

For Immediate Release

**Media Contact:**

Kendra Rubinfeld

[media@dshorts.com](mailto:media@dshorts.com)

202 681-1151



**13<sup>th</sup> Annual DC Shorts Film Festival & Screenplay Competition**  
*With new programming team, DC's "Best Film Festival" presents the  
best shorts from around the world.*  
September 8-18, 2016 – Washington, DC  
Various Locations

**Washington, DC** – Over the last 13 years, DC Shorts Film Festival and Screenplay Competition has grown from an idea to one of the largest short film festivals on the East Coast with its programming stretching from Washington to the UK and recognition all around the world as a top-tiered festival. Named the “Coolest Short Film Festival” by *MovieMaker Magazine*, “Best Film Fest” by *Washington City Paper* five times, DC Shorts has made DC proud for over a decade.

Particular anticipation surrounds this year’s 13<sup>th</sup> annual festival due to a new programming team that promises exciting, new programming with the same heart and soul as years past. For the first time since the festival’s founding, Jon Gann (DC Shorts Film Festival Founder and former Program Director) has passed the programming baton on to new leadership. Joe Bilancio (Rehoboth Beach Independent, The Los Angeles International Gay and Lesbian, OUTFEST Film Festivals) and Derek Horne (Sundance, Newport, Newport Beach, Sarasota, Santa Fe, and Hot Springs Film Festivals) have stepped up with gusto, thrilled to bring their eclectic film industry backgrounds to Washington audiences.

This year the festival received a record breaking 1300+ submissions from over 40 countries, making it the most competitive year to date. Distilling the submissions down to the very best, judges selected 131 films and 6 screenplays from 33 countries. The 11-day event will include film screenings of shorts in every conceivable genre and style, Q&As, filmmaker workshops and free, family screenings in libraries across all 8 Wards. Returning this year, most films will also be available through a secure online portal accessible through a computer, tablet, smartphone or Roku box as part of the DC Shorts Online Film Festival.

New this year is the expansion of the programming including more unique showcases (18 total, up from 13 last year) and an increase in animation, with at

least one animated short in each showcase plus a special ANIMATION NATION of encore presentations. Also special this year is the amount of films that have been critically acclaimed at other festivals around the world including Sundance, Tribeca, SXSW, Telluride, Toronto, Berlin, and Cannes and are making their DC premiere.

Documentaries and Spanish speaking films gain focus in this year's programming. "The selection of short documentaries making their DC premiere is phenomenal. I wouldn't be surprised to see a few of them on Oscar shortlists this year," says Co-Programmer Derek Horne. There were also a large number of high-quality, female-driven, Spanish language films that will be spotlighted in SHOWCASE 11 (also called "Viva Hispanica,") with a parallel themed party following the premiere screening at the annual City View Party.

Also new this year is that our programmers arranged the 18 unique showcases by theme. For late night viewing, SHOWCASE 14 is focused specifically on the horror/comedy genre, and SHOWCASE 6 features provocative shorts exploring sexual topics. Each year, a collective consciousness is evident through themes expressed in submissions from around the globe - reflecting the state of the world. Perhaps not surprisingly, programmers created unique showcases around immigration (TACKLING THE ISSUES: IMMIGRATION), frustrations with technology (TACKLING THE ISSUES: TECHNOLOGY ADDICTION), as well as overcoming oppression (SHOWCASE 8).

### **HIGHLIGHTS / SPECIAL INFORMATION:**

**FILMS:** Films range in subjects and genres but all are shorts, 2 to 30 minutes long. This year 18 unique film showcases screen something for everyone in 90-minute programs including a mix of animation, dramas, comedies, thrillers, and documentaries. Filmmaker Q&As will follow most screenings. For a list of films, screening schedule and synopses, please click [here](#).

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS:** There will be several special film screenings including **FREE FAMILY SHOWCASE** hosted at DC Public Libraries in all 8 Wards, **FREE LUNCHTIME SHOWS** (programmed by our fabulous DC Shorts Interns, each choosing their favorite films), unique collections of LGBT Shorts (**10% CINEMA SHOWCASE**), showcases on **TACKLING THE ISSUES: TECHNOLOGY ADDICTION** and **TACKLING THE ISSUES: IMMIGRATION**, the **BEST OF SUNDERLAND FILM FESTIVAL** (see details below) and the annual **BEST OF DC SHORTS SHOWCASE**.

**FILMMAKER WORKSHOPS:** DC Shorts presents four days of free seminars for filmmakers, film festival organizers, and actors in subjects ranging from camerawork to contracts to fiscal sponsorship. Highlights include a lunch with local theater directors to discuss fair rental pricing, a seminar with Washington

DC Film Critics Association on how to write a film review and a conference for actors, co-hosted by the Asian Pacific American Film Festival.

