



stff

seattle turkish
film festival

2023
Program Guide

About Our Festival

Inaugurated in 2012 by the TACAWA Film Committee, Seattle Turkish Film Festival has become one of the most admired and venerated events of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington.

The film festival is a non-profit, volunteer-driven event, committed to bringing the best of Turkish films to Seattle in an effort to provide an international platform for talented filmmakers working in both short and feature length formats to showcase their work.

stff.org



The background of the entire page is a dark, abstract graphic featuring concentric, wavy lines in shades of green, blue, and purple, creating a sense of depth and movement. The STFF logo is prominently displayed in the upper left corner.

stff

**seattle turkish
film festival**

November 17–19 2023

In its 11th year, the Seattle Turkish Film Festival (STFF) will bring the Seattle audience together with the most distinguished films and directors of Turkish cinema. All screenings will take place on November 17–19th, 2023, at SIFF Cinema Uptown, with a “see and be seen” gala party happening at the Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP) on the night of November 18th, featuring KEXP DJ Darek Mazzone.

This year’s selection among Türkiye’s best films will include five feature films, two feature documentaries and two cult-classic “fantastik” films from the vaults of 1970s-80s Turkish cinema. Furthermore, among approximately 200 short film submissions received this year, eleven fiction and six documentary short films have been selected.

Director and writer Özcan Alper of the award-winning feature film *Black Night* and director Eylem Kaftan of the feature-length documentary *A Day, 365 Hours* will be guests of STFF 2023. Following the screening of their films they will be present for a Q&A, will meet with the audience, and will be present at the gala party at MoPOP.

As part of our STFFShorts program, director Nükhet Taneri will also be in attendance for Q&A and accepting this year’s Grand Jury Favorite Award for *You All & I Alone*.

STFF 2023 Festival Schedule

Friday 11/17

5:15pm Kim Mihri / Who is Mihri

7pm Bir Gün, 365 Saat / A Day, 365 Hours (director in attendance)

9pm Şeytan (aka Turkish Exorcist)

Saturday 11/18

12:30pm STFFShorts (director in attendance)

4pm Iguana Tokyo

5:45 Karanlık Gece / Black Night (director in attendance)

8pm Gala at MoPOP (featuring KEXP DJ Darek Mazzone)

Sunday 11/19

11:15am Tebessüm / Smile

1pm STFFDocs

3:15pm Aniden / Suddenly

5:45pm Kuru Otlar Üstüne / About Dry Grasses

9:30pm Dünyayı Kurtaran Adam (aka Turkish Star Wars)

Gala at MoPOP

Following the gala film *Black Night* at SIFF Cinema Uptown November 18, the gala party starts at 8pm. Featuring KEXP DJ Darek Mazzone, there will be catering and a cash bar, along with a silent auction of vintage Turkish film posters. Ticket includes gala film and entrance to the party, with access to the entire 2nd floor central galleries!

