

2025 OFFICIAL PROGRAM GUIDE



THE BIG PICTURE FROM A SMALL ISLAND

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SEPT. 2-7,
2025



20TH ANNIVERSARY!

MARTHA'S VINEYARD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



See films and events in-person at
the Martha's Vineyard Film Center!

Voted Best of the Vineyard
2013 - 2025



www.mvfilmsociety.com
a member supported nonprofit organization



Martha's Vineyard Film Center

79 Beach Road, Vineyard Haven - 508.696.9369





WELCOME CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!



This year we celebrate our 20th year anniversary and the best in world cinema. It all takes place September 2-7, with all screenings at the MV Film Center at the Tisbury Marketplace. Join us for a selection of the world's best narrative, documentary, and short films and experience the power of film through creative storytelling, fascinating characters, and riveting imagery.

The fun kicks off Tuesday with CHECK-POINT ZOO, about an animal sanctuary in Ukraine. Next is GRAND TOUR, a blend of melodrama and screwball comedy that was Portugal's entry for best international feature at the 97th Academy Awards. Closing out Day 1 is THE MARCHING BAND, which The Sun (UK) likened a French "The Full Monty."

Day 2 films open with ODD FISH, about two childhood friends, their restaurant, and what happens when one comes out as transgender. Then there's OCEANS ARE THE REAL CONTINENTS, a B&W drama set in Cuba, and ON BECOMING A GUINEA FOWL from Zambia, about the buried secrets of a middle-class family.

Day 3, the official Opening Night, starts off with a gala tent party at Tisbury Marketplace from 5:30-7:00 pm. Come mingle, imbibe, and nibble delicious foods. The popular Eric Johnson's group will provide the jazz. Then you're off at 7:30 to see DREAMS, from Norway, which won the Golden Bear at this year's Berlin International Film Festival.

Friday, September 5, begins with THE BLACK SEA, about a charismatic New Yorker trapped in coastal Bulgaria. Then don't miss THE MAKING OF A JAPANESE, set in a Tokyo public school that shows how young children learn discipline, empathy, and how to become a community.

Friday evening is reserved for a perennial crowd favorite: the SHORT FILM JURIED COMPETITION.

View the finalists and learn which film the judges chose as this year's best short.

Saturday, Oscar-nominated animator Bill Plympton returns with a curated showcase of animated shorts, both the funny and the provocative. Plympton's been part of our film fest since its inception; don't miss it! Then there's THE DATING GAME from China, a documentary about three perpetual bachelors at a dating camp, a Grand Jury Prize nominee at this year's Sundance Film Festival. Saturday evening is the riveting drama DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT, from Zimbabwe, based on the best-selling memoir.

Sunday, the festival's final day, opens with PINK LADY, from Israel, about a wife whose seemingly perfect life is threatened when her husband is blackmailed. Next is WHEN FALL IS COMING, a "darkly funny French drama worth savoring," says The Hollywood Reporter.

On closing night, let Ireland's FOUR MOTHERS entertain you. It's about a novelist on the brink of success. Then his friends jet off to Spain for a Pride holiday, leaving him with his elderly mother—and theirs. Following the film we'll be celebrating on Vineyard Haven Harbor, at GARDE EAST. Enjoy food and drinks and be entertained by DJ Smooth B and Miss Molly Dazzle.

See you at the movies!

Richard Paradise
Festival Director/Founder

Things You Need To Know

FESTIVAL VENUE

Martha's Vineyard Film Center
79 Beach Road, Vineyard Haven at the Tisbury Marketplace (TMP)
Capacity: 176

YOU CAN PURCHASE ADVANCE TICKETS AT THE FILM CENTER IN PERSON BEFORE THE FILM FESTIVAL BEGINNING ON AUGUST 21ST.

PLEASE ALSO CONSIDER BUYING ONLINE IN ADVANCE AND PRINTING YOUR TICKETS AT HOME OR BRING AN EMAIL CONFIRMATION ON YOUR SMART PHONE.

Email us with questions at info@mvfilmsociety.com.

Ticketing Option

RUSH Ticketing Option

Tickets (if not sold out) for films and events are available for purchase in person at the Film Center 30 minutes prior to show times. Doors open 30 minutes in advance of show time.

