

# AWAKEN CONNECT TRANSFORM

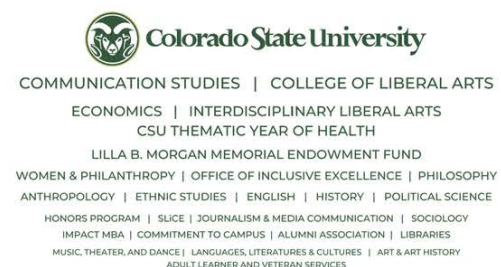
8TH ANNUAL  
**act.**  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
FILM FESTIVAL



ACT is made possible through the generous financial support of campus and community partners.



Jo Anne Busch | The Spokespeople Fund



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Visit us online to see full film descriptions,  
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## FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, March 29

#### Opening Night Film + Reception

Lory Student Center Theatre  
5:00 – 6:15 p.m. Reception  
6:15 p.m. **Subject** (93 minutes)  
In-person Q&A: Susanne Reisenbichler, Film Participant. Stephanie Sunata, Outreach & Impact Producer  
8:30 p.m. Cookies & Conversation, a Facilitated Discussion

### Thursday, March 30

#### Free Campus & Community Screening

2:00 p.m. | Lory Student Center Theatre  
**Into the Weeds: Dewayne 'Lee' Johnson vs. Monsanto Company** (96 minutes)  
In-person Q&A: Aimee Wagstaff, Film Participant & Mass Tort Attorney  
4:00 p.m. Cookies & Conversation, a Facilitated Discussion

#### Hidden Letters (86 minutes)

6:00 p.m. | The Lyric  
In-person Q&A: Violet Du Feng, Director

### Friday, March 31

2:00 p.m. | The Lyric  
**Who She Is** (20 minutes) + Community Conversation about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women  
In-person Q&A: Co-Directors Jordan Dresser and Sophie Barksdale. Film Participant: Lela C'Hair

4:00 p.m. | The Lyric  
**Ironland** (97 minutes)  
Livestream Q&A: Lucas Bambozzi, Director

6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | The Lyric  
Guest Mingle: Grab your own refreshments and connect with filmmakers, activists, and audience members

7:30 p.m. | The Lyric  
**The Art of Un-War** (61 minutes) with **Stranger at the Gate** (29 minutes)  
In-person Q&A: Eric Nichols, Executive Producer, Stranger at the Gate and Maria Niro, Director, The Art of Un-War

No-host After-party at Ace Gillett's at the Armstrong Hotel

### Saturday, April 1

10:00 a.m. | The Lyric  
**African Moot** (85 minutes)  
Livestream Q&A: Shameela Seedat, Director  
12:00 p.m. Cookies & Conversation, a Facilitated Discussion

1:00 p.m. | The Lyric  
**The New Greatness Case** (92 minutes)  
Livestream Q&A, Anna Shishova, Director  
Vlad Ketkovich, Executive Producer

4:00 p.m. | The Lyric  
**A Story of Bones** (94 minutes)  
In-person Q&A: Peggy King Jorde, Film Participant

6:15 – 7:15 p.m. | The Lyric  
Guest Mingle: Grab your own refreshments and connect with filmmakers, activists, and audience members

7:30 p.m. | The Lyric  
**Lyra** (93 minutes) with **The Dads** (10 minutes)  
In-person Q&A: Stephen Chukumba, Film Participant, The Dads

### Sunday, April 2

10:00 a.m. | The Lyric  
**No Simple Way Home** (85 minutes)  
Livestream Q&A: Akuol de Mabior, Director

1:00 p.m. | The Lyric  
Shorts Program (65 minutes): **Liturgy of Anti-Tank Obstacles, Will You Look at Me, De Sueños/Of Dreams, Dear Corky.**  
In-person Q&A: Curtis Chin, Director of Dear Corky

4:00 p.m. | The Lyric  
**Be My Voice** (83 minutes)

7:00 p.m. | The Lyric  
**Storming Caesars Palace** (86 minutes)  
In-person Q&A: Hazel Gurland-Pooler, Director, and Sondra Phillips-Gilbert, Film Participant  
**Closing Night Dessert Reception to Follow**

### Monday, April 3

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Lory Student Center 300  
Encore: **Dear Corky** (17 minutes) + Conversation with Curtis Chin, Director

**April 3 – 12, 2023**  
Miss a film? A small selection of ACT 2023 titles will be available online for a limited time.  
Visit [act2023.eventive.org](http://act2023.eventive.org) | Virtual access is available to Colorado viewers only.



# OFFICIAL SELECTION OF 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ACT HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL



**A Story of Bones**, Joseph Curran & Dominic Aubrey de Vere, 2022, United Kingdom/United States, 94 minutes, English.

*A Story of Bones* chronicles Annina van Neel's tireless work to reclaim and honor the neglected history of St. Helena after the remains of thousands of enslaved people are uncovered on the remote island.



**De Sueños/Of Dreams**, Olga Jaramillo, 2022, United States, 14 minutes, Spanish.

Eighteen years ago, Vicky Noly was forced to leave her children to escape poverty and political conflict in Honduras. Envisioning the US as a land of opportunities and a way to provide for her children, Vicky made the decision to cross to the US regardless of the sacrifices it entailed.



**Liturgy of Anti-Tank Obstacles**, Dmytro Sukholytkyy-Sobchuk, 2022, Ukraine & United States, 13 minutes, Ukrainian.

Ukrainian sculptors pivot from making religious statues to crafting anti-tank obstacles after the Russian invasion upends life in Ukraine.



