



# WELCOME TO THE THIRD ANNUAL SMARTPHILM FEST

Dear Film Lovers and Makers,

The SmartPhilm Festival is a unique film and tech festival for shorts shot exclusively with smartphones and other mobile devices. With the rise of smartphones and the proliferation of apps, the ways creatives represent the world around us in digital media is rapidly changing. Our aim is to level the playing field for all aspiring and professional filmmakers. Creative minds no longer need expensive cameras and equipment to bring their stories to life. We strive to provide a media platform to the global artistic and storytelling community to document and produce their own stories in the most accessible way. At this year's Festival, we challenge you to step outside of your comfort zone and embrace a new trade: smartphone filmmaking (aka philmmaking). With films from 25 countries encompassing a broad spectrum of themes and ideas, we are certain you'll be challenged, moved and enthralled. Let the shorts renew your internal global citizenship as well as unleash the storyteller in you.

The festival is the result of tremendous hard work by a lot of dedicated people. Volunteers, sponsors, filmmakers, reviewers and the community at large all contribute to make this event a jewel of the DMV area. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made this day possible and special kudos to Maker Faire NoVa and LumaTouch for their partnership and generous support.

## SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



## STARTFIELD



**Thomas Debass**  
Founder/Curator

**Milena Mikael-Debass**  
Co-Founder/Executive Producer

**Bemnet Yemesgen**  
Co-Founder/Creative Director

# SMARTPHILM PROGRAM

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**12:00 - 12:45 PM**

**Welcoming Remarks and Mobile filmmaking workshop**

Discover how your smartphone can be a powerful filmmaking tool as Emmy-Award winning filmmaker Larry Engel provides you tips and secret tricks that will unleash your filmmaking skills.

**1:00 - 1:35 PM**

**Screening (Documentary and Experimental) + Discussions**

**2:00 - 2:45 PM**

**Screening (Music Video and Emerging Talent) + Discussions**

**3:00 - 3:30 PM**

**Screening (Horror) + Discussions**

**3:45 - 4:45 PM**

**Screening (Fiction) + Discussions**

**4:45 - 5.00 PM**

**Festival Awards Ceremony**

## #SmartPhilmFest

Sharing is caring!

Use the hashtag and help us spread the word about SmartPhilm Fest.

## VOTING CAN BE FUN!

Vote for your favorite films at [www.Sli.do](http://www.Sli.do)  
Password: [smartphilm](#)

## Philmaker [ˈfɪlm,mækər]

(noun)

1. A producer or director of motion pictures, especially ones exclusively using smartphones or mobile devices in all phases of production.
2. A person who makes film using smartphones, especially for submission to the SmartPhilm Festival.

# TOP49: THE FINALISTS

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SmartPhilm Fest received nearly 1,000 shorts from over 85 countries. After a lengthy and diligent review, we have selected 49 finalists that span over 20 countries. Many of these films have not yet been rated by the Motion Picture Association of America or the equivalent rating agencies in their countries of origin. Viewer discretion is advised.

## DOCUMENTARY

What It Feels Like (United Kingdom)  
Sound of Water (Afghanistan)  
Sea (Uzbekistan)  
Spruce Woods (Canada)  
Opening the Door (Italy/Cuba)

## EXPERIMENTAL

Calm (Syria)  
Turning Tomboys (United States)  
Falling not waving (Australia)  
Salvation of Oxygen (Bangladesh)  
Animare (Bulgaria)  
YES, NO (Italy)  
The Dance (Macedonia)  
POP! (France)

## MUSIC VIDEO

The Marsh (Italy)  
Flight (Spain)  
Love Sucks (Spain)  
Akathisia (Canada)

## EMERGING TALENT

Screen Age (United States)  
Breath (Turkey)  
Back in 5 Minutes (United Kingdom)  
The Captivity (India)  
Dacked (Australia)  
Vickey & Victoria's Secret (India)  
Annisa (Indonesia)

## HORROR

Inside (Brazil)  
Elle (United States)  
Passenger (Brazil)  
Trouble (DR Congo)  
Clickbait (United Kingdom)  
Reflection (Brazil)  
Books Don't Bite (Argentina)

## FICTION

Tokunbo (Nigeria)  
Roots (Italy)  
Ball (Italy)  
Dummy Up (Colombia)  
Loser (Russia)  
No Limits (Australia)  
Annie (United States)  
From Port to Starboard (Colombia)  
2Faces (France, Martinique)  
The Memory of Our Peers (France)  
Upend (United States)  
A Daughter's Journey (Canada)  
Maybe Tomorrow (France)  
The Window (India)  
Escamol (Mexico)  
A London Cafe (Ireland)  
Dulcinea (Spain)  
Right (United States)

SmartPhilm Fest is a production of STARTFIELD, a 501(c)(3) local nonprofit organization on a mission to build and empower communities of innovators and creatives to spur economic development.

Want to be a volunteer? Contact us at [info@smartphilm.com](mailto:info@smartphilm.com)

# JUDGES BIOS

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**Ellen Bryan** (Host & Judge) is a reporter at WUSA 9 team as a multimedia journalist. Ellen comes to Washington, D.C. from Dallas – Fort Worth, Texas, where she was a reporter for NBC 5. Before Texas, Ellen was an anchor and reporter at ABC 36 in Lexington, Kentucky, where she met Kentucky Derby winning horses and followed UK's Basketball team on its NCAA Championship run. In 2012, Ellen competed at Miss America representing the Buckeye State as Miss Ohio. Ellen is a Ball State University graduate and co-hosted the Emmy award-winning show Connections Live on WIPB.

**Larry Engel** (Judge) is an Emmy® award-winning filmmaker entering his fourth decade with work spanning the globe. He has worked on more than 250 documentary projects for television and cable. He is an associate professor at American University's Film and Media Arts division in the School of Communication, an associate director of the Center for Environmental Filmmaking, and filmmaker-in-residence at the Investigative Reporting Workshop.

**Milena Mikael-Debass** (Judge) is a New York-based producer with a background in broadcast television, video production, and digital video strategy. From producing for Al Jazeera's The Stream to VICE News, she is passionate about the constantly evolving landscape of web video. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Comparative Politics from the University of Virginia and a graduate degree in Global Communication at the George Washington University. In her spare time, Milena pursues her love of photography.

**Dr. Knatokie Ford** (Judge) is Founder and CEO of Fly Sci™ Enterprise, an education and media consulting organization focused on leveraging the power of storytelling to promote social change, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Dr. Ford previously served as a Senior Policy Advisor at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) during the Obama Administration. Dr. Ford earned her Ph.D. in Experimental Pathology at Harvard University where she studied age-related macular degeneration and she received a BS/MS in Chemistry/Biological Chemistry from Clark Atlanta University. Regis College awarded Dr. Ford an honorary doctorate of science in 2017.

**Jackson Muneza Mvunganyi** (Judge) is a multimedia reporter, broadcaster and Digital media Producer. He is the host of UpFront a Youth-oriented talk show on the Voice of America. Jackson interacts with African youth on issues ranging from Entrepreneurship, leadership, education, innovation, etc. A native of Rwanda, Mvunganyi has a Bachelor's degree in Multimedia development from the American University in Washington D.C., and a Masters degree in Information Management at the University of Maryland. Jackson was named one of the 20 young African influencers in the diaspora.