**SCREENPLAY COMPETITION:** Returning this year will be the DC Shorts Screenplay Competition where the audience is privy to a table reading of 6 selected screenplays for which they will then vote. The audience-selected winner receives \$2,000 to shoot their project and automatic entry for their completed film to screen at DC Shorts 2016. Paired down from over 90 submissions, finalists come from all over the country, including 2 local scripts.

**BEST OF SUNDERLAND FILM FESTIVAL:** This past year, DC Shorts facilitated the organization of the first short film festival in Sunderland, England — one of DC's sister cities and the ancestral home of George Washington. This year, DC Shorts will present the **BEST OF SUNDERLAND FILM FESTIVAL**, screening the short films our neighbors across the pond selected as their favorites. More below.

**ALL-ACCESS FESTIVAL PASS:** The ALL-ACCESS FESTIVAL PASS allows entry into every screening, party, and workshop — even the **BEST OF DC SHORTS SHOWCASE!** It also includes the following:

- Priority seating at all screenings — you get in first!
- Priority entry to all parties — you get in first!
- DC Shorts T-shirt
- Swag bag (while supplies last)
- Access to the DC Shorts Online Film Festival

**Purchase online or at theater venues for \$125.00**

**PARTIES:** DC Shorts Film Festival and Screenplay Competition would not be complete without their parties, celebrating filmmakers and audience members alike. Tickets for the opening night weekend, **ANNUAL CITY VIEW PARTY (AKA VIVA HISPANICA) @ CARROLL SQUARE** will feature great views, light refreshments, and special drink selections.

**What**                      **DC Shorts Film Festival & Screenplay Competition** - 137 short films, 6 screenplays from 31 countries, special showcases, competitions and parties. A full list of films, showcases and events are listed online at [www.dshorts.com/festival](http://www.dshorts.com/festival).

**Where**                    **Film Screenings:**  
- Landmark E Street Cinema: 555 11<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, WDC  
- U.S. Navy Memorial Burke Theater: 701 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, WDC  
- Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H Street NE, WDC  
- Various DC Public Libraries in all 8 Wards.  
*See other events below for location details.*

- When**                    **September 8-18** – Website ([www.dcsHORTS.com](http://www.dcsHORTS.com)) for full schedule.
- DC Shorts  
Screenplay  
Competition**            **The DC Shorts Screenplay Competition** will be held at the U.S. Navy Memorial Burke Theater September 16, 7:00pm-10:00pm. Tickets are limited and are \$20. Meet the writers after the reading at the complimentary wine and cheese reception hosted by Barefoot Wines and KerryGold.
- Parties**                    *Parties are 21+ only*  
*Light refreshments, special selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages included.*
- Annual City View Party (AKA Viva Hispanica) @ Carroll Square**  
Celebrate opening weekend under the stars atop a roof deck with live musical performance.  
Saturday, September 10th, 9:00pm-11:00pm  
Carroll Square, 975 F Street, NW (Metro Center)  
Tickets: \$20 online or box office, no door sales.
- Workshops**            **Filmmaker and Film Organizer Workshops** - Filmmaker and Film Lover Workshops will be held at Landmark E Street Cinema. Full schedule and topics can be found on website. **Events are free.** Space is limited and seating priority to be granted to filmmakers in the competition. Reservations required and can be made at <http://festival.dcsHORTS.com/events/workshops/>.
- Best of  
Sunderland  
Film Festival**            **Best of Sunderland Film Festival** is a special showcase to honor DC Shorts' organization of the first short film festival in Sunderland, England this past year. Sunderland, England is DC's sister city and the ancestral home of George Washington. The special evening will feature SSFF's jury and audience award winning films on September 14, 7:00pm at Landmark E Street Cinema. Tickets are limited and are \$12 online and \$15 at the venue.
- DC Shorts  
Online Film  
Festival**                    Over **75** films can be screened during the event week (September 8-18) on any computer, most mobile devices and Roku boxes. Details and tickets available online: \$30 or \$15 if purchased with tickets for any theatrical showcase.
- Social Media**            Twitter: [www.twitter.com/dcsHORTS](http://www.twitter.com/dcsHORTS)  
Facebook/Facebook Live (NEW!): [www.facebook.com/dcsHORTSfilmfest](http://www.facebook.com/dcsHORTSfilmfest)  
Instagram: <http://www.instagram/dcsHORTS>  
Flickr: [www.flickr.com/dcsHORTS](http://www.flickr.com/dcsHORTS)  
#dcsHORTS16

**Event  
Information**

More info can be found at [www.dcshorts.com/festival](http://www.dcshorts.com/festival) or by emailing [info@DCShorts.com](mailto:info@DCShorts.com). **For all press inquiries, please see below.**

**Media  
Contact/  
Photos/  
Screeners**

For more information, photos, interviews, film screeners, etc., please contact Kendra Rubinfeld PR at [media@dcshorts.com](mailto:media@dcshorts.com) or 202.681.1151. Electronic Press Kits (EPKs) can be found <http://festival.dcshorts.com/for-the-media/> For screeners, please fill out this [waiver](#).