

houston latino
film festival

2019
festival
guide





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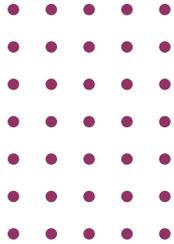
Chris Pinon

Ren Tea

volunteer manager

Fernando Ceballos

Special thanks to all of our volunteer staff for their dedication and support.



¡hola!

Welcome to the fourth annual Houston Latino Film Festival! This year, we're especially excited to bring you more short films, documentaries and features from artists and filmmakers across the globe. We've carefully selected films that are entertaining, powerful and unique—and most of all, films you won't be able to see anywhere else in Houston.

Along with sharing this amazing selection of films, we're also celebrating recognition from Mayor Sylvester Turner officially proclaiming these four days as **Houston Latino Film Festival Days.**

We believe film is a powerful way to tell stories and bring people together from all backgrounds and lifestyles, and we're honored to be recognized as a part of Houston's diverse arts culture.

Whether you're checking out a single screening or every screening, we hope you have a good time and appreciate all your support. Enjoy the show!

Houston Latino Film Festival



schedule

mar 28

6:00 PM	Opening Night Party	The Houston Event Venue
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mar 29

6:00 PM	SHORTS: For a Better Life	MATCH
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8:30 PM	Fireflies	MATCH
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mar 30

10:30 AM	WORKSHOP: The Art and Craft of Directing with Joel Novoa	Vine Street Studios
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11:00 AM	Tejano	TBH
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1:00 PM	Plan C-14 II	TBH
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2:15 PM	SHORTS: Cóctel de Cortos	TBH
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4:15 PM	SHORTS: Midnight Family	TBH
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6:15 PM	Niebla de Culpa	MATCH
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7:00 PM	Wiñaypacha	TBH
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8:00 PM	Is That You?	MATCH
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8:45 PM	SHORTS: Cineastas Chingonas	TBH
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mar 31

11:00 AM	SHORTS: Hecho en Texas	MATCH
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1:00 PM	WORKSHOP RED Camera System with Orlando Briones	Vine Street Studios
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1:00 PM	Harvest Season	MATCH
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3:00 PM	Esmeralda's Twilight	MATCH
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3:30 PM	SHORTS: It's Only Love	TBH
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5:30 PM	Retablo	TBH
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7:45 PM	Two Times You	TBH
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The Art and Craft of Directing with Joel Novoa

The Houston Latino Film Festival presents “The Art and Craft of Directing with Joel Novoa” To capture a perfect moment on film, there must be an extraordinary synergy between director, camera and subject. Director Joel Novoa (CW’s Arrow and God’s Slave) will dive into the process communicating one’s creative vision amongst collaborators.



This hands on workshop is an excellent opportunity for filmmakers to take their work to the next level by becoming a more effective content creator on set. In this unique workshop, we are opening up submissions from attendees for original scenes to be blocked, rehearsed and tuned by you and Joel.

Vine Street
Studios
Saturday
March 30
10:20 AM

RED Camera System with Orlando Briones

The Houston Latino Film Festival presents “RED System Camera Workshop”. Get hands on with this practical workshop and learn how to use the legendary RED Digital Cinema camera with cinematographer Orlando Briones of Filmatic!



This hands on workshop is an excellent opportunity for filmmakers to take their work to the next level.

Vine Street
Studios
Sunday
March 31
1:00 PM

FRI
mar
29

shorts

For a Better Life

The Houston Latino Film Festival is proud to present a collection of short films about social injustice with ACLU of Texas as host. The screening will be followed by a discussion with some of the filmmakers in attendance.

MATCH
6:00 PM

Freedom

USA · 2017 · 2 min · **WORLD PREMIERE**

Freedom addresses the empathy crisis toward immigrants by showing how the concept of living free with no borders applies to car commercials but not when it comes to human beings.

It's Going to Be Beautiful

USA · 2018 · 9 min · **HOUSTON PREMIERE**

Eight prototypes for a border wall stand on the US-Mexico border. To choose a winning design, Border Patrol officers and the military will attempt to climb dig under or breach the structures using techniques employed by immigrants and drug dealers.

One of the Thousands

USA · 2018 · 13 min · **HOUSTON PREMIERE**

Two Mexican refugees with different beliefs are forced to embark on a crossing border journey to America when they meet a third guy in the desert who has no water.

Fenced

USA · 2018 · 23 min · **TEXAS PREMIERE**

After the detention of a trailer truck carrying illegal immigrants goes wrong, a border patrol officer opens fire and ends up killing a little child. The officer will have to decide between his duty or the chance to help the mother that wants to say goodbye to her child.

