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Seventh Annual Coast Film & Music Festival Announces Full Film Slate

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Seventh Annual Coast Film & Music Festival Announces Full Film Slate, Lineup Includes 16 Features and 73 Shorts

Ticketing options available here



Jack Johnson

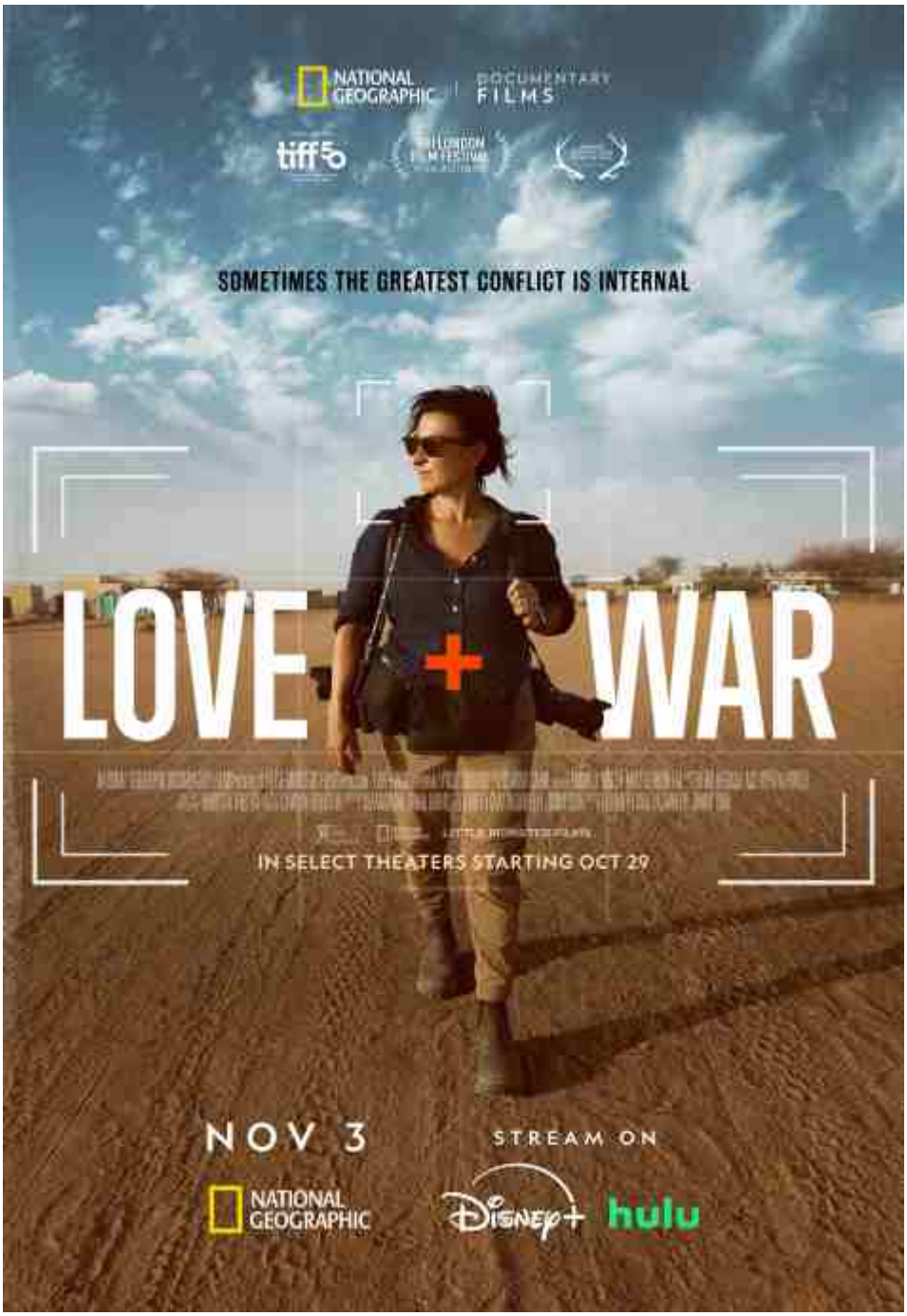
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Laguna Beach, CA (October 27, 2025)â??The Coast Film & Music Festival (CFMF) has unveiled the full film slate for its seventh annual event, taking place Saturday, November 1 through Sunday, November 9. The schedule includes 16 features and 73 shorts, with screenings at the following venues: the Laguna Beach Cultural Arts Center, the Festival of Arts, the Rivian South Coast Theater, The Promenade on Forest, and the Hobie Surf Shop.



The Eyes Of Ghana

The festivities kick off with the stunning feature documentary *The Eyes of Ghana* from two-time Academy AwardÂ®-winning director Ben Proudfoot and executive producers Barack and Michelle Obama. The film follows 93-year-old documentarian Chris Hesseâ??personal cinematographer to forgotten African icon and former Ghana president Kwame Nkrumahâ??as he races against blindness and time to rescue and repatriate a secret trove of over 1,000 films that captured the birth of African independence in the fifties and sixties. Yet unseen by the public, these films may not only rewrite Ghanaian and African history, but world history itself.



