



Boston Science Fiction Film Festival

Live at the Somerville Theatre • Feb 14-19
Streaming on [Filmocracy.com](https://www.filmocracy.com) • Feb 20-25

February 2024

www.bostonscifi.com

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(continued on inside back cover)

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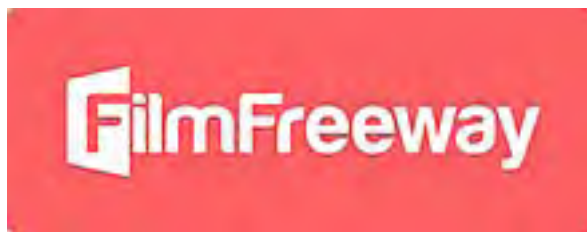
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In-person and virtual schedules subject to change.
 For tickets and up-to-the-minute information, please
 visit us online at
www.bostonscfi.com
www.facebook.com/BostonSciFi



SF19 • 1994

Bob was a software engineer. He spent 28 years in the Boston area, then retired to his native South Carolina. Bob was an ardent, enthusiastic supporter of the 24-hour Boston Science Fiction Film Marathon.

Often seen wearing his trademark yellow jumpsuit, to longtime 'Thoners, he was the Asteroid Farmer from Saturn. We raise our glasses to remember Bob with a sci-fi quote we think he would enjoy.

SF49 Dedication

Robert Cansler, Jr.
 1950 - 2023

"The supreme irony of life is that hardly anyone gets out of it alive." —Robert Heinlein

Covid Policy

We are thrilled to bring a fully realized in-person festival back to the Somerville Theatre and our other venues. We ask all attendees to use good judgment. Wear a face mask, if you wish. Be courteous to those around you. And follow the instructions of the venue management and staff. If you have any questions, please stop by the lobby table at the Somerville Theatre.

Boston SciFi's 2023 Science Fiction Film Fest



SF48 Flashback photos by Harry O. Lohr, Jr.

To participate in the film extravaganza, panels, conversations, games, special events, and other fun, check for the latest news and updates at www.bostonscifi.com and www.facebook.com/BostonSciFi.

"You cannot buy the revolution. You cannot make the revolution. You can only be the revolution. It is in your spirit, or it is nowhere."

– Ursula K. Le Guin

February 2024

Ukraine. Israel and Palestine. Election stress. Housing costs. It's been four years since COVID-19 locked us up. A lot has changed in the last year, with many new burdens arising. But at Boston SciFi, we strive to find the hopeful what-ifs of our future through the sights and sounds of the imaginative space of science fiction cinema.



N.E. Studios, Devens, Mass.

At SF49, we acknowledge and celebrate the power of storytelling in a world that continues to evolve. In the spirit of acclaimed American author Ursula K. Le Guin, we embrace the notion that the revolution lies not just in change, but in our collective soul to imagine, create, and shape the future.

In a world filled with Blu-rays, DVDs, digital downloads, and streaming, the concept of a 24-hour binge view remains strong and vibrant. And the SF49 Team has poured their hearts into this year's Festival programming, bringing dozens of directors and artists worldwide to celebrate sci-fi together.

Our community stands as a testament to imagination and kinship. It's a space where ideas, thoughts, and experiences are shared, fostering the community of compassionate nerds and cinema-loving folk we've become. Plus, it ends in a 'Thon with hundreds of your new, best pals!

Thank you all for joining us and making our dreams a reality. Ursula Le Guin would marvel at our collective curiosities about the world of tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garen Daly', enclosed within a simple circular outline.

Garen Daly
Festival Director
Boston Science Fiction Film Festival

In-person Festival Schedule

All in-person films screen at the Somerville Theatre.
Many in-person events take place at other venues, as noted.
See page 35 for Boston SciFi's Virtual Festival Schedule.

Schedule subject to change.
For updates, please visit www.bostonscifi.com.

Wednesday, February 14

- 3:00 p.m. M (p.15)
- 5:00 p.m. Coherence (p.10)
- 7:15 p.m. Shatter Belt (p.17)
- 7:30 p.m. Cyberpunk Sweetheart's Ball
Crystal Ballroom, Somerville Theatre (p.6)

You can purchase
tickets online at
www.digboxoffice.com
and at
www.bostonscifi.com.

Thursday, February 15

- 3:00 p.m. Short Film Program: CSILLA (p.20)
- 4:45 p.m. Palimpsest (p.16)
- 7:15 p.m. Life After The Navigator (p.14)
- 8:00 p.m. Short Film Program: SIDRA (p.21)
- 9:15 p.m. Life After The NeverEnding Story (p.14)
- 10:00 p.m. SF49 After Party (American Flatbread, Filmmakers and Passholders only)

Friday, February 16

- 12:00 p.m. Panel: Master Class with James Ward Byrkit (The Burren, p.32)
- 2:00 p.m. Panel: Master Class with Lisa Downs (The Burren, p.32)
- 4:00 p.m. Panel: The Independent Budget (Comicazi, p.33)
- 5:15 p.m. Short Film Program: MARISTELA (p.22)
- 6:00 p.m. Crypto Shadows (p.11)
- 7:15 p.m. Faceless After Dark (p.11)
- 8:00 p.m. Short Film Program: REALTA (p.23)
- 9:15 p.m. Black Friday (p.8)
- 11:05 p.m. Creep Box (p.10)

(continued on page 5)



Follow us on social media!
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www.instagram.com/bostonscifi



In-person Festival Schedule

Saturday, February 17 *(continued from page 4)*

- 12:00 p.m. Panel: Discovering Allies (The Burren, p.33)
- 1:00 p.m. Short Film Program: ITRI (p.24)
- 2:00 p.m. Panel: Return of the Fabricators (The Burren, p.34)
- 3:00 p.m. The Secret of Pin-Up Island (p.17)
- 4:00 p.m. Panel: SciFrightful-The New Horror (Comicazi, p.34)
- 5:15 p.m. Claustro (p.9)
- 6:00 p.m. Short Film Program: HOKU (p.25)
- 7:30 p.m. Ozma (p.16)
- 8:00 p.m. Foil (p.12)
- 9:15 p.m. Villians, Inc. (p.18)
- 10:00 p.m. SF49 After Party (American Flatbread, Filmmakers and Passholders only)



Stick around! Many of the shorts and feature film presentations will be followed by Q&As with the filmmakers.

Sunday, February 18*

- 10:30 a.m. Doors Open & Marathon Pre-show (p.43)
- 12:00 p.m. 24-hour Marathon (p.39)
- 1:15 p.m. Molli and Max in the Future (p.15)
- 3:00 p.m. Where Is Anne Frank? (p.19)
- 9:00 p.m. Boston SciFi "Best Film" Winner (p.19)

* Screening time for the Sutara short film program TBA. See page 26.



Ask questions. Get answers. Have fun.

Monday, February 19

12:00 p.m. 24-hour Marathon concludes

[Boston SciFi's Virtual Festival](#)
 Tuesday, February 20 - Sunday, February 25
 See page 35 for details.

Filmmakers!

Boston Sci-Fi can help market your films across the Universe! We are partnering with Vuulr—a B2B digital film and tv marketplace that showcases content instantly to a trusted global community of buyers, reaching new audiences and new markets all day, every day. Buyers can go from content discovery to deal in days, instead of months. Negotiations and transactions are done entirely online, creating time- and cost-savings for buyers and sellers alike. Join Boston SciFi's individual "screening room" with a trailer and description of your film, then network and market with a vast array of content in the same genre. No long searches, no being buried in an avalanche of unnecessary content, no initial fees of any kind! Contact info@jaymichaelsarts.com to learn how Boston SciFi can help you get your work out there!

Opening Night Party

Join us Valentine's Day 2024 for the Cyberpunk Sweetheart's Ball, hosted by DJ Sir Richard. This event will be an unforgettable kick-off to Boston Scifi's 49th film festival. Immerse yourself in blacklights, challenge your skills at the video arcade, and jam all night on the dance floor with the Technomancer. Celebrate Valentine's Day at the Crystal Ballroom with a fusion of cyberpunk rebellion and futuristic fun.

The cybernetic event
of the year!

Crystal Ballroom • Somerville Theatre
Wednesday, February 14 • 7:30 p.m.

Feature Films Schedule

Films are listed chronologically below and alphabetically on pages 8-19.

Somerville Theatre

- M • Wed. Feb. 14 at 3:00 p.m. • p.15
 Coherence • Wed. Feb. 14 at 5:00 p.m. • p.10
 Shatter Belt • Wed. Feb. 14 at 7:15 p.m. • p.17
 Palimpsest • Thur. Feb. 15 at 4:45 p.m. • p.16
 Life After The Navigator • Thur. Feb. 15 at 7:15 p.m. • p.14
 Life After The
 NeverEnding Story • Thur. Feb. 15 at 9:15 p.m. • p.14
 Crypto Shadows • Fri. Feb. 16 at 6:00 p.m. • p.11
 Faceless After Dark • Fri. Feb. 16 at 7:15 p.m. • p.11
 Black Friday • Fri. Feb. 16 at 9:15 p.m. • p.8
 Creep Box • Fri. Feb. 16 at 11:00 p.m. • p.10
 The Secret of Pinup Island • Sat. Feb. 17 at 3:00 p.m. • p.17
 Claustro • Sat. Feb. 17 at 5:15 p.m. • p.9
 Ozma • Sat. Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. • p.16
 Foil • Sat. Feb. 17 at 8:00 p.m. • p.12
 Villians Inc. • Sat. Feb. 17 at 9:15 p.m. • p.18
 Molli and Max in the Future • Sun. Feb. 18 at 1:15 p.m. • p.15
 Where Is Anne Frank? • Sun. Feb. 18 at 3:00 p.m. • p.19



Shatter Belt



Life After The NeverEnding Story

Filmocracy.com

- Claustro • Tue. Feb. 20 at 5:00 p.m. • p.9
 In Search of Darkness • Wed. Feb. 21 at 5:00 p.m. • p.13
 In Search of Tomorrow • Wed. Feb. 21 at 5:00 p.m. • p.13
 A UFO Intruder • Thur. Feb. 22 at 5:00 p.m. • p.18
 Call of the Unseen • Thur. Feb. 22 at 5:00 p.m. • p.9
 Haunted Ulster Live • Fri. Feb. 23 at 5:00 p.m. • p.12
 The Bostrum Scenario • Sat. Feb. 24 at 12:00 p.m. • p.8



The Bostrum Scenario

It Came from the Public Domain • Filmocracy.com

See page 37 for unique Virtual Festival mini-marathon films streaming on Filmocracy.com.