Catalina

USA · 2018 · 14 min · **TEXAS PREMIERE**

An 11 year old girl learns to fend for herself while her undocumented mother spirals in fear of being deported.

Libre

USA · 2018 · 12 min

Undocumented immigrants forced to spend months in detention are turning to private companies to secure their release on bond. In exchange, immigrants pay exorbitant monthly fees for a GPS ankle monitor they can't remove.

hiff
2019



feature

Fireflies

When Ramin hid on a cargo ship leaving Turkey, he never expected to end up in Veracruz, Mexico by accident. As a young gay man, he fled the persecution in his home country, Iran, with the hopes of making it to somewhere in Europe. Now, having arrived on the other side of the world, he is desperately looking for a way to travel back across the ocean, while coping with the distance that he has taken with his boyfriend and his past. But the paradox of his feelings is immense.

Luis Alberti (Actor) will be present for Q&A after the screening.

MATCH
8:00 PM

Mexico
2018
75 min

DIRECTOR
Bani
Khoshnoudi



feature

Tejano

Javi, a South Texas farmhand, is desperate for cash to save his dying grandfather so he resorts to the extreme: He makes a deal with a Mexican cartel. The cartel offers Javi \$10,000 to walk across the border wearing a cast made of cocaine—but there's a catch.

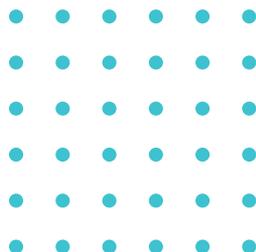
First, they will break his arm. For the sake of his grandfather, Javi takes the deal. TEJANO becomes a thrilling story of survival, as Javi evades the border patrol, swims the Rio Grande river and overcomes the border wall only to find that the cartel has different plans for him. Javi races home to reunite with his grandfather where, armed with only a hunting rifle and a few pistols, they await the cartel's next move.

Mayra J. Leal (Actress) will be present for Q&A after the screening.

TBH
11:00 AM

USA
2018
90 min

DIRECTOR
**David Blue
Garcia**



documentary

Plan C-14 II

Martin, an 83-year-old industrious man, will embark on a unique journey at 14.000 ft through the deserted highlands of the Argentine Andes mountains. He is running out of time and against all odds and Doctor's recommendations, he is determined to have one last adventure before the end. His love and dedication for traveling are stronger than any medical diagnosis.

His old friend, Mariano, was his companion in all his adventures and he passed away. This propelled Martin to embark on a new journey to the place where they made their last trip together in an attempt to bid him farewell.

TBH
1:00 PMArgentina
2018

48 min

DIRECTORS
Nico MuñozAnselmo
Estrada

shorts

Cóctel de Cortos

A collection of shorts from Mexico, Spain, Ecuador, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Brazil and more!

TBH
2:15 PM

Harina

Venezuela · 2018 · 15 min · **TEXAS PREMIERE**

Roberto is a middle class working professional trying to survive Venezuela's economic death spiral and current humanitarian crisis while maintaining his unemployed mother. An argument breaks out when she asks him to buy flour for her birthday cake and he reprimands her for not being resourceful with what he provides. In an effort to make amends, he resorts to the black market to buy the scarce food item. Before heading back home he gets caught in the violent looting of a food delivery truck, facing a moral dilemma.

Maelstrøm

Spain · 2017 · 3 min · **HOUSTON PREMIERE**

Karl spins the teaspoon from his coffee. Something spins even faster inside Tony's head.

Minor Key

Spain · 2018 · 12 min · **HOUSTON PREMIERE**

A moving story about a man locked in a Portuguese Fado.

Nos Vamos Pa' París

Puerto Rico · 2018 · 9 min · **TEXAS PREMIERE**

On the verge of losing their home, 80 year-old Rosita and her sheepish husband, Gonzalo, are forced to rob the bank where she worked for 30 years. This film exposes with humor Puerto Rico's economic crisis and the sad reality of the elderly living on the island.

The Master of Cuchillo

Mexico · 2018 · 11 min · **TEXAS PREMIERE**

Timoteo, a chef that knows perfectly what he doesn't want to be. He has an obsession for juggling knives. The loss of one of his fingers constantly reminds him how dangerous his obsession is.

First World Problems

Spain · 2018 · 4 min · **USA**

To like or not to like, that is the question.

Vampire's Appointment

France · 2018 · 6 min · **U.S. PREMIERE**

A ridiculously determined dentist is faced with a challenge when his last minute appointment is a blood-thirsty vampire with fang-ache.

Casualidad Rodriguez

USA · 2018 · 9min · **HOUSTON PREMIERE**

A chance encounter between two very different people with language barriers.

