Theater for the New City presents:

THE 25th LOWER EAST SIDE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

FILM PROGRAM

All films are free, and accessible from 6:00 PM Friday, May 22nd to 11.59 PM Sunday, May 24th EST at www.theaterforthenewcity.net This year the festival is dedicated to our essential workers.

Arlene's World Famous

Directed, filmed, edited and produced by Jorge Torres Torres



Starring Cassie Sneider, Bobby Rappaport, Natalia Barham, Fabrisio Fernandez and Lee Auerelemandi Documentary - 2020 English/Spanish (English Subtitles) 74 minutes

In NYC's Lower East Side, for almost twenty years, karaoke aficionados from around the globe come to a little bar called Arlene's Grocery to experience the ultimate karaoke experience. "Arlene's World Famous" follows five singers who have performed on Arlene's stage for years making karaoke their life-force.

Box of Nails (16mm. 1997)

Written and directed by Mark Borkowski
Cinematographer - Ralf Oberti
Produced by Greg Hecht, Steve Adell and Monika Lightstone.
Starring Greg Hecht, Steve Adell, Edmund Wilkinson, Randy Cherkas,
Dana Worland, Gina Consiglia and Susan Mitchell.
Film Noir - 1997
28 Minutes

A henchman descends into the dark side of a carnival where even he is horrified by the human experiments taking place.





Choke Artists

Written by T.D.White Cinematographer / Editor: Chad Gardella With: Jenne Marie Vath, CJ Zishuk, Edlin Pitts, Mike Roche, Zach Tuchness, T. D. White and Antonella. Satiric Comedy - 2019 3 Minutes

A quick but humorous look at Public Service Announcements! ... that serves as a Public Service Announcement.

Ding-a-ling-LESS



Written and directed by Onur Tukel Produced by Les Franck Cinematographer - Shawn Lewallen Starring Robert Longstreet, Kirk Wilson and Mark Darby Robinson Romantic Comedy (Mature) - 2001 82 Minutes

This is the story of a nice man named Jack Peterson who lives a simple life in a small coastal town in North Carolina. When he's not building birdhouses, he hangs out with his wild friend Alan, who regales him with stories of his debauched sexual adventures. The two friends couldn't be more different. Jack appreciates women for their minds. Alan only sees them as sex objects. When Jack's life starts

to fall apart, Alan has a plan that could save them both. *Ding-a-ling-LESS* is more relevant today than it was when it was made twenty years ago. It explores themes of sexual identity, toxic masculinity, gay panic, #metoo and the male antipathy that fuels fourth-wave feminism. From the writer and director of *Catfight, Summer of Blood, Applesauce* and *The Misogynists*.

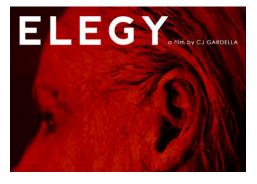
Don't Be Like Roy

Written and directed by Julianna Schley Producer / Cinematographer - Mike Farino Starring Danielle Shimshoni, Rob Byrnes, Jacob Alden Roa, Toryn Seabrooks, Zane Van Dusen and others. Dark Comedy (Mature) - 2015 73 Minutes

In this dark comedy about fear, control, and 35mm projection, a woman begins acting out, afraid that her new boyfriend is turning into her old one, an agoraphobic projectionist named Roy. Meanwhile, a Masked Bandit is destroying public artwork in New York City.



Elegy



A film by Chad Gardella Cinematographer / Colorist - Gavin Rosenberg Starring Rhiannon Lattimer, Jason de Beer, Leanne Michelle Watson, Tom White, Jesse Brant Howel Wilderness Gothic - 2016 20 Minutes

A short film, in the wilderness gothic tradition, set in a crumbling estate, where strange visions and paranoia afflict its occupants. With intense and gorgeous close-up nature photography, lyrical transitions, and sound design, "Elegy" is an extremely accomplished experimental film.

Every End is a New Beginning

A film by David McDonald A Very Brief Message of Love - 2020 4 Minutes

"Every End Is A New Beginning" is a meditation on our responsibility to one another as human beings during the current pandemic. Borders and boundaries are no longer relevant — for the first time in human history, we are all experiencing something as one. But will we see our own interconnectedness or die fighting for each individual scrap?





Final Position

Written, directed and produced by Nelson Farber Cinematographers - Mark Crisarob, Shane Suski & Nelson Farber Starring Harlan Strauss, Aryn Quinn, Skippy D. Drama - 2009 6 Minutes

A chess player's very last game reveals hidden and mystical dimensions awaiting beyond the chess board's 64 squares, as themes of love, death and rebirth are explored in this experimental 16 mm. film.

Inside the Cage

Directed by Kenichi Nakajima and Yuko Uchida Edited by Kenichi Nakajima Experimental Visual Art - 2015 5 Minutes

This is an experimental collaboration of two visual artists, Kenichi Nakajima and Yuko Uchida.

"We often feel a cage around us in our daily life. We crave to break the cage and aspire to change inside. In this work, we painted and sculpted to show our desire on canvas on the wall, in a 200 x 200 sq. foot studio in Bushwick, Brooklyn during a 10 hour session".





Mr Hyde Transformation

From Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson. Director / Actor - David Zen Mansley Cinematographer / Editor - Roy T Chang Horror - 2020 2 Minutes

A new look at the classic tale about the duality of man.

Neverland

Written and directed by Erik Wegner Produced by Erik Wegner, Chris Victor, Kyle McCuiston

Starring Lauren Alexandria Kittrell, John Varina, Joe Gawalis, Melanie Mahanna and Daniel O'Shea. Drama - 2018 81 Minutes

Emma drifts between reality and fantasy as she fights to survive the pain of the life she cannot escape from, while relentlessly struggling to have the life she always dreamed of.