24-hour Marathon • Somerville Theatre

See pages 39-43 for this year's exciting SF49 line-up.

Feature Films

Films are listed alphabetically on pages 8-19. See page 7 for full Feature Films Schedule.



Black Friday

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
Friday, February 16 at 9:15 p.m.

United States • 2021 • 1h 24m

Director: Casey Tebo

Cast: Devon Sawa, Ivana Baquero, Ryan Lee, Stephen Peck,
Michael Jai White, Bruce Campbell

On Thanksgiving night, a group of disgruntled toy store employees begrudgingly arrive for work to open the store at midnight for the busiest shopping day of the year. This year's hordes at the door... are a bit off. Q&A after the film with director Casey Tebo and legendary make-up artist Robert Kurtzman.



The Bostrom Scenario

Streaming on Filmocracy.com
Saturday, February 24 at 12:00 p.m.

New Zealand • 2024 • 1h 53m

Director: Ricky Townsend

Cast: Isayah Snow, Felix Elliott, Kat Forrester, Roanna Dalziel,
Kathleen Burns, Roy Snow

V49

Premiere.

Alice Wonder, a young girl from New Zealand, is haunted by visions of her brother's death, murdered by the impossible flash of a camera. But everyone swears her brother never existed. Searching for answers, Alice encounters imposing forces and discovers that her brother's story is one that will break down reality itself.

(continued on page 9)

Feature Films



Call of the Unseen

Streaming on Filmocracy.com
 Thursday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m.



Sweden • 2022 • 1h 40m
 Director: Henrik Pilerud
 Cast: Nathalie Merchant, Alan Adler, Marika Lagercrantz

A young art student facing a crisis of self confidence goes searching for her missing mentor and uncovers new realms, unusual creatures, and unforeseen dangers in this inventive and visually dazzling tale.



Claustro

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
 Saturday, February 17 at 5:15 p.m.

• V49 •
 Also streaming on
 Filmocracy.com
 Tuesday, February 20

Kazakhstan • 2023 • 1h 38m
 Director: Olzhas Bayalbayev
 Cast: Elizaveta Yuryeva, Roman Zhukov
 Virtual Festival Q&A with director Olzhev Bayalbayev.

US Premiere.

Acquaintances, Kema and Max, find themselves stuck in an apartment, unable to escape, unable to contact anyone on the outside. Solving a series of confusing, frightening mysteries may save them. But the price comes with a cruel choice—murder or love.

(continued on page 10)

Feature Films



Coherence

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
 Wednesday, February 14 at 5:00 p.m.

United States • 2013 • 1h 29m

Director: James Ward Byrkit

Cast: Emily Baldoni, Maury Sterling, Nicholas Brendon, Lorene Scafaria, Elizabeth Gracen, Hugo Armstrong, Alex Manugian, Lauren Maher

10th Anniversary Screening!

When eight friends gather for dinner, a comet passes through the night sky in what seems to be an astronomical anomaly. Soon, strange things—increasingly complicated, confusing, dangerous things—begin to happen in this provocative, twisty tale of converging realities. Converging within the production itself, to keep the mind-bending story on tract, *Coherence* director James Ward Byrkit’s co-writer, Alex Manugian, plays the character Amir.



Creep Box

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
 Friday, February 16 at 11:00 p.m.

United States • 2023 • 1h 35m

Director: Patrick Biesemans

Cast: Geoffrey Cantor, Guillermo Contreras, Dan Cordle

Premiere.

A corporate scientist develops technology allowing the living to communicate with the dead in this well-made, fascinating story.

(continued on page 11)

Feature Films



Crypto Shadows
 Screening at the Somerville Theatre
 Friday, February 16 at 6:00 p.m.
 United States • 2024 • 1h 21m
 Director: James Fox
 Cast: Mikayla Iverson

Premiere.

“The film gets wild and is worth the journey.” ~Film Threat
 A game developer’s recovery is interrupted when she uncovers a mysterious message embedded in a cryptocurrency algorithm, launching a quest for answers that soon turns into a fight for her life.



Faceless After Dark
 Screening at the Somerville Theatre
 Friday, February 16 at 7:15 p.m.
 United States • 2023 • 1h 26m
 Director: Raymond Wood
 Cast: Jenna Kanell, Danny Kang

“Smartly subverts the gendered norms of Hollywood horror.” ~ Projected Figures
 Following her breakout success in a killer clown horror flick, Bowie finds herself held hostage by an unhinged fan determined to recreate the film’s fatal plot. Q&A after the film with director Raymond Wood.

(continued on page 12)

Feature Films



Foil

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
Saturday, February 17 at 8:00 p.m.

United States • 2023 • 1h 40m

Director: Zach Green

Cast: Zach Green, Devin O'Rourke, Chris Doubek, Ashley Rae Spillers, Jasmine Wattar, Ari Stidham

East Coast Premiere.

This sci-fi buddy comedy is a love letter to all the movies we grew up watching in theaters as kids. An unusual piece of foil of potential alien origin causes a rift between two former best friends camping in the California desert.



Haunted Ulster Live

Streaming on Filmocracy.com
Friday, February 23 at 5:00 p.m.

Ireland • 2023 • 1h 18m

Director: Dominic O'Neill

Cast: Mark Claney, Andrew Dickson, Dave Fleming

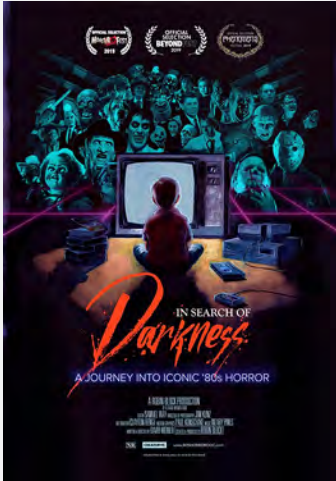
Q&A with director Dominic O'Neill.

V49

In Northern Ireland circa 1998, a local TV crew at a haunted house for a live broadcast on Halloween sees everything go to hell when its hired medium dredges up a nasty ancient spirit. The area's horrors aren't confined to the house. Taking initial inspiration from a notorious, 30 year-old BBC horror program, *Haunted Ulster Live* goes in its own direction, spinning an original found footage tale with a thick vein of humor and a distinctly Irish perspective.

(continued on page 13)

Feature Films



In Search of Darkness

Streaming on Filmocracy.com
 Wednesday, February 21 at 5:00 p.m.

V49

United States • 2023 • 4h 24m

Director: David A. Weiner

Cast: John Carpenter, Joe Dante, Stuart Gordon

Documentary.

Immerse yourself in a golden age of genre filmmaking with David Weiner's extensive exploration of 1980s horror. Covering favorites such as *The Thing*, *Poltergeist*, *Q*, *Scanners*, *Gremlins*, and many more, this documentary features appearances by such horror luminaries as John Carpenter, Joe Dante, Stuart Gordon, John Bloom, Larry Cohen, Jeffrey Combs, Barbara Crampton, Heather Langenkamp and dozens more.



In Search of Tomorrow

Streaming on Filmocracy.com
 Wednesday, February 21 at 5:00 p.m.

V49

United States • 2022 • 5h 5m

Director: David A. Weiner

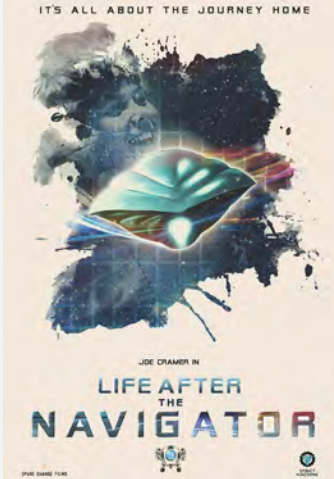
Cast: Joe Dante, Ivan Reitman, Billy Dee Williams, Nancy Allen

Documentary.

A follow-up to his epic horror doc *In Search of Darkness*, David Weiner's *In Search of Tomorrow* tackles the incredible range of sci-fi movies made in the '80s, what they say about the era, and why so many still resonate today. Enjoy loads of clips, along with interviews with film experts and some of the most popular directors and actors of the era, including Joe Dante, Ivan Reitman, Billy Dee Williams, and Nancy Allen.

(continued on page 14)

Feature Films



Life After The Navigator

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
Thursday, February 15 at 7:15 p.m.

