



Santa Barbara Film Festival Closes With A Dose of Home-Grown Short Films

Description

Posted by [Larry Gleeson](#)

The 33rd annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF) sponsored by @UGG closed with a cornucopia of home-grown, documentary short films at the historic Arlington Theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif. SBIFF Executive Director welcomed the audience and thanked the SBIFF Board, the festival sponsors and the many volunteers that make the festival possible each year. Without further adieu, Mr. Durling brought out a large volunteer group to join him onstage then proceeded to turn the microphone and stage over to SBIFF Programming Director Michael Albright and Festival Senior Programmer Mickey Duzdevich. Albright and Duzdevich briefed the audience on the evening's lineup of films and introduced the respective filmmakers allowing each filmmaker to say a few words about their respective film. The 2018 SBIFF Closing Night Program consisted of six films, each briefly reviewed below; *A Summer Solstice in Santa Barbara*, *Cascaron*, *Soul of the City*, *The Tipping Point*, *Out of the Ashes*, and *Crossing the Channel*.



The troupe from *A Summer Solstice in Santa Barbara* poses on the Santa Barbara International Film Festival red carpet.

Justin Gunn's *A Summer Solstice in Santa Barbara*, with a run-time of ten minutes, led off the line-up with an insider's view, utilizing a rich, colorful mise-en-scene of the Santa Barbara, Mardi Gras-style, summertime Summer Solstice Parade held annually on State Street in downtown Santa Barbara. Gunn provides an in-depth look at the costuming and float building with still photographs and voice-over narration. Several brief interviews with Santa Barbara locals Hathor Hammett, Nicky LaFleur, Robin Elander, Britt Nelson and Jim Sun Bear combined with archival footage of previous Solstice celebrations added special significance to Gunn's work. Warmly recommended.



Cascaron Director, Chris Price, second from left, with Co-Director and Writer, Casey McGarry, on the red carpet.

Chris Price and Casey McGarry's *Cascarón* exposed the origins of the cascarones, the confetti-filled egg shells, so popular in the Santa Barbara community during Fiesta celebrations. Originally, the eggs were filled with perfume at dinner parties in the late 1800's and provided "the great amusement of the evening when breaking them over the evening's guests' heads." Moreover, *Cascarón* accentuates Santa Barbara's Hispanic, traditional culture with an exquisite, behind-the-scenes look at the lifestyle of the Las hueveras, "the Egg Ladies," and their role as keepers of the Fiesta tradition. Direct interviews, still photography and Fiesta archival footage are effectively used in the film's narrative along with English sub-titles when needed. Highly Recommended.



Soul of the City Director, John Klein, takes a moment on the Santa Barbara International Film Festival red carpet.

John Klein's poignant *Soul of the City* focused on Francisco Aguilera, purveyor of the Cabrillo Pavillion Bathhouse East Beach Grill. Klein uses a point-of-view direct interviewing technique with Aguilera, a part of the East Beach Grill for 32 years and provides a well-researched background of the Cabrillo Pavillion with archival photographs, textual over-lays and voice-over-narration. Minor editing skips do detract from the film's overall quality. Significant attention to Aguilera's commitment to the community is provided with archival footage of a Santa Barbara City Council meeting on September 13, 2016 along with several interviews from local event leaders Aguilera has generously supported throughout the years. At issue in *Soul of the City* was Aguilera's livelihood and the continued operation of the East Beach Grill. Warmly Recommended.



The Tipping Point Director, Danielle Cohen, right, on the Santa Barbara International Film Festival Closing Night red carpet. February 10th, 2018 at the historic Arlington Theatre in Santa Barbara,

Danielle Cohen's *The Tipping Point* discusses an uproar emanating from local leaders and scientists on the role of science in the Trump Administration and the potential long-term effect of slashing science research funding. Utilizing archival news reports. Archival footage of Nineteenth Senate District, California State Senator, Hannah Beth Jackson delivering an impassioned speech is one of the film's highlights. Moreover, with several interviews from the Long Term Ecological Research knowledge network a paradigm is highlighted in research sharing within the scientific community. Warmly Recommended.



The *Out of the Ashes* Producing Team from left to right; Habib Habibi, Rose Ettleson, Kevin Willefert

Hallie Brown's *Out of the Ashes*, a Blue Horizon film, peers into Wild-land Urban Interface through the ashes of the July 2017 Whittier Fire in the Santa Ynez Mountains along Highway 154 in Santa Barbara County. Brown's film, a graduate project via the University of California-Santa Barbara's Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, uncovers the importance of defensible space in planning new construction while illuminating a sense of community at the Cold Springs Tavern in the affected area of the Whittier Fire. The filmmakers effectively utilize still photography, archival news footage and direct interviews. Diagetic music and footage from the Cold Springs Tavern are effectively woven into a timely and highly watchable story line. Highly recommended.



Open-water marathon swimmer, Rachel Horn, speaks with KEYT, Channel 3 reporter on the Santa Barbara red carpet.

Ryan Slattery's *Crossing the Channel* provided an inspirational ending to the festival with the story of Rachel Horn's 12.4 mile open-water, marathon swim across the Santa Barbara Channel starting off Anacapa Island and finishing on the beachfront in Oxnard, California. Slattery utilizes point-of-view, first-person interviews, archival photographs and real-time footage of the swim while dividing the film into three distinct parts after a brief introduction; The Team, The Rules, and The Swim. Warmly Recommended.



The Santa Barbara International Film Festival Closing Night Marquee, February 10th, 2018 at the his

The 2018 Santa Barbara International Film Festival Closing Night Film Program was sponsored by Winchester Mystery House.

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1. #SBIFF
2. Santa Barbara International Film Festival

Tags

1. Closing Night Film Program

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