

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VERMONT

THE BEST OF NEW GLOBAL AND LOCAL CINEMA



MARCH 23 - 26 2023

AT THE BRIGGS  
OPERA HOUSE

HOSTED BY

J ▶ M Junction  
Arts  
& Media



## WHITE RIVER INDIE FILM FESTIVAL

NO BEARS • THE BUTTERFLY QUEEN • GU/H • REWIND & PLAY • THE QUIET GIRL • SAINT OMER  
• MOONAGE DAYDREAM • WHITMAN BROOK • RAC/T TREE • PACIFCTION • SECRET SCREENING •  
SHORTS BY EMERGING FILMMAKERS • PANELS & TALKBACKS • BRUNCHEs • LATE NIGHT EVENTS

TICKETS, PASSES & MORE INFO AT:  
[UVJAM.ORG/WRIF](http://UVJAM.ORG/WRIF)

Original art by Jes Raymond



# WELCOME TO WRIF 2023!

## WHITE RIVER INDIE FILM FESTIVAL

Four days, ten feature films, shorts by regional Emerging Filmmakers, panel conversations, parties and more!

**Festival Venue, Parking & Access:** Both venues are located at 5 South Main Street, White River Junction, VT. **JAM (Junction Arts & Media)** is located on the 1st floor of Newberry Market between Tuckerbox and Piecemeal Pies. **The Briggs Opera House** is on the 2nd floor. Street parking is free throughout the village. An elevator is located at the south end of the Gates-Briggs Building to the left of the Post Office; go to 2nd floor and turn left.

TICKETS & PASSES AT: [UVJAM.ORG/WRIF](http://UVJAM.ORG/WRIF)

Your donations and purchases support WRIF's annual festival, our Emerging Filmmakers contest, and a vibrant filmmaking community bringing the world to the Upper Valley and the Upper Valley to the world through cinema.

### ABOUT JAM



## Junction Arts & Media

creativity and media literacy, supports Upper Valley residents in video and audio production to uplift underrepresented voices, delivers independent access to the local political process to promote civic engagement, and hosts media arts-centered events to bring people together through media. Learn more at: [uvjam.org](http://uvjam.org)

WRIF has joined forces with CATV to form JAM – Junction Arts & Media. JAM's mission is to build community through the media arts. JAM leads media education workshops for all ages to promote

### ABOUT WRIF



WRIF brings filmmakers and audiences together to enjoy new global and regional groundbreaking, provocative, entertaining cinema. White River Indie Films was founded in 2004 by a group of local film lovers who wanted to bring works from outside the mainstream to an appreciative audience. The first three-day festival was held in White River Junction, Vermont in 2005. From the beginning, our focus was on screening issue-oriented films, hosting discussions, and partnering with community organizations with the goal of inspiring change.



# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

\* = Vermont Filmmaker. Tickets, passes, and details at: [uvjam.org/wrif](http://uvjam.org/wrif)

**THURSDAY,  
MARCH 23**

5:30 - 6:45 PM @ JAM

**Emerging Filmmakers Party**

7:00 - 9:00 PM @ Briggs Opera House

**SECRET SCREENING! + Filmmaker**

5:00 - 6:00 PM @ JAM

**Opening Night Gala Party!  
with Route 5 Jive + Fulla Flava**

6:30 - 8:30 PM @ Briggs Opera House

**No Bears**

8:45 - 10:15 PM @ Briggs Opera House

**The Butterfly Queen\* + Filmmaker**

+ Emerging Filmmaker Short

10:15 PM - MIDNIGHT @ JAM

**Gush Afterparty Screening**

10:00 AM @ Tuckerbox Restaurant

**WRIF at 18 Brunch**

12:00 - 2:30 PM @ Briggs Opera House

**Rewind & Play + Panel Discussion**

3:00 - 4:30 PM @ Briggs Opera House

**The Quiet Girl**

7:00 - 9:30 PM @ Briggs Opera House

**Saint Omer**

+ Emerging Filmmaker Short

9:30 - 11:30 PM @ JAM

**Moonage Daydream Afterparty Screening**

**SUNDAY,  
MARCH 26**

10:30 - 11:45 AM @ JAM

**Sunday Morning Coffee & Pastries with  
Filmmaker Ben Silberfarb**

12:00 - 1:30 PM @ Briggs Opera House

**Whitman Brook\* + Filmmaker**

+ Emerging Filmmaker Short

2:00 - 4:30 PM @ Briggs Opera House

**Racist Trees + Panel Discussion**

6:00 - 9:00 PM @ Briggs Opera House

**Pacifiction**



# FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

5:30 - 6:45 PM @ JAM

## Emerging Filmmakers Party - Open to All!

A soirée for our Emerging Filmmakers with a surprise special guest filmmaker coming in from LA to inspire courage in filmmaking. All WRIF attendees are welcome! Snacks and beverages provided + music by DJ GeNDeRnDeR.