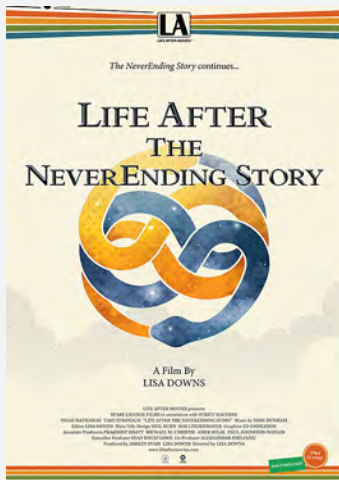
United Kingdom • 2020 • 1h 31m

Director: Lisa Downs

Cast: Joey Cramer, Veronica Cartwright, Cliff De Young

U.S. Theatrical Premiere. Documentary.

Life After The Navigator, from acclaimed documentary filmmaker Lisa Downs, celebrates the classic sci-fi adventure-comedy *Flight of the Navigator* (1986) and looks at the life of its child star Joey Cramer, who starred as David Freeman in the lead role. Q&A with Lisa Downs after the film.



Life After The NeverEnding Story

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
Thursday, February 15 at 9:15 p.m.

United Kingdom • 2024 • 1h 32m

Director: Lisa Downs

Cast: Tami Stronach, Alan Oppenheimer, Deep Roy

Premiere. Documentary.

Filmmaker Lisa Downs' award-winning feature documentary celebrates Wolfgang Petersen's 1984 classic *The NeverEnding Story* with cast-and-crew interviews and explores the lives of the *The NeverEnding Story*' breakout stars Noah Hathaway and Tami Stronach. Q&A with Lisa Downs after the film.

(continued on page 15)

Feature Films



M

**Screening at the Somerville Theatre
Wednesday, February 14 at 3:00 p.m.**

Macedonia • 2023 • 1h 39m

Director: Vardan Tozija

Cast: Sasko Kocev, Toni Mihajlovski, Kamka Tocinovski

US Premiere.

Ravaged by pandemic, the world outside 8 year-old Marko's forest home is a desolate and dangerous place and the only person Marko knows is his paranoid, protective father. Searching for answers in his cherished picture book, things change when he discovers an innocent, gentle boy with Down Syndrome named Miko living on the edge of the forest. Seeking more, yearning to learn what a "mother" is, the boys embark on a perilous journey.



Molli and Max in the Future

**Screening at the Somerville Theatre
Sunday, February 18 at 1:15 p.m.**

United States • 2023 • 1h 33m

Director: Michael Lukk Litwak

Cast: Zosia Mamet, Aristotle Athari, Erin Darke, Okieriete Onaodowan

Comedy. Romance. Science fiction. That makes for a terrific recipe in this sci-fi romp about a man and woman whose orbits repeatedly collide over the course of 12 years, 4 planets, 3 dimensions, and one space-cult. Featuring Zosia Mamet (*Girls*) and former *Saturday Night Live* cast member Aristotle Athari.

(continued on page 16)

Feature Films



Ozma

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
Saturday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m.

United Kingdom • 2023 • 1h 21m

Director: Keith John Adams

Cast: Éva Magyar, Ferdy Roberts, Alice Margaroli, Victoria Moseley

US Premiere.

An insomniac, haunted by the loss of his wife, discovers a mystical, telepathic, jellyfish-like creature in the alley by his house. He reluctantly helps the strange being as it tries to escape the hostile forces on its trail. Intertwining themes of loss, memory, and meaning, *Ozma* experiments with live musical commentary and atmospheric nods to silent film, film noir, and 1950s sci-fi.



Palimpsest

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
Thursday, February 15 at 4:45 p.m.

Finland • 20223 • 1h 49m

Director: Hanna Marjo Västinsalo

Cast: Krista Kosonen, Leo Sjöman, Nikita Makkoje, Riitta Havukainen

"An interesting and well-realised fictional world." ~ Keir O'Shea

Chosen for a gene therapy trial, two elderly participants slowly start to de-age. But they react very differently to the change. Producer Cyril Abraham will be in attendance.

(continued on page 17)

Feature Films



The Secret of Pin-Up Island

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
Saturday, February 17 at 3:00 p.m.

Romania • 2024 • 1h 47m

Director: Alecs Nastoiu

Cast: Rina Gri, Ivy Chumley, Lora Djurovic

US Premiere.

Alesia is lonely and alone. With all her family gone, she finds herself a weird, abandoned factory, chosen by the secret "Pin-Up Organization" to save the human race from a lethal virus. As her journey progresses, she gathers a crew, finds an encrypted key, and solves an ever-growing number of riddles. A likable and odd sci-fi parable.



Shatter Belt

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
Wednesday, February 14 at 7:15 p.m.

United States • 2023 • 2h 3m

Director: James Ward Byrkit

Cast: Julie Zhan, Dale E. Turner, Feyisola Soetan, Richard Follin,
Joan Almedilla, Bobby Foley, Madison West, Patton Oswalt, Emily Baldoni

US Premiere. From the director of *Coherence*.

"This episodic creation allows audiences to have their minds blown, shaking their heads and reintroducing watercooler discussion after each story. ~ reelnewsdaily

Shatter Belt follows the mysteries surrounding awareness, intention, desire, free will, and the uncanny nature of consciousness. Q&A after the film with director James Ward Byrkit.

(continued on page 18)

Feature Films



A UFO Intruder

Streaming on Filmocracy.com
Thursday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m.

Japan • 2023 • 1h 17m

Director: Minoru Kawasaki

Cast: We don't know. Let's watch the movie to find out.

V49

What do crabs and giant spatulas have to do with the fight against alien invasion? Join director Minoru Kawasaki on this fabulously silly ride to find out! Taki, a man who's lost his wife and child to alien abduction, joins the UFO Research Laboratory (aka the URL) to confront the creatures who've taken everything from him—and maybe just save Japan in the process!



Villains Inc.

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
Saturday, February 17 at 9:15 p.m.

United States • 2023 • 1h 42m

Director: Jeremy Warner

Cast: Mallory Everton, Colin Mochrie, Jason Gray

After the death of their villainous boss, low-level henchpeople Beatrix, Cain, and Harold are left destitute and living in an abandoned grocery store. Not content with the situation in which they find themselves, Beatrix is determined to have the trio to strike out on their own—and take over the world.

(continued on page 19)

Feature Films



Where Is Anne Frank?

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
 Sunday, February 18 at 3:00 p.m.

Israel, Belgium • 2021 • 1h 39m
 Director: Ari Folman
 Cast: Emily Carey,

Animation.

Anne Frank’s imaginary friend Kitty—to whom Anne dedicated the diary she wrote while hiding during World War II—comes to life in Anne Frank’s house in a near-future Amsterdam. Seeking the diarist in the modern world, Kitty learns that Anne’s legacy lives on inspiring modern social justice—and how, in other ways, it’s been forgotten. An animated gem by 2009 Golden Globe/Directors Guild/Writers Guild winner Ari Folman (*Waltz With Bashir*).



**Special Presentation
 Boston SciFi “Best Film” Winner**

Screening at the Somerville Theatre
 Sunday, February 18 at 9:00 p.m.

SF49 “Best Film” winner
 will be announced live at the Festival.



2023 Awards

Boston SciFi Wins!

- Best Program for the 24-hour Marathon
- Best Events for Festival Parties
- Best Festival Director: Garen Daly
- Best Independent Theater: Somerville Theatre



Short Film Programs



CSILLA

Screening at
the Somerville Theatre
Thursday, February 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Approx. 88 min.



Flashback Photo: SF48 Festival

Alienation • United States • 17m • Director: Aaron Zier

A lifelong alien enthusiast travels with his son to a guaranteed “close encounter,” but it’s Thanksgiving and his wife wants him to come home.

The Recursion Theorem • United States • 25m • Director: Ben Sledge

Imprisoned in an unfamiliar reality with strange new rules, Dan Everett struggles to find meaning and reason in this sci-fi noir short. Inspired by *The Twilight Zone*, *The Shining*, Greek mythology and the arcade game *Asteroids*.

Meditations • Canada • 10m • Director: Adolfo Ruiz

Animation. A new form of technology in our dystopian future allows a woman to engage in a therapy session with her departed father. Illustrations were hand-rendered using mixed media and digitally enhanced.

Reborn • Canada • 10m • Director: Matthew Rouleau

Having spent his entire life within the confines of a spacecraft, an old man reflects on his past.

Infection - Ground Zero • United Kingdom • 10m • Director: Martin Neely

Two agents are sent back in time to stop an outbreak that has devastated their world.

Mars Hill Bait & Ammo • United States • 16m • Director: Alfred Thomas Catalfo

An arrogant insurance company CEO travels to rural Maine to investigate a hunter’s outrageous claim that aliens destroyed his barn.

Listed running times are approximate.
Q&A will follow the screening.



(continued on page 21)

Short Film Programs



SIDRA

Screening at
the Somerville Theatre
Thursday, February 15 at 8:00 p.m.

Approx. 94 min.



Flashback Photo: SF44 Festival

Migrate • United States • 5m • Director: Nick Snow

An android seeks out an underground laboratory where emotions are extracted from humans and sold as “files” on the black market.

We Believe You • Country of Origin Not Specified • 19m • Director: Matt Sylvester

Love. Loss. Keith. After suffering a great loss, Owen’s grieving is interrupted by an encounter with a time traveler.

A Sky-Weave Dallion • United States • 6m • Director: Bob White

A Priest of a Cogwheel God brings Fire to a Hive of Insect Zombie Women.

Pleroma • Canada • 6m • Director: Chris Browne

A corporation run by machines turns on its human servants. The people’s only hope is a discarded prototype built by an amateur.