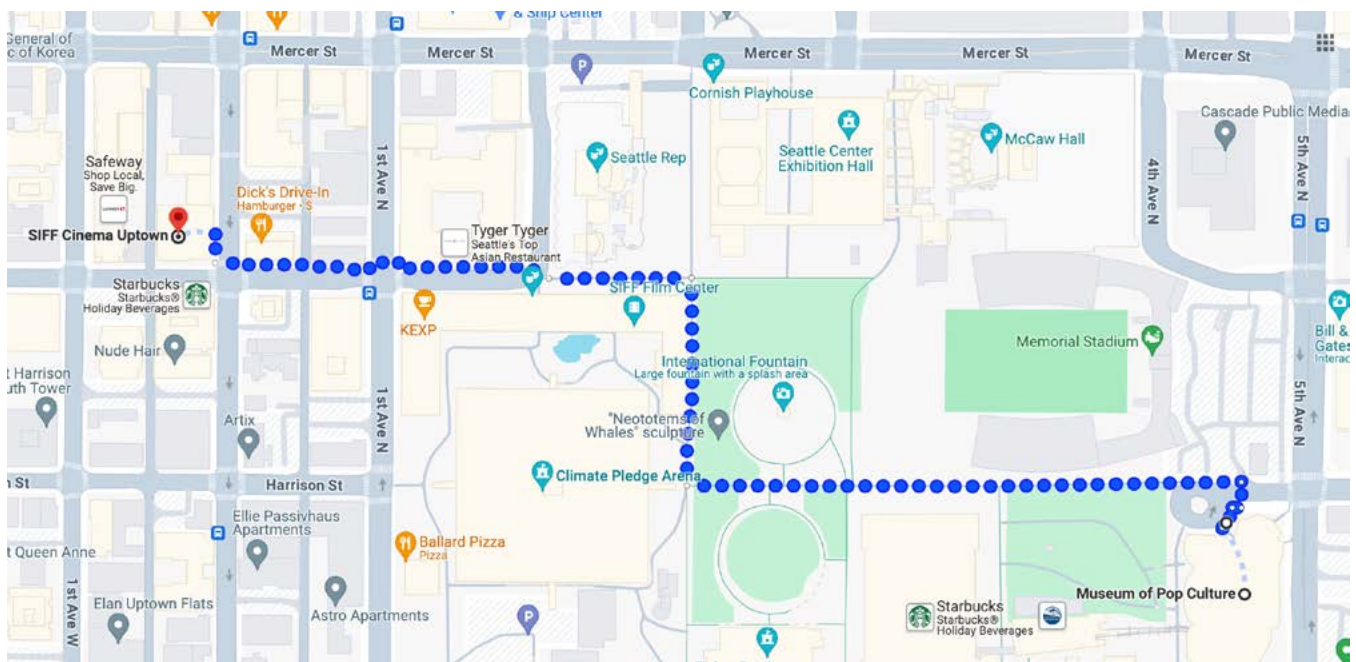


Directions to MoPOP from SIFF Cinema Uptown

Visit mopop.org or Google Maps for more detailed directions.

Parking: Ample street parking and pay lots surround MoPOP and Seattle Center. There is a pay lot next to MoPOP at 5th Avenue N and Harrison Street. This is the only Seattle Center lot where oversized vehicles, including but not limited to school buses, motor coaches and recreational vehicles, may park. Designated handicapped parking spaces are available at all Seattle Center lots.

Walking: Use the **North Entrance** at the roundabout off Harrison St. & 5th Ave N



Our Sponsors

With one of the most acclaimed film festivals in the world (SIFF) and with the largest rentable film archive on the planet (Scarecrow Video), Seattle is truly a city for film lovers. As one of the main film festivals in North America that has been bringing the rich heritage of Turkish cinema to Seattle, STFF is committed to contributing to Seattle's creative and diverse film scene.

Many thanks to all of our generous sponsors helping us achieve this mission!



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Thank you Dilek Anderson, Onur Baysan



DAYBREAK
RECORDS



Cafe Sabah & Lounge, where you can enjoy the flavors of Turkish cuisine. We provide a comfortable, relaxing atmosphere that is perfect for those who want to enjoy the delicious food and drink that we offer.

