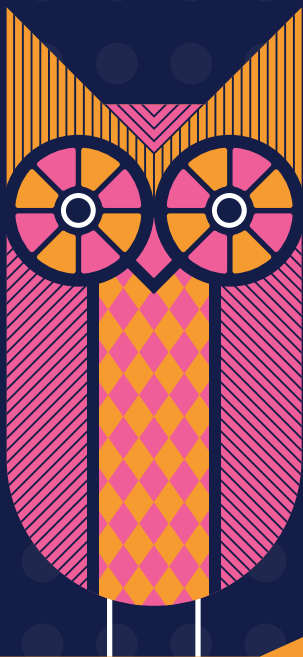


# TALLGRASS

## FILM FESTIVAL

OCT 20-24 2021 + VIRTUAL



PRESENTED BY CONSOLIDATED EQUITIES TRUST  
AND BONAVIA FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST

  
TALLGRASS  
FILM ASSOCIATION

**STUBBORNLY**  
**INDEPENDENT**

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Welcome to the 19th annual Tallgrass Film Festival!

This is my first year and I'm already in love with Wichita, in no small part due to the wonderful, creative community here. We know things may look different but we're so glad to return to the theater with you, safely.

We're going to do everything that we can to ensure you have an outstanding experience while you're with us. Thanks so much for making yourself part of the stubbornly independent community.



Melanie Addington,

Executive Director

## MAIN BOX OFFICE | 125 Market Street

### Hours:

Oct 18-24 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

- VIP TALLPass \$200 (All Access Pass)
- FilmPass \$100 (Access to All Films)
- General Admission \$10
- Senior, Military, Student and Teacher admission | \$8
- Gala Screening or Double Feature \$15
- Gala Movie + Party \$45
- Tallgrass Merchandise - prices vary

**BOX OFFICE ONLINE** | [tallgrassfilm.org](http://tallgrassfilm.org) You may purchase TALLPasses, FilmPasses and admission to all films/galas online up to one hour before each screening begins.

## THEATRE AND EDUCATION VENUES

The Orpheum Theatre | 200 N. Broadway  
Wilke Family Life Center @ First United | 330 N. Broadway

Groover Labs | 334 St. Francis Ave.  
mama.film | 120 E. 1st St. N.

Outdoor Tent | 155 South Broadway

## PARTY VENUES

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20 | Naftzger Park | 601 E. Douglas Ave.

THURSDAY, OCT. 21 | Botanica | 701 Amidon St.

FRIDAY, OCT. 22 | Outside | 155 S. Broadway + 1st St.

SATURDAY, OCT. 23 | Groover Labs | 334 St. Francis Ave. + Wave | 650 E. 2nd St. N.

SUNDAY, OCT. 24 | Cowtown | 1865 W. Museum Blvd.

**HEALTH & SAFETY** | Tallgrass is following all lawfully required COVID-19 health and safety protocols including masks indoors regardless of vaccine status and will continue to update and revise our protocols to reflect the most current safety standards – so make sure to reference this page closer to your event. Due to variants, event plans and COVID restrictions can change. Visit <https://tallgrassfilm.org/film-festival/healthsafety/> for all rules and regs.

**ONLINE UPDATES** | All film titles, times, and scheduled guests were accurate at the time of printing. Film descriptions included in this program are intended to give the audience a brief overview. For a more in-depth, up-to-the-minute look please download our mobile app, **Tallgrass Film** in the iTunes App Store or through Google Play, or visit [tallgrassfilm.org](https://tallgrassfilm.org).



**PARKING** | Metered parking is available downtown, and is free after 5:00 PM and on weekends. Free weekday parking is available at First United Methodist Church. Paid weekday parking is available at TempleLive at Wichita Scottish Rite Center for \$3/day or \$10/5 days. Accessible parking is available at each venue.

**FINE PRINT** | Many films have not been rated by the MPA - parental discretion advised. Program running times do not include introductions, shorts, and Q&As. Seating is first come, first served. We strongly encourage you to be at the theater and in your seat 15 minutes prior to showtime. Please check [tallgrassfilm.org](https://tallgrassfilm.org) for last minute changes.

# TALLGRASS VENUES



## Opening Night Gala Presented by Steve Anderson and Kansas Strong



**The Humans**

Director/Producer: Stephen Karam

Producer: Louise Lovegrove

Narrative | USA | 2021

1 hr 48 min | 18+

Thursday, Oct 21 7pm

Orpheum - In Person Only

Steven Yeun, Beanie Feldstein, and Richard Jenkins star in Stephen Karam's adaptation of his Tony Award-winning multi-generational family drama.

Opening night Gala party following the Q&A | Botanica Japanese Garden 701 Amidon St

## Centerpiece Gala sponsored by

**Augusta Historic Theater, Brendan O'Bryhim at Merrill: a Bank of America Company, Northstar Comfort Services, Inc., Kathy & Jim Siebert and Stev Overstreet in memory of James Sprowl**



**God Save the Wings**

Director: Adam Knapp, Kenneth Linn

Producer: Tim O'Bryhim, Tori Deatherage, and Michael Romalis

Documentary | USA | 2020

1 hr 36 min | 13+

Friday, Oct 22 6:30pm

Orpheum

The country was transitioning from the late 1970s into the 80s and pop culture was shifting along with it. With the help of several passionate owners, a charming Liverpoollian Coach, a roster of talented, sexy, pro athletes from Denmark, England, and beyond, and an energetic and dedicated fanbase, the Wichita Wings held their own in the most exciting indoor soccer league of the decade. *Preceded by short film: Misisipi (Take 36 Winner)*

Centerpiece gala party to follow immediately after the Q&A on 1st Street outside the Orpheum.



**A Choice of Weapons:**  
 Inspired by Gordon Parks  
 Director: John Maggio  
 Producer: HBO  
 Documentary | USA | 2021  
 1 hr 29 min | All Ages  
 Saturday Oct 23 5:30pm  
 Orpheum - In Person Only

The documentary explores the power of images in advancing racial, economic, and social equality as seen through the lens of Gordon Parks, one of America's most trailblazing artists, and the generation of young photographers, filmmakers, and activists he inspired.