The festival will conclude with two feature films: Academy-Award winners Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chinâ??s *Love + War* and musician Jack Johnsonâ??s *The September Sessions*. *Love + War* chronicles Pulitzer Prize winner Lynsey Addarioâ??s ascent in the male-dominated world of conflict photography. Her work is dangerousâ??sheâ??s been kidnapped twice while in war zonesâ??which is a cost she must wrestle with each time she leaves her husband and two sons to go on assignment. Behind the camera, Addario is torn between her unwavering commitment to the essential work of journalism and the powerful, competing demands of motherhood, grappling with what it truly means to follow your calling when it threatens everything youâ?¯love.*The September Sessions* follows American surfers as they take a trip to the coast of Sumatra, where they find themselves surfing beautiful waves and losing the urgency they have come to live with as professionals. Shot on 16mm film and featuring

interviews with surfers Kelly Slater and Rob Machado, this film takes viewers on a once-in-a-lifetime surf trip.

The other features screening individually include: Tony Bennaâ??s *AndrÃ© is an Idiot*; Vickie Curtis and Doug Andersonâ??s *Comparsa*; Josh Swadeâ??s *Empire Skate*; Jacob Vanderworkâ??s *Feels Like Yesterday*; Shaun and Greg MacGillivrayâ??s *Ohio: Wild at Heart*; Roanna Xia and Daniel Straubâ??s *Out of Plain Sight* (from LA Times Studios, presenters of the OscarÃ¢-winning *The Last Repair Shop*); Ben Mastersâ?? *The American Southwest*; Tamara Kotevskaâ??s *The Tale of Silyan*; Jack Johnson and Chris and Emmett Malloyâ??s *Thicker Than Water*; John Hunter Nolan and Erin Brockovichâ??s *Unearth*; and Richard Ladkani and Leonardo DiCaprioâ??s *Yanuni*. The feature films screening in the special programming category â??Mountain/Snow Nightâ?• are Chris Benchetlerâ??s *Mountains of the Moon* and Todd and Steve Jonesâ?? *Pressure Drop.*

Most of the short films are programmed alongside other shorts in the following thematic blocks: â??Adventure Shorts,â?• â??Animal Kingdom Shorts,â?• â??Every Day Wonders Shorts,â?• â??Gravity & Grace Shorts,â?• â??Healed by Nature Shorts,â?• â??Our Lands Shorts,â?• â??Our Oceans Shorts,â?• â??Running Shorts,â?• â??Stoker Shorts,â?• and â??Surf Shorts.â?•

Shorts screening ahead of individual features include: David Goldblum and Mark Hamillâ??s *Big Rock Burning*; Rachel Rossâ?? *Earthworks*; Kelly Gilbrideâ??s *Here the Wild Things Are*; Charlie Turnbullâ??s *If I Disappear*; Connor Eckâ??s *Since 1950*; Gaby Scottâ??s *The Dolphins*; Sashwa Burrousâ?? *The Fire Poppy*; Jacob Krupnickâ??s *Then Comes the Body*; Ricky-Thomas Serikawaâ??s *Twisted Braid*; Hanz Rippe Gabriel and Fernanda Pineda Palenciaâ??s *Unless We Dance*; Oliver Sutroâ??s *Uphill Both Ways*; and Sean Peoplesâ?? *When the Storms Hit*.

The shorts screening in the special programming category â??Mountain/Snow Nightâ?• are Mike Schwartzâ?? *Annika: Where She Lands*; Harry Kearney and Timmy Taussigâ??s *Center Punch*; and Ian Durkinâ??s *Paved*.

â??Adventure Shortsâ?• include: Zeppelin Zeerip and Colin Arismanâ??s *Arctic Alchemy*; Scott Seccoâ??s *Drop the Mic*; Alec Yasuo Walshâ??s *Love Letters: A Love Note to Skateboarding*; Nick Rosen and Gareth Leahâ??s *Reel Rock 19: Death of Villains*; and Glen Janssensâ?? *Your Last Best: A Memphis Rox Story*.

â??Animal Kingdom Shortsâ?• include: Jason Jaacksâ?? *Between Moon Tides*; Skye Fitzgeraldâ??s *Chasing Roo*; and Josh Murphyâ??s *Love Letter to the Unseen*.