**Stranger at the Gate**, Joshua Seftel, 2022, United States, 29 minutes, English.

An Afghan refugee named Bibi Bahrami—and the members of her little Indiana mosque—come face to face with a US Marine who has secret plans to bomb their community center. But Mac McKinney's plan takes an unexpected turn toward transformation, healing, and hope.



**African Moot**, Shameela Seedat, 2022, South Africa, 85 minutes, English/French/Portuguese/Swahili.

For one week in Botswana, a group of aspiring lawyers gathers for the annual African Human Rights Moot Court Competition. This time around, the focus is on the rights of refugees.



**Dear Corky**, Curtis Chin, 2022, United States, 17 minutes, English, Chinese (Cantonese).

For over 50 years, New York native Corky Lee photographed his hometown's Chinatown and Asian American communities around the country. With a strong sense of social justice, he captured activists, celebrities, and everyday heroes. *Dear Corky* captures the man behind the camera.



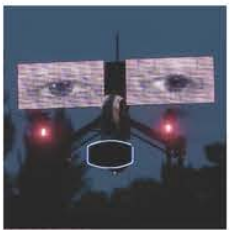
**Lyra**, Alison Millar, 2022, United Kingdom, 93 minutes, English.

An emotive, intimate film on the life and death of acclaimed young Northern Irish journalist Lyra McKee, whose murder by the New IRA in April 2019 sent shockwaves across the world.



**Subject**, Jennifer Tiexiera & Camilla Hall, 2022, United States, 93 minutes, English.

As tens of millions of people consume documentaries in an unprecedented "golden era," *Subject* urges audiences to consider the life-altering impact on documentary participants—the good, the bad, and the complicated.



**The Art of Un-War**, Maria Niro, 2022, United States, 61 minutes, English.

The film follows internationally acclaimed artist Krzysztof Wodiczko who has devoted his career to work that gives prominence to the inhumanity of war, imploring us to dismantle and change our perceptions of human conflict so we can drive toward peace—a concept he calls "Un-War."



**Hidden Letters**, Violet Du Feng, 2022, China/United States/Norway, 86 minutes, Chinese (Mandarin).

Connected through their love for Nushu—a centuries-old secret text shared amongst women—*Hidden Letters* tells the story of two Chinese women trying to balance their lives as independent women in modern China while confronting the traditional identity that defines but also oppresses them.



**The New Greatness Case**, Anna Shishova, 2022, Finland/Croatia/Norway, 92 minutes, Russian

In March 2018, Russian teenager Anya was arrested and incarcerated on charges of forming an extremist group with the aim to violently overthrow the government. Chronicling her case, her family's advocacy, and how Russian security undermines civil society, the film illuminates the brutal and ruthless tactics of state repression.



**Who She Is**, Jordan Dresser & Sophie Barksdale, 2022, United States, 20 minutes, English.

*Who She Is* tells the story of two women caught in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) epidemic. By bringing these women to life on screen and centering their voices, the documentary aims to humanize the women behind the statistics.



**Be My Voice**, Nahid Persson Sarvestani, 2021, Sweden/United States/Iran/Norway, 83 minutes, Farsi/English.

Journalist and women's rights activist Masih Alinejad has 4.5 million followers on Instagram after urging Iranian women to rebel against the forced hijab on social media. Her call to action has grown into one of the largest acts of civil disobedience in Iran today.



**Into the Weeds: Dewayne 'Lee' Johnson vs. Monsanto Company**, Jennifer Baichwal, 2022, United States, 96 minutes, English.

*Into the Weeds* chronicles the explosive and historic legal case that exposed Monsanto's complicity in hiding harmful effects of the popular herbicide Round Up. The film uplifts the plaintiffs and legal team that worked tirelessly to fight for justice.



**No Simple Way Home**, Akuol de Mabior, 2022, South Africa & Kenya, 85 minutes, English/Arabic/Dinka.

Akuol de Mabior is the daughter of a martyr of the South Sudanese revolution. As her mother is sworn in as vice president, the young woman seeks home in her country torn by civil war in a meditative exploration of self and country.



**Will You Look at Me**, Shuli Huang, 2022, China, 21 minutes, Chinese (Mandarin).

As a young Chinese filmmaker returns to his hometown in search for himself, a long overdue conversation with his mother dives the two of them into a quest for acceptance and love.



**The Dads**, Luchina Fisher, 2023, United States, 10 minutes, English.

Six dads gather in rural Oklahoma for a weekend fishing trip. As the men cast their rods into the river, we learn what has brought them together: the love, fears, and hopes for their trans and LGBTQ children. *The Dads* is a quiet meditation on fatherhood, brotherhood, and manhood.



**Ironland**, Lucas Bambozzi, 2022, Brazil, 97 minutes, Portuguese.

Brazilian geographer Camila returns to her native state of Minas Gerais after a mining-related environmental disaster devastates the area. A dam burst, destroying several villages with heavily polluted wastewater from an iron ore mine leaving questions of who is accountable for environmental degradation.



**Storming Caesars Palace**, Hazel Gurland-Pooler, 2022, United States, 86 minutes, English.

Ruby Duncan is an activist who fights the welfare system and becomes a White House advisor. A real-life superhero, she takes on both the Nevada political establishment and organized crime in a valiant and resolute act of civil disobedience.

Thought-provoking films pair well with conversation. Connect with audience members, filmmakers, and local activists at our Guest Mingles for casual conversation and networking. Our Cookies & Conversation are facilitated post-film discussions to help process and unpack film themes in community.

Call to ACT connects activists, grassroots movements, and nonprofit organizations with festivalgoers. The program objective is to create pathways forward toward positive engagement and collective action. Visit [actfilmfest.org](http://actfilmfest.org) for more ways to take ACTION.