Rush tickets are often available even when advance tickets have sold out. A rush line will form outside the theatre before show-time. Approximately 10 minutes prior to the screening, available unsold tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. No discounts. cash, check, or credit card at theaters.

Methods of Payment

Online Advance: MasterCard, Visa, AMEX credit cards.

Theatre: Cash, Credit Card, or Personal Check, (make checks out to MV Film Society)

Ticket Prices

\$15 General Admission
Movie Ticket

\$12 Film Society Member's Price and Children under 14

OPENING NIGHT

Reception and Film

\$130 General Admission
\$120 Member

CLOSING NIGHT

Reception and Film

\$120 General Admission
\$110 Member

All-Access Festival Pass

\$275 Per Person
\$250 Film Society Member

- First choice admission to any festival film. (Upon pass purchase, buyers must preselect movie and event choices via email, addressed to: Michael@mvfilmsociety.com. Please send this email immediately upon pass purchase, and arrive at least 10 minutes before start time to hold your seat.)

- Admission to Opening Night premiere screening at MV Film Center.

- Admission to Closing Night premiere screening at MV Film Center.

- Plus: a free festival t-shirt while they last; festival badge and lanyard.

PARKING OPTIONS AT TMP DURING THE FILM FESTIVAL

Before 5 PM (excluding Sunday): DO NOT park in 1-hour posted parking spaces or in any 15-minute take-out spaces in front of Rocco's Pizza or Net Result.

After 5 PM: All 1-hour posted parking spaces ARE available for parking. All "Employee Only" parking spaces in the rear parking lot ARE available for parking.

Anytime: Parallel parking on both sides behind the buildings is allowed. Just park close to stone wall or back of buildings. DO park efficiently, close enough side-by-side to other cars to help use space most efficiently.

Carpooling, walking/biking from town: Strongly recommended. There is a new bike rack available in front of Catboat Coffee.

Please stay calm and good parking karma will come.



SPONSORS:		MEDIA SPONSORS:
MV Chamber of Commerce	Mad Martha's Ice Cream	The Martha's Vineyard Times
MV Cultural Council	Our Market	Boston Globe
Massachusetts Cultural Council	Cape Air	Cape Cod Times
Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism	Tilton Tents	WCAI
Island Housing Trust	MV Bank	Vineyard Gazette
	Garde East Restaurant	
	Film Freeway	
	MV TV	

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

A ticket for both Opening and Closing night events includes movie and party. There will be no tickets sold for only the movie, and not the event.

Opening Night Film & Event

Thursday, September 4

OPENING RECEPTION 5:30 - 7 PM



Enjoy meeting fellow festival attendees and special guests inside a tented reception on the beautiful waterfront lawn adjacent to Lagoon Pond, just off Beach Road at the Tisbury Marketplace. We'll be serving prosecco, wine, beer, and ice cream desserts by Mad Martha's. Goldie's Rotisserie Truck provides the buffet and passed appetizers, while the wonderful Eric Johnson jazz quartet performs under the tent.

Film screening 7:30 pm

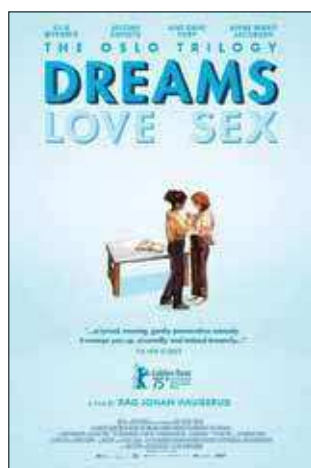
DREAMS (SEX LOVE)

DIRECTED BY: DAG JOHAN HAUGERUD

Norway | 2025 | 110 mins | Drama

Johanne falls in love for the first time, with her teacher. To preserve her feelings, she documents her emotions and experiences in writing. When her mother and grandmother read what she has written, they are initially shocked by its intimate content but soon see that it has literary potential. As they debate whether to publish it, Johanne navigates the gap between her romantic fantasy and reality, and all three women confront their differing views on love, sexuality, and self-discovery. Dreams (Sex Love) is part of the Sex-Love-Dreams trilogy.

Winner of the Golden Bear at the 2025 Berlin International Film Festival.



