

Studio of the Streets: Documentary Features



Decade of Fire (Gretchen Hildebran & Vivian Vazquez)

Monday, October 14, 12:15PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

USA, 75min, WNY Premiere

Bronx-born co-director Vivian Vazquez and Gretchen Hildebran weave a personal history of the borough in the 1970s when abandoned by city government, nearly a half-million people were displaced as their close-knit, multi-ethnic neighborhood burned – reducing the community to rubble, and igniting conflict and blame.



Dosed (Tyler Chandler & Nicholas Meyers)

Sunday, October 13, 11:30AM
North Park Theatre

Canada, 83min, WNY Premiere

After years of prescription medications failed her, a suicidal young woman turns to psychedelic medicine and healers to combat her depression, anxiety, and opioid addiction.

Screening with: **Hope Served Fresh: Recovery Friendly Employment** (Jessica Vecchione)



Float (Phil Kibbe)

Saturday, October 12, 11:00AM
North Park Theatre

USA, 82min, WNY Premiere

In the ultra-competitive indoor sport of elite, stunningly-designed model airplanes, a wild-card newcomer threatens to knock a teammate off his world champion throne in Phil Kibbe's compelling look at the science and sport behind the F1D World Competition.

Screening with: **Backyard Astronaut** (Aron Safranog)



Foosballers (Joe Heslinga)

Sunday, October 13, 8:45PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center

USA, 96min, WNY Premiere

Joe Heslinga's quirky documentary uncovers a forgotten piece of sports history while it follows six of the best table soccer players in the world as they prepare for the sport's most prestigious event – The Tornado World Championships.



I Am Human (Taryn Southern and Elena Gaby)

Sunday, October 13, 12:00PM
Burchfield Penney Art Center

USA, 90min, WNY Premiere

Directors Taryn Southern and Elena Gaby explore thought provoking paradoxes and ethical quandaries with trailblazing subjects undergoing a series of experimental medical treatments that may change the course of humanity.



King Bibi (Dan Shadur)

Sunday, October 13, 11:00AM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

US/Israel, 87min, WNY Premiere

Chronicling Benjamin Netanyahu's rise to power and the four decades of public appearances that changed Israel forever, Dan Shadur crafts a complex portrait of one of the world's most controversial and influential leaders.



Koi (Lorenzo Squarcia)

Friday, October 11, 2:30PM
North Park Theatre

Italy/Japan, 88min, WNY Premiere

Lorenzo Squarcia's moving portrait of two men honoring the twenty thousand victims of Japan's 2011 tsunami features an ex-convict seeking redemption by helping the victims' families, and a bus driver who dives into the sea in order to search for his wife.

Screening with: **Children of Spring** (Dusan Solomun)



Live From The Astroturf (Steve Gaddis)

Friday, October 11, 9:45PM
North Park Theatre

USA, 58min, WNY Premiere

40 years after the band parted ways, Alice Cooper reunites with the surviving members of the original band to perform a blistering set on a small, pink astroturfed stage at an independent music store in Dallas, TX. Steve Gaddis' behind the scenes, award-winning rock doc provides an intimate visit with the band and their fans.

Screening with: **Freedom** (Felipe Espinosa)

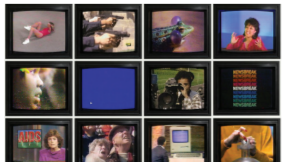


Ovacik (Aysegul Selenga Taskent)

Saturday, October 12, 11:30AM, Squeaky Wheel

Turkey, 91min, NY Premiere

Told through the daily lives of residents in Ovacik and their Mayor Fatih Mehmet Maçoğlu's efforts to create a sustainable economy via community-based agriculture, Aysegul Selenga Taskent offers an honest and heartfelt exploration of the political and social differences within Ovacik and Turkey at large.



Recorder: The Marion Stokes Project (Matt Wolf)

Saturday, October 12, 5:15PM, Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

USA, 87min, WNY Premiere

Beginning with the Iranian Hostage Crisis in 1979 and ending in 2012 with the

massacre at Sandy Hook, Philadelphia-based activist Marion Stokes archived and preserved television broadcasts amassing a 70,000 VHS tape collection capturing wars, triumphs, catastrophes, and more. A Zeitgeist Films release.