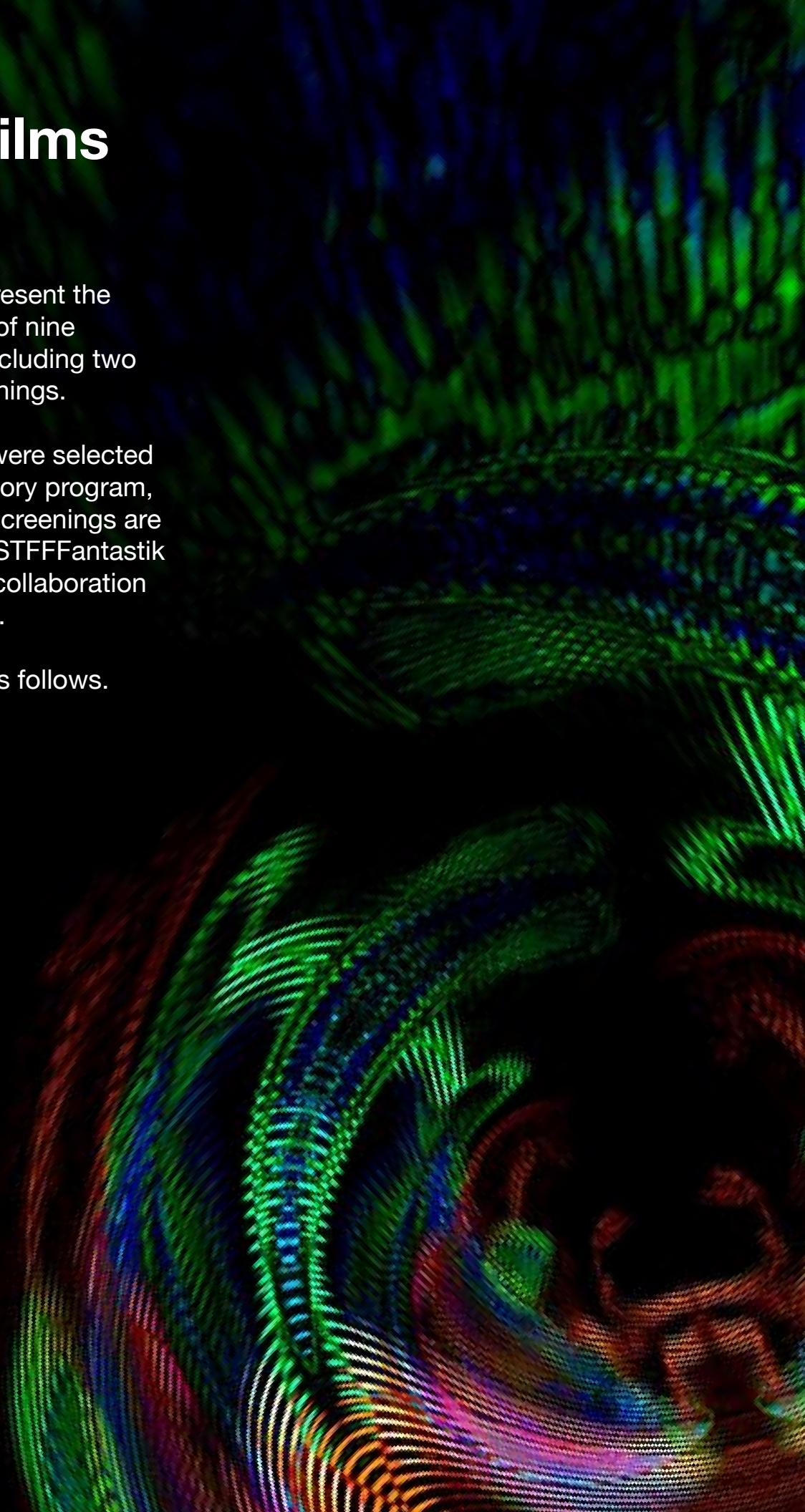


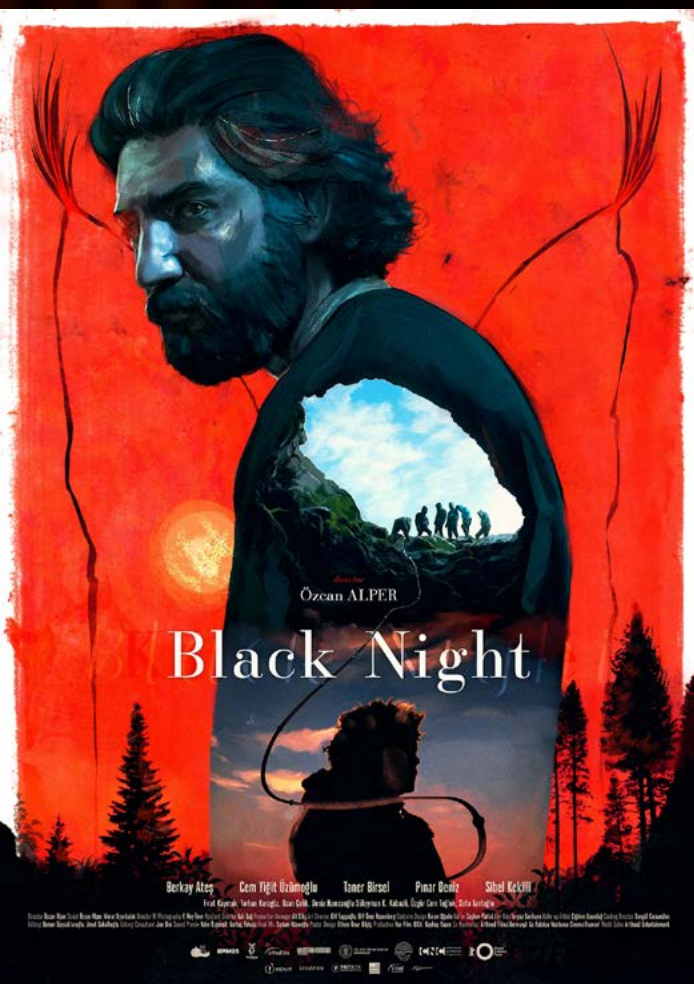
Feature Films Selection

This year, STFF will present the audience with a total of nine feature-length films including two special archival screenings.

