

21st ANNUAL
**ATL
DOC**

ATLANTA
DOCUMENTARY
FILM FESTIVAL

March 19 - 22
Synchronicity Theatre
online March 23 - April 6

atldoc.com

Welcome to ATL DOC 2026.

We're really happy to share this year's lineup with you. Every year we watch hundreds of submissions from around the world, and the films you'll see this week are the ones that stayed with us. They moved us, surprised us, and reminded us why documentary storytelling matters.

This year also marks a new chapter for the festival. After many years as Atlanta Docufest, we're stepping forward with a new name: ATL DOC. The spirit of the festival hasn't changed. We're still here to celebrate great nonfiction storytelling and to bring filmmakers and audiences together in Atlanta.

This year's selection covers a wide range of stories and tones. Some films tackle serious subjects and difficult moments. Others are lighter, strange, or unexpectedly funny. That mix is part of what we love about documentaries. They give us a window into real lives, real experiences, and the many ways people see the world.

We're also excited to present the festival this year at Synchronicity Theatre, a wonderful space to watch films and connect with fellow film lovers.

And for the first time, the festival will continue online after the live event. A separate collection of films will be available to watch for a limited time, giving us the chance to share even more work from the filmmakers who submitted to this year's festival.

Thank you to the filmmakers who trusted us with their work, and to everyone here supporting independent film. We're glad you're here.

Enjoy the festival.



Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Shorts 1 – The Ones Who Stay.

A Mystical Ornithology – Jeremy Seifert & Benjamin James Roberts

Call of the Crow – Sarah King

Dick's-A-Thon – Dylan Young

NIO KO BOKK – David Clancy

Red, White, Blue & Yellow – Jason Kushner

Second Chance – Ryan Edens

The Wheelchair Mafia – Cade Martin

TSHEGL – Philipp Silbernagl



Thursday, March 19 at 8:40 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



WARANGEL

Director Christopher Flores – USA – 20 min.

WarAngel follows Casey Montana, a young woman in Georgia who rescues horses bound for slaughter through her nonprofit farm. As she saves these animals, their healing journey becomes intertwined with her own family's story of love, loss, and resilience.

Opening film for Brannu: The Urban Horseman

tickets: atldoc.com

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Thursday, March 19 at 9:05 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Brannu: The Urban Horseman

Director Adelin Gasana - USA - 108 min

Brandon "Brannu" Fulton is a horseman and rancher fighting to protect his 27 acre property in southwest Fulton County. Labeled everything from outlaw to urban cowboy, he has spent a decade battling local officials over land, freedom, and his right to live on his own terms.

tickets: atldoc.com



Friday, March 20 at 5:00 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



State of Nebraska v. Crotchey the Clown

Director Benjamin Radford – USA – 27 min.

A public access clown named Crotchey hosted a late night show mixing stand up and adult film reviews. Though hardly the most shocking thing on television, he was charged after a controversial on air stunt.

The case went all the way to the Nebraska Supreme Court, turning into a strange and revealing battle over free speech.

tickets: atldoc.com



Friday, March 20 at 5:30 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Never Get Busted!

Directors David Anthony Ngo, Stephen Mccallum –
Australia- 105 min.

After a troubled raid, former Texas narcotics officer Barry Cooper quits the force and starts teaching drug users how to avoid police. As he exposes corrupt cops on camera, he becomes a target in a growing showdown over the War on Drugs.

tickets: atldoc.com



Friday, March 20 at 7:20 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Crime & Parody.

Director Will Thwaites – USA – 91 min.

