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## POW Film Fest Announces Full Lineup for 2019



March 11, 2019 (Portland, OR) - **POW Film Fest** is pleased to announce the full film lineup for the 12th edition, occurring from **March 27-31, 2019** at the historic **Hollywood Theatre**, **Clinton Street Theater**, and **Holocene**. This year's festival brings together women and non-binary filmmakers from across the world, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, UK, and USA. From over 550 submission POW Film Fest has selected 3 features. In addition, the festival will honor one of the first African American women narrative feature filmmakers **Kathleen Collins**, and screen her feature, ***Losing Ground***. POW Film Fest is partnering with **Fin de Cinema** to present the silent film ***Salome*** starring queer actress and filmmaker **Alla Nazimova** with a **live soundtrack** by **Dolphin Midwives** and **Indira Valey**.

Tickets will be available on [powfilmfest.com](http://powfilmfest.com). Fin de Cinema and *Losing Ground* tickets are available for purchase directly from their respective theaters: [Holocene](#) and [Hollywood Theatre](#).

"I'm thrilled with our strong presentation of films by women and non-binary filmmakers this year! We selected 41 films out of over 500 submissions," says Managing Director, Nora Colie. I really love our shorts selections; they are solid, but I'm especially looking forward to people seeing our narrative feature, *Los Silencios*, our two documentary features, *Facing the Dragon* and *Haendel Variations*, and the out-of-the-ordinary film *TERROR NULLIUS*."

### POW Film Fest Features

**2019 HONOREE FILM PROGRAM**  
**March 30, 2019, Hollywood Theatre at 7pm**  
**Runtime: 86 min**

**Losing Ground**, directed by Kathleen Collins. (USA) - Feature with Q&A with Kathleen Collins' daughter, Nina Collins, to follow the film. *Losing Ground* centers on the experiences of Sara (Seret Scott), a university professor whose artist husband, Victor (Bill Gunn), rents a country house for a month to celebrate a recent museum sale. The couple's summer idyll becomes

complicated as Sara struggles to research the philosophical and religious meaning of ecstatic experience...and to discover it for herself.

### **FIN DE CINEMA PRESENTED BY HOLOCENE**

**March 27, 2019, Holocene - Doors open at 8pm with the film to start at 9pm  
Runtime: 72 min**

**Salomé**, a screening of a silent masterpiece by Alla Nasimova. (Russia) - with a new live score by Portland musicians Indira Valey and Dolphin Midwives. This queer classic film is based on Oscar Wilde's adaptation of the biblical tale of Salomé, which tells the story of a teenage princess who lusts after the severed head of John the Baptist. Legend has it that Nazimova cast the film entirely with gay actors.

### **NARRATIVE FEATURE**

**March 29th, 2019, Clinton Street Theater at 7:00pm  
Runtime: 88 min**

**Los Silencios**, directed by Beatriz Seigner. (Brazil) - Narrative Feature. Nuria, 12, Fabio, 9, and their mother, Amparo, arrive on a small island in the middle of Amazonia, at the border of Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. They ran away from the Colombian armed conflict in which their father disappeared. One day, he reappears in their new house. The family is haunted by this strange secret and discovers the island is peopled with ghosts.

### **DOCUMENTARY FEATURES**

**March 31st, 2019, Clinton Street Theater at 1:00pm  
Runtime: 80 min**

**Facing the Dragon**, directed by Sedika Mojadidi. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Documentary Feature. Filmed over four years, filmmaker Sedika Mojadidi, intimately follows two extraordinary Afghan women, Nilofar, a member of parliament and Shakila, a television journalist. As American forces and aid leave Afghanistan, the country's fragile democracy and the recent gains for women hang in the balance, forcing Nilofar and Shakila to choose between motherhood and ambition amidst threats to their lives and families.