Source Code • United States • 17m • Director: Mark Kiefer

Soldiers in a future war grapple with the role of AI in making life or death decisions.

Out Of The Grey • United Kingdom • 16m • Director: Marta Baidek

Out Of The Grey tells the story of Laura, a pregnant environmental refugee who is forced to leave her “haven” to find medical support and safety for her unborn baby.

Beacon • United States • 12m • Director: Kelly Kim Anh Nugent

An android explores an abandoned space station. Remnants of the past reveal the horrifying truth of its demise.

The Stewards • United States • 15m • Director: Hannah Eaton

A “virtual reality conservationist” begins to have a strangely familiar recurring dream that leads her to question her isolated community and way of life.

Listed running times are approximate.
Q&A will follow the screening.

(continued on page 22)

Short Film Programs



MARISTELA

Screening at
the Somerville Theatre
Friday, February 16 at 5:15 p.m.

Approx. 80 min.



Flashback Photo: SF48 Festival

Ensouled • United Kingdom • 15m • Director: Moe Najati

Deep within the enigmatic Eternia facility, Clara carries a heavy burden of concealed grief. But within these mysterious walls, her life is about to transform in ways she never imagined.

One Small Step • Spain • 4m • Director: Jorge Moratal, Nacho Garvía

Space exploration is a big leap into the unknown.

The Reclaimers • United States • 20m • Director: Jason Sheedy

A determined young woman and her canine companion battle together to avenge the death of her grandparent.

Press 1 • United States • 17m • Director: Danny Erb

Two devoted lovers try desperately to connect by phone.

Rest • United States • 10m • Director: Joan Cassin

In a small church basement, a support group gathers to ponder their new reality after receiving a groundbreaking vaccine.

Listed running times are approximate.
Q&A will follow the screening.



Podcasts
Interviews



www.youtube.com/bostonscifi

Film Reviews
Trailer Reels

(continued on page 23)

Short Film Programs



REALTA

Screening at
the Somerville Theatre
Friday, February 16 at 8:00 p.m.

Approx. 87 min.



Flashback Photo: SF45 Festival

Mother of Martian • United States • 15m • Director: Will Dorney

The first human to walk on Mars returns to Earth with a secret that will shock the world.

Hot Local Singles Are In Your Area • Canada • 9m • Director: Peter Sreckovic

In the course of her research on Brain Computer Interface, Alex becomes infected with an aggressive computer virus.

Reformat • Canada • 16m • Director: Jesse Pickett

After the dead body of an AI student is found on school grounds, an investigation takes place into the last seven people who interacted with him.

Dandelion • United Kingdom • 12m • Director: Gillian Simpson

Death, resurrection, and a second chance at life in a mesmerizing field of wind turbines.

The Crowd • United Kingdom • 6m • Director: Liam Abbott

Dr. Lisa runs a series of questions to an advanced AI to uncover more about his apparent ability to dream.

ID EST • United States • 12m • Director: Shayda Frost

Trapped in an ambush, a metagalactic captain fends off mysterious beings seeking to leech the human experience from her.

Hold You So Tight • United States • 17m • Director: Eric Rudnick

A woman on the verge of a mental breakdown meets two men in a motel room who run a business that clients claim, "Frees you from the burdens of this world."

Listed running times are approximate.
Q&A will follow the screening.

(continued on page 24)

Short Film Programs



ITRI

Screening at
the Somerville Theatre
Saturday, February 17 at 1:00 p.m.

Approx. 93 min.



Flashback Photo: SF48 Festival

A Capsule for Robin • United States • 13m • Director: Lalithra Fernando

An optimistic host's dinner party goes awry when her husband reveals he doesn't want to have kids in the face of humanity's impending extinction.

Speedman • United States • 13m • Director: Joe Bowers

An old man plays God to save a world facing invasion.

Homecoming • United States • 11m • Director: Garrett Johnson, Ben Nicholson, Paranoid LA

On the anniversary of her son's abduction, a group of home-invaders deliver Rachel some unsettling news.

Lost in the Sky • Sweden • 13m • Director: Simon Öster

After a long search in a strange galaxy, a lone rescue robot locates a surviving astronaut, but the robot must reach her before she's consumed by a looming black hole.

Alienation • United States • 17m • Director: Aaron Zier

A lifelong alien enthusiast travels with his son to a guaranteed "close encounter," but it's Thanksgiving and his wife wants him to come home.

ANGEL PRIME: An Alpha Wars Story • United States • 12m • Director: Ruel Smith

The Coalition Captain and her two lieutenants are stuck behind enemy lines as Kilrathi drones hunt them down. The Captain is faced with a tough decision: end the life of an unstable soldier on the brink of alerting the enemy, or talk him down and get everyone to safety.

Departure • United States • 8m • Director: Sam Siske

A young woman races to save her partner in a daring attempt to get him off world.

Listed running times are approximate.
Q&A will follow the screening.

(continued on page 25)

Short Film Programs



HOKU

Screening at
the Somerville Theatre
Saturday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Approx. 88 min.



Flashback Photo: SF44 Festival

Jump • United States • 45m • Director: Ryan Serrano

A quantum physicist competes for the chance to reunite with his long-lost father...across time.

Space Case Cadets • United States • 4m • Director: Rylee Arenson

Two young space cadets yearn to pilot a spaceship. But their curiosity gets the better of them

Subject 7 • Canada • 9m • Director: Aaron Hall

In 1983, an MK-Ultra test subject works to prove his psychic abilities in a CIA facility deep underground. However, the dire possibility exists that he could still be a brainwashed spy.

Buffering... Please Wait • Canada • 13m • Director: Samantha Cheryl Lai

In search of a lost identity, a nameless woman confronts the memory device embedded inside her brain.

Ali's Realm • United States • 17m • Director: Mario Torres Jr.

Everyone thinks 15 year-old Ali has an imaginary friend because she's been traumatized by the death of her best friend. What they don't understand is that Ali's friend is real.

Listed running times are approximate.
Q&A will follow the screening.



Check out our
Boston SciFi Store.
T-shirts, buttons, mugs and more!

Visit us in the theatre lobby or online at
www.bostonscifi.com/store



(continued on page 26)

Short Film Programs



SUTARA

Screening at
the Somerville Theatre
Sunday, February 18 Time TBA

Approx. 80 min.



Flashback Photo: SF44 Festival

Nowhere Stream • United States • 7m • Director: Luis Grane

A nowhere man swimming with the Nowhere Stream seeks meaning in the virtual world and fails. When he gets a second chance, he finds that the answer was closer than initially expected.

Everything Dies Out Here • United States • 10m • Director: Cian and Sean Mallers

In a barren, oil-soaked wasteland after global catastrophe, a man clings to the last flower on Earth. As danger mounts from unforeseen forces, his connection to the flower proves a window to the past.

Record. Play. Stop. • India • 10m • Director: Neeraj Bhattacharjee

Lost among infinite fields of sounds, we follow a probe collecting music in a quest to find its place among the stars, unaware that its destiny hides in the shadows of the horizon.

Bisected • United States • 8m • Director: Danny Pineros

A couple witnesses a paranormal event that separates them into two distinct dimensions.

Dark Cell • France • 25m • Director: Jean-Michel Tari

Two convicts in an orbital prison are doing what they usually do, which is to say, not much. Suddenly, two panicked guards armed to the teeth burst into their cell. The guards tell them that the orbital prison has just been invaded by blood-thirsty zombie-type creatures. If they want to survive, their only solution is to eject their cell and return to Earth. But when the ejection order is entered into the computer, the computer refuses it. The cell, designed for two occupants only, now holds four people. There can only be two lucky winners... and there's not much time to pick them.

From Here to There! • United Kingdom • 30m • Director: George Atkinson, Alan Ciechalski

A sci-fi romantic comedy about a young man named Casper who builds a teleportation device based on the concepts of "Port and Starboard" that can take him anywhere in the world. He attempts to use his creation to garner the affections of his crush—Ellen—but she's just not that into him. In their small adventure, things go wrong, the teleporter malfunctions, and they eventually travel to Edinburgh where Casper learns what love is about and the importance of valuing himself and his creation!

Listed running times are approximate.
Q&A will follow the screening.

(continued on page 27)

Short Film Programs



REEVA

Screening on Filmocracy.com
Tuesday, February 20 at 5:00 p.m.

Approx. 94 min.



Flashback Photo: SF48 Festival

Entrainment • United States • 10m • Director: Bill Prokopow

Trapped in a fractured quantum realm, a broken nightclub owner fights to regain his memory in order to save himself—and the love of his life.

Sentence • Republic of Korea • 10m • Director: Seungmin Cho

Working in the creative realm, AI writer Athena attacks a group of tenacious human writers with her flawlessly beautiful sentences.

Suck • Japan • 17m • Director: Takuya Miyahara

A group of friends at a lakeside cottage develop an insatiable, inexplicable thirst.

Floater • United States • 14m • Director: D.M. Harring

After his abusive father's death, a troubled man builds a mausoleum to the relationship they never had... in his parents' bathroom.

Overclocked: Origins • United States • 20m • Director: Nathan Ellis

After her father is brutally murdered by nomadic outlaws, an ex-military special operative decides to take matters into her own hands and enlists the help of an unsuspecting young cargo pilot along the way.

The String Above The Stars • United States • 3m • Director: Michael Dorfman, Maxwell Dorfman, Emmett Dorfman

Two astronauts in deep space ignore mission protocol outside the International Space Station.

