary Short (2020)
Program 16**

Profiles the framemakers of Quebracho in Bushwick, Brooklyn, who work with the best museums worldwide to marry a painting and its frame.

Last Call: The Shutdown of NYC Bars (59m)

Directed by: Johnny Sweet
Documentary Feature (2020)
Program 17

Last Call explores the impact of COVID-19 on the NYC hospitality industry, including healthcare workers and bars in Astoria, Queens. Thousands of artists, musicians and actors flock to the city's most diverse borough to work in the service industry to supplement their dreams. In March of 2020, these dreamers put their lives on hold, self-isolating and sacrificing their income as Queens became the global epicenter of the pandemic. As the weeks go by, we follow two local bars fighting off the virus, financial ruin, and the deaths of loved ones, while the frontline workers battle to slow down the death toll engulfing the borough. It's a tale of two sacrifices that saved not only the lives of thousands but the future of New York.



Limbo (19m)

Directed by: Lotje Sodderland
Narrative Short (2020) U.K.
Program 22

A true-fiction short following the story of Witold, a young, Polish Londoner whose humanity is blunted by the demands of his digital boss, laying bare the hardship of the job of a care worker at this poignant time of the global pandemic. Under-trained and underpaid, Witold speeds from home to home on his bicycle, feeling the enormity of his responsibility as he enters hidden worlds to administer care to a delicate but dynamic assortment of elderly men living alone.



Long Distance (28m)
Directed by: Kiana Rawji
Documentary Short (2021)
Canada
Program 22

A Filipino couple in Calgary, Alberta perseveres through a long-distance relationship redolent of the many years they spent apart in the past. Before, international borders separated them. Now, a virus. While Roderick, a Cargill meat plant worker, recovers in the hospital from a COVID-induced

stroke, his wife, Norie, summons the strength to support her family. Set against the backdrop of COVID-19 outbreaks among migrant workers across Canada.

Making the Impossible Possible: The Story of Puerto Rican Studies at Brooklyn College (33m)
Directed by: Tami Gold, Pam Sporn
Documentary Short (2021)
Program 9

A short doc about the student led struggle to win Puerto Rican Studies at Brooklyn College (CUNY) in the late 1960's. This important story highlights the powerful alliance Puerto Rican, African American and other progressive students and faculty forged that changed the face of higher education with the founding of one of the first Puerto Rican Studies departments in the nation.

MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE

THE STORY OF PUERTO RICAN STUDIES IN BROOKLYN COLLEGE
 Directed by Tami Gold and Pam Sporn
 Produced by Gisely Colón López, Tami Gold, and Pam Sporn



A Production of the Alliance for Puerto Rican Education & Empowerment
 Distributed by Third World Newsreel TWIN.org



Night Cleaners (24m)

Directed by: Hanna Nordenswan
Documentary Short (2019)
Program 16



After sunset, familiar New York spaces turn into something else entirely; shadowy worlds where only the thoughts of the night cleaners can be heard.

No Shortcuts to Change (4m)

Directed by: Adrian Rojas Elliot
Narrative Short (2021)
Program 22



The Essential Campaign, a project of The League, presents *No Shortcuts to Change*, a short film that follows Ramona (Franceli Chapman) a homecare aid who suddenly

meets her Fairy God-Person (Sherri Shepherd) who is trying to "change her life for the better" by tempting her with magical shortcuts. Ramona ends up not falling for the high-jinx and tricks because she realizes that she doesn't need magic to create real change. #CareIsEssential

Parklife (12m)

Directed by: Lillian Xuege Li
Documentary Short (2020)
Program 24

Parklife chronicles life in Manhattan's Columbus Park, where groups of Chinese seniors congregate on a daily basis. As seasons change and the pandemic unfolds, the park's seemingly outlandish cultural spectacles and nostalgic performances wane.

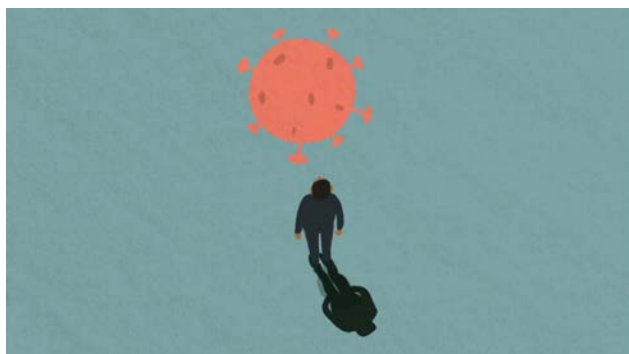


Precarity U (13m)

Directed by: Laura Dasilva
Documentary Short (2020) Canada
Program 1



This documentary introduces one of the world's top Universities' dirty little secret. Employees at the University of Toronto speak out about work and shine a light on things that need to change. Produced to support the United Steelworkers Local 1998 Casual Unit bargaining campaign.