7:00 - 9:00 PM @ The Briggs Opera House

## SECRET SCREENING (USA 2022) with Filmmaker

+ Emerging Filmmaker Winning Short: "Talent Show" (Noah Mauchly, NH)

An evening not to be missed! Come see the film that everyone is talking about! It's a rip roaring comedy/action/adventure that critics are calling The Movie Event of the Year and "a blast." Based on a true story, it's got everything (and MORE). Laughs. Cries. Screams. Action! Romance... A nip slip (or two). Music!! And thrills! PLUS a star studded cast! And music! It's also not that long of a film, so what do you have to lose?? DO I NEED TO SAY MORE? YOU WILL REGRET MISSING THIS CINEMATIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE REST OF YOUR NATURAL LIFE. YOUR KIDS WILL ASK YOU WHY YOU MISSED IT SO COME TO THIS SCREENING. (Come to JAM and ask us more about this film...)

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

5:00 - 6:00 PM @ JAM

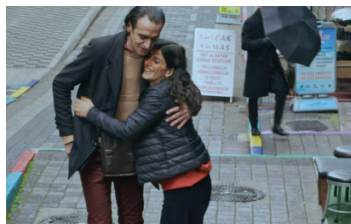
## Opening Night Gala with Route 5 Jive and Fulla Flava

Celebrate 18 years of WRIF with good people, good food by Fulla Flava Jamaican Jerk, and good music by Route 5 Jive and support WRIF's future!

6:30 - 8:30 PM @ The Briggs Opera House

## No Bears (Iran 2022)

Comedy, suspense, ethnographic exposé, and metatextual trickery all come together in **Jafar Panahi's** autofictional exploration **No Bears**. **No Bears** blends the fictional story of a love triangle with documentary footage of Iranian director Jafar Panahi's attempts to work as a filmmaker while essentially exiled from his own country. Amid a crackdown by the Iranian government, Panahi was detained to serve a six-year sentence just before the film's premiere at the Venice Film Festival.



8:45 - 10:15 PM @ The Briggs Opera House

## **The Butterfly Queen (VT 2022) with Filmmaker**

+ Emerging Filmmaker Winning Short: "Axel"

(Tom Mull, VT)

A small-town cartoonist and their vagabond best friend have to steal back a sketchbook from The Butterfly Queen's nightmare dimension. VT director **Liam O'Connor-Genereaux** crafts a queer-inhabited, gritty, sardonic fairy-tale driven by the

trials of friendship. Presented with the Vermont Production Collaborative, VPC Board member Jeannine Frost will lead a Filmmaker Talkback with VT filmmaker Liam O'Connor-Genereaux, cast and crew immediately after the film!

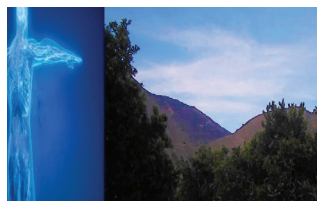


10:15 PM - MIDNIGHT @ JAM

## **Gush (USA 2023) Afterparty Screening**

View Gush the way filmmaker **Fox Maxy** intended – at a party! Come unwind with music, dancing, and experimental cinema.

An embodied rumination of both male and female power, healing and haunting, all within an apocalyptic world. A transformation that courses through unknown terror to untamed collective joy. Ipai Kumeyaay and Payóm-kawichum filmmaker Fox Maxy was named one of Filmmaker Magazine's 25 new faces of Independent Film in 2021. Her first feature film, Gush premiered at Sundance this year.



**SATURDAY, MARCH 25**

10:00 AM @ Tuckerbox Restaurant

## **WRIF's 18th Birthday Party Brunch**

This year, WRIF turns 18! Enjoy Turkish brunch with WRIF founders and filmmakers to celebrate WRIF's adulthood.

12:00 - 2:30 PM @ The Briggs Opera House

## **Rewind & Play (France 2022) + Panel Discussion**

The archive is never neutral. December 1969, Thelonious Monk arrives in Paris. Before his evening concert, he recorded a program for French television. By re-cutting this recovered footage of the legendary jazz musician's TV appearance, filmmaker **Alain Gomis** diverts the archive's point of view, reverses it, and tries to enter Monk's.



**Rewind & Play Post-Screening Panel Discussion** moderated by **Tamara Waraschinski** with **Taylor Ho Bynum** (The Coast Jazz Orchestra), **Alisa Swindell** (HOOD Curator of Photography), **Lechelle Gray** (Creative Discourse Group) and **Jordyn Fitch** (filmmaker) will unpack issues of the cinematic gaze, race and power raised by the film.

