

PROGRAMMERS' PICKS

Our intrepid team of Festival programmers reviewed almost 700 feature-length and short films this year! Want to know what stood out most to them? Find out here!

EEEL BORLASA Recommends:

MARIA by Jeremiah Tauamiti
MARIA gracefully celebrates the finer points of family and faith.

HOLD ME (CA CAW CA CAW) by Renee Zhan

Winner of the Slamdance Grand Jury prize for Best Animation, this film is a surprising commentary on relationships. . .

COWBOY AND INDIAN by Sujata Day

It's slick, forward, and sexy. Sujata brings cultural identity into a different expression of style and power..

SLEEP TIGHT, MARIA by Monica Vanesa Tedja

A delightfully naughty tale of what it's like to have that high school crush. This one is LOL-in-the-theater funny.

I WON'T MISS YOU by Bernard Badion

Badion delivers a new take on HS romance, that's textured with

clever comedy and heartbreak.

EEEL BORLASA loves mixtapes, films & community. She brings that passion to her work as a publicist at After Bruce PR. 2017 marks her nth year with LAAPPF.

SUMIKO BRAUN Recommends...

CARDINAL X by Angie Wang

Dark, sexy, tragic, and hopeful, CARDINAL X is a "model minority" defying gem inspired by Wang's real-life experience dealing ecstasy to fund her elite university education in the '80s.

THE SOUL OF THE TIGER by François Yang

An exemplary, nuanced piece of dramatic cinema centering a tortured Chinese-French man who must reconcile clashing cultures, family secrets, and forbidden desires all while unraveling his brother's mysterious death..

SUMIKO BRAUN is a filmmaker, educator, writer, and actor best known for the cult classic Sharknado. She is a teaching artist with artworxLA and also produces digital stories for UCLA's Mapping Indigenous Los Angeles.

ERICA CHO Recommends:

THE STREETS ARE OURS: TWO LIVES CROSS IN KARACHI by Michelle Flordaliso

A moving LGBT documentary that includes one of the last

interviews with fierce, outspoken and beloved Pakistani activist Sabeen Mahmud.

ERICA CHO is an artist/filmmaker, independent curator, and Assistant Professor of Narrative Media at UC San Diego.

ARIEL DU Recommends:

AND SO WE PUT GOLDFISH IN THE POOL by Makoto Nagahisa

Forced to confront the fear of societal pressure of who a woman should be, four young girls rebel.

TAG by Patrick Green, Steve Tirona

Through the lens of a Go Pro, we follow a tagger's day of leaving their mark.

COCOON by Living Mei

Set in China during the '80s, a young girl is shamed for her first glance into womanhood.

PRIA by Yudho Aditya

Filmed in Indonesia, a teenage boy explores his sexuality before his arranged marriage as societal pressure crashes down.

SIT by Yoko Okumura

A documentary following a Buddhist monk's family and their journey coming to terms with feeling lost.

ARIEL DU is a senior international student from China studying Creative Producing and Film Studies. She aims to be culturally educated, create and support conscious film that bridges gaps in our society and offers more compassionate understanding towards different communities.

JEREMY GAUDETTE Recommends

SAVING SALLY by Avid Liongoren

A visually stunning mix of live-action and animation, Saving Sally successfully relies on the magic of young love. Romantic comedy? Sure, but with monsters, inventions, and heroic encounters.

A TIME TO SWIM by Ashley Duong

What happens when a man returns home after a 20-year political exile? A story of how frustration yields to a reluctant understanding that change happens even after you're gone.

Originally from Maine, JEREMY GAUDETTE has called L.A. home for 13 years where he manages two movie theatres in Santa Monica.

GENA HAMAMOTO Recommends:

PSYCHEDELIC AFTERNOON by UrumiDelvi

The joy in this film is contagious. The vibrant, magical, musical world that this hippie grandpa

creates will get you swaying and smiling.

PAPA'S CLOUDY RESTAURANT by Kartik Shah

Come dine amongst these fuzzy stop motion creatures that are not only adorable, but also have an important message to share.

GENA HAMAMOTO is an assistant editor and producer, with a background in media education. She strives to empower underserved people through the power of filmmaking.

JUNE KAEWSITH Recommends:

DAVID AND GOLIATH by Rachel Lee

DAVID AND GOLIATH is a documentary that shows it takes a community to stand up against large corporations taking over a Korean family-owned donut shop.

CALLED HOME by Jason Piemnopkako

CALLED HOME takes us on a vulnerable journey of reconciliation between a Chinese American son and his father's acceptance of his gender identity during a visit home from university.

JUNE KAEWSITH, also known as "Jumakae", is a multidisciplinary artist, educator, and organizer based in Long Beach, CA. "Why Consume What You Can Create?" www.jumakae.com