Sacrificial Lambs (4m)

Directed by: Stephanie Tangkilisan
Documentary Short/Animation (2021)
Program 17

The story of the COVID-19 pandemic on Rikers Island, as told through recorded phone interviews with correctional officers and a former inmate.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered: Labor Struggle In the Post Office (38m)

Directed by: Tami Gold, Dan Gordon, Erik Lewis
Documentary Short
(1980)
Program 19

Mandatory overtime, speed-up, and union-busting at the U.S. Postal Service - sound familiar? Here's how postal workers in 1978 confronted grueling and dangerous conditions: they walked out on a wildcat strike.



**Sophia Dawson:
Purpose (15m)**

**Directed by:
Justin M. Thomas
Documentary
Short (2019)
Program 20**



The story of renowned Brooklyn visual artist and activist Sophia Dawson. Through revealing conversation and a treasure trove of archival photographs from Ms. Dawson's personal scrapbook, Justin Thomas directs an intimate and powerful portrait of a brilliant young woman determined to use her creative gifts to enlighten and empower her community.



STORMCHASER (27m)

**Directed by: Gretl Claggett
Narrative Short (2019)
Program 13**

All Bonnie Blue ever wanted was to chase tornadoes with her Dad. But dreams die with time. Now, she's become a different kind of storm chaser — hawking storm-doors “door-to-door” for her charismatic boss, Flip Smyth: a cult-like father figure to Bonnie and his tribe of young sales bucks. In the guise of “tough love,” Flip relishes publicly

shaming Bonnie and his token minority assistant. When Flip pulls a bait-and-switch to avoid paying her commission, she finally challenges him, sending him into a rage as fierce as the funnel cloud that hovers on the horizon. As she realizes Flip's doctrine of “Flip the Switch!” is just a way to exploit customers, a different kind of switch flips inside Bonnie — unleashing an inner and outer storm of violence.

Tales From the Long Memory (54m)

Directed by: Charles Hall

Documentary Feature (2020)

Program 21

Folk singing rabble-rouser U. Utah Phillips crisscrossed the country on freight trains searching for teachers. He experienced ultimate freedom, no home ahead and none behind but also the

works of mercy. He discovered the dynamic struggle of people to organize themselves and demand a quality of life for themselves and those around them that provides bread, yes, but roses too.

Tales From the Long Memory follows the people who look to Utah as their teacher now while they continue the work that inspired him throughout his life.



The Free State of George Floyd (6m)

Produced by: Flowstate Films, the Center for Work and Democracy, and SEIU-UHW

Films from the Frontlines (2021)

Program 21

Immediately following the murder of George Floyd, the neighbors surrounding the murder site established a police-free autonomous zone. As hundreds of offerings and visitors came to pay their respects everyday, the community began to protect the memorial site; the public art and the offerings. As barricades went up around the streets, the community released a list of 24 justice demands from the city of Minneapolis.

The Last Cut (13m)

Directed by: Ben Wang
Documentary Short (2021)
Program 16

The oldest barbershop in Manhattan's Chinatown is coming to its close. The barbers, all immigrants, have to face their retirement and adapt to this new stage of life.



The Life of A Union Organizer (8m)

Directed by: Gabrielle Rogano
Films from the Frontlines (2021)
Program 2

Gabrielle Rogano, an organizer with the International



Association of Machinists (IAM) Union and a student at SUNY Empire State College's Van Arsdale Labor Studies Program, explains how the IAM's Organizing Department is helping the Baltimore County Public Library workers amplify their voice by unionizing.

The World's Worst Oil Related Disaster You've Never Heard Of (12m)

**Directed by: Gabriela Dematteis / VICE Media Group
Films from the Frontlines (2020)**

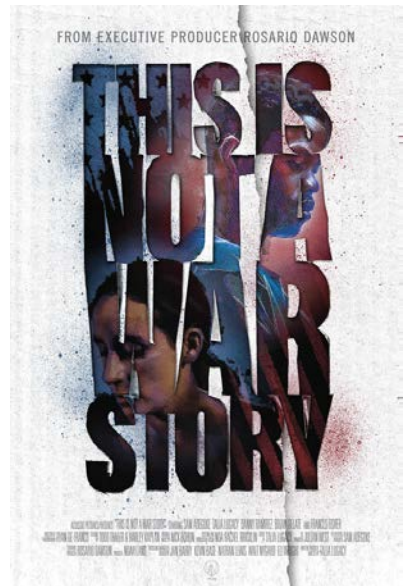
Program 6

Deep in the Amazon Rainforest of Ecuador lies the "Amazon Chernobyl", a 1,700-square-mile environmental disaster brought on by oil extraction and production. After a visit to Ecuador in 1993, human rights lawyer Steven Donziger and other attorneys brought a class-action lawsuit against Texaco (later Chevron) on behalf of over 30,000 farmers and Indigenous people from this Amazon region who were affected by this disaster. Steven recounts his experience advocating on behalf of the environment and affected communities and the personal toll this work has had on his life.