Park 51

Written & directed by Christopher Capelluto Cinematographer - Isaac Hughes Green Starring Graham Powell, Al Nazemian & Antoinette Elias. Drama - 2013 21 Minutes

A struggling Iraq War veteran saves the life of a Muslim man from a hate crime in New York City. The film takes place against the backdrop of the protests against the controversial 'Park 51' ground zero mosque.

Puta Libre

Written, directed & edited by Kevin Haefelin & Blaise Villars Produced by Kevin Haefelin Cinematographer: Blaise Villars Starring Oleg Karnaukh, Felipe Castro, Edmond Vullioud, Armen Godel, Julie Conti, Robert Szuplewski, Anissa Cadelli, Helene Patricio, Antonio Buil, Jef Saintmartin, François Florey Action / Thriller - 2017 29 Minutes



On the way to their honeymoon, an ordinary couple ends up in the heart of a crooked politician's business, his dangerous thugs and their rival, Pavel, a Russian agent intended to save women from sex trafficking.



Safe Harbour Amsterdam

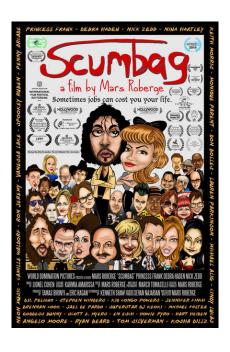
Written and directed by Jack Luceno
Cinematographer - Camera Stijn Jonghardt
Starring Jack Luceno, Gareth Harwood, Janna Fassaert,
Dean Van Dugteren, Kenan Raven, Susanne Ohmann,
Alexandra Buresch, William Sutton.
Dark Comedy - 2018
94 Minutes

For decades artists, guys on the run came to Amsterdam chasing dreams. Talent and dreams took a back seat to fast and easy money. Yet things are desperate. A young traveler forces them to confront who they really are.

Scumbag

Written and directed by Mars Roberge
Cinematographer - Marco Tomaselli
Starring a gang of NYC LES legends such as Penny Arcade, Michael Musto,
Nick Zedd, Little Annie, Michael Alig, Superstar DJ Keoki, Tom Silverman, etc. with
a cast of over 220 actors in it.
Dark Comedy (Mature) - 2017
114 Minutes

A young wannabe-superstar dj, Phil, takes on a day job at a telemarketing company, working with crazy people, ex-prisoners, drug addicts and murderers. The time on his life begins to tick as he battles addiction, fights the law and tries to maintain the only sane thing left in his life, his girlfriend, Christine. From the writer and director of "The Little House That Could". Keep your safety belts fastened for this high-octane punk ride in the fast lane of life.





The Lessons by Alberto Ferreras

Written and directed by Alberto Ferreras. Cinematography by Alex Stikich. Starring John David West, Olga Merediz, Shirley Rumierk, Francisco Solorzano, Suzanne Di Donna, David Fraioli, Lou Liberatore, Barbra Herr, Giovanka de Medici and Ardes Quinn.

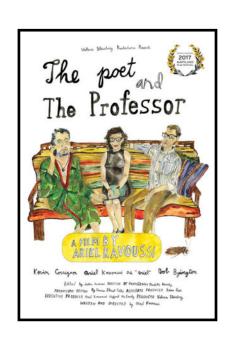
Drama - 2017 to 2020 47 Minutes

The Lessons is an award winning collection of funny and daring New York stories that explore sex, relationships, and honesty, in the most unusual circumstances. These witty short films will make you laugh, and will leave you wondering if you can handle the truth.

The Poet and the Professor

Written and directed by Ariel Kavoussi
Produced by Valerie Steinberg
Cinematographer - Charlotte Hornsby
Starring Ariel Kavoussi, Kevin Corrigan and Bob Byington
Comedy (Mature) - 2017
22 Minutes

In New York, a young aimless writer named Ariel bounces back and forth between two equally dysfunctional affairs - one with her depressed married philosophy professor; and the other with an old angry cinematographer.





Tru Romance

A film by Celine Dayan-Bonilla
Cinematographer - Geoffrey Duncanson
Starring Angela Belcamino, Diana Berry, Eric Espinosa, Ivelaw Peters, Mehdi El-Hebil
Comedy - 2020
7 Minutes

Can't a feminist catch a break? Join Kayla on her journey back into the modern world of dating.

VIRTUAL APPLAUSE?

When possible, contact information for the filmmakers is provided in the Vimeo synopsis. You are welcome to send comments or questions to them. You can also contact: FilmProgramTNC@gmail.com

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THANKS

Special thanks to everyone who helped on the sets of these films, Robin Menikoff, John Milisenda, Jonathan Slaff as well as the entire festival committee.

FESTIVAL

The Lower East Side Festival of the Arts started in 1996 as a three-day, indoor and outdoor multi-arts festival intended to demonstrate the creative explosion of the Lower East Side and the area's importance to culture and tourism for New York City. It employed two theater spaces at TNC plus the block of East Tenth Street between First and Second Avenues. For the past 24 years, it has been organized by Theater for the New City and a coalition of civic, cultural and business leaders and presented free to an average attendance of 4,000. This year, with obligatory separation caused by Coronavirus, it is being mounted entirely on the theater's website to show the world how the pandemic will not quench the artistic output of this fabled neighborhood. Over 150 performing groups and artists of all disciplines are participating.

Festival Director: Crystal Field, Theater for the New City Technical Directors: David Aronson and Roy T Chang Curator: Eva Dorrepaal