### Shaft

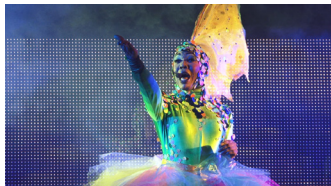
Director: Gordon Parks  
 Producer: Joel Freeman  
 Narrative | USA | 1971 | 1 hr 40 min | 18+  
 Saturday Oct 23 8pm - In Person Only



Cool black private eye John Shaft is hired by a crime lord to find and retrieve his kidnapped daughter. **Sponsored by WSU Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.**

Gala party sponsored by Rick & Monica Nutt to follow the films at Wave 650 E. 2nd St N.

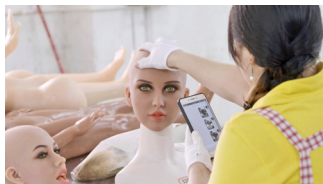
## Closing Gala



**Being BeBe**  
 Director/Producer: Emily Branham  
 Producer: Marc Smolowitz / Jonathan Goodman Levitt  
 Documentary | USA | 2021  
 1 hr 33 min | 13+ | English + French  
 Sunday Oct 24 7pm  
 Orpheum

Being BeBe intimately charts 15 years in the life of drag performer Marshall Ngwa (aka BeBe Zahara Benet): An immigrant to America from homophobic Cameroon, first champion on Reality TV phenomenon RuPaul's Drag Race. *Preceded by short film: The Young King | 6 mins | Larin Sullivan | USA English.* Closing Night Party sponsored by Shepherd Foundation at Old Cowtown Museum (1865 W Museum Blvd) will follow.

Spotlight films are not juried but are open for audience award including a \$2,500 cash prize.



### Ascension

Director: Jessica Kingdon  
Producer: Kira Simon-Kennedy, Jessica Kingdon, Nathan Truesdell

China | 2021 | 1 hr 39 min | 13+  
Thursday Oct 21 5:15pm  
mama.films - In Person Only

This observational documentary delivers a nuanced understanding of the growing behemoth that is the nominally communist yet hyper-capitalist People's Republic of China.

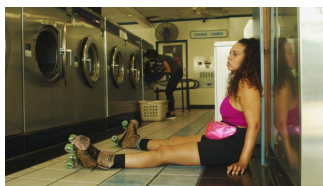


### Father of the Cyborgs

Sponsored by Cognitive Performance & Health  
Director/Producer: David Burke

Producer: Sean O'Cualain  
USA | 2021 | 1 hr 15 | 13+  
Saturday Oct 23 9pm  
mama.film

Famed neurologist Phil Kennedy made global headlines in the late 90's for connecting the brain of a paralyzed man to a computer. But now, the controversial inventor is concerned that the field he helped pioneer may lead to unintended consequences. *Preceded by short film: Florence | 14 mins | d. Florian Thess | UK | English*



I'm Fine (Thanks for Asking) Sponsored by Ad Astra Financial Group  
Director/Producer: Kelley Kali & Angelique Molina

Producer: Deon Cole, Roma Kong & Capella Fahoome  
USA | 1 hr 30 min | 13+  
Sunday Oct 24 5pm  
Wilke - In Person Only

When a recently widowed mother becomes houseless, she convinces her 8-year-old daughter that they are only camping for fun while working to get them off of the streets.

*Preceded by short film: Missing First Period | 16 mins | d. Chassidy David | USA | English*



**Luzzu****Director: Alex Camilleri****Producer: Rebecca Anastasi, Ramin Bahrani, Alex Camilleri and Oliver Mallia****Narrative | Malta | 2021 | 1 hr 34 min | 18+****Sunday Oct 24 10:45am****Groover Labs**

Maltese fisherman sees his livelihood - and a family tradition from generations before him - imperiled by diminishing harvests, a ruthless fishing industry, and a stagnating ecosystem. *Preceded by short film: What Remains | 14 mins | d. Paavo Hanninen | USA | English*

**Not Going Quietly****Director: Nicholas Bruckman****Producer: Amanda Roddy****Documentary | USA | 2020****1 hr 33 min | 13+****Thursday Oct 21 10am****mama.film (audio description)****Sunday Oct 24 10am****Wilke**

When a young father with ALS chances to meet a powerful senator on an airplane, their filmed exchange goes viral and sparks one of the most powerful political movements in a generation. *Preceded by short film: Feeling Through | 19 mins | d. Doug Roland | USA | English*

**On The Divide****Director: Leah Galant, Maya Cueva****Producer: Diane Becker, Melanie Miller, Amanda Spain, Elizabeth Woodward****USA | 2021 | 1 hr 20 min | 13+****Friday Oct 22 3pm****mama.film**

This documentary follows the story of three Latinx people living in McAllen, Texas who, despite their views, are connected by the most unexpected of places: the last abortion clinic on the U.S./Mexico border. *Preceded by short film: Burros | 15 mins | d. Jefferson Stein | USA | English, Spanish, O'dham w/ subtitles*



## Poser

Director: Ori Segev, Noah Dixon

Producer: Drew Johnson, Juli Sasaki, Brett Reiter

USA | 2021 | 1 hr 23 min | 18+  
Saturday Oct 23 2:45pm  
Orpheum

Lennon Gates is a quiet and observant podcaster, but when she meets the charismatic musician Bobbi Kitten, her deceptive intentions surface. *Preceded by short film: An Opening | 16 mins | d. Collin Davis | USA | English*



## Potato Dreams of America

Director/Producer: Wes Hurley

Producer: Mischa Jakupcak

USA | 2021 | 1 hr 35 min | 13+  
Sunday Oct 24 1:15pm  
Groover Labs - In Person Only

An autobiographical dark comedy about a gay boy growing up in the Soviet Union, his mail-order bride mother and their adventurous escape to America. *Preceded by short film: In France Michelle is a Man's Name | 13 mins | d. Em A Weinstein | USA | English*



## Sisters with Transistors

Sponsored by The Monarch

Director: Lisa Rovner

Producer: Anna Vaney / Marcus Werner Hed

Documentary | USA | 2020  
1 hr 25 min | All Ages  
Sunday Oct 24 5:00pm  
mama.film

From the unlimited possibilities of digital synthesizers, to the recent analog recording revival, from the impossibly perfect pitch of Auto-Tune, to the democratization of music-making for a generation of 'bedroom' producers - each of these extraordinary developments is directly connected to the work and artistry of the women featured in the film.