3:00 - 4:30 PM at The Briggs Opera House

### **The Quiet Girl (Ireland 2022)**

Rural Ireland. 1981. Nine-year-old Cait is sent away from her overcrowded, dysfunctional family to live with distant relatives for the summer. She blossoms in the care of her relatives, but in this house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one painful truth. Acclaimed **cinematographer**

**Kate McCullough** creates a stunning, empathetic narrative through the eyes of a young girl. Ireland's first Academy Award nomination and first Irish language film Oscar nominee.



7:00 - 9:30 PM @ The Briggs Opera House

### **Saint Omer (France 2022)**

+ **Emerging Filmmaker Winning Short: "Beyond the Troubled Water"**  
(Isabelle Slattery, Québec)

A pregnant young novelist attends the trial of a Senegalese woman accused of killing her 15-month-old daughter by abandoning her to the rising tide on a beach in northern France.

As the trial continues, her own family history, doubts, and fears about motherhood are

steadily dislodged as the life story of the accused is gradually revealed. Acclaimed documentarian **Alice Diop**'s fiction feature film debut, *Saint Omer* won Silver Lion Grand Jury prize at the 2022 Venice International Film Festival



9:30 - 11:30 PM @ JAM

### **Moonage Daydream (USA 2022) Afterparty Screening**

*Come in your best Bowie inspired look!* We will hold a runway contest before the show and prizes will be awarded for best starperson outfit.

Told through sublime, kaleidoscopic, never-before-seen footage, performances and music,

director **Brett Morgen**'s feature length experiential cinematic odyssey explores David Bowie's creative, musical and spiritual journey. Premiered at Cannes Film Festival in 2022, the film is guided by David Bowie's own narration and is the first officially sanctioned film on the artist.





10:30 - 11:45 AM at JAM

### **Sunday Morning Pastries & Coffee with Filmmaker Ben Silberfarb**

Join Norwich filmmaker Ben Silberfarb before the screening of his latest award-winning feature film. Goodies provided by King Arthur Baking Company.

12:00 - 1:30 PM at The Briggs Opera House

### **Whitman Brook(VT 2022) with Filmmaker**

+ **Emerging Filmmaker Winning Short: "perrenials" (Hannah Polanski, Québec)**

Whitman Brook Orchard is an oasis which stands ready to receive, unfolding its lessons season by season. This film is about the pacing of life, the close observation of our natural environment, land stewardship and a tribute to a love lost and a place rejuvenated. Norwich, VT director **Ben Silberfarb** was named NH Filmmaker of the year. Presented with White River Natural Resources Conservation District.



2:00 - 4:30 PM at The Briggs Opera House

### **Racist Trees (USA 2022) + Panel Discussion**

Racial tensions are reignited as a historically Black neighborhood in Palm Springs fights for the removal of a wall of trees that many believe were originally planted as a totem of segregation. The filmmakers' aim was to tackle this heavy subject in a human way with nuance and even humor in hopes of disarming viewers for more honest conversations about race, even when it is difficult and uncomfortable.



**Racist Trees Post-Screening Panel Discussion** moderated by **Joe Major** (JAM Board, Hartford Treasurer) with **Laura Di Piazza** (media artist "Redlining Our Souls," at JAM 3/3-31), **Conicia Jackson** (Attorney, housing activist) and **Andrew Winter** (Twin Pines Housing) will unpack the film's context of government policies and practices that have built inequality into our civic and residential spaces and explore action paths to more inclusive, equitable communities.

6:00 - 9:00 PM at The Briggs Opera House

### **Pacifiction (France, Spain, Germany 2022)**

Catalan filmmaker **Albert Serra's** new film, shot in Tahiti at the peak of Covid lockdown and screened at Cannes in 2022, tells the tale of a French government official De Roller who witnesses hazy evidence of nuclear testing by his government and is challenged to abandon his cynicism and risk action amidst uncertainty.





# THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



WRIF thanks the community volunteers who began searching last fall for the best new global and regional cinema, watching, discussing and choosing films to inspire Upper Valley audiences. We thank WRIF's board and the many festival volunteers for their work to create a joyful event uniting filmmakers and film lovers to celebrate the power of film to inspire empathy, catalyze conversation, and affect positive change in the world. If you love film and want to get involved as a sponsor, community partner, or volunteer, please email us at: [info@uvjam.org](mailto:info@uvjam.org), subject: WRIF. We hope to see you again at WRIF!



## THANK YOU WRIF 2023 SPONSORS!



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## THANK YOU WRIF COMMUNITY PARTNERS!



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