Seven of these films were selected for our STFFContemporary program, and the two archival screenings are shown as part of our STFFFantastik program, this year in collaboration with Scarecrow Video.

The film selection is as follows.





BLACK NIGHT

Gala film. Filmmaker in attendance. Seattle premiere.

Followed by a Gala Party at MoPOP.

Multi-award-winning filmmaker Özcan Alper (including Locarno International Film Festival), who received acclaim from Seattle audiences with the 2015 film *Memories of the Wind* (featured during STFF 2016), will be the guest of with the film *Black Night*. The film revolves around a lynching incident in which Ishak, who hails from a small mountain town and earns his living as a musician, was involved seven years ago. Winner of numerous awards including Best Director (2022 Ankara International Film Festival), Best Film and Best Screenplay (2022 Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival). Winner of the Antigone d'Or (2023 Cinemed International Mediterranean Film Festival, Montpellier).

Screening: Saturday Nov 18th, 5:45pm. SIFF Cinema Uptown. Followed by a Gala Party at MoPOP, 8:00pm.



ABOUT DRY GRASSES

Seattle Premiere. The most prominent film of STFF 2023 is *About Dry Grasses* by award winning filmmaker Nuri Bilge Ceylan. Nominated for the prestigious Palme d'Or at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival, the film revolves around a teacher assigned to a teaching post in the rural areas of eastern Anatolia who is dealing with accusations of inappropriate behavior by two students.

Türkiye's official submission for this year's Academy Award for Best International Feature Film. Winner of Best Actress (Cannes Film Festival) and Best Supporting Performance (Chicago International Film Festival). Nominated for the Palme d'Or (Cannes Film Festival) and Best International Film (Jerusalem Film Festival).

Screening: Sunday Nov 19th, 5:45pm. SIFF Cinema Uptown.

A DAY, 365 HOURS

----- EYLEM KAFTAN, BURCU SALINOGLU ----- EYLEM KAFTAN
----- FLORENT HERRY ----- BURÇAK YURDAKUL ----- MARC COLLIN
----- SELÇUK YILMAZ ----- NURİ KARADENİZ ----- EYLEM KAFTAN, ZEYNEP
KORAY, CAN AYÇÖR ----- SABINA KRŠIĆ, BUNYAMIN BAYARSAKAL

A DAY, 365 HOURS

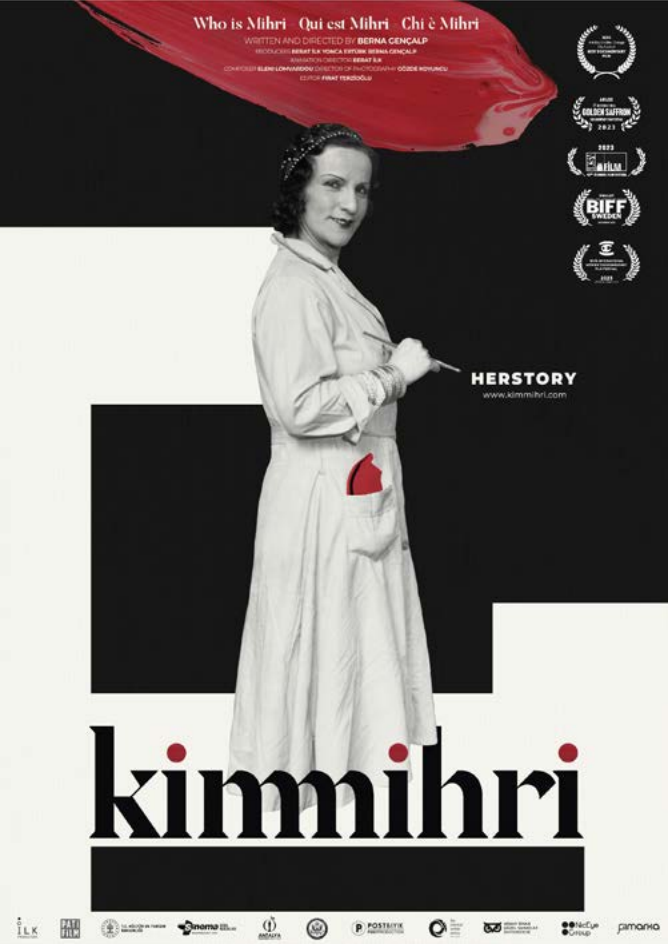
Seattle Premiere. Filmmaker in attendance. One of the boldest documentaries of 2023, A Day, 365 Hours directed by Eylem Kaftan focuses the legal battle of two women who have been victims of abuse and violence. The strong bond formed between the women and the courage to take their abusers to court gives hope to many.

