

**FRESH QUEER STORIES
SERVED DAILY.**



APPALACHIAN QUEER FILM FESTIVAL
FRANK ARTS CENTER SHEPHERDSTOWN, WV
SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2026



APPALACHIANQUEERFILMFEST.COM

Festival Program

Welcome, everyone, to the 12th annual Appalachian Queer Film Festival. We're so happy to be back here in the beautiful Shepherdstown, West Virginia, and we're so glad to have all of you here with us this weekend. It's no secret that these are difficult times for Appalachia and for queer and trans folks, and so we view this festival as more important, more vital, and more affirming than ever.

This weekend you're going to see a truly remarkable range of film offerings, from experimental student films to documentaries, from fiction features to narrative shorts. We take great pride in the range and variety of films we were able to program this year, and we're delighted to be able to share the work of both new and established filmmakers here in this quaint, beautiful, and historic corner of the Mountain State.

The films on offer this weekend highlight the remarkable and enduring spirit of queer and trans lives, both here in Appalachia and throughout the country and the world. These films remind us of the enduring power of art: to transform, to inspire, to change. Such works are more important now than ever, particularly in places like West Virginia.

Always remember: queer and trans futures belong in Appalachia!

In Love and Solidarity,

Jon Matthews, Justin Litton, and
TJ West

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

6:00--Opening Shorts Block

Pittsburgh is Freezing (dir.
Gabby Valdivieso)

Victoria (dir. John Haley)

You've Got a Mothman in Me
(dir. Akira Jakkson)

6:45 Documentary Feature

*Mary Oliver: Saved by the
Beauty of the World* (dir. Sasha
Waters)

Special Zoom Q&A with Sasha
Waters, director of *Mary Oliver:
Saved by the Beauty of the
World*

9:00

Ghost Tour for Filmmakers

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10:00

Harper's Ferry Filmmakers Tour

12:00--Shorts Block

In Kind (dir. Katherine Gunning)

Kansas, 1989 (dir. Clayton Dean Smith)

Shape Notes (dir. Bryan McHenry)

CHURCH GIRL (dir. Bessie Fong)

Message to Jacob (dir. Thomas Kennedy Pope)

Now Playing (dir. Kathleen Maus)

Disconnected (dir. Mel Hughes)

Audience Q & A

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1:40--Shorts Block

Tales of the Macabre (dir.
James Steele Haney)

Sexy Boy (Ian Rosales)

Rag Dolls (dir. Amy Adler)

Inside Kent's Drag Bubble (dir.
Daniel Schultz)

NAIL POLISH (dir. Sea Sombar
& Alice Chiotti-Lee)

*This Film Deserves to Name
Itself* (dir. Katie Emler)

Audience Q & A

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3:20--Shorts Block

Rainbow Rider (dir. Georgia Krause)

Julie Takes a Walk (dir. Frankie Pedersen & Shea Vassar)

Ronita Rambo (dir. Michael Doshier)

Burning of a Family Tree (dir. Alison Mattingly)

Ashamed (dir. Grayson Thomas Orr)

Tr(ace)y (dir. Julia Editz)

Wife Wife (dir. Sara Werner)

Audience Q & A

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5:20--Shorts Block

Chronically Yours (dir. Jacob Godbey)

Maple Leaves (dir. Elena Alves)

Ahyoka (dir. Schon O'GYW Duncan)

Silent Retreat (dir. Neil. Fennell)

A Cowboy Named Jazz (dir. Cassidy Madigan)

They Called Me a Rabble-Rouser
(dir. Chloe Niesz-Kutsch)

Survival, Forever (dir. Riley Heath)

I wanna hold your hand (dir. Conor Larsen & Zachary Kornblum)

Not Losing You (dir. James Lantz)

Audience Q & A

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7:15--Saturday Night
Feature

A Woman's Work (dir. A.R.
Ephraim)

Audience Q & A with
director A.R. Ephraim

9:30

Award Ceremony

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