

CSU's inaugural ACT Human Rights Film Festival releases schedule, tickets

The ACT Human Rights Film Festival at Colorado State University has announced its much-anticipated lineup of screenings and discussions for its inaugural April 15-22 run.

The full schedule and tickets for the festival, hosted by CSU's Department of Communication Studies, are now available at www.actfilmfest.org.

The event is the city and state's first-ever weeklong film festival dedicated to human rights documentary and narrative fiction cinema. It showcases 18 curated films that cover a spectrum of human rights issues, from hunger, homelessness and women's rights to the fight for democracy, GLBTQ rights in Africa and art as resistance and cultural resilience.

While the festival's opening weekend and closing night will be held at the Lory Student Center Theatre on the CSU campus, from Monday through Thursday most films will screen at the [Lyric Cinema Café](#) at 300 E. Mountain Ave. The Harmony Library will also host a free community screening of [Planet of Snail](#) on Sunday, April 17, at 2 p.m.

Screenings will be hosted by a variety of moderators who will provide context-setting introductions and lead Q&A sessions with filmmakers, film subjects and other experts afterwards. There will also be a "Call to ACT" initiative, with more than 20 nonprofit and student organization representatives helping connect film-goers to information and opportunities for getting involved in local efforts that address similar themes as those presented in festival films.

The lineup

The week of awareness-raising kicks off April 15 in the LSC Theatre with a 7:30 p.m. screening of [Burden of Peace](#), a documentary about Guatemala's first female Attorney General Claudia Paz y Paz and her attempts to break a downward spiral in a country filled with drug cartels, corruption and violence. Director Joey Boink will be on hand to answer questions after the screening.

Other highlights of the week include:

- [American Arab](#), in which Director Usama Alshaibi — an Iraqi-American filmmaker and Colorado State University adjunct instructor — confronts issues of identity and perception toward Arab-Americans in today's society. Alshaibi will attend the 4:30 p.m. screening on April 16 in the LSC Theatre.

- [Kings of Nowhere](#), which tells the story of three families who live in a northwestern Mexico village partially submerged by dam floodwaters. Director Betzabe Garcia will be available to answer questions after the 7:30 p.m. screening in the LSC Theatre on April 16.

- Call to ACT, a nonprofit fair that will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on April 17 in the LSC's Long's Peak Room. Connect with organizations, student groups, and community members involved in advancing health and human services across northern Colorado. Light refreshments served.

- [Stories of Our Lives](#), which screens at 2:30 p.m. on April 17 at the LSC Theatre, is an anthology of five short films dramatizing true stories of GLBTQ life in Kenya (and has never been screened inside Kenya), and [Born This Way](#), about two young

gay men in Cameroon, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. on April 21 at the Lyric and will feature Director Shaun Kadlec and Cedric, one of the film's subjects.

- [Tomorrow We Disappear](#), which screens at 4:30 p.m. on April 19 at the Lyric. It tells the story of a community of magicians, acrobats and puppeteers in India who protest when their land is sold to a developer building a skyscraper. As part of that presentation, CSU alumna Alexandra Ruiz will discuss and show clips from *ALWADI*, a documentary about Syrian refugees that she produced, with assistance from CSU graduate student Kyle Rasmussen.

- [No Land's Song](#), which chronicles composer Sara Najafi's efforts to organize an official concert for solo female singers in Iran, where women are not allowed to sing in public as soloists. Najafi and Director Ayat Najafi, her brother, will attend the 7:30 p.m. screening on April 20 in the LSC Theatre.

- [Chau, Beyond the Lines](#), an Oscar-nominated short about a teenager in a Ho Chi Minh care center for children disabled by Agent Orange who battles with the reality of his dream to become a professional artist. It will be shown at 4:30 p.m. on April 21 at the Lyric, and Director Courtney Marsh will be on hand.

- Receptions will follow opening and closing night screenings and ticket holders with legal IDs may sample "Screening Session," a special edition session IPA created by Odell Brewing Co. for the festival. The small batch brew will also be on tap at the Lyric Cinema Café and the Odell tap room.

- Fort Collins band [vee device](#), which provided the music for the [festival trailer](#) and is playing the closing reception at 9:15 p.m. on April 22. Sam Ernst, who sings and plays guitar in the group, holds a master's degree in communication studies from CSU.

The festival closes on April 22 with a 7:30 p.m. LSC Theatre screening of [Something Better to Come](#), in which Oscar-nominated filmmaker Hanna Polak follows Yula as she grows up in the forbidden territory of Svalka, a garbage dump located 13 miles from the Kremlin in Putin's Russia.

The purpose of ACT is to expose audiences to aspects of life that are often ignored in mainstream cultural productions, enlightening them and perhaps leading to a more engaged citizenry. The majority of films selected for the first ACT film festival have been produced within the last two years and are not available in wide release.

Tickets to general screenings cost \$5 for students and \$9 for the general public. Opening and closing night tickets include admission to a post-screening reception and cost \$8 for students and \$12 for the general public. Group ticket discounts are available while supplies last. Contact kristy@actfilmfest.org for more information.

In addition to visiting www.actfilmfest.org, keep up to date with ACT on social media by liking the ACT [Facebook](#) page, following @actfilmfest on [Twitter](#), and using the hashtags #ACTfilmfest and #takeACTion. Tickets can be purchased directly at

About ACT

ACT is a production of the Department of Communication Studies in CSU's College of Liberal Arts and inspired by scholarship made possible through the William E. Morgan Chair of Liberal Arts held by Scott Diffrient. Along with Carol

Busch, Greg Dickinson, and Kristy King, Dr. Diffrient is part of the core team responsible for programming and producing this event. The ACT name and brand were conceived and developed by the festival's founding sponsor, [One Tribe Creative](#), a full service branding and marketing firm located in Fort Collins.. All festival partners and sponsors are listed online at www.actfilmfest.org. For more information, contact Tammy Brislin at 303-753-1883 or tammy@actfilmfest.com.