The film will be followed by a Q&A session with the filmmaker, Eylem Kaftan.

Official selection (Sarajevo Film Festival, Adana Golden Boll Film Festival).

Screening: Friday Nov 17th, 7:00pm. SIFF Cinema Uptown.





WHO IS MIHRI

Seattle Premiere. A documentary about the life of Mihri (Müşfik) Rasim Achba, one of the first female portrait painters, whose journey is traced from the late Ottoman Empire era Istanbul to Rome, Paris and New York. A pioneering figure even during her era, Mihri's untold story is explored by filmmaker Berna Gençalp using interviews and animation.

Winner Best National Documentary (Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival).

Screening: Friday Nov 17th, 5:15pm. SIFF Cinema Uptown.



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SUDDENLY

Seattle premiere. Reyhan has lived in Hamburg for years. Just before returning to Istanbul, she notices that she has lost her sense of smell. Medical tests reveal a potentially significant issue. However, instead of addressing her illness, she embarks on a journey to find her true self.

Nominated for Best Film (Tokyo International Film Festival). Official selection (International Film Festival Rotterdam, Vancouver International Film Festival).

Screening: Sunday Nov 19th, 3:15pm. SIFF Cinema Uptown.

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IGUANA TOKYO

Seattle premiere. Writer director Kaan Müjdecî, who gained a lot of attention with the 2015 film Sivas (featured during STFF 2015), is presenting audiences this year with Iguana Tokyo, an uncommon science fiction story from Turkish Cinema that was filmed entirely in Tokyo, Japan. The film focuses on the life of a small family living in Tokyo who experience a dramatic change in their lives when they begin playing the virtual reality game “M²”. As they become increasingly engrossed in the game, a dangerous atmosphere develops at home noticed only by the family’s pet iguana. Winner of Best Art Direction (Istanbul Film Festival) and nominated for Best Film (Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival).

Screening: Saturday Nov 18th, 4:00pm. SIFF Cinema Uptown.



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SMILE

Seattle Premiere. The film focuses on the life of Mustafa, a man in his mid-30s, who works in the archive department of a government institution. Known for his grimness and introversion by those around him, the film becomes a dark comedy where Mustafa's life takes an absurd turn when he visits his father at a hospital.

Nominated for Best Film (Bosphorous Film Festival).

Screening: Sunday Nov 19th, 11:15am. SIFF Cinema Uptown.





ŞEYTAN (aka TURKISH EXORCIST)

Archival cult classic from 1974. Restored and Remastered. Directed by award winning filmmaker Metin Erksan who won top awards at the Berlin and Venice Film festivals, and whose film Dry Summer was chosen for restoration by Martin Scorsese's World Cinema Foundation, Şeytan is an almost scene-by-scene remake of the 1973 masterpiece The Exorcist, by the late William Friedkin. But made for the Turkish audience with an imam in place of a priest, and a Quran in place of a Bible. As one of the early examples in Turkish horror cinema, and featuring some of the name actors of its time such as Agah Hün and Cihan Ünal, Şeytan has earned a cult following by fans all over the world. This presentation of Şeytan has been made possible by Dr. Iain Robert Smith from King's College London

Screening: Friday Nov 17th, 9:00pm. SIFF Cinema Uptown.