Universe 25 • United States • 20m • Director: David Tappan

Abducted by a mysterious entity, Mel is a woman who's life has been stolen from her. Imprisoned in "The Room," she is forced to participate in a bizarre psychological experiment. Mel faces a lifetime where two things are guaranteed: the loss of anyone she cares about and the unsettling certainty of their replacement, perhaps by someone worse. Enter Antonio, a new arrival who offers a glimmer of hope in this bleak environment. Can they defy the insidious grasp of "The Room" or will they, too, succumb to its nightmarish grip?

Listed running times are approximate.

(continued on page 28)

Short Film Programs



TARAK

Screening on Filmocracy.com
Wednesday, February 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Approx. 84 min.



Flashback Photo: SF44 Festival

The Dark Odyssey 2 - Ice Nexus • United States • 11m • Director: Michael Lavin

A skeptical astronaut discovers a lost spaceship and gets tangled up in a dangerous journey to a mythical space-time portal, the Ice Nexus, in search of the Inventory of the Mind, essential knowledge for ending the Eternal War.

New Moon (Eps 1, 3, 6, 9) • United States • 11m • Director: Ken Forman

Alan Twombly wins a trip to the moon. But when the companies that send him go bankrupt, he's stuck there.

My Protector (My Beskermer) • South Africa • 17m • Director: Diana Mills Smith

In a land where machines hunt Earth's last survivors, the stubborn child of a vulnerable family is forced to prove herself as a protector.

Contact Man • United States • 6m • Director: King Bach

A superhero or a weapon? His purpose is unknown.

They Come from the Sky • United States • 7m • Director: André Cherkassky Pilli

When two sisters are hunted by mysterious creatures, they find themselves in a race against time.

Rite • United States • 8m • Director: Forest Rain

Spearheading the search for sentient life on other worlds is the job of Odyssey 1, solo space pilot and explorer. His boots-on-the-ground mission takes him to a barren land inhabited by the ruins of an ancient civilization. As the night approaches, melodic tones illuminate the dunes, welcoming him with visions of a mysterious feminine presence.

A Robot's Dream • Australia • 14m • Director: Morteza Halimi

Two robots, equipped with Artificial Intelligence, roam the post apocalyptic world looking for humans to give them their purposes.

TRIGGER.CHARLIE.ONE • United Kingdom • 10m • Director: Dan Clifton

Facing of her doubts, a naval commander must follow orders and press the launch button triggering the Earth's final nuclear apocalypse.

Listed running times are approximate.

(continued on page 29)

Short Film Programs



SEREN • SciFrightful

Screening on Filmocracy.com
Thursday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m.
Approx. 70 min.



Flashback Photo: SF43 Festival

Awake • United States • 17m • Director: Francesco Paolo Cordaro, Andrea Cordaro
Something's not quite right on John and Betty's farm in New York's Wallkill River Valley.

Paragon • United States • 12m • Director: Colin Treneff
One quiet night in the summer of 1984, an MIT student discovers an unfathomable horror after accidentally inventing a computer program that can predict the future.

Vemana • United States • 15m • Director: Michael Joseph
When Emily and her boyfriend flee to Upstate NY to get away from her abusive father, they come across a bigger problem as they are captured by the son of an Aztec cult.

Dog • Japan • 21m • Director: Natsuki Nakagawa
An unsettled marriage is put to the test when a homeless girl enters the picture.

Get Away • United States • 15m • Director: Michael Gabriele
A mysterious movie on a VHS tape haunts three friends at a remote vacation rental in the desert.

Listed running times are approximate.

Can't attend the SF49 in person? Attend our V49 Virtual Festival, follow Boston SciFi on social media, subscribe to our newsletter, and watch our podcasts on YouTube.



(continued on page 30)

Short Film Programs



VEGA

Screening on Filmocracy.com
Saturday, February 24 at 12:00 p.m.

Approx. 70 min.



Flashback Photo: SF45 Festival

Crosstunnels • Serbia • 1m • Director: Ivan Miodrag Cvetkovic
Religion in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.

Starship • Australia • 7m • Director: Christian Debney
An astronaut fulfills her father's dreams.

Heir of the Galaxy • Germany • 27m • Director: Daniel Holzberg
A former child star from a popular sci-fi blockbuster tries to redefine himself twenty years later. But paparazzi, hate comments, and his controlling mother won't let him forget a childhood in the spotlight.

MÅNGATA • Germany • 16m • Director: Maja Costa
Little Alya and her father are crossing the Mediterranean Sea on a boat that takes them from Africa to Europe in search of a safe place to call home. Tragically, the boat sinks. Thanks to Mångata—"the road to the moon"—the rescuers spot little Alya, the sole survivor. Many years later, we find her again as an astronaut on an important lunar mission. In the middle of the mission, a technical communication problem isolates Alya from the base. This is when she has an encounter that teaches her how Mångata, which already saved her life once, will now help her overcome her past trauma.

Space Trip • United States • 3m • Director: Greg Sunmark
A two-part comedic short that opens with its own behind-the-scenes trailer, *Space Trip* is ultimately as much about post-COVID agoraphobia as it is about a confused pilot who winds up in uncharted space after a hit of time-traveling marijuana.

Recollector • Australia • 16m • Director: Nabil Chowdhary
A futuristic detective—a "Recollector"—attempts to solve a murder case by infiltrating the victim's last moments of life, while dealing with the mental anguish and torment his profession brings.

Listed running times are approximate.

(continued on page 31)

Short Film Programs

For All The Miraculous Starstuff Within Us

This year, our blocks of short film programs were named for the billions and billions of brilliant points of light that bring wonder and mystery to the skies. Each of the words below means “star” or a star-inspired phrase in Hawaiian, Arabic, Welsh, Gaelic, and other beautiful languages.

May our paths meet again and may the stars go with you.

CSILLA — Hungarian origin (the “sc” takes on the “ch” sound).

SIDRA — Arabic origin.

MARISTELA — Translates to “star of the sea” in Spanish.

REALTA — Gaelic origin.

ITRI — From the Tamazight language, indigenous to North Africa and spoken throughout Morocco.

HOKU — Hawaiian origin. Can refer both to stars and to people who are shining stars in their communities.

SUTARA — Translates to “holy star” in Hindi.

REEVA — Translates to “one who guides people like a river or star” in Hindi.

TARAK — Translates to “star” and “protector” in Sanskrit.

SEREN — Welsh origin.

VEGA — Translates to “falling star” in Latin. Vega is one of the biggest and brightest stars in the night sky!

Starstuff by Suzanne Cromwell • Observatory by Muhammad Usman - vecteezy.com



Live Panel Discussions

Schedule, participants, and other details for all panels are subject to change.



Master Class with James Ward Byrkit

Live at The Burren

Friday, February 16 at 12:00 p.m. Approx. 90 min.

The Burren is located at 247 Elm Street, Davis Square Somerville, MA.

James Ward Byrkit was the conceptual consultant and storyboard artist on the first three films of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise. Byrkit's debut feature *Coherence* earned praise and garnered attention for Byrkit's unconventional approach—proof that inventive filmmakers can do a lot with a little. Since its release, *Coherence* has become an international sensation and regularly appears on ranking lists of best films. James' follow-up project, *Shatter Belt*, is an episodic series in the tradition of *Twilight Zone*. Production was completed in 2022, with the US Theatrical Premiere at SF49.

Moderator: Join us to see who we've tapped from the Boston SciFi Team and SF49 Filmmakers

Panelist:

James Byrkit

Director/Writer, *Coherence*, *Shatter Belt*



Master Class with Lisa Downs

Live at The Burren

Friday, February 16 at 2:00 p.m. Approx. 90 min.

The Burren is located at 247 Elm Street, Davis Square Somerville, MA.

Lisa Downs started her documentary career in Wagga Wagga, Australia when she made a the documentary short *Lost Children of Tibet*, on location in India, which won the Grand Jury Prize at the New York Video & Film Festival. After a few years in travel documentaries, Lisa found herself Skyping the man who saved everyone of us—Flash Gordon aka Sam J Jones—and the *Life After* series was born. Now, she produces, directs, and edits all of her films and showcases two of them at SF49.

Moderator: Join us to see who we've tapped from the Boston SciFi Team and SF49 Filmmakers

Panelist:

Lisa Downs

Director/Writer, *Life After Flash*,
Life After The Navigator, *Life After The NeverEnding Story*

(continued on page 33)

Live Panel Discussions

Schedule, participants, and other details for all panels are subject to change.



The Independent Budget

Live at Comicazi

Friday, February 16 at 4:00 p.m. Approx. 90 mi.

Comicazi is located at 407 Highland Avenue, Davis Square, Somerville, MA.

Budgets can be challenging under any circumstances. For filmmakers, finding the money to undertake a production can be quite challenging in the first place. Listen in as our successful professionals—director Keith John Adams and producer Cyril Abraham—share their insights, tips, and advice.

Moderator: Join us to see who we've tapped from the Boston SciFi Team and SF49 Filmmakers

Panelists:

Keith John Adams, Director/Writer, *Ozma*
Cyril Abraham, Producer, *Palimpsest*



Discovering Allies

Live at The Burren

Saturday, February 17 at 12:00 p.m. Approx. 90 min.

The Burren is located at 247 Elm Street, Davis Square, Somerville, MA.

A motion picture film set can be a competitive, cold place. It doesn't have to be. Join our panel as they discuss navigating professionalism and friendship with colleagues and contemporaries. Presented in association with Women in Film/Video New England.