This Is Not A War Story (111m)

**Directed by: Talia Lugacy
Narrative Feature (2021)
Program 5**

This Is Not A War Story tracks a ragtag group of combat veterans in New York whose anti-war art, poetry and papermaking keep them together, despite the spectre of their friend's suicide and the ever-crystalizing fact that healing from war is sometimes an impossible mission. This hybrid narrative film features a supporting cast of Iraq and Vietnam veterans, as well as their original artwork, poetry, and music — and was produced over three years as an ongoing collaboration with a thriving community of veteran artists and papermakers.





Three Threads (24m)

Directed by: Rohan Rao
Documentary Short
(2021) India
Program 16

The Rann is a salt desert that stretches for miles across west Gujarat,

India. It is here that Pachan Siju, a traditional handloom artisan, lives and is determined to add his own color to the white landscape through his clothing brand, Three Threads. Being a Dalit and deemed untouchable by the higher caste communities, he cannot afford local exhibitions, and dreams of finding funding opportunity in the U.S. This film weaves a story of the hopes and aspirations of an extraordinary artist.



TIED (53m)

Directed by: Tassos Morfis
Documentary Feature (2019)
Greece
Program 11

What's the longest you've been unpaid? This documentary captures the struggle of 320 unpaid seamen of the Lesvos Shipping Company - one of Greece's most historic maritime companies - in 2015. With many trapped in the company's vessels in Drapetsona, a part of the Piraeus port, and away from the spotlight, the camera captures

their efforts to receive their wages for 7 months, following them from the docks to the Prime Minister's office during the most critical times in Greece's modern history.

Town of Widows (86m)

Directed by: Natasha Luckhardt and Rob Viscardis
Documentary Feature (2019) Canada
Program 12

In a factory town both sustained and poisoned by big industry, a growing group of widows, workers and family members fight for justice in a system stacked against



injured workers. Nicknamed “The Electric City”, Peterborough, Ontario, was home to a General Electric plant for over a century. Over time, employees of the plant and their families noticed more and more GE workers dying from cancer. Now, they're fighting for compensation and finding a "conspiracy of silence”.

Veins of Resistance (110m)

Directed by: Joshua Tucker
Documentary Feature (2020) Chile
Program 6



Weaving together frontline narratives from people facing the inter-generational traumas of a CIA-backed coup in Chile, Indigenous genocides, and forced migrations, this doc raises pressing questions. What happens when students in over 200 high schools vote to occupy their own schools and use them as protest camps for the semester to demand free quality education? How does it feel to take back your families' Indigenous territory from a multinational company?

Women of Steel (56m)

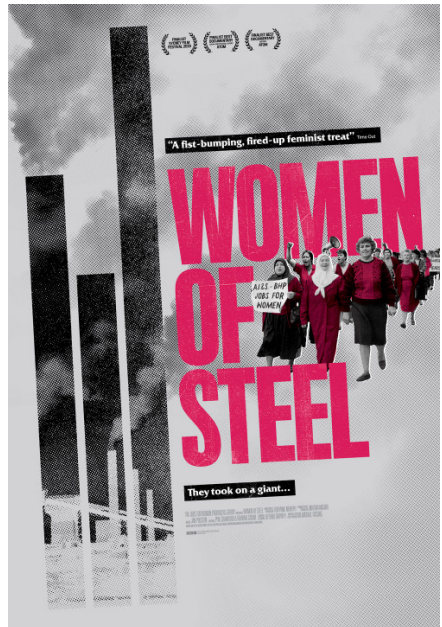
Directed by: Robynne Murphy
Documentary Feature (2020) Australia
Program 1

Wollongong, New South Wales, 1980: Denied jobs at the steelworks, the city's main employer, working class/migrant women refused discrimination. Their 14-year campaign for the right to work pitted them against BHP, the richest and most powerful company in Australia. In *Women of Steel*, they tell their personal stories – from the unemployment line to the factory gate to the High Court. It's an exciting and often humorous story of the ups and downs of a group of seemingly ordinary women, determined to overcome a giant. This is an extraordinary but little known episode in women's history!