*Preceded by short film: Forbidden to See Us Scream in Tehran | 18 mins | d. Farbod Ardebili | Iran | Farsi w/ subtitles*



### The First Step Sponsored by Koch Legal

Director: Brandon Kramer

Producer: Lance Kramer

Documentary | USA | 2021

1 hr 26 min | 13+

Friday Oct 22 4pm

Orpheum

In a divided America, Van Jones controversially works across party lines on landmark criminal justice reform and a more humane response to the addiction crisis. Attempting to be a bridge builder in a time of extreme polarization takes him deep into the inner workings of a divisive administration, internal debates within both parties, and the lives of frontline activists fighting for their communities. *Preceded by short film: Generation 328 | 19 mins | d. Veranika Nikanova | Belarus | Russian w/ subtitles*



### The Land

Director: Veronica Andersson , Filip Hillesland, Mateusz Motyka, Maciej Jolesicki

Poland | 2021 | 1 hr 43 min | 13+

Saturday Oct 22 4pm

mama.film - In Person Only

Six stories. Twelve angry people. An infinite number of explosions. A film composed of six separate dark comedy-dramas showing contemporary Poland in a humorous way. *Preceded by short film: Sonrisas (Smiles) | 14 mins | d. Javier Chavanel | Spain | Spanish w/ subtitles*



### The Neutral Ground

Director: CJ Hunt

Producer: Darcy McKinnon

USA | 2021 | 1 hr 33 min | 13+

Sunday Oct 24 12:15pm

mama.film

A feature length documentary about New Orleans' fight over monuments and America's centuries-long relationship with the Lost Cause.



The Return: Life After ISIS  
Director/Producer: Alba Sotorra Clua  
Spain, USA | 2021 | 1 hr 30 min | 18+  
Thursday Oct 21 3pm  
mama.film - In Person Only

A unique access portrait of a group of Western women who devoted their young lives to ISIS, but who now want to be given the chance to start over, back home in the West.

## ONLINE BONUS CONTENT

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Download the Tallgrass Film app for the best way to experience Tallgrass!

Available now on



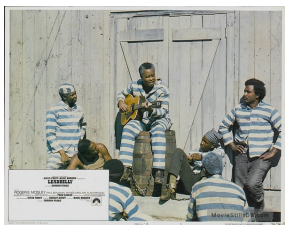
Keep up with the conversation online using #Tallgrass21



@tallgrass |



@tallgrassfilm



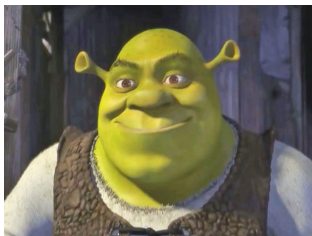
**Leadbelly** Sponsored by Linda Nugent, Berkshire Hathaway PenFed Realty  
 Director: Gordon Parks  
 Producer: Marc Merson  
 Narrative | USA | 1976  
 2 hr 6 min | 13+  
 Thursday Oct 21 4pm  
 Wilke Center

Biography of the legendary folksinger, Huddie Ledbetter, master of the 12-string guitar and long-time convict on Texas and Louisiana chain gangs.



**The Learning Tree** Sponsored by Jeff & Janice Van Sickle  
 Director/Producer: Gordon Parks  
 Narrative | USA | 1969  
 1 hr 47 min | 13+  
 Thursday Oct 21 1pm  
 Wilke Center

The story, set in Kansas during the 1920s, covers less than a year in the life of a black teenager, and documents the veritable deluge of events which force him into sudden manhood.



**Shrek (20th Anniversary)**  
 Director: Vicky Jenson, Andrew Adamson  
 Producer: Jeffrey Katzenberg / Aron Warner / John H. Williams  
 Animation | USA | 2001  
 1 hr 30 min | All Ages  
 Wednesday Oct 20 7pm  
 Naftzger Park

Shrek (Mike Myers) goes on a quest to rescue the feisty Princess Fiona (Cameron Diaz) with the help of his loveable Donkey (Eddie Murphy) and win back the deed to his swamp from scheming Lord Farquaad.

A pre-reception for VIP passholders will be held at 6pm. The film is free to the public. **Sponsored by Evergy and Martin, Pringle, Oliver, Wallace & Bauer, L.L.P.**



### Vinyl Nation

Director/Producer: Kevin Smokler & Christopher Boone  
 Documentary | USA | 2020  
 1 hr 32 min | 13+  
 Friday Oct 22 6pm  
 Wilke Center

A documentary dig into the resurgence of vinyl records, the diversification of vinyl fans, and the connective power of music. Join us as we present a popular virtual film from last year's program in person with a special Q&A with former Programming Director Nick Pope and the filmmakers.

## Late Night Double Feature

*Join special guest Greg Sestero with a double feature of late night fun!*



### The Room

Director: Tommy Wiseau  
 Producer: Tommy Wiseau / Greg Sestero  
 Narrative | USA | 2003  
 1 hr 30 min | 18+  
 Thursday Oct 21 10pm  
 Orpheum

Johnny is a successful bank executive who lives quietly in a San Francisco townhouse with his fiancée, Lisa. One day, putting aside any scruple, she seduces Johnny's best friend, Mark. From there, nothing will be the same again.



### Miracle Valley

Director: Greg Sestero  
 Producer: Iris Torres, Tom Franco, Greg Sestero  
 Narrative | USA | 2021  
 1 hr 30 min | 18+  
 Thursday Oct 21 11:30pm

An obsessive photographer and his girlfriend are invited to a desert getaway in search of an ultra-rare bird. Fortune, fame and mending their fading relationship takes a turn at the hands of a sinister force where they face demons from both past, present and future.

Stubbornly Independent Submissions must be a USA Domestic narrative feature film made for \$500,000 or under. The jury selected film will receive a \$5,000 cash prize and a special Tap Handle from Van Chase Studios.



18 ½

Director: Dan Mirvish  
 Producer: Dan Mirvish, Daniel Moya, Terry Keefe  
 USA | 2021 | 1 hr 27 min | 13+  
 Friday Oct 22 1:15pm  
 Orpheum

A 1970s-era Watergate conspiracy thriller/dark comedy.