In 2016, comedian Anthony Novak was arrested and charged with a felony after creating a parody Facebook page about his local police. His case reached the U.S. Supreme Court and became a test of free speech and police accountability, set against another nearby encounter that ended in tragedy.

tickets: atldoc.com



Friday, March 20 at 9:15 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Shorts 2 – Shared Ground

Anywhere My Canvas – Sangsun Choi

Bibb City – Jonathan Cipiti

Citizen – Leah Carlisle

Gilbert’s Reparation – Adam Thomas

Isao – Jason Okamoto

ICED out of America – Michael Nigro

Sunday Mornings at the Beach – Tim Reid & Aaron Hose

Tippi & Barb – Brad Burleson



Saturday, March 21 at 2:00 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Velvet Vision

The Story of James Bidgood (and the Making of Pink Narcissus)

Director Bart Everly – USA – 98 min.

Velvet Vision explores the life of photographer and filmmaker James Bidgood, whose lush 1960s imagery and the cult film Pink Narcissus were long misattributed before he was finally recognized.

tickets: atldoc.com



Saturday, March 21 at 4:00 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Year of the Rabbit

Director Abigail Kemp - USA - 88 min.

In the Year of the Rabbit, a Chinese American adoptee journeys back to her birthplace for the first time, blending archival footage of her adoption with present-day reflections on family, memory, and identity.

tickets: atldoc.com



Saturday, March 21 at 6:00 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Dad Genes

Director Craig Downing – USA – 63 min.

A former sperm donor's carefree past catches up with him when a DNA test reveals he may have dozens of biological children. What follows is a massive reunion, global media attention, and an unexpected journey into fatherhood that reshapes his life in ways he never imagined.

tickets: atldoc.com



Saturday, March 21 at 7:45 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Blood & Guts

Directors Carlye Rubin, Katie Green – USA – 80 min.

The lines between real life and reel life are muddled in the story of the Adams, an unconventional family who makes independent horror films. While they may vomit blood onto one another, lack boundaries and make frequent use of the f-word, they also face what every family must: change.

tickets: atldoc.com



Saturday, March 21 at 9:30 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Shorts 3 – Our World **Our Way.**

- Darlinghurst Eats Its Young – Madeleine Preston**
- G.R.I.T.S (girls raised in the south) – Ayden Kostzer**
- Horndribbles – Savannah Warrick**
- Moving Bodies – Cathy Cheng & Laura Gomez**
- Nuno – Nuno Taborda**
- No Toys Allowed – Adam Cosy Goodman**
- The Queentini Story – Peter Richard Silva Jr.**
- White Gold Yellow Gold – Angus McMaster**



Sunday, March 22 at 1:00 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



The Tree Economy.

Director James Schroeder – USA – 102 min.

The City of Atlanta, Georgia is known as "The City in the Forest." It has the highest tree canopy density of any major city in the United States. But with increased growth and development, Atlanta is losing trees at an alarming rate. Can "The City in the Forest" maintain its tree canopy?

tickets: atldoc.com

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Sunday, March 22, at 3:05 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Zack in Many Colors

Director William Burrell – USA – 87 min.

Zack Federbush, a prolific abstract artist on the autism spectrum, works tirelessly to complete a massive portrait in his own unique style as he prepares for an upcoming self-curated gallery exhibition.

tickets: atldoc.com



Sunday, March 22 at 5:00 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Shorts 4 – Still Here

Baby Hummingbirds – Marc Huestis

Dearly Beloved – e c balazs

In Exchange For Flesh – Sandro Ramani & Corey Devon Arthur

Last Words – Carson Brown

Prison and Time – Evan Bode

Prodigal Daughter – Nancy Peng & Steven Xiuyuan Chen

The Four Noble Truths – Asha Alaji-Sharif & Chris Lee Huot

What You Left – Cheryl Hess



Sunday, March 22 at 6:30 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



Broken & Beautiful

Director Julie Bayer Salzman – USA – 23 min,

A woman whose daughter was murdered in a mass shooting finds a way to piece her life back together. Using the Japanese art of Kintsugi as a metaphor for repair, this short doc about one woman's grief journey offers hope to those suffering from devastating loss.