Closing Night Film & Event

Sunday, September 7

Film screening 4:30 pm

FOUR MOTHERS

DIRECTED BY: DARREN THORNTON

Ireland | 2025 | 89 mins | Drama & Comedy



Edward, a novelist saddled with caring for his elderly mother, finally finds himself on the brink of literary success. With pressure to go on a US book tour mounting, the last thing Edward needs is his friends jetting off to Spain for an impromptu Pride holiday, leaving their mothers on his doorstep! Over a chaotic weekend, he juggles his burgeoning career with the care of four eccentric, combative, and wildly different ladies. **The film premiered and won the Audience Award at the 2024 BFI London Film Festival.**

CLOSING RECEPTION

Join us to celebrate the final night of films and bring another wonderful festival to a triumphant end. Following the film festival and Closing Night Film, enjoy wonderful food, libations, and DJ Smooth B spinning music and Miss Molly Dazzle thrilling us with her twirls at **GARDE EAST**, 49 Beach Road, Vineyard Haven.



FILM SPOTLIGHTS

Tuesday, September 2

GRAND TOUR

4:00 pm

DIRECTED BY: MIGUEL GOMES

Portugal | 2024 | 129 mins | Drama

From Miguel Gomes, the award-winning director of Tabu and Arabian Nights, comes a globe-trotting tale of unrequited love that earned him Best Director prize at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. Set in 1917 colonial Burma, it blends melodrama and screwball comedy in a cat-and-mouse chase between lovers. Edward, a civil servant for the British Empire, jilts his lovestruck fiancée, Molly, the day she arrives to be married. As he escapes into an unexpected odyssey across Asia, she follows suit, amused by his moves. The film, rendered in stunning black-and-white period visuals, is interspersed with modern-day documentary footage. **Portugal's entry for Best International Feature to the 97th Academy Awards.**



THE MARCHING BAND

7:30 pm

DIRECTED BY: EMMANUEL COURCOL

France | 2024 | 103 mins | Comedy & Drama

Thibaut is an internationally renowned conductor who travels the world. When he learns he was adopted, he discovers the existence of a younger brother, Jimmy, who works in a school cafeteria and plays the trombone in a small marching band. Everything seems to set them apart, except their love of music. Sensing his brother's exceptional talent, Thibaut decides to remedy the injustice of fate. Jimmy begins to dream of a different life... The Sun (UK) calls it "a sincere and uplifting tale that is in tune with the spirit of underdog crowd-pleasers 'Brassed Off' and 'The Full Monty.'"



Wednesday, September 3

OCEANS ARE THE REAL CONTINENTS

4:00 pm

DIRECTED BY: TOMMASO SANTAMBROGIO

Cuba | 2023 | 120 mins | Drama

Three stories of migration, exile, and memory develop in the Cuban town of San Antonio De Los Baños, a place that time forgot. Alex and Edith, a young couple in their 30s, build their lives upon small gestures, reminisces, and a deep connection amidst the nation's ruins. Milagros survives selling peanut cones on the street, spending her days listening to the radio and reading old letters. Nine-year-old best friends Frank and Alain go to school and dream of emigrating to the U.S. to become baseball players. Variety says, "If this is cinema as poetry, these are verses made to be framed and admired, rather than sung or felt." Premiered worldwide at the Venice Film Festival.



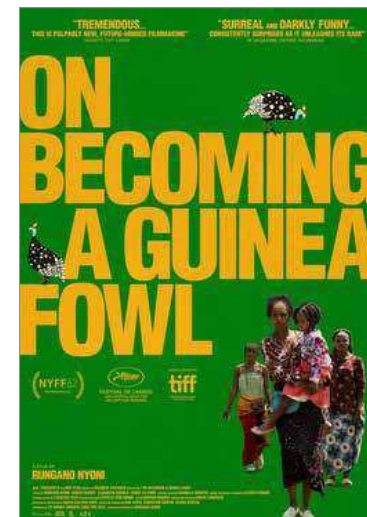
ON BECOMING A GUINEA FOWL

7:30 pm

DIRECTED BY: RUNGANO NYONI

Zambia | 2024 | 95 mins | Drama & Comedy

On an empty road in the middle of the night, Shula stumbles across the body of her uncle. As funeral proceedings begin around them, she and her cousins bring to light the buried secrets of their middle-class Zambian family. A surreal and vibrant reckoning about the lies we tell ourselves. **Director Rungano Nyoni was awarded Best Director at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.**





CHECKPOINT ZOO



GRAND TOUR

The Martha's Vineyard International Film Festival — September 2-7, 2025

Schedule subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit mvfilmsociety.com.