Rehab Cabin

Director/Producer: Kate Bea-com, Louis Legge  
 Producer: Chris Collins, Ryan Rigley, Debbie Peiser  
 USA | 2021 | 1 hr 18 min | 18+  
 Saturday Oct 23 11:15pm  
 mama.film

Best friends Chloe and Domenic are growing apart, so, for their last hurrah, they kidnap their favorite celebrity, washed-up former child star Amanda Campbell. *Preceded by short film: Detach* | 14 mins | d. Frankie Ingrassia | USA | English



Silent River

Director/Producer: Chris Chan Lee  
 Producer: Robert Cho, West Liang  
 USA | 2020 | 2 hr | 18+  
 Friday Oct 22 5:45pm  
 mama.film

Desperate to reconcile with his estranged wife, Elliot stops at a desert motel where he encounters Greta, an uncanny woman on the run from a mysterious past.



Keep up with the conversation  
 online using #Tallgrass21



@tallgrass



@tallgrassfilm



# 16 Jake Euker Stubbornly Independent



**We Burn Like This**  
Director: Alana Waksman  
Producer: Neda Armian, Eleanor Nett, Jeri Rafter, Alana Waksman  
USA | 2021 | 1 hr 16 min | 18+  
Sunday Oct 24 12:30pm  
Wilke

When 22 year-old Rae, a descendant of Holocaust survivors, is targeted by Neo-Nazis in Billings, Montana, her ancestors' trauma becomes real. We follow Rae on her journey to forgive herself, her mother, and the broken world.

## ONLINE BONUS CONTENT

With so many terrific films to watch, we wish we had more space in our physical venues but are happy to provide Tallgrass Virtual Exclusive that did not get included in the juried competition but are impactful stories that deserve to be seen. See the website for the online schedule of films.



### REFLECTIONS OF A FRIEND

This collaborative mini-exhibit presents esteemed photographer and filmmaker, Gordon Parks, through the camera lens of family friend, Michael Roach.

ON EXHIBIT AT TKAAM  
SEPTEMBER 13 - DECEMBER 18, 2021

PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRESENTATION PROVIDED BY  
MICHAEL ROACH &  
WILMA MOORE-BLACK

A PARTNERSHIP WITH



601 N. Water St. | Wichita, Ks 67203 | 316-262-7651 | [www.tkaamuseum.org](http://www.tkaamuseum.org)



DOXX Spotlight Submissions must be a female-directed documentary feature without traditional, theatrical, domestic distribution at the time of the festival screening. The jury selected film will receive a \$5,000 cash prize.



### Cat Daddies

Director: Mye Hoang

Producer: Dave Boyle, Nobu Nagatsuma, Robert Bennett

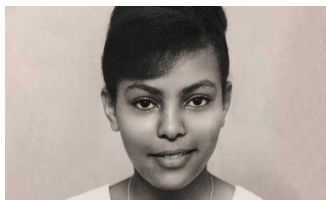
USA | 2021 | 1 hr 29 min | All Ages

Sunday Oct 24 2:45pm

Wilke - In Person Only

The film is a refreshing and timely exploration of modern masculinity and the unlikely bond between man and cat.

*Preceded by short film: Bulldog | 7 mins | d. Kieran Stringfellow | UK*



### Finding Sally

Director: Tamara Dawit

Producer: Isabelle Couture

Ethiopia | 2020 | 1 hr 18 min  
13+

Sunday Oct 24 2:30pm

mama.film - In Person Only

Sally was an aristocrat and then became a communist rebel with the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party. Four decades after Sally's disappearance, Tamara Dawit pieces together the mysterious life of her aunt Sally. Also competing in the Gordon Parks category. *Preceded by short film: Finding Tyler | 20 mins | d. Chris Brannan, Diana Reichenbach | USA | English*



## Come Get Your Merchandise!

Oct. 18-24

10am - 8pm

125 Market St.



### From Here

Director: Christina Antonakos-Wallace  
 Producer: Theresa Navarro, Canan Turan, Amy Benson  
 Germany, India, United States 2021 | 1 hr 29 min | Multiple Languages | 13+  
 Friday, Oct. 22 12:30pm  
 mama.film

A hopeful story of artists and activists based in Berlin and New York whose lives hang in the balance of immigration and integration debates. This sensitive and nuanced documentary captures their journeys to define what it means to belong in societies that are increasingly hostile to their existence.



### Kili Big

Director: Ida Joglar  
 Producer: Ida Joglar, Sam Kretchmar  
 Tanzania, United States | 2021  
 1 hr 30 min | 13+  
 Friday Oct 22nd 12:45pm  
 Wilke

A group of plus-sized women from around the world attempt to climb the tallest peak in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro.



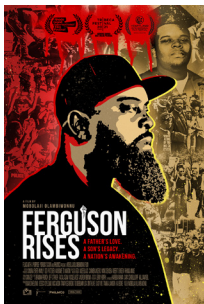
### Queens Of Pain

Director: Cassie Hay, Amy Winston  
 Producer: Nathan Folbrecht  
 USA | 2020 | 1 hr 14 min | 13+  
 Friday Oct 22 3:15pm  
 Wilke

The film follows three roller derby skaters as they battle the constraints of being a woman in America while fighting for the coveted Golden Skate. *Preceded by short film: The Dangerous Type* | 12 mins | d. Tipper Newton | USA | English



To be awarded to a feature-length film of any production budget from any country from any genre with a director that self-identifies as Black, African-American or part of the African-Diaspora. Award winner receives \$15,000 camera rental package and \$5,000.