Moderator: Miriam Olken
Filmmaker, Former Boston SciFi Filmmaker Liaison

Panelists:

Claudia Ramirez, Production Assistant, *Soft & Quiet*
Michelle Chung, Makeup Department, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
Name TBD, Women in Film New England
Lisa Downs and/or Giang Pham TBD

(continued on page 34)

Live Panel Discussions

Schedule, participants, and other details for all panels are subject to change.



Return of the Fabricators

Live at The Burren

Saturday, February 17 at 2:00 p.m. Approx. 90 min

The Burren is located at 247 Elm Street, Davis Square, Somerville, MA.

The hit panel of SF48 returns! Join us as our gathering of creative experts—the folks who create the “toys” and other amazing things you see in films such as *The Mandalorian* and *Avatar*—discuss their behind-the-scenes work and the ways in which they bring sci-fi visions to life on-screen.

Moderator: Join us to see who we’ve tapped from the Boston SciFi Team and SF49 Filmmakers

Panelists:

Greg Finnin, Propmaster, *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*, *Interstellar*, *Avatar: The Way of Water*
 Damon Weathers, Special Effects, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Avengers*, *Captain Marvel*
 Michelle Chung, Makeup Department, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*
 Giang Pham, Art Department, *Venom*, *Passengers*, *The Mandalorian*, *Star Trek: Picard*, *Jurassic World*



SciFrightful: The New Horror

Live at Comicazi

Saturday, February 16 at 4:00 p.m. Approx. 90 min.

Comicazi is located at 407 Highland Avenue, Davis Square, Somerville, MA.

You may have noticed. Maybe not. But it’s been creeping up on us for awhile—the horror genre—and it’s taken on some new twists. Join our panel of experts as we look at how horror, science fiction, and fantasy are morphing into something new and intriguing—provocative and frightfully entertaining in the best possible way.

Moderator: Join us to see who we’ve tapped from the Boston SciFi Team and SF49 Filmmakers

Raymond Wood, Director, *Faceless After Dark*
 Jenna Kanell, Actor, *Faceless After Dark*
 Casey Tebo, Director, *Black Friday*

Virtual Festival Schedule

Each day's lineup is available for 48 hours.
See page 4 for Boston SciFi's In-person Festival Schedule.

Schedule and programming subject to change.
For updates, please visit www.bostonscifi.com.

Opening Night

Tuesday, February 20 at 5:00 p.m.

Feature Film: *Claustro* (p.9)

Q&A: *Claustro* Director Olzhas Bayalbayev (p.36)

Short Film Program: REEVA (p.27)

Looking Back

Wednesday, February 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Feature Film: *In Search of Darkness* (p.13)

Feature Film: *In Search of Tomorrow* (p.13)

Short Film Program: TAREK (p.28)

Alternate Worlds

Thursday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m.

Feature Film: *A UFO Intruder* (p.18)

Afrofuturist Visions on Film (p.36)

Feature Film: *Call of Unseen* (p.9)

SciFrightful

Friday, February 23 at 5:00 p.m.

It's coming from inside the house!

Feature Film: *Haunted Ulster Live* (p.12)

QA: Director Dominic O'Neill on
Haunted Ulster Live (p.36)

Short Film Program: SEREN (p.29)

Saturday, February 24 at 12:00 p.m.

Feature Film: *The Bostrom Scenario* (p.8)

Short Film Program: VEGA (p.30)

The Art of Independent Filmmaking:

Mike Olenick and Colin West in Conversation (p.36)

It Came from the Public Domain

Sunday, February 25 at 12:00 p.m.

King Corman Double Feature

Bucket of Blood and *Wasp Woman* (p.37)

Myths, Animated Double Feature

Sita Sings the Blues

and *The Adventures of Prince Achmed* (p.36)

The Doctor Is Out to Lunch Double Feature

Embryo and *The Mind Snatchers* (p.36)



To attend Boston SciFi's V49 programs simply purchase your ticket for the program you wish to stream on Boston SciFi's ticket pages at Dig Box Office. Once you've completed your purchase, follow the instructions for accessing the film or program on Filmocracy.com. All programs will become available at the time indicated and will stream for 48 hours.

Watch all V49 content on
www.filmocracy.com.

Buy tickets at
www.digboxoffice.com

(continued on page 36)

Virtual Festival Programming

(See page 35 for full Virtual Festival schedule.)
Schedule and details of all programs are subject to change.

SF49 Interview Series

Streaming on YouTube "JMGlobal Channel i" www.youtube.com/@JMGC-Channeli

Meet the Filmmakers - Interview 1

Sof Puchley (ID EST), Joan Cassin (Rest),
Samantha Lai Dominic (Haunted Ulster Live),
Neeraj Bhattacharjee (Record. Play. Stop.),
Hanna Västinsalo (Palimpsest),
Michael Gabriele (Get Away),
Ruel Smith (ANGEL PRIME: An Alpha Wars Story),
Nathan Ellis (Overclocked: Origins),
Lalithra Fernando (A Capsule for Robin),
Kevin Gullberg (Lost in the Sky),
Will Dorney (Mother of Martian),
Adolfo Ruiz (Meditations)

Meet the Filmmakers - Interview 2:

Jesse Pickett (Reformat),
James Fox (Crypto Shadows),
Chris Browne (Pleroma), Ryan Serrano (Jump),
Eric Rudnick (Hold You So Tight),
Moe Najati (Ensouled),
Ricky Townsend (The Bostrom Scenario),
Kelly Nugent (Beacon),
Morteza Halimi (A Robot's Dream), Joe Bowers (Speedman),
Alecs Nastoiu (The Secret of Pin-Up Island),
Liam Abbott (The Crowd), Martin Neely (Infection-Ground Zero)

Meet the Filmmakers - Interview 3:

Bob White (A Sky-Weave Dallion),
Nabil Chowdhary (Recollector),
David Tappan (Universe 25),
Jorge Moratal (One Small Step),
Aaron Hall (Subject 7), Matthew Rouleau (Rouleau),
Jason Sheedy (The Reclaimers),
Gillian Simpson (Dandelion),
D.M. Harring (Floater), Mark Kiefer (Source Code),
Henrik Pilerud (Call of the Unseen),
Marjan Mona Koffa (Mind Over Fatter)

Meet the Filmmakers - Interview 4:

Keith John Adams (Ozma),
Dan Clifton (TRIGGER.CHARLIE.ONE),
Patrick Biesemans (Creep Box),
George Atkinson (From Here to There!),
Marta Baidek (Out Of The Grey),
Luis Grane (Nowhere Stream), Michael Joseph (Vemana),
Emma Buerklin (Everything Dies Out Here),
Jeremy Warner (Villians, Inc.),
Danny Erb (Press 1),
Tanner Beard, (Radio Telescope)
Jean-Michel Tari, (Dark Cell)
Christian Debney (Starship)

Q&A: Claustro Director Olzhas Bayalbayev

Streaming on Filmocracy.com • Tuesday, February 20 at 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy a conversation with the director of Haunted Ulster Live, who touches on the inspiration for the film and how the film reflects his experiences growing up.

Afrofuturist Visions on Film

Streaming on Filmocracy.com • Thursday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m.

Explore a dynamic mix of shorts that bring Black perspectives and identity to the fore, including works by Randall Dottin and Luisa Dantas, Johanna Makabi, and Xenia Matthews. Co-curated with programmers at the Roxbury International Film Festival.

QA: Director Dominic O'Neill on Haunted Ulster Live

Streaming on Filmocracy.com • Friday, February 23 at 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy a conversation with the director of Haunted Ulster Live, who touches on the inspiration for the film and how the film reflects his experiences growing up.

The Art of Independent Filmmaking: Mike Olenick and Colin West in Conversation

Streaming on Filmocracy.com • Saturday, February 24 at 12:00 p.m.

Mike Olenick is an award-winning creator of shorts including 2017's *The Cure* and an editor who's worked with directors including Guy Maddin and Jennifer Reeder. Colin West is a rising independent film star who screened his 2018 short *Here & Beyond* at Boston Sci Fi and whose most recent work is the acclaimed 2022 sci fi feature *Linoleum*. Old friends, the filmmakers discuss their separate projects and how their choice to go to art school instead of film school has informed their work. Approx. 70 minutes.

(continued on page 37)

Virtual Festival Programming

(continued from page 36)

Schedule and details of all programs are subject to change.

It Came from the Public Domain

Streaming on [Filmocracy.com](#)

Sunday, February 25 at 12:00 p.m.

King Corman Double Feature • 2h 20m

A Bucket of Blood • United States • 1959

The Wasp Women • United States • 1959

Two great pics made by venerable B-movie king and rising star incubator Roger Corman. A surprisingly sharp art world satire, *Bucket of Blood* features Dick Miller as a wannabe artist who'd kill to be in with the in crowd. Susan Cabot stars in *The Wasp Woman*, playing someone who soaks up a little too much murderous wasp juice in a desperate attempt to stay youthful. Trailers and shorts round out the program.

Myth, Animated Double Feature • 2h 50m

Sita Sings the Blues • United States • 2008

Adventures of Prince Achmed • Germany • 1926

Get lost in two beautiful animated fantasies. *Sita Sings the Blues* adapts part of an ancient Indian epic for a modern, feminist age, while *The Adventures of Prince Achmed*, the oldest animated feature in existence, spins a tale borrowed from *One Thousand and One Nights*, a kidnapping adventure in stunning silhouette animation. Trailers and shorts included!

