

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16-18, 2018

## AMERICAN FRINGE

Line-up announced: Third edition of the popular film showcase spotlights new gems of independent U.S. cinema

With directors and curators in person at the Cinémathèque française

Wednesday, November 07, 2018: The Cinémathèque française and The Arts Arena are proud to announce the line-up for American Fringe, the third annual independent film showcase featuring highlights from the U.S. Curated by Richard Peña and Livia Bloom Ingram, the seven programs will be shown as part of the Festival d'Automne à Paris with the directors and curators in person the weekend of November 16-18, 2018.

“When the concept of an “independent cinema” first began to emerge in the 1930s—applied to movements as varied as the Workers’ Film and Photo Leagues and early avant-garde cinema—it meant work that was essentially different from that being produced by the commercial cinema of Hollywood: different forms of production, different strategies of distribution and exhibition, but most importantly different aesthetic forms and politics,” explained co-curator Richard Peña.

“Happily, the spirit of that original independent cinema is alive and well,” added co-curator Livia Bloom Ingram. “The films on view represent a range of subjects and styles, but what unites all of them is their shared commitment to bringing to the screen deeply personal visions of America today.”

Download the American Fringe trailer here: <https://vimeo.com/295344482>

Official website (French): <http://www.cinematheque.fr/cycle/american-fringe-saison-3-468.html>

Official website (English) American Fringe (English): <http://amfringe.com>

Films:

With director Chanelle Aponte Pearson in person

[195 Lewis](#)

A film by Chanelle Aponte Pearson / U.S. / 2017 / 48 min / With Rae Leone Allen, Sirita Wright, D. Ajane Carlton. In this funny, engrossing series of five episodes, a hip lesbian couple decide to try an open relationship. Yuri (Allen), an artist, is quickly dazzled by the many beautiful women of New York City... but Camille (Wright), a recent Ph.D. graduate and aspiring

academic, is not so sure their new romantic arrangement is right for her. Fortunately, they have her stoner sister Anne (Carlton, in a scene-stealing performance) and a close group of witty friends to see them through.

Preceded by the short film [F\\*cked Like a Star](#) - With director Stefani Saintonge in person

A film by Stefani Saintonge / U.S. / 2017 / 8 min

Produced by *195 Lewis* director Pearson and directed by Saintonge, a fellow member of the New Negress Film Society, *F\*cked Like a Star* uses lush photography, hypnotic editing, and the writing of Toni Morrison to explore the fantasy life of soldier ants.

**Friday, November 16 at 10:00 p.m.**

With editor Francisco Bello in person

[ACORN and the Firestorm](#)

A film by Reuben Atlas and Sam Pollard / U.S. / 2017 / 84 min / With Bertha Lewis, Hannah Giles, James O'Keefe

After 40 years championing the rights of the poor, the grassroots group ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) was the target of a video scandal that captivated the nation. By the time the video was exposed as fake, it was too late--it had already gone viral. Featuring interviews with ACORN president Bertha Lewis as well as video makers James O'Keefe and Hannah Giles, ACORN's downfall is documented in this microcosm of today's deeply divided American politics.

**Sunday, November 18 at 5:00 p.m.**

With director Nathan Silver and stars Esther Garrel and Maëlle Poésy-Guichard in person

[The Great Pretender](#)

A film by Nathan Silver / U.S. / 2017 / 72 min / With Esther Garrel, Maëlle Poésy-Guichard, Keith Poulson.

With a cast made up of both French (Maëlle Poésy-Guichard, Esther Garrel) and American actors, *THE GREAT PRETENDER* is a surprising, very contemporary look at the often thin line separating art and life, as the rehearsals for a new play become the stage for an unpredictable psychodrama.

**Saturday, November 17 at 7:15 p.m.**

With co-director Alex Kavutskiy in person

[On the Rocks](#)

A film by Ariel Gardner and Alex Kavutskiy / U.S. / 2017 / 90 min / With Chase Fein, Nichole Bagby, Kate Freund.

Distinguished by two wonderful performances by newcomers Chase Fein and Nichole Bagby, *ON THE ROCKS* is an unsettling yet sympathetic look at a couple that keep to make it—financially or emotionally—no matter how hard they try. The film's contemporary working class milieu—from bars to auto shops to run-down row houses—is brilliantly captured.

**Sunday, November 18 at 7:15 p.m.**

With director Jim McKay in person

### [On the Seventh Day](#)

A film by Jim McKay / U.S. / 2017 / 90 min / With Fernando Cardona, Gilberto Jiménez, Genoel Ramírez.

José, a worker in a Mexican restaurant—played by Fernando Cardona, who leads an equally fine, completely non-professional cast—is asked by his boss to take on an extra Sunday shift for a special event; the only problem is the shift clashes with his soccer team's bid for the championship. Beautifully observed, few films have as successfully captured the texture of contemporary immigrant life. In English and Spanish.

**Friday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m.**

With Manual Cinema's Ben Kaufmann in person

### ['Florida Man' and More Short Films by Manual Cinema](#)

Short Films by Manual Cinema / U.S. / 2014-2018 / approximately 65 min

In a day and age of increasingly sophisticated uses of digital technology, the animation collective Manual Cinema goes back to the very earliest forms of projected images, including stencils and shadow puppets, to create magical, highly original works ranging from fairy tales to political brochures. A selection of their short works, including the brilliant 'Florida Man,' will be shown.

**Saturday, November 17 at 5:15 p.m.**

With Brett Hanover and Alanna Stewart in person

### [Rukus](#)

A film by Brett Hanover / U.S. / 2017 / 86 min / With Brett Hanover, Alanna Stewart, Rukus.

When a young photographer (Hanover, in his deeply personal first film) takes his camera to a furry convention in Memphis, he finds their strange world more enticing than he'd like to admit. Over the course of this hybrid documentary-narrative film, his relationship with childhood friend Liz (Townsend) grows less casual, as does his fascination with a furry artist named Rukus, who is hard at work on an elaborate graphic novel... while struggling with his own internal demons.

**Saturday, November 17 at 10:00 p.m.**

This program is made possible by:

LA  
**CINEMATHEQUE**  
FRANÇAISE

La Cinémathèque française

51 Rue de Bercy, 75012 Paris, France

**Tickets: Full rate: €7 Reduced rate: €5.50 Under 18: €4 'Libre Pass' holders: Free**

<https://www.facebook.com/cinemathequefr>

<https://twitter.com/cinemathequefr>

<https://vimeo.com/cinemathequefr>

<https://www.instagram.com/cinemathequefr/>

Find out more at: [www.cinematheque.fr](http://www.cinematheque.fr)

# THE ARTS ARENA

American Fringe is a project of The Arts Arena

<http://artsarena.org/>



American Fringe is part of the Festival d'Automne à Paris

<https://www.festival-automne.com/programme>

Presented with the support of the Embassy of the United State in Paris, which made possible the French subtitling of these films.

Special thanks to Elodie Dufour, Annick Girard, Wafa Ghermani, Elise Girard, Aurélie Godet, Octavio Gonzalez, Sinkro Subtitling, Olivier Gonord, Jean Christophe Mikhailoff, Manisha Snoyer and Margery Arent Safir.

Major supporters of the Cinematheque française:



GRANDS MÉCÈNES DE LA CINÉMATHEQUE FRANÇAISE



vivendi



###