### Ferguson Rises

Director: Mobolaji Olambiwonnu

Producer: Tanayi Seabrook, TJ Odebunmi, Lisa Smithline, David Oyelowo, Jessica Oyelowo, Nick Moon, Daisy Mo, Tamika Lamison, Kai Bowe  
USA | 2021 | 1 hr 23 min | 13+  
Saturday Oct 23 12:45pm  
Wilke

Before an explosive global uprising condemned the murder of George Floyd, there was a small town in Missouri that erupted in protest after the murder of Mike Brown Jr. *Ferguson Rises* highlights varied perspectives with an intimate portrayal of Michael's father's grief to help us understand why Ferguson is the Selma of our times. *Preceded by short film: An Artist's Duty* | 5 mins | d. Elyssa Walsh | USA | English



### Many Fires This Time: We the 100 Million

Director/Producer: Jason R.A. Foster

Producer: Michael "Quess?" Moore, Jeremy Liu  
Mexico, USA | 2021 | 1 hr 9 min | 13+

Friday Oct 22 10:30am  
Wilke

*Many Fires This Time: We the 100 Million* is a poetic docudrama about the 1 in 3 Americans and counting, living in economic insecurity. It follows the journey of poet and activist A Scribe Called Quess? as he connects with fellow activist poets and the communities they represent. *Preceded by short film: Unemployment Hotline* | 11 mins | d. Nikos Campbell | USA | English



### One Pint at a Time

Director: Aaron Hosé

Producer: Brigitte Hosé, Aaron Hosé, Jonathan Vieira (Exec/Co), Jason Gregory (Co)

USA | 2021 | 1 hr 28 min | 13+

Saturday Oct 23 3:15pm

Wilke

Black-owned breweries share less than 1% of craft beer revenues in America. This has inspired Black brewers, beer brand owners and influencers across the country to reshape the future of this multi- billion-dollar industry. *Preceded by short film: The Little Tea Shop | 17 mins | d. Molly J. Wexler, Matteo Servente | English | USA*



### Subjects of Desire

Director/Producer: Jennifer Holness

Producer: Sudz Sutherland

USA | 2021 | 1 hr 43 min | All

Ages

Saturday Oct 23 1:45pm

mama.film

Subjects of Desire is a thought-provoking feature documentary that examines the cultural shift in beauty standards towards embracing Black aesthetics and features. *Also will compete in the DOXX category.*



Uprooted Sponsored by Friends University

Director: Khadifa Wong

Producer: Lisa Donmall-Reeve / Associate Producer - Kimberley Browning

USA | 2020 | 1 hr 34 min | All

Ages

Saturday Oct 23 10am

Wilke

A film celebrating the history, lineage and future progressions of jazz dance. *Also will compete in the DOXX category.*

Fiction feature films may be a narrative, animation, experimental, domestic or foreign film. Films entered in this category are eligible to be in competition for audience and juried awards.



## Adventures in Success

Director: Jay Buim

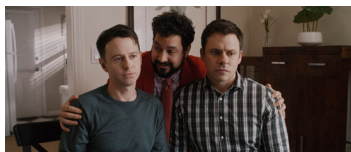
Producer: Susan Juvet, Kate Rauber

USA | 2021 | 1 hr 34 min | 18+

Saturday Oct 23 6:45pm

Groover Labs

A wellness startup settles in the Catskills to spread their knowledge through the power of Jilling Off, a mission to prioritize female pleasure, which they believe will heal Mother Earth. *Preceded by short film: PUSS | 9 mins | d. Leah Shore | USA English*



## Keeping Company sponsored by Bree & Jason Cox

Director: Josh Wallace

Producer: Devin Das, Sara Jane Bowers, Josh Wallace, Adam Maffei, Zach Wanerman

USA | 2021 | 1 hr 22 min | 18+

Friday Oct 22 11:15pm

mama.film - In Person Only

A fateful chain of events begins to unravel after two brash insurance salesmen go knocking on the wrong door and find themselves trapped inside a serial killer's basement, putting their lives and their jobs on the line. *Preceded by short film: Una vida asegurada (An insured life) | 13 mins | d. Jesús Martínez "Nota" | Spain | Spanish w/ English subtitles*



## Moon Manor

Director/Producer: Erin Granat, Machete Bang Bang

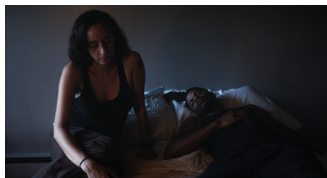
Producer: Bay Dariz, John Humber

USA | 2021 | 1 hr 42 min | 18+

Saturday Oct 23 12:45pm

Groover Labs

In his last day on Earth, Jimmy will show an obituary writer, his death doula, his estranged brother, his caretaker, a surreal being, and the guests at his fabulous FUN-eral, that perhaps the art of living is actually the art of dying. *Preceded by short film: Numb | 11 mins | d. Natasha Jatania | UK | English*



**This is Not A War Story**  
 Director: Talia Lugacy  
 Producer: Noah Lang, Rosario Dawson  
 USA | 2021 | 1 hr 51 min | 18+  
 Friday Oct 22 10:15am  
 Orpheum

The film tracks a ragtag group of combat veterans in New York whose anti-war art, poetry and papermaking keep them together, despite the spectre of their friend's suicide and that healing from war is sometimes an impossible mission.

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Documentary feature films may be a foreign or domestic feature. Films entered in this category are eligible to be in competition audience and juried awards.



### A Machine To Live In

Director: Yoni Goldstein

Producer: Sebastian Alvarez

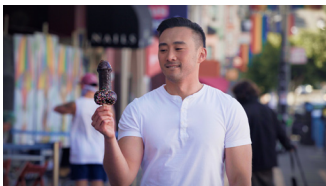
Brazil | 2021 | 1 hr 20 min | 13+

Saturday Oct 23 7:30pm

Wilke

A Machine to Live In is a hybrid documentary linking the cosmic power structures of the state to the mystical architecture of cults and utopian cities in the distant hinterlands of Brazil.

*Preceded by short film: The Acolyte | 14 mins | d. Sammy James, Jr. USA | English*



### A Sexplanation

Director: Alex Liu

Producer: Steven Flynn,

Leonardo Neri

Canada, USA | 2021 | 1 hr 16 min | 18+

Sunday Oct 24 4:30pm

Orpheum

To right the wrongs of his all-American sex education, 36-year-old Alex Liu goes on a quest to uncover naked truths and hard facts—no matter how awkward it gets. *Preceded by short film: Three Triple A's | 8 mins | d. Lexy Anderson | UK | English*



### Eternal Harvest

Director/Producer: Jerry Redfern, Karen Coates

Lao People's Democratic Republic, United States | 2021 | 1 hr 11 min | 18+

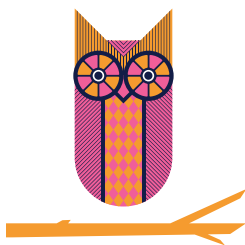
Friday Oct 22 10:30am  
mama.film

Half a century after the US waged history, an estimated 80 million unexploded bombs remain in Laotian soil today. Eternal Harvest traces the failures of US foreign policy to clean up America's postwar mess in Laos, and it underscores the urgent need for more funding.