Afterwork

Ecuador · 2017 · 6 min · **HOUSTON PREMIERE**

We are all condemned to work and repeat the same empty routines again and again. Can we reach that carrot with which they want to keep us forever occupied, chasing eternally something we do not need? Groompy, a funny cartoon, is about to find out.

Low Budget Film

Brazil · 2018 · 13 min · **Mockumentary** · **TEXAS PREMIERE**

A Low Budget Film is the attempt of scientists of the "Brazilian Institute of Alternative and Secondary Research" to combine the lack of funding, the closure of the institute, and to try to maintain their life dreams.

The Houston Film Commission
Proudly Salutes
The 4th Annual Houston Latino Film Festival
Attendees & Special Guests



Houston Film Commission

www.houstonfilmcommission.com

SAT
mar
30



documentary **HOUSTON PREMIERE**

Midnight Family

The Ochoa family runs a for-profit ambulance in Mexico City, competing with other EMTs for patients in need of urgent help. While making a living in this cutthroat industry, they struggle to keep their financial needs from jeopardizing the people in their care. When a crackdown by corrupt police forces the family to try legitimizing their operation, their desperate financial situation pushes them into questionable practices even as they continue providing essential emergency medical services.

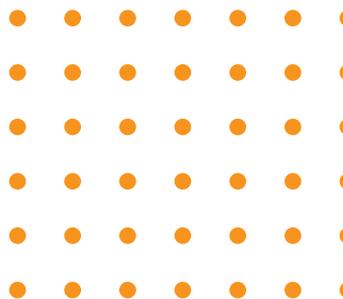
In humanizing the Ochoas' ethically compromised business, *Midnight Family* explores urgent questions around healthcare, the failings of government and the complexity of personal responsibility.

TBH
4:15 PM

USA & Mexico
2018
81 min

DIRECTOR
Luke
Lorentzen

hiff
2019



feature **TEXAS PREMIERE**

Niebla de Culpa

Yolanda travels from a modest home in Michoacán to Mexico City to care for a newborn baby, a challenging Juan- her alcoholic husband and controller. Amanda, calls her former nanny to babysit at work. Yolanda accepts the challenge, although she lacks the essential tools to succeed: reading and writing. Amanda and Hans, her husband, make a long trip, leaving Yolanda and the baby adrift.

The story contrasts the brutality of the city with the beauty of a peaceful countryside: an empty lake at dawn, a picturesque gully at dusk and a traditional festival in the village.

Francisco Laresgoiti (Director) will be present for Q&A after the screening.

MATCH
6:15 PM**Mexico****2018****73 min**DIRECTOR
**Francisco
Laresgoiti**

SAT
mar
30

feature **TEXAS PREMIERE**

Wiñaypacha

Eternity

This is the story of Willka and Phaxsi, an elderly couple of more than eighty years of age living abandoned in a remote part of the Andes of Peru, more than five thousand meters high. They face the misery and the inclement passage of time, praying to their gods so that finally their only son arrives to rescue them.

TBH
7:00 PM

Peru
2018
77 min

DIRECTOR
Oscar
Catacora



hiff
2019



feature **TEXAS PREMIERE**

Is That You? ¿Eres Tú, Papá?

Rudy Riverón Sánchez's atmospheric feature debut takes place in Cuba's countryside where a mother and a daughter live in fear of the domineering Eduardo. He controls every aspect of their lives, imposing his rather conservative values on them. Even though his sudden death should set them free, they are so dependent on Eduardo that his daughter uses a black magic ritual to bring him back to life with disastrous consequences for all.

Rudy Riverón Sánchez (Director) will be present for Q&A after the screening.

MATCH
8:00 PM

Cuba
2018
107 min

DIRECTOR
Rudy Riverón
Sánchez

shorts

Cineastas Chingonas

A collection of powerful and amazing short films made by some of today's talented Latina directors from around the world.

TBH
8:45 PM

Maxima: This Land of Mine

Peru · 2018 · 21 min · HOUSTON PREMIERE

On a remote farm deep in the Peruvian Andes, a farmer is putting a halt to the plans of one of the biggest mining companies in the world. Having endured over 5 years of court proceedings, Máxima Acuña and her family are still fighting to keep the land they have worked so hard to call their home.

Hidden Life

Costa Rica · 2018 · 15 min · HOUSTON PREMIERE

In a city governed by an authoritarian regime, propaganda spreads the soils' infertility. Sam, a 28-year-old, works at the National Communication Center as the producer of the government newscast. On an assignment, Sam discovers a storage with plants in the Ministry of Food, questioning the regime.