**March 28th, 2019, Clinton Street Theater at 7:00pm  
Runtime: 73 min**

**The Haendel Variations**, directed by Christine Jezior. (Poland) - Documentary Feature. Ida Haendel is considered a legend among professional musicians and listeners of classical music alike. This documentary utilizes footage that was shot between 2009 and 2017, showing the life and work of British-Polish violinist Ida Haendel. After having given her final performance, her everyday life oscillates between nostalgia and joy of living, between loneliness and hopefulness. Ida Haendel is a person of wisdom and humor, whole-heartedly accepting the challenge of spending her remaining years in a self-determined way. Though at some point she has to accept she can't play the violin anymore, she refuses to stop singing. *The Haendel Variations* is not an ordinary music documentary, not just another portrait of a world-renowned classical musician. Rather, it is a restrained, intimate approach, focused on the inner life of an

extraordinary woman and on the two things that still give her life meaning: her love for music and for her fellow human beings.

## **POW Film Fest Shorts**

### **COMEDY SHORTS**

**March 28th, 2019, Clinton Street Theater at 9:15pm**

**Total Running Time: 81:46 min**

**A Hard Day in The Empire**, directed by Sezen Kayhan. (Turkey) - US Premiere, Comedy Short. Cansu (26) works as a prop assistant on the set of an Ottoman period soap opera. On a difficult day, she cannot fulfill the extreme requests of the director. Challenging conditions and endless requests bring her to an irreversible moment.

**All Men Must Die**, directed by Kate Beacon. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Comedy Short. Prudence throws her best friend a nice birthday party but it's ruined by a dude, and Kyle learns just what Prudence meant when she said 'It's your birthday, I'd do anything for you.'

**Decadeless**, directed by Aubrey Peeples. (USA) - World Premiere, Comedy Short. A teenager late to bloom has a night of firsts with her best friend, their stoned waiter, and an aspirational DJ.

**Femme Queen**, directed by Ahya Simone. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Comedy Short. *Femme Queen* Chronicles is a web-series about the lives of four black trans women as they navigate through love, life, trade, and shade in the city of Detroit; written, directed, and brought to life by black trans women themselves. In Episode One, the four friends just try to make it through the day without getting clocked as trans women — or clocking someone else over the head instead.

**Made Public**, directed by Foster Wilson. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Comedy Short. On the eve of his wedding day, Dave commits a cardinal sin: His doubts about tying the knot go viral. Alone at the altar, the groom must confront his own cold feet, a Greek chorus of bridesmaids, and the bride herself - all to save his marriage before it's even begun.

**The Only Sad Person on the Beach**, directed by Lily Jiacheng Xu. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Comedy Short. Set in Coney Island, the film is about a breakdown in communication at the intersections of personal and monumental history.

### **DOCUMENTARY SHORTS**

**March 31st, 2019, Clinton Street Theater at 3 pm**

**Total Running Time: 82 mins**

**All Inclusive**, directed by Corina Schwingruber Ilić. (Switzerland) - Portland Premiere, Documentary Short. *All Inclusive* shows those under the spell of mass entertainment on the high seas.

**Brother Move On**, directed by Antshi Von Moos. (Switzerland) - Portland Premiere, Documentary Short. In Delhi Geeta offers a taxi service "from women for women". This taxi service allows women to move freely anywhere and at any time in the city. Her motivation is: "The more women become taxi drivers, the fewer women are afraid to step out of the house." Thus the cityscape and the atmosphere of the city changes and increasingly also the position of women in society, is Geeta's hope.

**Ebb Tide**, directed by Vivian Rivas. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Documentary Short. Zee, an 86-year-old retired teacher decides to go back to the happiest time of her life in order to make peace with the path she has chosen and reconnect with her students from the early 90's in East Harlem. Most of her students were non-readers, but through her non-traditional methods, they produced a pretty significant body of poetry, which she has kept all these years. Finding the kids will give Zee the closure she needs and also a sense of what her legacy is, as a teacher and as a human being.