THE MAN WHO SAVES THE WORLD (aka TURKISH STAR WARS)

Archival cult classic from 1982. Restored and Remastered. Directed by Çetin İnanç, one of the most prolific filmmakers in Turkish film history who directed nearly 150 films between 1967-1987 in genres ranging from action, western, to science fiction. One of the most intriguing films in Turkish Cinema history, The Man who Saves the World is filmmaker Çetin İnanç's attempt at a fantasy science fiction that gained a cult following over time and is now part of midnight screenings all over the world. Faced with challenges of its time including censorship imposed on Turkish cinema and intense demand from the industry, the film contains scenes and/or music copied from a total of 19 Hollywood films, including Star Wars: Episode IV-A New Hope and Raiders of the Lost Ark. This presentation of The Man who Saves the World has been made possible by Dr. Iain Robert Smith from King's College London.

Screening: Sunday Nov 19th, 9:30pm. SIFF Cinema Uptown.

KOZA GROCERY & THE KOZA CAFE

"Experience Turkish delights—from sand-brewed coffee to authentic cuisine and handpicked groceries."



T-Shirts

Turkey-based artist Ahmet Gönüllüoğlu created designs custom-made for STFF based on Turkish cult classics from the Yeşilçam era in the 70s and 80s. They'll be for sale all weekend at the festival, and available online soon!

Check out more of his work at [@dudesignn](#) on Instagram.



Inspired by
"Dünyayı Kurtaran Adam"
(aka Turkish Star Wars)



SEATTLE TURKISH FILM FESTIVAL



Inspired by
"Karataci Kiz"
(Karate Girl)



Inspired by
"Süt Kardeşler"
(Milk Brothers)



Inspired by
"Vesikalı Yarım"
(My Prostitute Love)



LIGHTHOUSE ROASTERS

Lighthouse Roasters is an independent and locally owned coffee roaster that has been producing fine specialty coffees in Seattle since 1993.

Coffee roasting is an art and a science, the goal of which is to take the seed of a coffee cherry and use heat and air flow to transform it into the beverage we all know and love. There are thousands of ways to go about this, and even more opinions about which way is "right" and which is "wrong." We don't worry about the trend of the moment in the coffee world; we just roast great coffee.

Poster Auction

Turkish cinema has produced some of the finest film poster artists. The likes of talents such as Ömer Muz, Remzi Altunpolat and İbrahim Enez are represented across decades of Turkish cinema history. Sadly today most of their hand-painted film poster originals and their prints are lost.

To help preserve these amazing works of art and to help raise awareness we are holding a special silent auction of Turkish film posters from the private collection of our festival director. Some of these will be on-display throughout the festival weekend Nov 17–19 at SIFF Cinema Uptown.