DAY 1: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2:

CHECKPOINT ZOO

Tuesday, September 2, 1:00 pm

DIRECTED BY: JOSHUA ZEMAN

Ukraine / 2024 / 107 mins / Documentary

Set during the early days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, when Kharkiv's beloved Feldman Ecopark Zoo found itself caught in the crossfire between advancing Russian forces and Ukrainian defenders. More than just a zoo, Feldman Ecopark was an animal sanctuary that offered countless therapy programs to everyone from soldiers with PTSD to children with special needs. As the war ravaged on, it was clear the bravery of the staff wouldn't be enough to save the animals trapped inside. With the help of four young volunteers, these zookeepers would undertake a seemingly impossible mission — they would risk life and limb to evacuate over 5,000 animals, including scores of dangerous predators, and deliver them to safety. The Daily Beast calls it "A work of heart-stopping suspense and tenderness." **Winner of multiple festival audience and jury prizes, including 2024 Tribeca Film Festival Audience Award.**

GRAND TOUR

Tuesday, September 2, 4:00 pm

DIRECTED BY: MIGUEL GOMES

Portugal / 2024 / 129 mins / Drama

From Miguel Gomes, the award-winning director of *Tabu* and *Arabian Nights*, comes a globe-trotting tale of unrequited love that earned him Best Director prize at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. Set in 1917 colonial Burma, it blends melodrama and screwball comedy in a cat-and-mouse chase between lovers. Edward, a civil servant for the British Empire, jilts his lovestruck fiancée, Molly,

the day she arrives to be married. As he escapes into an unexpected odyssey across Asia, she follows suit, amused by his moves. The film, rendered in stunning black-and-white period visuals, is interspersed with modern-day documentary footage. Portugal's entry for Best International Feature to the 97th Academy Awards.

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DIRECTED BY: EMMANUEL COURCOL

France / 2024 / 103 mins /
Comedy & Drama

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DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3:

ODD FISH

Wednesday, September 3, 1:00 pm

DIRECTED BY: SNÆVAR SÓLVASON

Iceland / 2024 / 104 mins /
Comedy & Drama

When two childhood friends get an unexpected opportunity to keep their fish restaurant open all year round, one of them comes out of the closet as a trans woman, putting a strain on their friendship. They see their lives in a new light.

OCEANS ARE THE REAL CONTINENTS

Wednesday, September 3, 4:00 pm

DIRECTED BY: TOMMASO

SANTAMBROGIO

Cuba / 2023 / 120 mins / Drama

Three stories of migration, exile, and memory develop in the Cuban town of San Antonio De Los Baños, a place that time forgot. Alex and Edith, a young couple in their 30s, build their lives upon small gestures, reminisces, and a deep connection amidst the nation's ruins. Milagros survives selling peanut cones on the street, spending her days listening to the radio and reading old letters. Nine-year-old best friends Frank and Alain go to school and dream of emigrating to the U.S. to become baseball players. Variety says, "If this is cinema as poetry, these are verses made to be framed and admired, rather than sung or felt." Premiered worldwide at the Venice Film Festival.

ON BECOMING A GUINEA FOWL

Wednesday, September 3, 7:30 pm

DIRECTED BY: RUNGANO NYONI

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Drama & Comedy

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DAY 3: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4:

OPENING NIGHT PARTY AND FILM

Thursday, September 4, 5:30 pm

Tented party on the Tisbury Marketplace green space.