The Fan Connection (Mary Wall)

Saturday, October 12, 1:15PM
North Park Theatre

USA, 93min, NY Premiere

Mary Wall's moving documentary paints a portrait of multiple generations of Buffalo Sabers fans and their unwavering devotion and fandom transcends their everyday lives.



The Other Side of Mars (Minna Långström)

Monday, October 14, 11:00AM
North Park Theatre

Finland, 57min, USA Premiere

Do images capture reality or create it? Director Minna Langstrom investigates these and other philosophical quandaries by pointing her lens at NASA, the Mars Curiosity Rover, and the work of roboticist Vandri Verma in order to explore how NASA's images are made, used and manipulated for the sake of science and public information.



Unsettled: Seeking Refuge in America (Tom Sheppard)

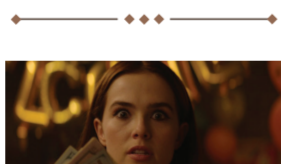
Monday, October 14, 4:00PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

USA, 81min, NY Premiere

Focusing on the untold stories of LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers who have fled intense persecution in their home countries to resettle in the U.S., Tom Sheppard's timely documentary tells their stories against the backdrop of a changing U.S. political landscape.

Screening with: **Lolo** (Leandro Goddinho and Paulo Menezes)

Domestic Narratives: U.S. Features



Buffaloed (Tanya Wexler)

Sunday, October 13, 7:00PM
North Park Theatre

USA, 100min, WNY Premiere

A street-smart South Buffalo hustler, Peggy (Zoey Deutch) finds herself in over her head when she takes on the debt king of Buffalo (Jai Courtney) in Tanya Wexler's lively comedy. Judy Greer and Jermaine Fowler co-star. Penned by WNY native, Brian Sacca.



Frances Ferguson (Bob Byington)

Friday, October 11, 7:00PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

USA, 75min, NY Premiere

Bob Byington returns to BIFF with Frances Ferguson – an offbeat comedy narrated by Nick Offerman. Ripped from the headlines, it's the tale of a substitute teacher's (Kaley Wheless) marriage and affair.

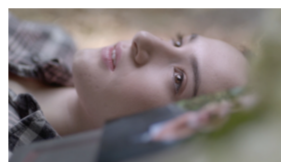


Go Back to China (Emily Ting)

Sunday, October 13, 2:00PM
North Park Theatre

USA/China, 95min, WNY Premiere

In Emily Ting's funny and heartfelt drama, aspiring LA-based fashion designer Sasha (Anna Akana) finds her trust fund suspended by her father, and is forced to return to her family's toy business in China.



My Summer as a Goth (Tara Johnson-Medinger)

Friday, October 11, 5:00PM
North Park Theatre

USA, 98min, NY Premiere

Natie Shershow stars in Tara Johnson-Medinger's tender coming-of-age story about the search for love and belonging.



Rendezvous in Chicago (Michael Glover Smith)

Sunday, October 13, 5:00PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

USA, 70min, WNY Premiere

Writer/director Michael Glover Smith presents three relationships in the process of life changing transformations – including an impulsive chance encounter, a lifelong commitment, and a break-up.



Spiral Farm (Alec Tibaldi)

Saturday, October 12, 3:00PM
Squeaky Wheel

USA, 85min, WNY Premiere

After two strangers arrive in her isolated commune, 17 year old Anahita (Piper De Palma) begins to question her place in the world.



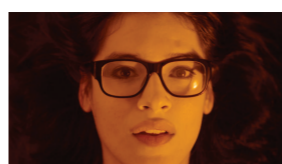
Surviving Lunch (KT Curran)

Saturday, October 12, 3:15PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

USA, 75min, NY Premiere

In KT Curran's award-winning thriller, school shooting survivor Gabriella (Avery Arendes) relocates to a Florida and navigates the cruel culture of her new high school, where insecurity, social media and rumor rule the halls.