Me 3.769

USA · 2018 · 9 min · TEXAS PREMIERE

A pubescent Latina looks forward to her maturing body, but must soon cope with the sexual misconduct of someone she trusts.

The Orphan

Brazil · 2018 · 15 min · HOUSTON PREMIERE

Jonathas has been adopted, but it doesn't take long until he is returned because he is "different" from the other kids. Inspired by true events.

Piggy

Spain · 2018 · 14 min · HOUSTON PREMIERE

Sara is an overweight teen that lives in the shadow of a clique of cool girls holidaying in her village. Not even her childhood friend, Claudia, defends her when she's bullied at the local pool in front of an unknown man. Her clothes are stolen and Sara must get home wearing nothing but her bikini. The long walk home will mark the rest of her life.

Golden Malibu

Mexico · 2018 · 22 min · TEXAS PREMIERE

One night, Carlos is thrown out from home by his mother. His little sister Regina then decides to run away with him. Together, they will start a journey through Mexico City. Through her eyes, Regina will explore Carlos sordid world and get to know its characters, until they both find out the benefit of being together as siblings.

shorts

Hecho en Texas

Join us for a collection of short films made by Texas filmmakers. The screening will be followed by a discussion with some of the filmmakers in attendance.

MATCH
11:00 AM

Mr. Zoot Suit

USA · 2018 · 16 min · **HOUSTON PREMIERE**

After putting his dreams on hold, a university house-keeping supervisor follows his passion for dancing and educating others about the history of the zoot suit.

Hourglass

USA · 2018 · 9 min · **WORLD PREMIERE**

Hourglass is about a young man named Brian who is introduced to an Hourglass with a mysterious power to bring a loved one back to life for an hour. A story about relationships and moving on.

Atlantic City

USA · 2017 · 15 min · **HOUSTON PREMIERE**

Pony and Junior are two south Texas drifters—brothers in spirit, if not blood. Pony's last connection to his estranged mother is a postcard she sent twenty years ago from Atlantic City. When Junior refuses to help find his mother, Pony resorts to taking a job from a local thug to raise the money to search for her himself. It's here that he meets a fifteen-year old runaway that he tries to help.

Grande Macchiato

USA · 2017 · 7 min

An old cop reflects over his life while having his usual coffee and pie. Never becoming the detective he hoped to be, an opportunity arrives that causes him to break his routine.

Roomies

USA · 2018 · 8 min

Three roommates use their apartment's unique feature to smooth out their sales pitch to a potential new leaser.

Acid Test

USA · 2017 · 14 min

When a teenage girl drops acid and comes home to her parents, she sparks a hallucinogenic family meltdown.

SUN
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31

documentary **TEXAS PREMIERE**

Harvest Season

HARVEST SEASON delves into the lives of people who work behind the scenes of the premium California wine industry, during one of the most dramatic grape harvests in recent memory. The film follows the stories of Mexican-American winemakers and migrant workers who are essential to the wine business, yet are rarely recognized for their contributions. Their stories unfold as wildfires ignite in Napa and Sonoma counties, threatening the livelihoods of small farmers and winemakers who are already grappling with a growing labor shortage, shifting immigration policies, and the impacts of a rapidly changing climate.

MATCH
1:00 PM

USA
2018
81 min
DIRECTOR
Bernardo Ruiz



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2019





feature **TEXAS PREMIERE**

Esmeralda's Twilight

Cría Puercos

With a son abroad, with an absent husband whom she has to take care of, Esmeralda even though she is not alone, loses her mind in the middle of a lonely town. But the old woman has a second wind when she gets a baby pig, "Queenie, who gives her back the need to love someone, to take care for something again.

MATCH
3:00 PM

Mexico
2018
92 min

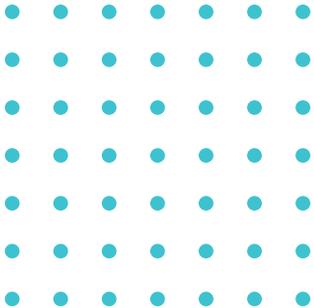
DIRECTOR
Ehécatl
Garage

shorts

It's Only Love

Join us for a collection of short films dealing with themes and stories about love from around the world.

TBH
3:30 PM



Desires of the Flesh

Brazil · 2018 · 18 min · HOUSTON PREMIERE

Since 2016, Pope Francis allows women to take part in the washing of the feet ceremony. The girls of St. Peter Church are preparing something special for the ritual. Camila just hopes to find Giovana.

Broken Sunflower Hearts

USA · 2018 · 14 min · TEXAS PREMIERE

An intimate portrait that tells the story of Anthony, a lonely history teacher and his adopted daughter Luna, when his ex boyfriend Sam shows up one year after their separation looking for closure—or perhaps trying to revive a relationship that once was.