DREAMS (SEX LOVE)

Thursday, September 4, 7:30 pm

DIRECTED BY: DAG JOHAN HAUGERUD

Norway / 2025 / 110 mins / Drama

Johanne falls in love for the first time, with her teacher. To preserve her feelings, she documents her emotions and experiences in writing. When her mother and grandmother read what she has written, they are initially shocked by its intimate content but soon see that it has literary potential. As they debate whether to publish it, Johanne navigates the gap between her romantic fantasy and reality, and all three women confront their differing views on love, sexuality, and self-discovery. *Dreams (Sex Love)* is part of the *Sex-Love-Dreams* trilogy. **Winner of the Golden Bear at the 2025 Berlin International Film Festival.**

DAY 4: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5:

THE BLACK SEA

Friday, September 5, 1:00 pm

DIRECTED BY: CRYSTAL MOSELLE,

DERRICK B. HARDEN

Bulgaria / 2023 / 96 mins /
Drama & Comedy

Khalid, a charismatic New Yorker hustling for cash, finds himself trapped in a coastal Bulgarian town alone, with no money or passport, and the only Black man in sight.

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THE MARCHING BAND



ODD FISH

Tickets can be purchased online now at mvfilmsociety.com or in person at the Film Center box office.

All screenings are at The Martha's Vineyard Film Center in Vineyard Haven.

YOU CAN BUY ADVANCE TICKETS AT OUR THEATER FOR FESTIVAL MOVIES PRIOR TO THE FESTIVAL. PLEASE ALSO CONSIDER BUYING ONLINE IN ADVANCE AND PRINTING YOUR TICKETS AT HOME OR BRING AN EMAIL CONFIRMATION ON YOUR SMART PHONE.



OCEANS ARE THE REAL CONTINENTS



ON BECOMING A GUINEA FOWL

The Martha's Vineyard International Film Festival — September 2-7, 2025

Schedule subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit mvfilmsociety.com.

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When his family and friends refuse to bail him out for the umpteenth time, he has no choice but to take matters into his own hands. He starts talking to any stranger on the street who speaks English and might offer him a job. Along the way, Khalid goes from stranger to quasi-mayor as he charms everyone he encounters. The New York Times described the film as "a quietly sweet movie about unlikely redemption." Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Nashville Film Festival.

THE MAKING OF A JAPANESE

Friday, September 5, 4:00 pm

DIRECTED BY: EMA RYAN YAMAZAKI

Japan / 2023 / 99 mins / Documentary

From Oscar-nominated director Ema Yamazaki comes an intimate portrait of childhood inside a Tokyo public school. Over the course of a year, first and sixth graders

navigate daily routines and small dramas while learning discipline, empathy, and community, finding the balance between individualism and respect for others. The film earned a Special Jury Prize at the EBS International Documentary Festival.

SHORT FILM JURIED COMPETITION

Friday, September 5, 7:30 pm

Our film-selection committee chose 10 finalists from over 275 entries for this year's competition. Each will be screened and then our jury will announce the "Best Overall" film at the conclusion.

DOBRINA (5:00)

DIRECTOR HANNES RALL (GERMANY)

Lotte Reiniger meets Sergio Leone in this animated short, where desire burns as bright as the desert sun.

WRONG ADDRESS (10:45)

DIRECTOR JOHN SIMMONS, (USA)

Ahmadu, a young aspiring artist of African origin, is the target of dangerous police rage after he retrieves his pizza, delivered to the wrong address.

DEFINE (19:58)

DIRECTOR HAMDİ FURKAN YILDIRIM (TURKEY)

A little girl from an isolated cottage goes to the woods to find the doctor for her ailing grandmother and encounters dangerous men.

PARENTS CONFERENCE (13:00)

DIRECTOR INBAL VOITIZ SASS (ISRAEL)

A mother and daughter spend a long day at school, meeting all teachers. But parenting can't be taught.

DON'T BE LATE, MYRA (14:58)

DIRECTOR AFIA SERENA NATHANIEL (PAKISTAN)

Myra misses her school bus and must find her way back home alone. The short thriller takes a turn as she tries to dodge men harassing her on the streets of Lahore.

A GUEST IN MY COUNTRY (15:26)

DIRECTOR JOHN GRAY (USA)

An immigrant Uber driver takes an upscale couple across town, and the drama that unfolds among them reveals truths they all would have preferred stayed hidden.