**Fast Horse**, directed by Alexandra Lazarowich. (Canada) - Portland Premiere, Documentary Short. The Blackfoot bareback horse-racing tradition returns in the astonishingly dangerous Indian Relay. Siksika horseman Allison Red Crow struggles with second hand horses and a new jockey on his way to challenging the best riders in the Blackfoot Confederacy.

**Gloria's Call**, directed by Cheri Gaulke. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Documentary Short. In 1971, graduate student Gloria Orenstein received a call from Surrealist artist Leonora Carrington that sparked a lifelong journey into art, ecofeminism and shamanism. The short film, *Gloria's Call*, uses art, animation and storytelling to celebrate this wild adventure from the cafes of Paris to the mountaintops of Samiland.

**Liquor Store Babies**, directed by So Yun Um. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Documentary Short. *Liquor Store Babies* explores the intersecting lives of two friends and their fathers, each of whom own Liquor stores amidst the unpredictable backdrop of Los Angeles. Director and star So Yun Um pulls from true-life experience, contrasting two sides of the same coin. As the lives of So, Danny, and their parents begin to diverge, their differences only work to strengthen their bonds. What follows is a candid and real look at how the lives and dreams of liquor store owners and their children are cyclical and ever connected to one another.

**Respect & Love**, directed by Angelique Webster. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Documentary Short. With the hope of attaining a four year college degree, Gloria makes a decision to move from a sleepy country town to the city with her two young children. While attempting to build a solid foundation, her family is devastated when her 15 year old daughter shares that she has been sexual abused by their parish priest. Thirty years later, she sits with her daughter and examines how the abuse of her daughter at the hands of the local parish priest impacted her life. They discuss motherhood, decisions, life and spirituality. Through a frank conversation, a mother and daughter get to know each other and reimagine their relationship.

**DRAMATIC SHORTS**  
**March 30th, 2019, Hollywood Theatre at 3pm**  
**Total Running Time: 82 mins**

**An Act Of Love**, directed by Lucy Knox. (Australia) - Portland Premiere, Dramatic Short. A close bond between two identical twins is tested when one sister rebels against their shared sense of oneness.

**Falling Up**, directed by Chelsie Preston Crayford. (New Zealand) - US Premiere, Dramatic Short. *Falling Up* explores the intimacy, intensity, and relentlessness of being the mother of a small child, and the need for release when the ground is shifting beneath your feet. Its strength, its vulnerability, its universality.

**The Field**, directed by Sandhya Suri. (UK) - Portland Premiere, Dramatic Short. A poor agricultural laborer leads a double life in the village's last remaining cornfield. But the harvest is approaching.

**The Fisherwomen**, directed by Lorena Duran. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Dramatic Short. Celida, the leader of a group of fisherwoman, tries to seek the help of local fishermen after her fish farm gets poisoned.

**Fran Last Summer**, directed by Mary Evangelista. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Dramatic Short. Teenage love birds, sensitive Francis and skater girlfriend Angie, spend the summer shackled up at home while Fran begins their transition. Fran and Angie must face who and what they mean to each other when they make their way to the beach and their love is on display for the world to see.

**God Never Dies**, directed by Barbara Cigarroa. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Dramatic Short. Living in hidden America, Paula, a Mexican farmworker, struggles to raise two children on her own. When a new caravan arrives on the cramped lot they live on, Paula allows herself, and her children, to imagine the home is theirs-a fantasy highlighting the fragility of her reality and her family.

**The Way Things End**, directed by Anna Fredrikke Bjerke. (Norway) - US Premiere, Dramatic Short. Told from the perspective of Sofia, a queer woman discovering and asserting who she is as a young adult, *The Way Things End* is a poetic short film about two friends who are coming to terms with the painful truth that a shift in perspective can sometimes end a friendship.

**Youth**, directed by Maya Armon. (Czech Republic) - US Premiere, Dramatic Short. A wrong decision changes the friendship between Anna and Linda.

**EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS**  
**March 30th, 2019, Hollywood Theatre at 1 pm**  
**Program Run Time: 80 min**

*The Experimental Shorts program was curated by Jodi Darby, filmmaker, activist, and educator; and by Nini Liedman, artist and founder of Portland Unknown Film Festival.*

**99 Names of God**, directed by Yumna Al-Arashi. (UK) - Experimental Short. Arab-American filmmaker Yumna Al-Arashi embraces the rhythmic rituals that have run alongside Islamic tradition throughout the centuries in this surreal and poetic short film. Piecing together old and new, Al-Rashi's dream-like imagery breathes fresh air to a subject hardly seen in positive light.

**Advent Calendar**, directed by Taylor Bakken. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Experimental Short. Told in a darkly whimsical tone, a woman finds herself pushed away day-by-day, meal-by-meal, as her younger husband tries to reclaim his youth by turning to experimental cooking.

**Colors (A Poem)**, directed by Abriana Blount. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Experimental Short. You are alive like they are. Look around you. Nature will tell you. She will hear you. We need her, like we need you."Colors" is a poem about your self-importance. We need earth to survive. Someone needs you to survive.

**Egg**, directed by Martina Scarpelli. (Italy) - Portland Premiere, Experimental Short. A woman is locked in her home with an egg, which she is both attracted to and scared of. She eats the egg, she repents. She kills it. She lets the egg die of hunger.

**Girls Grow Up Drawing Horses**, directed by Joanie Wind. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Experimental Short. A woman examines creativity, heteronormativity, and patriarchy through the lens of metaphors, poetry, and the life of her deceased grandmother.

**Haute Flash**, directed by Marne Lucas. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Experimental Short. *Haute Flash* is an experimental infrared (IR) short film about the hormonal transition of Menopause. Eerie thermal imagery transports the viewer to an otherworldly space, framing the human body within art and technology by using an extremely heat-sensitive camera as both means of digital capture and as the surreal aesthetic itself. Shot entirely with an IR military grade rifle scope, the crosshairs are visible throughout the film, referencing the targeted feeling of radically shifting hormones experienced throughout peri/menopause, adding to the stylistic appearance of infrared video.

**How Old Are You? How Old Were You?**, directed by Cheryl Hsing-Hsin Liu. (Taiwan) - Portland Premiere, Experimental Short. Inspired by (and shot on 16mm film using) camera obscura techniques, *How Old Are You? How Old Were You?* fractures the logic of time to contemplate bringing oneself back to the origin, the womb. A dialogue between two selves, infant and adult, the film traverses through a series of psychological events, transforming memories, emotions, thoughts, and imagination.

**Kesh**, directed by Vanessa Renwick. (USA) - Experimental Short.

"Always Coming Home

A white dog with blue eyes, returning home when old.

A people at home in the left coast wilds as the animals they are. Some half human.

North Owl, half person, raised by a woman of the matriarchal Valley, fathered by a passing Condor warrior.

She said to me, 'I am here'.

Little Bear Woman, Ursula. Leaping over and through, negative as positive, dreaming our flooded future's past.

Lullabies on wings soaring forward. Ravens slowly spinning, slicing, a dance suspended. To go is to return."

**Now and There, Here and Then**, directed by Sun Park. (South Korea/UK) - US premiere, Experimental Short. *In Now and There, Here and Then* 5000 miles and 9 hours of time difference are compressed within a single channel video. Layers of digital frames capture celestial times reminding us of the geographical distance. Flattened worlds find another dimension through a conversation between a mother and daughter.

**Speak Easy, B**, directed by Becca Park. (USA) - Portland Premiere, Experimental Short. During a therapy session, a young woman struggles to vocalize the source of her depression stemming from heartache. She embarks on a tender journey inside her mind, with the desert serving as the stage for poetic confrontation. Through dream-like vignettes, the film weaves together her struggle to balance gender, sexuality, and identity.