Zero Gravity Sponsored by  
Vanessa Whalen & John  
Harrison and NetApp  
Director/Producer: Thomas  
Verrette  
Producer: Haller Rice  
USA | 2021 | 1 hr 15 min | All  
Ages  
Saturday Oct 23rd 11:30am  
mama.film

ZERO GRAVITY follows a diverse group of middle-school students from San Jose, CA, who compete in a nationwide tournament to code satellites aboard the International Space Station. *Preceded by short film: "Jim of Earth" | 13 mins | d. Justin Arwood | Wichita, KS | English*



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Come Get Your  
Merchandise!

Oct. 18-24  
10am - 8pm  
125 Market St.



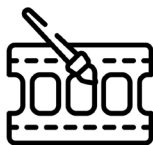
For all shorts blocks, visit [tallgrassfilm.org](http://tallgrassfilm.org) or the app to see the list of individual films.

### Art & Animation

From animation to artists to art therapy this program has everything you need to get those creative juices flowing.

1 hr 45 min | All Ages

Friday, Oct. 22 11am Groover Labs



Animation

### Comedy

Get ready to have some fun, laugh a lot and maybe even learn something!

1 hr 45 min | 13+

Thursday, Oct. 21 12:30pm mama.film

### Documentaries

Let's get lost in the inspirational, heartwarming, and eye-opening stories of real people.

1 hr 38 min | All Ages

Saturday, Oct. 23 10am Groover Labs

### Drama

Experience something deep and, of course, dramatic with these beautiful stories.

1 hr 47 min | 18+

Sunday, Oct 24 10:30am Orpheum

### Horror & Bloody

Get in the holiday spirit with something scary, something gory, something spine tingling!

1 hr 33 min | 18+

Saturday, Oct. 23 5:45pm Groover Labs

### I ♥ ICT

The past, present and future of the 316, the Doo-Dah, the Air Capital, whatever you call it we're so proud to call it our home!

1 hr 38 min | All ages

Sunday, Oct. 24 1:30pm | Orpheum



**Joel Fein Spotlight on Emerging Filmmakers Program**

Short films from the next generation of great filmmakers! All films are made by filmmakers 18 or younger.

1 hr 39 min | All Ages

Saturday, Oct. 23 3pm

Groover Labs

Join us for the Industry Mixer

at 2pm to celebrate young

filmmakers and meet the

Emerging Programmer Apprentices that helped to craft the

program. **Sponsored by Dave and DJ Burk and Groover Labs.**

**Let's Get Weird**

Weird, strange, peculiar, eccentric, funky: this program is a mysterious grab bag of interesting shorts!

1 hr 35 min | 18+

Sunday, Oct 24 4pm Groover Labs

**LGBTQIA+**

Stories from all of the colors of the rainbow! Love, acceptance, identity and just being yourself is what this program is about.

1 hr 37 min | 18+

Friday, Oct. 22 4pm Groover Labs

**Relationships**

It's not just romance in this film block! We've got sibling relationships, parents and children, friendship and of course some romance too cause the world need plenty of love.

1 hr 45 min | 13+

Friday, Oct. 22 1:30pm Groover Labs

**Timothy Gruver Spotlight on Kansas Filmmakers Program**

**Sponsored by Moeder and Associates**

All short films in this program are made by Sunflower State filmmakers.

1 hr 40 min | 13+

Saturday, Oct. 23 11:30am

Orpheum



All panels are outdoors in the 1st Street tent (155 S. Broadway) and free to anyone in the community to join. Masks are encouraged. The panels are sponsored by Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission/National Endowment for the Arts and Tallgrass Filmmaker Alliance.

### **Becoming Commercial is a Good Thing? - A Producer Panel Friday, 12:30pm**

Film producers will talk about what it takes to get them to take on a project, what you can do to make you sellable and how to pitch to a producer, and what exactly a producer does.

Panelists include: Milan Chakraborty, Lisa Donmall-Reeve, Liz Cardenas



### **Impact of Gordon Parks Friday, 4pm**

Filmmakers and The Kansas African American Museum moderator Denise Sherman will examine the impact of Gordon Parks on Kansas and

international Black filmmakers and photographers. Looking back at the history of his career while discussing current climate for filmmakers and photographers, the panel will embrace both a historical look at Parks and a socio-cultural examination of what it means in current industry trends. Panelists include: David Parks, Brandon Wilson and other guests

### **How To Succeed With Your First Film In a Pandemic Saturday, 11am**

Want to document a niche community? Join Vinyl Nation filmmakers Christopher Boone and Kevin Smokler will walk the audience through their successful foray into documentary filmmaking during the COVID shutdown and how to learn to pivot your marketing and festival strategy when finding your niche audience.



### **Female Filmmaker Roundtable Sponsored by The Monarch | Saturday, 1pm**

Join attending female filmmakers as we discuss trends in the industry for female filmmakers and hear success stories from attending female crew. Panelists include: Ida Joblar, Emily Branham.

**Representation Without Marginalization****Saturday, 3pm**

A discussion of the representation of minoritized people in the film without making the story about their minority identity. We will look at how this can be achieved through all aspects of film-making, from the script, casting, production, etc. It is important to tell true stories of minority people and sometimes, hardship related to their status in society is important, however, it is also necessary to ensure that there is diversity on-screen portrayed in a way that is not inherently linked to their so-called struggle. Panelists include: Milan Chakraborty, Chris Chan Le, Kate Gondwe, Mark Rabinowitz, Leonardo Neiri


**Female Filmmaker Critics  
Roundtable Sponsored by The  
Monarch**  
**Sunday, 11:30am**

Led by Jennifer Merin, President of the Alliance of Women Film Journalists, female film critics will talk about trends in the industry for women.

Panelists include: Kristen Page-Kirby of The Washington Post, Brandy McDonnell of The Oklahoman and Lonita Cook, Kansas City film critic.