Artist Collaborations

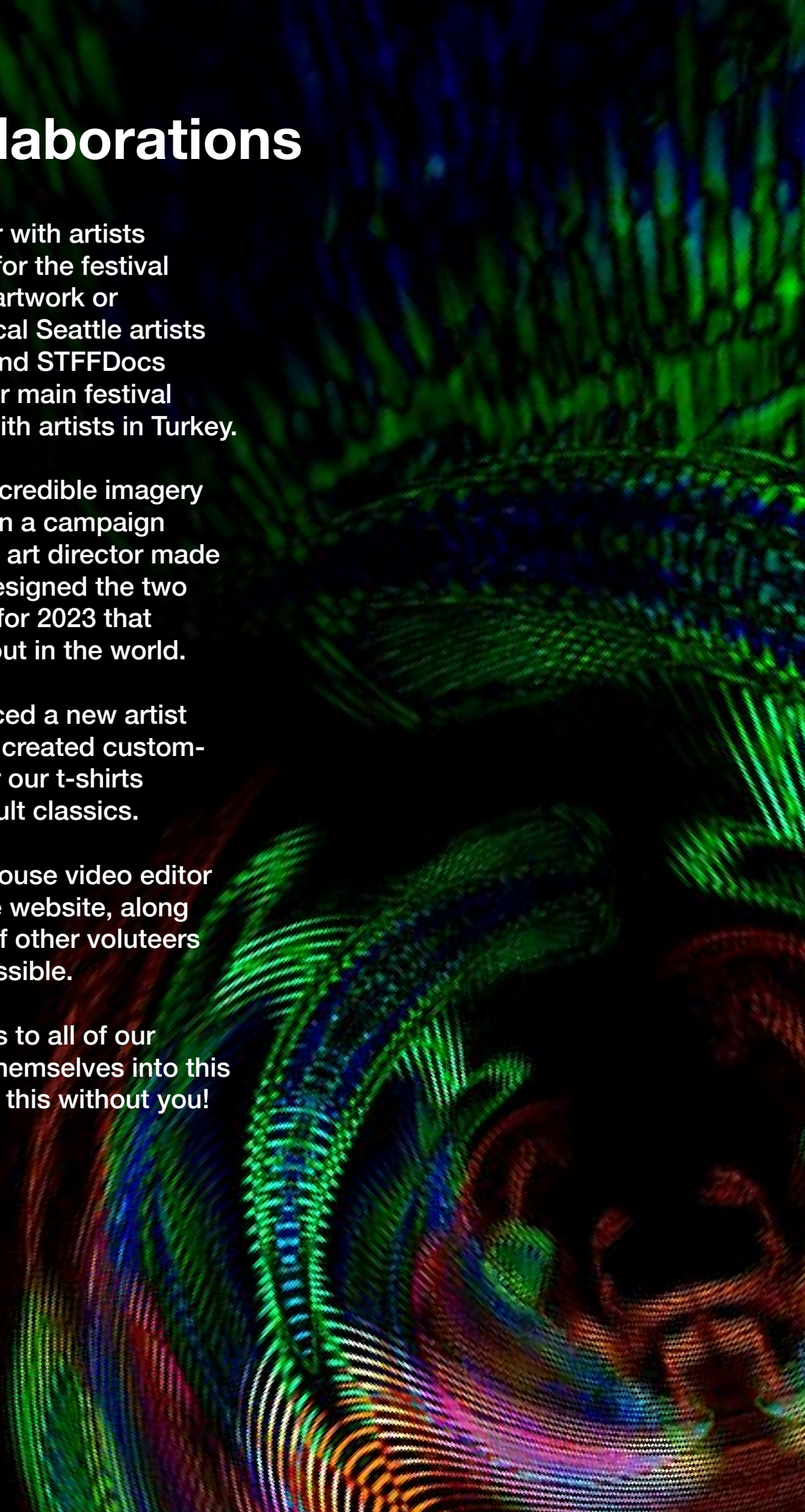
Each year we partner with artists to inspire the theme for the festival creative. We source artwork or photography from local Seattle artists for our STFFShorts and STFFDocs programs, and for our main festival creative we source with artists in Turkey.

After searching for incredible imagery that could work within a campaign system, our in-house art director made the selections and designed the two program campaigns for 2023 that you've been seeing out in the world.

This year we introduced a new artist based in Turkey who created custom-made illustrations for our t-shirts inspired by Turkish cult classics.

We also have an in-house video editor who also handles the website, along with an entire team of other volunteers who make this all possible.

Many heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers who put themselves into this work, we couldn't do this without you!



Gizem akır

Gizem akır, pursues her education at Kocaeli Fine Arts Faculty in the Ceramics Department, stands out with her works in digital arts and photography. She also works as an instructor for preparatory classes at the Fine Arts Academy. Gizem continues her professional journey as a freelance artist.

See her work at www.behance.net/gizemakr3 and on instagram [@gizckr.art](https://www.instagram.com/gizckr.art)



Jeremy Spaunhurst

Our featured artist for the STFFShorts and STFFDocs programs, we chose one of his images from his many microscopy series to inspire this year's theme.

@jeremy_spahunhurst
spaunhurstphoto.com



Jeremy Spaunhurst

FEATURED ARTIST STFFShorts 2023

@jeremy_spahunhurst
spaunhurstphoto.com

stff seattle turkish
film festival

Ahmet Gönüllüoğlu

Ahmet is the artist behind our t-shirt designs, custom-made for STFF this year! He was recommended to us for his incredible illustrations of pop culture and all things cinema.

You can find him on social media @dudesignn



Sarah Anderson

Joining STFF in November 2022, Sarah is our in-house art director and designer behind most of what you see out in the world of STFF these days.

Having worked for all the big tech companies and an assortment of organizations large and small, she considers giving her time to STFF one of the most fulfilling and enjoyable parts of her career.

You can see more of her work and contact her for job opportunities on her website: **sarahb.work**

Thank You

On behalf of the entire STFF team, we extend our deepest gratitude to the community, sharing in the experience of celebrating Turkish film, filmmakers and enjoying the cinematic experience together.

We couldn't do this without you, and can't wait to have you join us again in the coming years.