2026 SAN FRANCISCO TRANSGENDER FILM FESTIVAL

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The San Francisco Transgender Film Festival returns with two weeks of human-made, adventurous, and gender expansive films

SFTFF.org

WHAT: 2026 San Francisco Transgender Film Festival (SFTFF)

WHEN: November 12-22, 2026

WHERE: In person: Roxie Theater (all films will be captioned for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing audiences). Programs 1-6 will be held in person at the Roxie Theater November 12-14. 3117 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

ONLINE: These same 6 programs will be offered ONLINE, on demand for free November 16-22

(all films will be captioned for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing audiences).

Please Note: Program 6 November 14th is an In-Person Program Only and is +18. Go to sftff.org for more info.

INFO/Full Program/Tickets/Access Info: https://sftff.org/

SAN FRANCISCO (October 01, 2026) - The San Francisco Transgender Film Festival (SFTFF) today announced the 29th annual San Francisco Transgender Film Festival (SFTFF). Founded in 1997, SFTFF is North America's first and longest-running TGNC film festival. The 2026 festival remains defiant as ever, artist-led, justice-centered and committed to creating opportunities to highlight powerful TGNC cinema.

Since we started, we have screened more than 800 films, and have remained committed to championing emerging, neophyte and established trans and gender-nonconforming filmmakers, while building an intergenerational community and keeping San Francisco's queer cutting-edge spirit alive.

SFTFF 2026 will offer both in person and online programs from November 16-22, with a rich offering of four programs, featuring a range of films across genres from documentaries and politics to animation, dance, music, romance, horror and experimental films.

Programs 1-6 will be held at the historic Roxie Theater November 12-14. These same 6 programs will be offered online, on demand for free November 16-22. All in-person programs will be ASL-interpreted, and all films in-person and online will be captioned for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing audiences.

All tickets are sliding scale $0-50.

SFTFF's Artistic Director Shawna Virago says, "SFTFF is a loving act of resistance to the anti-trans forces arrayed against trans and gender-non-conforming communities across this country. We say Yes! To human-made TGNC films not found in mainstream and commercial theaters. We say No! To the expanding reach of digitized and vanilla culture fueled by AI."

In support of community safety, KN95 masks will be provided and required. The Roxie's entrance, lobby, bathrooms, and audience seating are wheelchair accessible, and the Roxie has all-gender bathrooms. While SFTFF is not a scent-free event, we encourage in-person audiences to be mindful of avoiding perfumes and scented products.

Our goal for this year's Festival, is to provide joyful spaces where trans/GNC people can experience the healing power of gathering together safely, share in dignity and solidarity, exchange ideas and conversation, and witness empowering film programs.

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SFTFF 2026's film offerings include:

Cockroach –

A bold, genre-blending short film exploring themes of sex, survival, connection, and identity through an unflinching, darkly funny lens. The film stars John Cameron Mitchell (Hedwig & The Angry Inch, Shortbus) and is written, directed by, and starring Justice Singleton.

3 Hearts Of Iron

Schuyler Bailar, Chella Man, and Cal Calamia come together through friendship and solidarity to take on an Ironman, claiming, (and fully enjoying) their place in a world of sport where trans bodies are increasingly questioned, politicized, and pushed out. Directed by **Ariel del Sol**

Hustleween

From Puerto Rico. On November 2, 2024, a trans and queer squad celebrates the 5th anniversary of "Hustleween". A magical, unapologetic, Black, Trans, Queer event that raises funds for Trans Masc people. Honoring Trans euphoria as our right, ¡puñeta! Directed by Samara Perez Santiago

Mascott

From Canada. Scott, a transgender actor seeking to break out, unexpectedly accepts the lead role as Barry the Bear on a children's television show. Initially an opportunity for growth, the role soon becomes a suffocating burden as the pressures of fame and hyper-masculine expectations weigh heavily on Scott. A film that does a deep dive into the complexities of identity, societal expectations, and authenticity. Directed by
Marilyne Lamontagne & Shane Savage

Las Cosas Que Brillan

A curious trans mermaid defies her mother's warnings to venture up to the surface, only to discover the world above is not what she dreamt. Las Cosas Que Brillan explores the impacts of environmental destruction, and the danger of being desired in a postcolonial world. Directed by Kristal Sotomayor

Dread

From South Africa. Soft-spoken transmasculine driver Toni is used to navigating an array of colorful passengers through the economically divided streets of Cape Town in their late father's vintage Daimler. But when Claudia, a digital nomad with blonde dreadlocks, unloads a traumatic story on a short ride across town, something unseen takes root in the backseat and refuses to leave. Is the car possessed or not? A film exploring karmic justice has a driver of its own. Directed by Gabe Gabriel and Loren Loubser

Long Away

Set twenty-five years into the future, Long Away is a sci-fi story about Victoria and the father who died when she was very young. As a trans woman who transitioned as an adult, Victoria's father never got to know her truth. She uses a one-round-trip-only time travel device to jump back to our present and meet the man she can barely remember... and try to find out if he'd love her for who she really is. Directed by Tilly Bridges & Susan Bridges

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Press screeners and photos available on request.

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November 12–22, 2026
Tix: $0+ sliding scale
Info/Tix: www.SFTFF.org