â??Every Day Wonders Shortsâ?• include: Dan Lio and Noam Genetâ??s *Assynt*; Palmer Morse and Derek Knowlesâ?? *Borrowed Time*; James Berryâ??s *Cletus*; Sam Miller and Stephen Stinsonâ??s *Iâ??m Still Here: A Life on Dynamite Hill*; Will Wertz and Kolton Dallasâ?? *Little Liberty*; Charlie Turnbullâ??s *Miles Between Us, Miles to Go*; Mike Schwartzâ?? *Momo*; Kate Brantley and Sarah Hughenâ??s *See Like Me*; Nicholas Dorseyâ??s *To Be a Child*; and Wylie Overstreet and Alex Goroshâ??s *To Scale: Time*.

â??Gravity & Grace Shortsâ?• include: Joseph Fletcherâ??s *Bridgers*; Alex Heitlerâ??s *In Cold Blood*; Josh Goldsmithâ??s *Lines*; Mathieu Le Layâ??s *ReÌ?verie*; Keenan DesPlanquesâ?? *Rogatkin*; and Josh Fairmont and Ollie Smithâ??s *Whispers*.

â??Healed by Nature Shortsâ?• include: Cole Sax and Phil Hesslerâ??s *Call to Serve*; Rocky Romano and Miranda Wintersâ?? *Gangsta Gardener*; Jeremiah Schusterâ??s *Mother River*; Evan Graingerâ??s *Powered by Community: Food is Medicine*; Karl Stelterâ??s *Swimming with Butterflies*; and Danny Schmidtâ??s *The Book of George*.

â??Our Lands Shortsâ?• include: Arian Tomarâ??s *Cottonwood*; Pablo MejiÌ•aâ??s *Equipo no. 3*; Matthew Bentonâ??s *Fish for the Future*; Brooklyn Phillips and Sarah Stewartâ??s *Hellbent*; Ashley Kucklerâ??s *Keepers of the Canyon*; Dana Frankoffâ??s *Land to Sea*; Pete McBrideâ??s *Monumental Moment*; Francesco Clerici and Tommaso Barbaroâ??s *The Ice Builders*; Tony Czechâ??s *The Reindeer Journals*; and Greg Robinsonâ??s *Valley Under Fire*.

â??Our Oceans Shortsâ?• include: Peter Grigsbyâ??s *Bitter Water*; Ethan Edmunds and Armin Korsosâ?? *Brothers of the Sea*; Kevan Doyleâ??s *Caught*; Natalie Fayeâ??s *Epicenter*; Josh Murphyâ??s *Rock | Plastic | Salmon*; Nicole Gormleyâ??s *Sea Country (Malu Lag)*; Tatum Kala Davis, Natalie Aymond, Jack Phillips, and Taylor Ortizâ?? *The Kelp We Breathe*; and Carl Rosenâ??s *Year of the Bluefin*.

â??Running Shortsâ?• include: Tylor Wolterâ??s *King of Moab*; Sam Price-Waldmanâ??s *The Life We Have*; and Jaden Stodartâ??s *The Speed Project: Afterparty*.

â??Stoker Shortsâ?• includes: Wylie Overstreet and Alex Goroshâ??s *A New View of the Moon*; Ben Knight and Berne Broudyâ??s *Best Day Ever*; Drew Millerâ??s *Brain Waves: An Andy Davis Story*; Ben Knightâ??s *Unicorn Sashimi*; and Brent Englundâ??s *When Dishwashers Were Kings*.

Finally, â??Surf Shortsâ?• include: Keith Malloy and Andrew Schonebergerâ??s *First In, Last Out*; and Stab Magazineâ??s *Milk & Honey*.



â??People are seeking stories that inspire hope and bring us together,â?• says Programming Director Hayley Nenadal. â??Our festival serves as a showcase for award-winning documentaries and films that tell important, beautiful storiesâ??some tackle big ideas that challenge us to think, while others are unifying experiences that resonate with audiences of all backgrounds. Weâ??re offering exactly what

our communities need right now.â?•

â??This festival is more than a passive experience,â?• conclude Co-Founders Ben Warner & Enich Harris. â??Itâ??s an opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals, to spark conversations about conservation, and to ignite the spirit of adventure that drives us all. Whether youâ??re discussing sustainable practices, planning your next expedition, or simply enjoying the company of fellow outdoor enthusiasts, youâ??re contributing to a community that values and protects our natural world. Our aim is for you to leave here not just entertained, but energized and inspired to make a positive impact. May this festival kindle a renewed dedication to exploring and preserving the wild places we all cherish.â?•

Tickets and passes are available for purchase on the official website here. Press materials (including film synopses, posters, and stills; filmmaker bios and headshots; and screening locations and times) are available here.



About Coast Film & Music Festival

Coast Film & Music Festival, founded in Laguna Beach, California in 2019, is an annual celebration of outdoor-inspired cinema, culture, and community. CFMFâ??s diverse programming includes films, panels, music, art, and outdoor experiences designed to entertain, inform, and inspire audiences. The festival is committed to nurturing young filmmakers and sharing unique voices through innovative mentoring and educational programs. In 2022, they established the Coast Film Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to purpose-driven filmmaking that drives positive change through storytelling.

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