Opening film for The Werewolf in the Waves

tickets: atldoc.com

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Sunday, March 22 at 7:05 PM
Synchronicity Theatre



The Werewolf in the Waves

Director Soleil Moon Frye - USA - 91 min

Soleil Moon Frye reunites with childhood friend Seth Binzer, frontman of Crazy Town, to document the band's comeback tour. What begins as a nostalgic reconnection turns into a raw love story and an intimate portrait of addiction as Seth relapses.

tickets: atldoc.com



Online March 23 – April 6, 2026



Watch on FestFlix



Online March 23 – April 6, 2026



After the Devil is Dead

Directed by Paul Catalanotto

A gripping doc following Mike Lester as he confronts the decades-old mystery of his mother's unsolved murder. Along the way, he reckons with the trauma of his father's abuse and the painful rift with his siblings, weaving a story of truth-seeking, family fractures, and the search for closure.

tickets: atldoc.com



Online March 23 – April 6, 2026



Behind the Beard: Making Santa Real

Directed by Brandon Rice

This documentary steps inside the world of professional Santas, revealing the craft, commitment, and heart behind the red suit. Through personal stories and behind the scenes access, it shows how playing Santa is more than a job. For many, it is a calling.

tickets: atldoc.com



Online March 23 – April 6, 2026



Bindings

Directed by Susan Danielle Pinchiaroli, Lucy Spahr

When a family business making purses from old books becomes a lifeline for their son Christian, who is on the autism spectrum, it reshapes all of their lives.

As his parents enter their mid 70s, they face difficult questions about his future and whether he can carry the business forward. Bindings is a moving portrait of love, caregiving, and planning for what comes next.

tickets: atldoc.com



Online March 23 – April 6, 2026



Disposable Humanity

Directed by Cameron S. Mitchell

A family's investigation into the history and memory of the Nazi Aktion T4 program which targeted over 300,000 disabled people and catalyzed the Holocaust.

tickets: atldoc.com



Online March 23 – April 6, 2026



For Your Amusement

Directed by Justin Tolliver

This documentary explores the world of coin operated entertainment, from arcades and pinball to claw machines and fortune tellers. Blending nostalgia with a look ahead, it highlights the people who have kept the business of fun alive through passion and reinvention.

tickets: atldoc.com



Online March 23 – March 29, 2026



Sincerely, Ric

Directed by Jesse Carfield

When my dad uncovered a storage unit filled with Ric Routledge's forgotten tapes and raw footage, a lost chapter of his life emerged. Ric revolutionized dog shows and then disappeared into obscurity. Now his story, told in his own words, finally comes to light.

tickets: atldoc.com



Online March 23 – April 6, 2026



The Fright Stuff

Directed by Mike Meyer

This documentary follows the life and times of the haunted attraction industry in the United States – the history, the people, the lasting imprint it's had on the culture.

tickets: atldoc.com



Online March 23 – April 6, 2026



The Murders of Seminole Heights

Directed by Joseph Guerra

In 2017, a series of seemingly random shootings terrorized Tampa's Seminole Heights neighborhood, leaving four people dead and a community on edge. With few leads and mounting fear, the film examines the investigation and the lasting impact on a neighborhood forever changed.

tickets: atldoc.com



Online March 23 – April 6, 2026



Vanishing: A Love Story.

Directed by Sandra Luckow

This documentary follows novelist Cai Emmons after her ALS diagnosis, capturing the final six months of her life. It is an intimate portrait of love, creativity, and the power of choosing how to leave your voice and legacy in the world.

tickets: atldoc.com



Online March 23 – April 6, 2026



Video Dreams: A VHS Massacre Story.

Directed by Thomas Seymour

From Blockbuster shelves to the streaming era, follow a filmmaker's thirty year quest to see his work on display. It's a story of persistence, changing times, and what happens when the dream you chased no longer exists.

Featuring Lloyd Kaufman, Debbie Rochon, Joe Bob Briggs, and more, from director Tom Seymour.

tickets: atldoc.com