

*Celebrate*  
**EMERSON** **23RD**  
**ANNUAL**  
**EMERSON**  
**FILM**  
**FESTIVAL**

A Showcase of  
Alumni and Student Films

**Wednesday**  
**March 20, 2024**  
**7:00 pm**

Conversation with Filmmakers  
Following the Screening

**Emerson**  
COLLEGE

## ALUMNI PROGRAM



***Swingers***  
by Daniel Scheinert '09 and  
Daniel Kwan '10  
1 min.

Sometimes giving a dude a simple push on a swing isn't so simple after all.



***Pat***  
by Nathaniel Hansen, MFA '13  
4 min.

After years of walking by her store, director Nathaniel Hansen finally stopped in to learn more about this "familiar stranger."



***Swim***  
by Mari Walker '08  
10 min.

As summer draws to a close, a young trans girl finds freedom in a secret midnight swim.



***Patron Saint***  
by Georden West, MFA '18  
8 min.

The ecstasy of a saint brings her to the gates of heaven. In a celebration of the Divine Queer, *Patron Saint* reimagines religion and history as queer deities wearing Jamall Osterholm's fashion line interact within a mystical landscape.

## STUDENT PROGRAM



***Lone Star***  
**by Sadie Sweitzer '25**  
**4 min.**

A lone Texas cowboy travels to Paris as an antidote for his loneliness but only finds more sorrow. Until an unexpected meeting shows him that beauty can be found in unlikely places.



***Robin***  
**by Tris Arthur '23**  
**14 min.**

A teenager, unwillingly cast as the male lead in a coming-of-age film, runs away in search of their real identity. In accepting help from those around them, they begin to discover who they are while charting a path forward.



***Graysen's Room***  
**by Lida Everhart '24**  
**4 min.**

Graysen shares their philosophy on art and creation from the comfort of their room.



***Still Waters***  
**by Steven Fong, MFA '23**  
**19 min.**

When a recent breakup awakens a nightmare from his past, a fractured man struggles to hold onto his sanity after a mysterious boy appears in his home.



***Tarántula***  
by Tomas Orrego, MFA '24  
4 min.

When hungry, the black-gloved tarantula crawls out of its crypt to feed. The pale flesh of innocent bodies it takes into dark corners to ejaculate. Using hand-processed 16mm black and white film and a dismantled soundtrack, the atmosphere of a lost artifact is evoked.



***Call Home***  
by Elise Cohen, MFA '23  
10 min.

A reflective documentary that weaves together intimate phone calls with the filmmaker's grandmother and archival footage navigates the emotional landscape of distance and belonging. Through its contemplative pace, *Call Home* invites the viewer into a meditative exploration of personal and collective memory.



***The Silent Whistle***  
by Yingtong Li, MFA '22  
19 min.

A 19-year-old girl, Ming, is a loner who works the night shift in a convenience store. One day near the spring festival, her unacquainted neighbor Rui invites her to a "special" dinner, which summons up her unspeakable past...



***Freddie***  
by Maya Chang '23  
4 min.

An insecure gazelle searching for his lost hat finds something even more valuable: self-acceptance.



***Nalb Noum***  
by Xzaviah J. Stone Sr., MFA '23  
10 min.

An arcane massacre on the Black community is unfolding as a Black teen and his friends journey to discover the truth behind an old folklore.

---

The 23rd Annual Emerson Film Festival will take place in the Robert J. Orchard Stage in the Paramount Center. The screening will be followed by a live moderated Q&A with student filmmakers. A reception will follow in the Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre from 9:30 to 11:00 pm. There will be food, drinks, and entertainment. We will also be announcing the winners of the Audience, Best of Fest, Singular Vision, and Outstanding Technical Achievement awards.

There will be two student works presented at the reception: *Shahrzade's Labyrinth of Liberation* is a video art installation by Asma Khoshmehr, MFA '23, that explores her family's survival from forced sexual servitude post-Zanzibar revolution in 1970. Through evocative storytelling, she parallels political sexual violence under dictatorship with the king's tale

from the Arabian Nights, shedding light on timeless struggles for liberation amid women's bodies as battlegrounds in war or revolution.

*Labyrinth Through Glass* is a collection of still photos by Arthur Li '24 that aims to depict the disconnection prevalent in human lives and the loneliness often felt despite being in the company of others.



*Shahrzade's Labyrinth of Liberation*



*Labyrinth Through Glass*

## Acknowledgments

### Curators

Anna Feder  
Shaun Clarke  
Owen Egerton

### Faculty Screeners

David Bendiksen  
Katherine Bergeron  
Gautam Chopra  
Kathryn Dietz  
Barbara Doyle  
Jesse Epstein  
Ken Feil  
Stephen Glantz  
Jim Lane  
Korbett Matthews  
Allyson Sherlock  
Marie-Emmanuelle  
Thomas Hartness  
Amber Vistein  
Leah Vonderheide

### Print Traffic and DCP Creation

Kieran McKeon

### Program Copy

Nancy Howell

### Program Design

Tiffany Canetta

### Technical Director

Cherie Rivers

### Event Production

Elise Malvicini  
Jamiee Rizzo

### Live Captions

Catherine Zelinski

### Film Captions

Zayan Agha  
Jordan Errico  
Val Garvey  
Charlie Griffin

Hayden Kinman  
Seb Laroche  
Linbohao Liu  
Breazy Rowlands  
Michael Sarfaty  
Liam Smith  
Sadie Swayze

### Support Staff

Zayan Agha  
Fabiola Liano  
Zaryah Qareeb

### Special Thanks

Malic Amalya  
Jay Bernhardt  
Daniel Berube  
Jim Delaney  
Adam Greenfield  
Interim Dean Maria  
Koundoura

### Program Sponsors

Department of Visual  
and Media Arts  
School of the Arts

## Awards

The Best of Fest and Audience awards are cash awards being funded by the College. The winner of the Singular Vision award will receive a Blackmagic Design Pocket Cinema Camera 6K, and the winner of the Outstanding Technical Achievement award will receive Davinci Resolve 18 software, both donated by SuperMeet. SuperMeets are filmmaker events that build community through connecting each other to share experiences and opportunities in a social setting that is both educational and downright fun! To learn more, visit [SuperMeet.com](http://SuperMeet.com).

---

### A Note on Accessibility

The screening and conversation will be fully captioned. The films will be presented with open captions created by Malic Amalya's VM 331 accessible cinema course.