Elephants

El Salvador · 2018 · 6 min · USA PREMIERE

Violence and adversity mark Marta's life and question her ideals of fulfillment. Her boyfriend, Angel, puts more pressure on her. Should they flee El Salvador or should they stay and try to find happiness there? The decision is on Marta's hands.

Afterwards

Brazil · 2018 · 20 min · WORLD PREMIERE

Where does love live after it dies?

Lucy

Venezuela · 2018 · 15 min · HOUSTON PREMIERE

A solitary foley artist secretly films his neighbor and reconstructs the sounds of her life, while creating an imaginary relationship that leads him to discover closely the true sound of his obsession: Lucy.

Your Last Day on Earth

Spain · 2018 · 14 min · TEXAS PREMIERE

A Fox-dressed man breaks the spacetime limits with only one goal: to spend some time with his wife. But below this recreational act there's a far more complex and ambitious plan.

#Superinlove

Spain · 2018 · 10 min · TEXAS PREMIERE

Marc and Marta are celebrating their "monthiversary" with a romantic dinner. Things start to take an awkward turn when the subject of social media comes up.

feature **TEXAS PREMIERE**

Retablo

High in the remote mountainside of Peru, 14-year-old Segundo is being groomed to follow his father's footsteps in the traditional folk art of retablo-making—crafting intricate, artisan story-boxes depicting religious scenes and important everyday events. Segundo reveres his father, however the young boy is becoming restless realizing that the weight of carrying the family legacy on his shoulders will keep him on the mountain forever. When he stumbles across a heartbreaking secret his father is harbouring, Segundo will come to face the raw reality of his deeply religious and conservative landscape, as well as a more profound connection with his father than he'd ever imagined.

Set against the stunning backdrop of the Peruvian Andes, this coming-of-age story explores the weight of heritage, the boundaries of love, and the burdens of family expectations—as well as the complexity of accepting our parents for who they really are.

TBH
5:30 PMPeru
2018
104 min
DIRECTOR
Alvaro Delgado
Aparicio



feature **TEXAS PREMIERE**

Two Times You

Dos Veces Tú

After an innocent game where they decide to exchange husbands during a wedding, cousins Tania and Daniela decide to drive back home with the husband of the other. One of the cars crashes and an odd couple survives, creating a new, strange relationship.

Members of the production team will be present for Q&A after the screening.

TBH
7:45 PM

Mexico
2018
95 min

DIRECTOR
Salomon
Askenazi





MATCH

3400 Main St
Houston, Texas 77002
713-521-4533

PARKING

The Mid-Main Garage is directly to the south across Holman. This paid parking garage is accessible through Travis or Holman and is open 24 hours.

matchouston.org



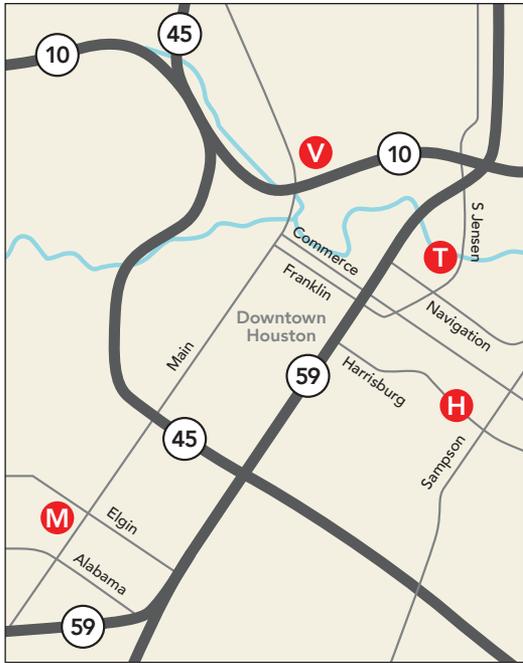
Talento Bilingüe de Houston

333 S Jensen Dr
Houston, Texas 77003
713-222-1213

PARKING

Festival parking is available in two lots—one directly in front of the venue, the other along Jensen.

www.tbhcenter.org



H The Houston Event Venue

3118 Harrisburg Blvd
Houston, Texas 77003

www.thehoustoneventvenue.com

V Vine Street Studios

1113 Vine St
Houston, Texas 77002

www.1113vinestreet.com

seating

Seating for all screenings is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. All-access pass holders will be allowed priority seating before single ticket holders.

houston latino film festival

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MATCH



Houston Film Commission



THE HOUSTON
EVENT VENUE

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