Screening with: **Parkland: Stories from the Survivors** (Lucca Vieira)



The Garden Left Behind (Flavio Alves)

Sunday, October 13, 3:00PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

USA, 87min, WNY Premiere

Mexican trans woman (Carlie Guevara) struggles to make a life for herself as an undocumented immigrant in New York City in Flavio Alves' award winning drama. Co-starring Ed Asner and Michael Masden.

Screening with: **Welcome to Ball** (Adam Vincent Wright)



The Sympathy Card (Brendan Boogie)

Saturday, October 12, 9:30PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

USA, 94min, NY Premiere

BIFF Audience Award Winner Brendan Boogie returns to the festival with a new dark, comedic drama. When Emma's (Petey J. Gibson) cancer takes a turn for the worse, she presents her new wife Josie (Nika Ezell Papas) with her dying wish – find someone new while Emma is still around to approve of her choice.

Screening with: **Jones** (Stacey Maltin)



Vanilla (Will Dennis)

Monday, October 14, 8:15PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

USA, 87min, NY Premiere

In this comical exploration of life working in the gig economy, a fledgling comedian (Kelsa Bauman) sets out on a cross-country roadtrip to sell a van with a struggling tech entrepreneur (Willi Dennis).



Working Man (Robert Jury)

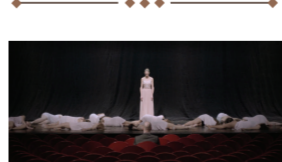
Monday, October 14, 6:00PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

USA, 108min, WNY Premiere

An act of civil disobedience by a life-long employee (Peter Gertruy) of a recently closed plastic factory gives hope to his rustbelt community in Robert Jury's moving drama. Co-starring Talia Shire and Billy Brown.

Screening with: **The Cunning Man** (Zoe Dobson)

Global Narratives: International Features



Alive (Michael Siebert)

Monday, October 14, 12:30PM
North Park Theatre

Germany, 93min, NY Premiere

A stunning, non-linear exploration of human relationships, love, and time shared through the denouement of terminal diagnosis.

Screening with: **This Happened to You** (Ana Maria Estrada)



Nose to Tail (Jesse Zigelstein)

Saturday, October 12, 1:00PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

Canada, 82min, WNY Premiere

Fading culinary star (Aaron Abrams) is haunted by his demons as he struggles to keep his Toronto bistro afloat over a long day filled with private trials and public tribulations.

Screening with: **The Dishwasher** (Nick Hartanto & Sam Roden)



Online Billie (Lou Assou)

Monday, October 14, 3:00PM
North Park Theatre

France, 83min, US Premiere

He's an aspiring actor looking for love. She's a cam girl who has virtual sex with strangers as a side gig, and is terrified by intimacy. Complications of modern relationships shine through their unique relationship in this charming drama.



Pacarrete (Allan Deberton)

Friday, October 11, 12:30PM
North Park Theatre

Brazil, 98min, US Premiere

Pacarrete (legendary actress Marcelia Cartaxo) is an aging, eccentric ballet dancer who has retired to her hometown and is hellbent on giving the town the gift of one last performance on the eve of its 200th anniversary party.



Playing Hard (Kinga Debska)

Monday, October 14, 2:00PM
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre

Poland, 88min, WNY Premiere

The worlds of a prosecutor, surgeon and student collide in Kinga Debska's gripping drama.



Schemers (David McLean)

Monday, October 14, 9:40PM
North Park Theatre

Scotland, 90 min, NY Premiere

Set in the rough and tumble world of Dundee, Scotland, 1979, Schemers tells the hilarious true story of Davie (Conor Berry), a fledgling promoter who scams his way into bringing Iron Maiden to his small village in David McLean's semi-autobiographical comedy.



The Butler (Flipe Bajon)

Saturday, October 13, 4:00PM
North Park Theatre

Poland, 150min, NY Premiere

In Flipe Bajon's sweeping epic, an orphaned Kashubian boy is taken in by a Prussian aristocrat and grows up in her palace, eventually falling in love with the aristocrat's daughter.