The Doctor is Out to Lunch Double Feature • 3h 30m

Embryo • United States, Denmark • 1976

The Mind Snatchers • United States • 1972

It's a 1970s double feature of science run amok! In *Embryo*, Rock Hudson plays a grieving doctor inspired to fool with the creation of life after running over a Doberman. *The Mind Snatchers*, aka *The Happiness Cage*, features Christopher Walken in his first starring role as an Army private who finds himself caught up in an experimental mind control program. Enjoy some trailers and shorts with your features as well.

See page 35 for full Virtual Festival Schedule.

Short Film Programs Streaming on [Filmocracy.com](#)

- REEVA (p.27)
- TARAK (p.28)
- SEREN - SciFrightful (p.29)
- VEGA (p.30)



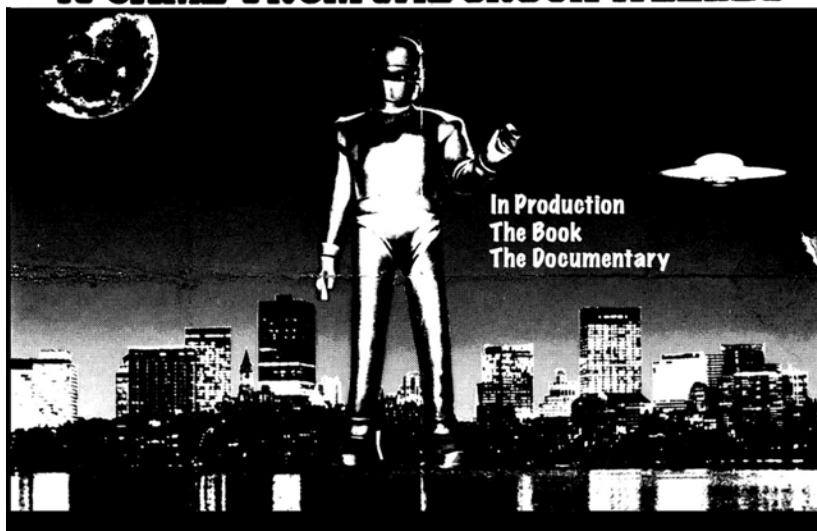
V49

Festival Feature Films Streaming on [Filmocracy.com](#)

- The Bostrum Scenario (p8)
- Call of the Unseen (p.9)
- Claustro (p.9)
- Haunted Ulster Live (p.12)
- In Search of Darkness (p.13)
- In Search of Tomorrow (p.13)
- A UFO Intruder (p.18)

Help us celebrate our 50th

“IT CAME FROM THE ORSON WELLES”



Your Marathon Experience

Did you meet your partner at the 24-hour Marathon? Are you part of a Marathon-attending group? Do you have a favorite memory? Favorite film? Game? Tradition? Midnight close encounter of the third kind?

Whether this is your first year attending the Boston Science Fiction Film Festival or your 50th time at the Marathon, we'd like to know why you attend and why you keep coming back.

We are seeking stories, photos, and ephemera. We can't guarantee that all submissions will be used in the book, but we'd love to hear from you. The deadline for book-related submissions is March 1, 2024.

If you can, please submit digital files. You can also mail material to the addresses below, or contact us to discuss other arrangements. To contribute brief anecdotes, favorite memories, photos, or ephemera, or if you have questions, please contact:

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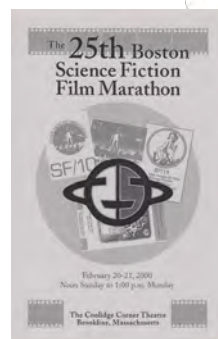
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To celebrate and honor next year's 50th Boston Science Fiction Film Festival—the longest-running genre film festival in the United States—as well as fifty glorious, unbroken years of our unique and much-loved 24-hour Marathon, the Boston SciFi team is in production on a documentary film and look-back and look-ahead commemorative book.

As our enthusiastic, talented crew develop and bring-to-life the documentary film, interested parties—filmmakers and Festival fans—are encouraged to contact Boston SciFi.

Published author Robert Viagas and Boston SciFi Production Team member Harry Lohr—both longtime 24-hour Marathon veterans—are at work on a comprehensive book, scheduled for publication in 2025.

Look through your stuff.
Share your memories.



The 24 Hour Marathon

At 49 years old, our 24-hour cornucopia of genre film festival in the United States—a beautiful, vintage movie theatre to watch a classic, to the occasional dash of beloved, Come early to the Somerville Theatre for 12 noon, as always, with a fireball, a robust cartoon *Duck Dodgers in the 24½th Century*. This year's lineup includes 12 features, a sci-fi TV pilot, games, and other fun—both planned and impromptu. See page 43 for the complete schedule.



motion picture science fiction is the oldest community once again coming together in a full day of cinema, from the current, to the bewildering B-movie fun.

the pre-show. Then, the 'Thon launches at cheer, and the Warner Brothers' classic 1953



12:00 p.m. **The Matrix** • 1999 • United States • 2h 16m • Rated R • 35mm

Groundbreaking imagery and an exploration of the connection between humanity and science—fake reality and truth—secured *The Matrix*'s must see status. Thomas Anderson is a computer programmer by day and the hacker Neo by night. When a stranger leads him into a foreboding underworld, he discovers a shocking truth—the elaborate deception of an evil cyber-intelligence. D: Lana Wachowski, Lilly Wachowski. C: Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Laurence Fishbourne.

02:30 p.m. **One Million Years B.C.** • 1966 • United States • 1h 32m • Rated Approved • 35mm

Marathon premiere. Presented in tribute to the late Raquel Welch, who passed last year, the prehistoric plot—nice caveman banished from violent tribe meets pretty cave woman from gentle tribe who's coveted by angry third caveman—is beside the point. D: Don Chaffey. C: Raquel Welch, John Richardson. Stop-motion animated dinosaurs by Ray Harryhausen. Artwork by Daryl Joyce.

04:30 p.m. **Lapsis** • 2020 • United States • 1h 44m • Not Rated

In a parallel present, delivery man Ray Tincelli struggles to support himself and his ailing younger brother. After a series of unsuccessful swindles, Ray takes a job in a new realm of the gig economy: pulling cable over miles of deep forest terrain to connect metal cubes that link together a new quantum trading market. As Ray moves deeper into the zone, he contends with threatening robot cabling—and his own conscience. D: Noah Hutton. C: Dean Imperial, Babe Howard, Madeline Wise.

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The 24 Hour Marathon

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06:30 p.m. **Lost In Space: No Place To Hide** • 1965 • United States • 52m • Not Rated

No Place To Hide was the pilot episode produced in 1965 to promote the television series *Lost In Space* to CBS. While the Robinson family's space-faring story carried over to the series, this episode, which did not include Dr. Smith's character nor the robot, was not broadcast until 1993, when June Lockhart hosted the Sci-Fi Channel's first Pilot Playhouse. D: Irwin Allen (series creator). C: Guy Williams, June Lockhart, Mark Goddard, Marta Kristen, Bill Mummy, Angela Cartwright.

07:30 p.m. **Ready Player One** • 2018 • United States • 2h 20m • Rated PG-13 • 70mm

Introduction by *Life After The Navigator* director Lisa Downs. It's 2045. Our planet is on the brink of chaos and collapse, but people—like young Wade Watts and his friends—find salvation in OASIS, an immersive virtual reality created by James Halliday. When Halliday dies, he posthumously promises, in a three-part challenge, his immense fortune and control of OASIS to the first person to discover the digital easter egg hidden somewhere in OASIS' fantastical virtual universe. Game on! D: Steven Spielberg. C: Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Mark Rylance, Simon Pegg. Spielberg said this was his third most difficult movie to make, after *Jaws* (1975) and *Saving Private Ryan* (1998).

10:00 p.m. **Dredd** • 2012 • United States • 1h 35m • Rated R

With a screenplay by Alex Garland (*Ex Machina*), this second attempt at the Judge Dredd story is a leaner, meaner adaptation of the British *2000 AD* comic book series. In a violent mega-metropolis, where felons rule the streets, justice is doled out by judges who act as judge, jury, and executioner. To deal with a drug lord who will stop at nothing to protect her empire, Judge Dredd partners with a rookie with psychic abilities. D: Pete Travis. C: Karl Urban, Lena Headley, Olivia Thirlby, Rachel Wood.

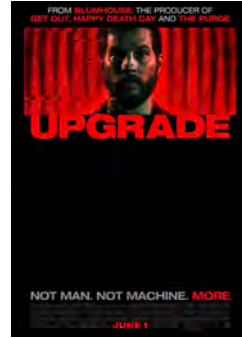
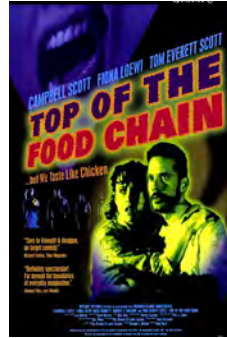
11:45 p.m. **Mad Max** • 1979 • Australia • 1h 28m • Rated R

Mad Max returns for the fourth time. As the movie had previously played mostly drive-ins and grindhouses, *Mad Max* was a surprise hit at its initial showing at SF6 in 1981 at the Orson Welles Cinema. In a self-destructing world, an Australian policeman seeking revenge sets out to stop a violent motorcycle gang. Also screened at SF16 (1991) and SF26 (2001), both at the Coolidge Corner Theatre. D: George Miller. C: Mel Gibson, Joanne Samuel, Hugh Keays-Byrne.