Wood Carver: Deborah Mills (7m)

Directed by: Shuming Zhang
Documentary Short (2020)
Program 16

Deborah's craft is slowly disappearing – like many other hand-made traditions. But, in taking the slow path, and making beautiful, artistic and practical things for daily life, she's trying to bring it back.



Yangzhen's Journey (94m)

Directed by: Chengxu Lan

Narrative Feature (2021) China

Program 24



Nyima YangZhen is a dedicated China Postwoman in the Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. She's also a mother who has a baby to nurse at home. Having worked for several years in the post office, Nyima has grasped her work-life balance —until she receives a job relocation and must leave her family temporarily to take up a post in the rural Yunling township where the locals in the mountainous area need her.

SCREENPLAYS 2021

Mr. Buchman Goes to Washington

Written by: Bill Baber

The Working Lives Screenplay Competition (2021)

An intense courtroom docudrama that recreates the 1951 House Un-American Activities Committee hearing when Sidney Buchman, the Communist who wrote "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington", was blacklisted. This is the day that Mr. Buchman, like Mr. Smith, learned that patriotism requires sacrifice.

Planet

Written by: David Kirkham

The Working Lives Screenplay Competition (2021) U.K.

When a young space recruit from northern England seeks the truth about a failed interstellar mission, he becomes stranded in Africa and discovers a new way of life that offers salvation for humanity.

Aliens Wired Me A Trillion Dollars

Written by: Daniel L. Abrams

The Working Lives Screenplay Competition (2021)

When an Alaskan astronomer discovers aliens' communications, they employ her conspiracy-debunking husband and her to keep this secret from the world because humanity isn't ready

The Everlasting Gift

Written by: David-Matthew Barnes

The Working Lives Screenplay Competition (2021)

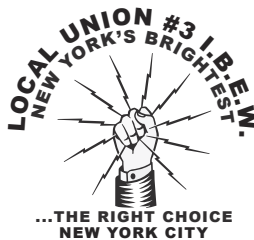
When struggling college student and aspiring music teacher Sharleen Vega lands a part-time position with a local Parks and Recreation department, she's not expecting to find her destiny and true love. Assigned to direct a holiday variety show at an elementary school the district has given up on (the same school she once attended as a child), Sharleen must come to terms with the grief of her past while bringing hope to a community she feels compelled to fight for.



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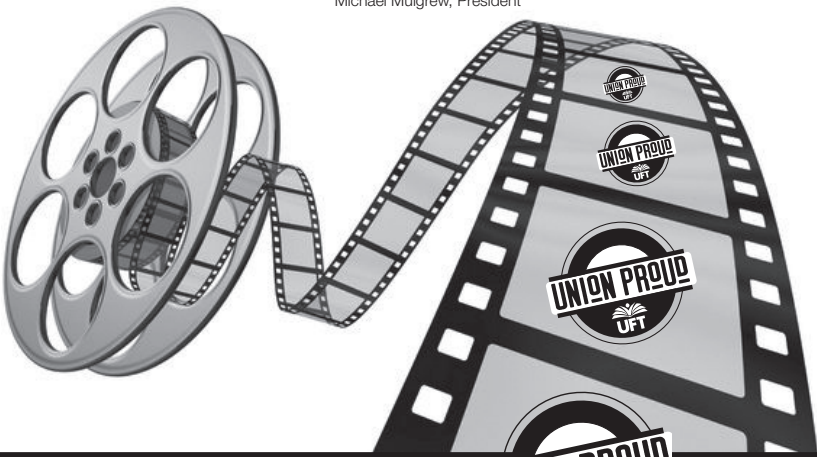
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The 10th Annual Workers Unite Film Festival and The Harry Van Arsdale Jr. School of Labor Studies at Empire State College salute the creative and brave apprentices from IBEW Local 3 and IAM on writing and filming their own movies telling the stories of the true heroes and celebrities of this country - our unionized brothers and sisters, who get up every morning to do the hard work that keeps this country going.

We look forward to screening your films at our Films from the Frontlines program on October 12th, 5:00pm at Cinema Village theater.

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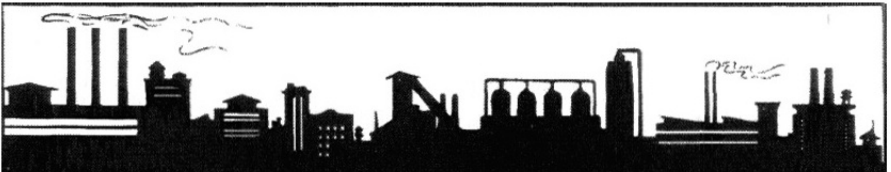
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