NEGRO LEAGUE NIGHTS (12:52)

DIRECTOR KYLE SYKES (USA)

Doc Sykes helps his team, the Baltimore Black Sox, advance to the Colored World Series in 1923 by beating the New York Black Yankees at Yankee Stadium. His excitement soon turns to anger and disappointment when he realizes the all-Black showers at the stadium are filthy and disgusting. When he and two of his teammates make the bold choice to use the White showers instead, the racist stadium manager instantly apprehends them. Threatened with arrest, Doc and his teammates are escorted outside while

Continued on Page 6



OPENING NIGHT FILM

DREAMS



THE BLACK SEA

SAVE THESE DATES FOR 2026



SPECTRUM
LGBTQ FILM SERIES

JUNE 2026

MARTHA'S VINEYARD
Environmental
FILM FESTIVAL

MAY 21-24
MAY 25-28

FILMUSIC
FESTIVAL

JUNE 25-28

DOC WEEK

JULY 27-31

Martha's Vineyard
film festival

SEPT. 8-13

WOMEN
IN
FILM

OCTOBER 16-18

MV FILM SOCIETY



THE MAKING OF A JAPANESE



THE DATING GAME

The Martha's Vineyard International Film Festival — September 2-7, 2025

Schedule subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit mvfilmsociety.com.

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their loyal fans, and two young kids, clamor for their release, prompting the stadium manager to relent and release them.

THE SINGERS (17:00)
DIRECTOR SAM DAVIS (USA)

A genre-bending film adaptation of a 19th-century short story written by Ivan Turgenev, in which a lowly pub full of downtrodden men connect unexpectedly through an impromptu sing-off. With a cast comprised of first-time actors from the unlikeliest corners of TikTok and YouTube, the film is a celebration of diamonds in the rough and a testament to the power of vulnerability through art.

SLEEPING SKY (14:35)
DIRECTOR ZAHRA SADEGHI (IRAN)

Trapped in an endless cycle, even our deepest wishes repeat themselves, like a story read every night but never finished.

THE WISHING WAND (3:19)
DIRECTOR JANE FRASER (USA)

If you had a magic wand, what would you wish for? When Jane's pug Maisy destroys her favorite wand, disaster turns into wonder when a new wand serendipitously arrives at the door. Jane discovers that with one wave, sweet things can happen. "The Wishing Wand" is a short film by Jane Fraser, a first-time filmmaker with Down Syndrome. The film is dedicated to her late grandmother Claire, Jane's best friend and personal wand-maker.

DAY 5: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6:

BILL PLYMPTON'S SHOWCASE OF ANIMATION SHORTS

Saturday, September 6, 1:00 pm

International / 2025 / Animation
The MV International Film Festival will present a display of animated shorts with a showcase curated by Bill Plympton, an Oscar-nominated animator and cartoonist, who has been amusing and provoking

audiences with his surrealist, off-kilter take on everyday life for years.

THE DATING GAME
Saturday, September 6, 4:00 pm
DIRECTED BY: VIOLET FENG

China / 2024 / 88 min / Documentary
In a country where eligible men greatly outnumber women, three perpetual bachelors join an intensive seven-day dating camp led by one of China's most sought-after dating coaches in what may be their last-ditch effort to find love. An official Sundance Film Festival selection and Grand Jury Prize nominee. Variety calls the film, "Timely... tackles China's gender divide and romance in the digital age."

DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT
Saturday, September 6, 7:30 pm
DIRECTED BY: EMBETH DAVIDTZ

Zimbabwe / 2024 / 98 min / Drama
Based on Alexandra Fuller's memoir of the same name, this film captures the childhood

of 8-year-old Bobo on her family farm in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) at the end of the Zimbabwean War for independence in 1980. Set against this violent backdrop, and seen through her eyes, we witness the family's desperate attachment to Africa's soil and the deep, festering scars of a war that reshapes both land and soul. Won a Special Jury Mention at the Palm Springs International Film Festival. The San Jose Mercury News calls the film, "a tremendous directorial debut in every way."