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The 24 Hour Marathon

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01:30 a.m. **Predestination** • 2014 • Australia • 1h 37m • Rated R

In the second of our back-to-back films from Australia, this adaptation of Robert A. Heinlein's short story *All You Zombies* is a complex exploration of love, fate, identity—and paradoxical time travel. A temporal law enforcement agent, on his "final" assignment, pursues a relentlessly elusive terrorist, "The Fizzle Bomber," to prevent him from launching an attack that kills thousands of people. D: Michael Spierig, Peter Spierig. C: Ethan Hawke, Sarah Snook, Noah Taylor.

03:20 a.m. **Top Of The Food Chain** aka *Invasion* • 1999 • Canada • 1h 39m • Rated PG-13

In this nuanced, innovative parody of the original *Invasion Of The Bodysnatchers* (1956) and other sci-fi classics, a vacationing atomic scientist and "cool fusion" expert Dr. Karel Lamonte encounters mysterious, carnivorous beings disguised as traveling salesmen—and they're feeding on the eccentric population of the small, isolated town of Exceptional Vista. Yum. D: Jay Paizs. C: Campbell Scott, Robert Bockstael, Lorry Ayers, Ron Gabriel, Fiona Loewi.

05:10 a.m. **Upgrade** • 2018 • United States • 1h 40m • Rated R

Futuristic, fast-paced thriller about implanting nano-tech. Set in the near-future, technology controls nearly all aspects of a person's life, including the self-driving cars people use. But when the world of stay-at-home mechanic Grey Trace, a self-labeled technophobe, is turned upside down by tragedy, his only hope for revenge is an experimental computer chip implant. D: Leigh Whannell (*The Invisible Man*). C: Logan Marshall-Green, Melanie Vallejo, Steve Danielsen, Betty Gabriel.

07:10 a.m. **Attack Of The Crab Monsters** • 1957 • United States • 1h 3m • Rated Approved

A rescue party searching for a group of vanished scientists becomes trapped on a shrinking island with intelligent, murderous giant crabs. One of Roger Corman's favorites among his '50s B-movie work, which he produced for a mere \$70,000. Charles Griffith's script has a creepy charm and the cast boasts a number of cult film stalwarts. Corman employed the concept of having something suspenseful happen in every scene of this tight 63-minute feature. Sure, the title creatures aren't great, but considering the budget, they get the job done. D: Roger Corman. C: Richard Garland, Pamela Duncan, Russell Johnson, Leslie Bradley, Ed Nelson, Mel Welles, Beach Dickerson.

(continued on page 42)

The 24-hour Marathon

(continued from page 41)

Good
morning
'Thoners!



Welcome
to the
home
stretch.

08:15 a.m. **Deep Blue Sea** • 1999 • United States • 1h 45m • Rated R • 35mm

This Warner Bros. popcorn blockbuster is arguably more “fun” than “deep.” Exploiting the disease-battling enzymes of genetically-modified sharks, a group of scientists on an isolated ocean facility, searching for a cure for Alzheimer’s, become prey as a trio of intelligent sharks fight back.
D: Renny Harlin. C: Samuel L. Jackson, Saffron Burrows, Michael Rapaport, Stellan Skarsgård, LL Cool J.

10:20 a.m. **Blast From The Past** • 1999 • United States • 1h 52m • Rated PG-13

Adam Webber has spent a wee bit too much time in a nuclear fallout shelter with Mom and Dad—35 years! When supplies grow short, his eccentric, inventor father sends him on a dangerous restocking mission. Once above ground, he slowly comes to discover a new world—and new love. Contrasting and entangling a man cocooned since the 1960s with a savvy woman of the '90s, the clever script and fine cast transform this romantic sci-fi comedy into an enduring blast that lasts!
D: Hugh Wilson. C: Brendan Fraser, Christopher Walken, Sissy Spacek, Alicia Silverstone, Joey Slotnick.



Marathon Covid Policy

Once again, we are thrilled to bring a fully realized in-person Marathon to the Somerville Theatre. We ask all attendees to use good judgment. Wear a face mask, if you wish. Be courteous to those around you. And follow the instructions of the venue management and staff. If you have any questions, please stop by the lobby table at the Somerville Theatre. Thank you for your cooperation.

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The 24-hour Marathon

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Old enough to know better...

February 18-19
Noon to Noon

...young enough to stay awake!

- 11:15 a.m. • In Memoriam
- 11:40 a.m. • Audience Sing-along
- 11:50 a.m. • Opening Announcements
- 12:00 p.m. • Duck Dodgers in the 24½th Century
- 12:07 p.m. • The Matrix (35mm)
- 02:30 p.m. • One Million Years B.C. (35mm)
- 04:30 p.m. • Lapsis
- 06:30 p.m. • Lost In Space (TV Pilot Episode)
- 07:20 p.m. • SF49 Tin Foil Hat Contest
- 07:30 p.m. • Ready Player One (70mm, intro by Lisa Downs)
- 10:00 p.m. • Dredd
- 11:45 p.m. • Mad Max
- 01:10 a.m. • SF49 HotBot Challenge
- 01:30 a.m. • Predestination
- 03:10 a.m. • SF49 Paper Airplane Contest
- 03:20 a.m. • Top Of The Food Chain
- 05:10 a.m. • Upgrade
- 07:10 a.m. • Attack Of The Crab Monsters
- 08:15 a.m. • Deep Blue Sea (35mm)
- 10:20 a.m. • Blast From The Past

SF49 Shannon Moloney Award
Suzanne Cromwell

We present this year's award to Suzanne in recognition of her long-time dedication and commitment to the Boston Science Fiction Film Festival and 24-hour Marathon.

Fun stuff!

Listen for announcements from the theatre stage throughout the Marathon for schedule updates, concurrent events, activities in the lobby, and other fun stuff.

Schedule subject to change.



Make Your Own Mini-Marathon
"It Came from the Public Domain"
Sunday, February 25, 2024

(See page 37 for details.)



- Sita Sings the Blue (2008)
- Princess Iron Fan (1941)
- A Bucket of Blood (1959)
- The Wasp Woman (1959)
- Embryo (1976)
- The Mind Snatchers (1962)

All films streaming on Filmocracy.com



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Marathon Memories



SF34 2009 • Flashback Photos by Harry O. Lohr, Jr.

To keep up-to-date on Boston SciFi's annual festival, year-round events, and other sci-fi news, subscribe to our newsletter at www.bostonscifi.com and follow us on social media.

Community



Partners

(continued from inside front cover)



Located at 55 Davis Square in Somerville, Mass., the beautiful Somerville Theatre is an independent movie theater and concert venue.

Boston Underground Film Festival
Roxbury International Film Festival
Wicked Queer: Boston's LGBTQ + Film Festival
BostonFIG
Filmmakers Collaborative
Women In Film & Video - New England



TALAMAS

Equipment Rental
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1 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02471

Boston Science Fiction Film Festival

SF49 Crew Acknowledgments

The Team

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Angela Burgess, Head Programmer
Jen Bush, Copywriter
Catarina Cesar, Ambassador-at-Large
Brendan Collins, Asst Fest Director/Cyberpunk Ball
Suzanne Cromwell, Head Shorts Programmer
Alexis den Boggende, Associate 'Programmer
Ella Fasciano, Archivist/Social Media
Claudia Gohn, Emeritus
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Ian Judge, Classic Film Curator
Jackie Kern, Events Director
Tyler Knohl, Asst to the Festival Director/Virtual
Chrystal Koech, Filmmaker Liaison
Nefeli Koutsouki, Asst to the Festival Director/Virtual
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Tishna Lodi, Asst Festival Director
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Jeff Man, Graphic Creation
Jay Michaels, Content Creator
Hailey Otero, Social Media Director
Giang Pham, Panel Liaison
Michael Perik, Video Creator
Perry Persoff, Marathon Host/Event Creator
Chris Phoenix, Branding Director
Claudia Ramirez, Panels Director
Greg Seidel, Distribution
Mark Sherwood, Podcast Director & Creator
Bob Starker, Graphic Design
Melissa Starker, Virtual Programming Curator
Cole Troisi, Video Coordinator
Charlie von Petteffy, Copywriter
Hal Wagner, Technical Director

SF49 Film Reviewers Panel

Jerome Aaron, Laurie Aaron, John Borchard,
Brendan Collins, Catarina De Cèzanne,
Ivan Dubrovin, Paul Franzosa, Alex Mekos,
Joe Sherwood, Mark Sherwood,
Richard Simon, Melissa Starker,
Robert Viagas, Charlie von Peterffy,
and other members of the
SF49 Boston SciFi Team.

**BOSTON
SCI-FILM
FESTIVAL**

Flashback Photo



February 2020

Special Thanks

Alex DeGroot, The Goods
Dan Shea, Boston Hassle
Bob Howard, Comicazi
JoAnn Cox, WIFVNE
Joanne Conroy, The Burren
Charlie & Veronica, Dragon's Lair
Samantha George, Homewood Suites by Hilton
Victoria Howard, Flat Bread Pizza
DJ Sir Richard, DJ/Musicologist
Technomancer
David Kornfeld, Projectionist
Scott Norwood, Technical Exhibition
The Somerville Theatre staff & crew

And these folks who helped in important ways

Tony DiSalvo, Dan Abraham, Aidan Heroux, Anthony Dotsikas, Robin Jacobson, Raphael Chinca, and Wally Kemp.

Find this and previous programs online!



SF49 is the product of an extraordinary group of people who donate their time, creativity, positivity, and energy. My heartfelt thanks to all.

Garen Daly,
Festival Director

SF49 Festival Guide by Harry O. Lohr, Jr.

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