**Filmmaking Without Filming****Sunday, 1:30pm**

Guided by filmmaker Alex Magaro, filmmakers will discuss found footage documentaries. With over a year of lockdown dismantling most film productions, new avenues for creativity had to emerge. Found-footage filmmaking has been around for decades but only recently could be achieved without elite access to physical film and print archives. The internet is now our main cultural archive with universal accessibility and has democratized this style of filmmaking.



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Arts Council	<b>Harrison</b>
Piatto Neapolitan Pizzeria	<b>Old Mill Tasty Shop</b>
Hutton	<b>Wichita Art Museum</b>
WSU Office of Diversity and	<b>Cognitive Performance &amp;</b>
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## GRANT SUPPORT



*This organization received funding for general operational support from the City of Wichita.*

Tallgrass Film Festival was founded by  
Timothy O. Gruver in 2003.

## Staff

Melanie Addington | Executive Director  
Gray Rodriguez | Director of Marketing  
Larry Knott | Tallgrass Accountant

## Programming Team

Hannah Bothner | Shorts Programmer, Filmmaker Relations  
Andre Seward | Head Programmer

## Green Carpet Hosts

Delilah Reed - Ryan Johnson

## Box Office

Hugo Phan | Box Office Manager  
Doanna Ayon | Assistant Box Office Manager

## Education

Thane Chastain | Emerging Programmer Apprenticeship

## Events

Tom Mittlestadt | Events Manager  
Brian Gray | Beverage Coordinator  
Shannon Boone | VIP Food Coordinator

## Hospitality

Arietta Austin | Hospitality Manager  
Blair Birdsong | Hospitality Coordinator

## Tech

Naythan Smith | Technical Manager

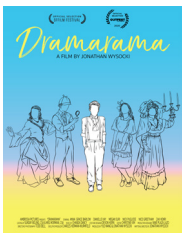
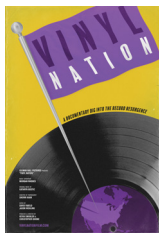
## Intern

Julianne Berumen - Justin Bohn

## Board of Directors

Adam Gunnels, Board President	Alicia Sanchez
Jeanette Clement, Vice President	Anna Heustis
Holly Dyer, Past President	Denise Sherman
Kathy Siebert, Treasurer	Jane Schlapp
Bob Nugent, Secretary	Janice Van Sickle
Joe Robertson	Don Wright
Dick Honeyman	Lester Rowe
Jovana Johnson	Veronica Seberger
Mark Janzen	Emily Bonavia (Emeritus)
Lisa Tatum	Floyd Gruver (Emeritus)
	Ann Keefer (Emeritus)

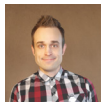




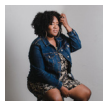
The winner of the new poster design contest will be revealed on Oct. 20 at the Shrek screening. The winners, local high school and college students, will receive cash prizes and Tall-passes. The four film posters being redesigned are Vinyl Nation, Dramarama, Materna and No Fear, No Favor.



Meghan Wolfe is a Wichita-based designer and photographer, passionate about bringing joy and color to the world through her creative work.



Joe Worley is a freelance graphic designer and a member of the Wichita-based artist collective, Brickmob, which is always active in the local community.



Priscella Brown is a freelance graphic designer, painter, and children's book illustrator who resides in Wichita, KS. She also designed the Gordon Parks artwork for this year's award.



Jaci Ignudo is a Wichita native and is a Digital Specialist at Wichita State University.



Carlos Palomino is a Graphic designer / Visual Artist that likes to focus on branding, community-based projects, and illustration.



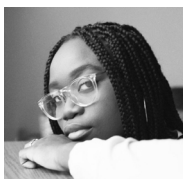
Sahara Divine Small is a digital creative based in Wichita, KS specializing in designing digital products such as websites, apps, and graphics.

## Gordon Parks Award for Black Excellence in Filmmaking



### David Parks

David Michael Parks is the son of Gordon Parks and a seasoned photographer, filmmaker, and author. David worked as an assistant learning firsthand from his dad. He learned every trick of the filmmaking and photography business when working on the movies: Leadbelly, The Learning Tree and Shaft.



### Kate Gondwe

Kate is a Malawian-American pursuing her undergraduate degree at Emerson College. She is the founder of the shorts distribution initiative Dedza Films, supported by Kino Lorber. Her start in film began as an emerging programmer apprentice at the Tallgrass Film

Festival.



### Brandon Wilson

In 2005 he made his feature debut *The Man Who Couldn't...* for under \$10,000 on standard definition digital video. The film won the Oscar Micheaux Award at the Bare

Bones Film Festival in Oklahoma. His second feature *Sepulveda* world premiered at the 2016 Urbanworld Film Festival. He is currently working on a web series called *Validation*. He teaches at Columbia College Hollywood and Long Beach City College. His writing was recently featured in the inaugural Black Writers Week at RogerEbert.com.



## Come Get Your Merchandise!

Oct. 18-24

10am - 8pm

125 Market St.

**DOXX Spotlight + Doc Feature****Jennifer Merin**

Jennifer Merin is a film journalist who serves as President of the Alliance of Women Film Journalists and helms the organization's website at AWFJ.org. A Tisch SOA grad, she's acted Off-Broadway, in regional theaters and Tokyo, where she belonged to the famed Tenjo Sajiki

company and appeared in films (in Japanese!). Her onscreen debut was in Elia Kazan's *Splendor in the Grass* and most recently she appeared in Boaz Yakin's *Aviva*.

**Crickett Rumley**

Crickett Rumley received her MFA in Film at Columbia University and is the founder and director of the Film Festival Department at the New York Film Academy in Los Angeles. With diversity, equity, and inclusion as the foundation of her work, she regularly develops educational programs and festival strategy for a highly diverse student body.

**Lela Meadow-Conner** (Doxx Spotlight only)

Lela Meadow-Conner is Executive Director of Film Festival Alliance, a non-profit organization serving North American film festivals and the people who run them. She is also founder of *mama.film*, a village - at the crossroads of art

& advocacy - where storytellers, changemakers and nurturers come together to champion humanity through a maternal gaze. *mama.film* also presents the *rePRO* Film Festival, dedicated to women's reproductive justice, and sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropies.