DAY 6: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7:

PINK LADY
Sunday, September 7, 12:00 pm
DIRECTED BY: NIR BERGMANN

Israel / 2024 / 106 min / Drama
In an ultra-Orthodox Jewish community in Jerusalem, Bati has a seemingly perfect life. She is happily married to Lazer, and the young couple have three children. But

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DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT



PINK LADY



WHEN FALL IS COMING



FOUR MOTHERS

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

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their world starts to crumble when Lazer is blackmailed, and Bati discovers his secret affair with his male study partner. Desperate to protect her family and keep the man she loves, she supports Lazer as he attempts to "cure" his homosexuality, whilst uncovering her true desires. Director Nir Bergmann won the Best Director Prize at Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival.

WHEN FALL IS COMING

Sunday, September 7, 2:15 pm

DIRECTED BY: FRANÇOIS OZON

France / 2024 / 104 min / Drama

Michelle is enjoying a peaceful retirement in a Burgundy village, close to her longtime friend Marie-Claude. When her Parisian daughter Valérie drops off her son Lucas to spend school vacation with his grandma, Michelle — stressed out by her daughter — serves her toxic mushrooms for lunch. Valérie quickly recovers but forbids her mother from seeing her grandson anymore. Feeling lonely and guilty, Michelle falls into a depression... until Marie-Claude's son gets out of prison. The Hollywood Reporter calls the film "a darkly funny French drama worth savoring." Winner of the Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Performance at the San Sebastian International Film Festival.

FOUR MOTHERS

Sunday, September 7, 4:30 pm

DIRECTED BY: DARREN THORNTON

Ireland / 2025 / 89 mins /

Drama & Comedy

Edward, a novelist saddled with caring for his elderly mother, finally finds himself on the brink of literary success. With pressure to go on a US book tour mounting, the last thing Edward needs is his friends jetting off to Spain for an impromptu Pride holiday, leaving their mothers on his doorstep! Over a chaotic weekend, he juggles his burgeoning career with the care of four eccentric, combative, and wildly different ladies. The film premiered and won the Audience Award at the 2024 BFI London Film Festival.

CLOSING NIGHT PARTY

Sunday, September 7, 6:15 pm

Garde East Restaurant, 49 Beach Road

Right after the closing night film, travel to Garde East on the Vineyard Haven harbor and help us bring another wonderful festival to a triumphant end. Under the stars, enjoy wonderful food and libations while DJ Smooth B spins and Miss Molly Dazzle twirls.



Get Involved

The success of the Martha's Vineyard International Film Festival in large measure depends on the time and support of individuals. If you would like to join our team, here's how you can get involved:

Volunteer

Do you want to meet great people and earn free tickets for movies and parties? Volunteer! We need a few good volunteers to help direct festival-goers, help with special events and receptions, work with our international talent, and much more.

For more information, contact our volunteer coordinator **Ayanna Fhagen-Smith** at ayanna@mvfilmsociety.com.

Thank You

The Martha's Vineyard International Film Festival is a collaborative event. A dedicated group of individuals have donated their time and energy to putting on this great event. We appreciate you all — Richard Paradise, Michael Nason, Ayanna Fhagen-Smith, and Chris Bahara.

Become a Financial Supporter

Join an impressive list of members and sponsors and support the MV Film Society with a financial contribution. As many of you know, our film society only raises half of its budget through ticket sales, so we rely on our members, sponsors, and individual supporters to make our events happen.

MV Film Society is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization 50 weeks a year. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please send your donation to PO Box 4423, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.

For more details and custom sponsorship opportunities, contact **Richard Paradise** at rich@mvfilmsociety.com or call 774.392.2972

The Cast

Richard Paradise
Executive Director/Founder

Michael Nason
Associate Director

Chris Bahara
Assistant Director/Membership

Ayanna Fhagen-Smith
Theater Manager and Projectionist

Patrick Rolston
Tisbury Fire Department

Tony Valensuela
Festival Logo Designer

Nicole Jackson
Program Art Designer

Brenda Horrigan Editor

Eric Johnson Jazz Quartet

DJ Smooth B

Short Films Viewing Committee:

Jennifer Turner Smith
Anne Evasick
Deborah Alves
Steven Berry

Short Film Competition Jury:

Amir Youssef
2024 Short Film Winner
DAWN EVERY DAY

David Helpert
Producer, Director, and Screenwriter

Diana Barrett
The Fledgling Fund

Sarah Kernochan
Two-time Academy Award Winner, for Documentary Short and Screenwriter

And a special thank you to all the 2025 MVIFF Volunteers.