BIFF Shorts Blocks

CHANGE-MAKERS, 10 1min

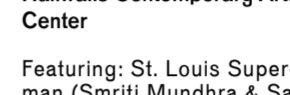
Sunday, October 13, 1:00PM

Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center



Featuring: St. Louis Superman (Smriti Mundhra & Sami Khan), Haven (Colin Askey), Honey West: The Gloria Ficking Story (Laura Varela), Selling Lies (Leslie Iwerks).

Monday, October 14, 3:00PM
North Park Theatre



DANGER ZONE, 99min

Sunday, October 13, 9:30PM

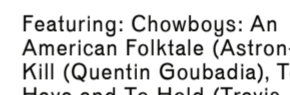
North Park Theatre



Featuring: Chowboys: An American Folktales (Astron-6), Kill (Quentin Goubadia), To Have and To Hold (Travis Carlson), Boo (Rakefet Abergel), Beachworld (Jackie Perez), Still Watching (Nick Green), It's Not Custard (Kate McCoid), Re-Rehab (Daniel Kim).

Friday, October 11, 9:00PM

Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre



Featuring: Memories of the Future (Stephen Graham), Active Voices: Gun Reform Activism in Rochester, New York (Jeremy Sarachan), Rose Dork Friday (Annette Daniels Taylor), "A" My Name Is (Sarah T. Schwab), The Last Adjoint (Dorthea Braemer), Distant Stars (Emily Fisher).

Sunday, October 13, 4:15PM

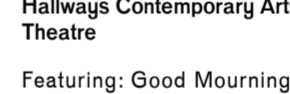
North Park Theatre



EPISODIC, 109min

Friday, October 11, 9:00PM

Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre



Featuring: Good Mourning (Kelsea Claire), Fakers (Ryan DeNardo & Thaddeus McCants), False Advertising (Nick Porreca), To The Madness (Kylie Mosonyi), M (Javier Devitt).

Saturday, October 12, 1:30PM

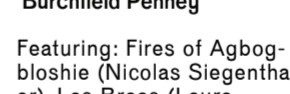
Squeaky Wheel



Featuring: The Happy Couple (Joshua Stead-Dorval), Noel's Spaceship (Sabrina Pena Young), Insomnia (Xinyan Shen), Norm and Elsie (Andrina Kirst), Lana Turner and Frank O'hara (Andrina Kirst), The Interview (Aleesha Chandhok), Art Film (Jade Spencer), To Dance (Anna Rozic), Not 4 Nothing: But 4 Something (Sergey Joseph), Bye (Liam S. Rodriguez), Flint II (Breanna Roberts), The Importance of Hands (Sumali Shamu), Himbasha (Kisanet Hadish & Haben Berhe), Magnificent Machine (Dominique Scruggs)

Sunday, October 13, 2:30PM

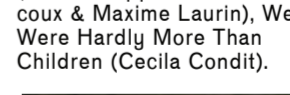
Burchfield Penney



Featuring: Fires of Agboghoshie (Nicolas Siegenthaler), Las Breas (Laura Kranning and Blue Kranning), Dyonite (Leila Jarman), In West Virginia (Pamela Falkenberg & Jack Cochran), Post Election Works (Kate Haug), Second Breath (Jean-Philippe Nadeau-Marcoux & Maxime Laurin), We Were Hardly More Than Children (Cecilia Condit).

Friday, October 11, 5:00PM

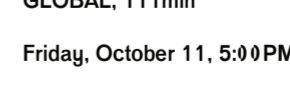
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center



STUDENTS, 95min

Sunday, October 13, 6:45PM

Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Theatre



Featuring: Apple of the Mind's Eye (Kate Quesada), Fresh Air (Lucas Santos), Improv (Addie Kopsidas), When Amy (Linda Ashby), Big Durian, Big Apple (Azalia Muchran-syah), Himl (Tien Nguyen), Milton Goes To Work (Alexis Mele), Ringworm (Kali Croisdale), The Trees That Grew Apart (Katherine Kitter), For Whom (Alexa Rusin), Liith (Erofili Moraiti), When Father Went Biking (Zuko Garagic), Yes I'm A Feminist (Dahee Yun)



INFLUENCE OPERATION, 105min

Saturday, October 12, 7:00PM