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**Stubbornly Independent + Narrative Feature****Liz Cardenas**

A 2019 Independent Spirit Award nominee, Liz Cardenas is a producer and filmmaker who was included on the 2019 LATINXT, a highly curated list of emerging Latino creators. Notable and recent producing credits include Duplass Brothers Productions' 7 DAYS, starring Karan Soni and Geraldine Viswanathan, which had its world premiere at Tribeca 2021; MATERNA that won the Stubbornly Independent Award at Tallgrass Film Festival, which Utopia is releasing theatrically in NYC and LA and on VOD this August; and the 2019 Outfest Best Narrative Feature Winner JULES OF LIGHT & DARK.

**Milan Chakraborty**

Milan Chakraborty, Head of Film at Marginal MediaWorks, oversees all of the company's efforts in independent, studio and streaming film. He is a 17 year veteran of the film industry. Milan worked at Warner Bros and New Line Cinema in production finance and accounting on projects such as Batman Begins, Superman Returns and V for Vendetta. Milan began independently producing in 2008 and has produced and executive produced 20 features including My Friend Dahmer, Assassination Nation, Plus One and The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain (release: Fall 2021).

**Mark Rabinowitz**

Mark Rabinowitz is a co-founder of IndieWire.com and has written extensively on film and TV for CNN.com, Paste Magazine, Screen International, Variety and many others. He recently founded Create:Louisville, a nonprofit designed to support visual, literary and performing artists of color in the Louisville area, while expanding arts education opportunities in underserved communities. He currently serves as board VP of Louisville Literary Arts, on the Speed Art Museum's board of governors, on the Louisville Film Commission and WAY back when he produced Jimmy Kimmel's first ever appearance on screen.

## Shorts + Kansas Films



### Kevin Benavides

Kevin Benavides is a local news producer for KWCH channel 12 in Wichita. Kevin has covered numerous local events and he's an avid lover of movies.



### Kyle Solomon

Kyle Solomon is film composer, born and raised in Wichita, KS. He showed two short films at Tallgrass Film Festival: The Voicemail (2017), and Hush-Hush (2018). In 2019, he participated on the Tallgrass Filmmaker Advisory Board, helping lead conversations on diversity & inclusion, as well as on the process of making your passion project a reality.



### Tajahnae Stocker

Tajahnae is a community organizer and anti-hunger advocate in Wichita. When she isn't leading the ICT community fridge project, she is reviewing local restaurants and breweries (@eatinwitht on Instagram) reviewing books and novels.

## Joel Fein Emerging Filmmaker



### Caitlyn Cody

Caitlyn Cody is a director and cinematographer studying filmmaking at Wichita State University. She started off as an Emerging Programmer Apprentice for the Tallgrass Film Association in 2017.



### Chay'na Hardyway

Chay'na Hardyway is a senior at Wichita State University, pursuing a degree in Media Arts in Film. Chay'na can now boast that she is one semester away from her dream of being a film teacher.



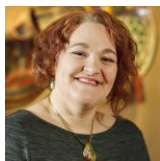
### Matthew Reger

Matthew Reger is a Filmmaking major at Wichita State University. He has worked on multiple student projects and films in varying roles.

## Alliance of Women Film Journalists' EDA Awards

A new partnership with the Alliance of Women Film Journalists is the addition of the EDAs to highlight female talent behind the camera. Named in honor of AWFJ founder Jennifer Merin's mother, Eda Reiss Merin, a stage, film and television actress whose career spanned more than 60 years.

### SHORTS JURY



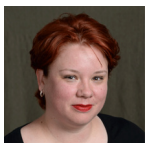
#### Brandy McDonnell

Award-winning writer and lifelong Oklahoman Brandy McDonnell recently embarked on her 20th year covering her home state's arts, entertainment and cultural sectors for The Oklahoman and Oklahoman.com. A Tomatometer-approved critic for RottenTomatoes.com, she is a founding member of the Oklahoma Film Critics Circle.



#### Susan Wloszczyna

Susan Wloszczyna is a Contributor to Gold Derby and an Oscar expert at RogerEbert.com. In nearly 30 years at USA Today, she interviewed everyone from Vincent Price and Shirley Temple to Julia Roberts and Will Smith. As a freelance film reporter and critic, she's written for MPAA's The Credits, Washington Post and AARP and Indiewire.



#### Kristen Page-Kirby

Kristen Page-Kirby has been a film critic in the DC area for over 10 years. As the film columnist for the Washington Post Express, her column The Reelist explored issues in contemporary cinema,

She is thrilled to be returning to Wichita, her father's hometown, as she hasn't seen a Kansas sky in a decade.

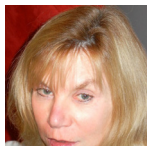


#### Sharronda Williams

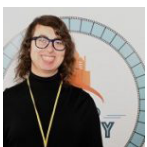
Sharronda Williams is the creator, host, and producer of the YouTube Channel Pay or Wait that features her film and TV reviews plus celebrity interviews. She is a proud member of the African American Film Critics Association & Critics Choice Association.

## EDA FEATURES JURY

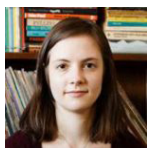
**Jennifer Merin** (See page 35 for bio)

**Karen Martin**

Karen Martin, senior editor at the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, founded the newspaper's film section in June 2000 that contains staff-written film and video reviews, previews, industry information, and Home Movies, her weekly column sharing details of recently released streaming entertainment.

**Danielle Solzman**

Danielle Solzman is a Chicago-based film critic and filmmaker. When she isn't watching films and writing about them, Solzman is working on the screenplay for a film that she hopes will one day win her an Oscar and make her parents proud of her not becoming a lawyer.

**Margaret Barton-Fumo**

Based in New York, Margaret Barton-Fumo has contributed to Film Comment and various other publications since 2006. She has been a member of the Alliance of Women Film Journalists since 2016. Much of her writing focuses on the intersection of film and music.

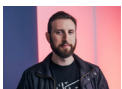
## 2021 Filmmaker Advisory Board

**Kate Gondwe**

(See page 34 for bio)

**Christopher Boone and Kevin Smokler**

Kevin Smokler is the author of three books about pop culture. Christopher Boone is a screenwriter and filmmaker based in Albuquerque.

**Alex Megaro**

Alex is a filmmaker currently working on the second season of his 100% found footage documentary series Source Material for VICE.

# NO TIME TO DIE

007



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