2025 Summer Interns:
Zoe Elaine Alphonse
Isabel DeVito
Nick Anderson

20th ANNUAL MARTHA'S VINEYARD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, SEPT. 2		WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 3		THURSDAY, SEPT. 4 OPENING NIGHT PARTY AND FILM		FRIDAY, SEPT. 5		SATURDAY, SEPT. 6		SUNDAY, SEPT. 7 CLOSING NIGHT PARTY AND FILM	
										12:00 pm	PINK LADY Directed by: Nir Bergmann Israel / 2024 106 min / Drama
1:00 pm	CHECKPOINT ZOO Directed by: Joshua Zeman Ukraine / 2024 / 107 mins / Documentary	1:00 pm	ODD FISH Directed by: Snævar Sölvason Iceland / 2024 / 104 mins / Comedy & Drama			1:00 pm	THE BLACK SEA Directed by: Crystal Moselle, Derrick B. Harden Bulgaria / 2023 / 96 mins / Drama & Comedy	1:00 pm	BILL PLYMPTON'S SHOWCASE OF ANIMATION SHORTS International / 2025 Animation	2:15 pm	WHEN FALL IS COMING Directed by: François Ozon France / 2024 / 104 min / Drama
4:00 pm	GRAND TOUR Directed by: Miguel Gomes Portugal / 2024 / 129 mins / Drama	4:00 pm	OCEANS ARE THE REAL CONTINENTS Directed by: Tommaso Santambrogio Cuba / 2023 / 120 mins / Drama	5:30 pm	OPENING RECEPTION Tented party on the Tisbury Marketplace green space.	4:00 pm	THE MAKING OF A JAPANESE Directed by: Ema Ryan Yamazaki Japan / 2023 / 99 mins / Documentary	4:00 pm	THE DATING GAME Directed by: Violet Feng China / 2024 / 88 min / Documentary	4:30 pm	FOUR MOTHERS Directed by: Darren Thornton Ireland / 2025 89 mins / Drama & Comedy
7:30 pm	THE MARCHING BAND Directed by: Emmanuel Courcol France / 2024 / 103 mins / Comedy & Drama	7:30 pm	ON BECOMING A GUINEA FOWL Directed by: Rungano Nyoni Zambia / 2024 / 95 mins / Drama & Comedy	7:30 pm	DREAMS (SEX LOVE) Directed by: Dag Johan Haugerud Norway / 2025 110 mins / Drama	7:30 pm	SHORT FILM JURIED COMPETITION	7:30 pm	DON'T LET'S GO TO THE DOGS TONIGHT Directed by: Embeth Davidtz Zimbabwe / 2024 98 min / Drama	6:15 pm	CLOSING PARTY AT GARDE EAST 49 Beach Road in Vineyard Haven

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Tickets can be purchased online now at mvfilmsociety.com or in person at the Film Center box office.

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Schedule subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit mvfilmsociety.com.

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MARTHA'S VINEYARD FILM SOCIETY
WOMEN IN FILM FESTIVAL
 October 17-19, 2025

The Martha's Vineyard Film Society is proud to present our sixth annual **Women In Film Festival (WIFF)**.
 WIFF is a celebration of women as filmmakers: in front of and behind the camera. This festival will feature stories that have not been told from a woman's perspective.

More information at <https://mvfilmsociety.com/women-in-film-festival/>

The Metropolitan Opera
 HD LIVE

La Sonnambula

- La Sonnambula**
October 18, 2025 1pm
 - La Bohème**
November 8, 2025 1pm
 - Arabella**
November 22, 2025 1pm
 - Andrea Chénier**
December 13, 2025 1pm
 - I Puritani**
January 10, 2026 1pm
 - Tristan und Isolde**
March 21, 2026 1pm
 - Eugene Onegin**
May 2, 2026 1pm
 - El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego**
May 30, 2026 1pm
- Plus bonus encore presentations of Julie Taymor's *The Magic Flute* and *Cinderella*

Live October 18, 2025
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Don't miss grand opera back on the big screen! At long last, the Met's Celebrated series of high-definition simulcasts returns with a lineup of nine dazzling performances.



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