## SYSTEM OF SUPREMACY

*The archaic structures of white hegemony continue to reign through inequality, injustice, and vigilante violence. But a rumble can be heard on the horizon. In the wake of a mutiny, the anxiety over shifting powers is at a fever pitch. The system will not yield without a fight, but the oppressed and their allies are too eager to stop now.*

*"Meet me at the underpass, rebellion is on her way." - Leanne Betasamosake Simpson*

**March 29th, 2019, Clinton Street Theater at 9:10pm**  
**Total Running Time: 89:19**

**Afterall**, directed by Kelly Sears. (USA) - System of Supremacy. A version of how the following year can unfold, put into motion before the confirmation vote occurs.

**The Ambassador's Wife**, directed by Theresa Traore Dahlberg. (Sweden) - Portland Premiere, System of Supremacy. We find ourselves in an extravagant garden in Ouagadougou. The French Ambassador's wife dreamt about becoming a famous opera singer. Instead, she is now using the singing as a ventilator to survive her seemingly privileged life surrounded by workers. This film raises questions about power structures, class, intersectionality, post colonialism and feminism in a poetic, subtle and seductive way.

**Biiddaban (The Dawn Comes)**, directed by Amanda Strong. (Canada) - Portland Premiere, System of Supremacy. Accompanied by a 10,000-year-old shapeshifter and friend known as Sabe, Biidaaban sets out on a mission to reclaim the ceremonial harvesting of sap from maple trees in an unwelcoming suburban neighborhood in Ontario. Driven by the words of Anishinaabe writer Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Amanda Strong's mesmerizing stop-motion animation intricately weaves together multiple worlds through time and space, calling for a rebellion.

**Nimmikaage (She Dances For People)**, directed by Michelle Latimer. (Canada) System of Supremacy. Both a requiem for and an honouring of Canada's First Nations, Métis and Inuit women, this short film deconstructs the layers of Canadian nationalism. In the process, it reverses the colonial lens by shifting the balance of power to reclaim the Canadian narrative, putting the enduring strength and resilience of Indigenous women at the forefront. Part of the Souvenir series, it's one of four films by First Nations filmmakers that remix archival footage to address Indigenous identity and representation, reframing Canadian history through a contemporary lens.

**TERROR NULLIUS**, directed by Soda\_Jerk. (Australia) - Portland Premiere, System of Supremacy. *TERROR NULLIUS* is a political revenge fable which offers an un-writing of Australian national mythology. It works entirely within and against the official archive, in order to achieve a queering and othering of Australian cinema. Part political satire, eco-horror and road movie, *TERROR NULLIUS* is a world in which minorities and animals conspire, and not-so-nice white guys finish last. Where idyllic beaches host race-riots, governments poll love-rights, and the perils of hypermasculinity are overshadowed only by the enduring horror of Australia's colonising myth of terra nullius.

Additional information and real-time ticket updates during the festival can be found on the [POW Film Fest website](#) and social media. ([Facebook](#) // [Twitter](#) // [Instagram](#)).

**About POW Film Fest**

Founded in 2008, the Portland Oregon Women's Film Festival (POW Film Fest) is Portland's premiere film festival showcasing films directed by women, women-identified and non-binary filmmakers.

Now in its 12th year, the festival proudly highlights the work of some of today's brightest directors and honors the pioneers who paved the way for the next generation of filmmakers. The Festival has had the honor of hosting a variety of emerging filmmakers and accomplished directors including Allison Anders, Irene Taylor-Brodsky, Kathryn Bigelow, Cheryl Dunye, Gillian Armstrong, Amy Heckerling, Penelope Spheeris, Ondi Timoner, Joanna Priestley, Catherine Hardwicke, and Barbara Kopple.

POW Film Fest's mission is to include all women and non-binary voices, regardless of race, class, age, religion, abilities, sexuality, gender expression. We respect and encourage each individual's right to gender self-identification and self-determination.

POW also offers year-round film workshops for girls and non-binary youth ages 15 -19 through our [POWGirls Program](#).

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