



## AMERICAN FILM SHOWCASE UNVEILS YEAR 5 SLATE

### 49 FICTION FEATURES, DOCUMENTARY FEATURES AND DOCUMENTARY SHORTS WERE SELECTED FOR THIS YEAR'S PREMIERE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT FILM TOURING PROGRAM

LOS ANGELES (May 25, 2016)— Today the American Film Showcase (AFS), the premiere film diplomacy program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), and produced by the USC School of Cinematic Arts (SCA), unveiled the official 2016-2017 film slate. The 2016-2017 film diplomacy initiative will feature a diverse slate of fiction features, documentary features and documentary shorts that will screen from September 1, 2016 - August 31, 2017. U.S. Embassies will use the film slate for cultural programming around the world. The American Film Showcase will send selected filmmakers on 7-10 day international tours to conduct special screenings, presentations, and participate in local festivals. Each of the AFS programs is designed to spark dialogue and empower local communities to tell their own stories. As in years past, films will screen in over 40 different countries such as: Benin, Mongolia, Belarus, Algeria, Jordan, Peru, Egypt, India, Zimbabwe, and Kazakhstan.

"This year's collection of films will offer a nuanced glimpse of life in America to international audiences who might not have access to films beyond Hollywood blockbusters. Every film in the program will provide US embassies an engaging tool to promote dialogue around a relevant societal issue," said Rachel Gandin Mark, Program Director.

The slate this year includes 33 feature documentaries, 10 documentary shorts, and 5 fiction feature films. Films include *Batkid Begins*, *Beyond The Lights*, *Twinsters*, and *The Spectacular Now*. 51% of selected films this year are directed by women.

#### **Feature Documentaries (34)**

***3 ½ Minutes, Ten Bullets***, dir. Marc Silver, USA

***A Ballerina's Tale***, dir. Nelson George, USA

***All Rise***, dir. Jeffrey Saunders, Jay Shapiro, USA

***Batkid Begins***, dir. Dana Nachman, USA

***The Bad Kids***, dir. Keith Fulton, Pepe Lou, USA

***A Brave Heart: The Lizzie Velasquez Story***, dir. Sara Hirsh Bordo, USA

***Catching The Sun***, dir. Shalini Kantayya, USA

***City of Gold***, dir. Laura Gabbert, USA

***Code: Debugging The Gender Gap***, dir. Robin Hauser Reynolds, USA

American Film Showcase

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**Codegirl**, dir. Lesley Chilcott, USA  
**Generation Startup**, dir. Cynthia Wade, Cheryl Miller Houser, USA  
**Gleason**, dir. Clay Tweel, USA  
**How To Dance In Ohio**, dir. Alexandra Shiva, USA  
**I'm Not Racist...Am I?**, dir. Catherine Wigginton Greene, USA  
**In Football We Trust**, dir. Erika Cohn, Tony Vainuku, USA  
**In My Father's House**, dir. Ricki Stern, Annie Sundberg, USA  
**In The Game**, dir. Maria Finitzo, USA  
**Keepers Of The Game**, dir. Judd Ehrlich, USA  
**The Latin Explosion: A New America**, dir. Jon Alpert, Matthew O'Neill, USA  
**The Mask You Live In**, dir. Jennifer Siebel Newsom, USA  
**Most Likely To Succeed**, dir. Greg Whiteley, USA  
**Off The Menu: Asian America**, dir. Grace Lee, USA  
**Peace Officer**, dir. Brad Barber, Scott Christopherson, USA  
**Play It Forward**, dir. Andrea Nevins, USA  
**Racing Extinction**, dir. Louie Psihoyos, USA  
**Radical Grace**, dir. Rebecca Parrish, USA  
**Resilience**, dir. James Redford, USA  
**Right Footed**, dir. Nick Spark, USA  
**Romeo Is Bleeding**, dir. Jason Zeldes, USA  
**Salam Neighbor**, dir. Zach Ingrasci, Chris Temple, USA  
**Some Kind of Spark**, dir. Ben Niles, USA  
**Song of Lahore**, dir. Andy Schocken, USA  
**Twinsters**, dir. Samantha Futerman, Ryan Miyamoto, USA  
**Unbranded**, dir. Phill Baribeau, USA

### **Documentary Shorts (10)**

**The Adaptable Mind**, dir. Tiffany Shlain, USA  
**Anacostia River: Making Connections**, dir. Liz Norton, USA  
**Beauty in Transition**, dir. Ava Wiland, USA  
**Brooklyn Farmer**, dir. Ben Nabors, USA  
**Can You Read My Lips?**, dir. David Terry Fine, USA  
**Every Day**, dir. Gabe Spitzer, USA  
**The Last Mile**, dir. Ondi Timoner, USA  
**Sophie and Ben**, dir. Sophie Sartain, USA  
**Sriracha**, dir. Griffin Hammond, USA  
**Teen Press**, dir. T.C. Johnstone, USA

### **Fiction Features (5)**



***Beyond The Lights***, dir. Gina Prince-Bythewood, USA

***East Side Sushi***, dir. Anthony Lucero, USA

***Jack of The Red Hearts***, dir. Janet Grillo, USA

***Mosquita Y Mari***, dir. Aurora Guerrero, USA

***The Spectacular Now***, dir. James Ponsoldt, USA

### **ABOUT THE USC SCHOOL OF CINEMATIC ARTS**

The University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts is one of the leading film schools in the world. Founded in collaboration with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 1929 over 85 years ago, the USC School of Cinematic Arts has fueled and mirrored the growth of entertainment as an industry and an art form. The School offers comprehensive programs in directing, producing, writing, critical studies, animation and digital arts, production, interactive media and games, all backed by a broad liberal arts education and taught by leading practitioners in each field. Its more than 11,000 alumni are among the world's most distinguished animators, scholars, teachers, writers, directors, producers, cinematographers, editors, sound experts and industry executives. Since 1973 not a year has passed without an alumnus or alumna being nominated for an Academy Award or an Emmy. <https://cinema.usc.edu/>

### **ABOUT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs builds relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen the national security of the United States, support U.S. international leadership, and provide a broad range of domestic benefits. For more information, visit [www.exchanges.state.gov](http://www.exchanges.state.gov)

### **ABOUT THE AMERICAN FILM SHOWCASE**

The American Film Showcase brings award-winning contemporary American documentary and independent fiction films to audiences around the world, offering a view of American society and culture as seen by independent filmmakers. Funded by a grant from the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and produced by the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts (SCA), the Showcase highlights the value of film in fostering understanding and cooperation, dialogue and debate. The AFS films explore diverse topics including civil rights, disabilities, social justice, sports, freedom of the press, technology and the environment. For more information, visit [www.americanfilmshowcase.com](http://www.americanfilmshowcase.com)