



# Not Another Home Movie Film Festival (2026)

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20 FEBRUARY 2026 • 6-9PM

THE JACK MORTON AUDITORIUM  
805 21<sup>ST</sup> ST NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20052

*Keynote Speaker*

**Akshay Bhatia**

(FORMER FILM ASSISTANT TO  
FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA)

*A night to celebrate our stories.*



# Not Another Home Movie Film Festival (2026)

*MODERATED BY  
PREETI KULKARNI & FAYE TYSCHPER*

**Opening Remarks - Hanan Daqqa**

**Seated Qigong - Marga Fripp**

**Student Poet - Preeti Kulkarni**

**Keynote Speaker - Akshay Bhatia**

## **The Film Screening**

*The Audience Favorite - Voting*  
led by Preeti Kulkarni & Faye Tyschper

## ***The Awards Ceremony:***

*Best Storytelling - presented by Mark Ricche*

*New Art Form - presented by Akshay Bhatia*

*The Opportunity Awards - presented by Dr. Wendy Ellis*

*The Audience Favorite - presented by*  
**Preeti Kulkarni & Faye Tyschper**

**Q&A - Preeti Kulkarni, Faye Tyschper  
& Culture Critic Mark Yoffe**

**Closing Remarks - Hanan Daqqa**

# The Films

## **Wave - Fataneh Garoosi (Iran)**

Synopsis: A boy loses his mother and blames himself for her death.  
And he also misses his mother.

## **Call Your Mom - Evan Carse (USA)**

Synopsis: A short documentary film where the filmmaker calls his mom  
and has a difficult conversation.

## **Quadrucci & Peas - Vittorio Caratozzolo (Italy)**

Synopsis: A 90 years old woman manages her long working morning  
and cooks for the family her «Quadrucci & Peas» soup.

## **In Our Golden Hour - Juliana Augustine (USA)**

Synopsis: This film is about my relationship with my dog, Bear.

## **The Small Hours - Andrew Coughlin (USA)**

Synopsis: This is a quiet, cinematic portrait of the bond between  
a single father and his young son. Told through the gentle  
rhythms of an ordinary day, this short film captures the closeness,  
trust, and love that grow in the quiet moments - a world made up  
of small gestures, shared routines, and unspoken understanding.

## **A Gesture's Life - Gabriel Artino (Italy)**

Synopsis: The story unfolds in a single setting — the beach — where  
the protagonists spend their lives together. The screenplay tells the love  
story of a couple, from youth to old age, through a series of silent and  
symbolic gestures, with close-ups of their hands gradually aging over  
time.

## **Analogy - Melika Pazouki (Iran)**

Synopsis: A girl is upset that she looks so much like her mother and  
decides to undergo cosmetic surgery.

## **Choices - Ashley Morales (USA)**

Synopsis: Choices is a silent emotional drama about a young girl  
and the loving bond with her mother that faded.

## **Films (Continuation)**

### ***Family, Then Everything Else* - Romolo Cerra (US/GWU)**

Synopsis: A young Rocco Cerra loses his mother to illness and, not long after, witnesses the tragic death of his father in a highway accident. Shattered by grief and suddenly alone, he struggles to make sense of a world that has taken everything from him. The film shows how, in that defining moment, he draws on the values his family instilled in him and uses them to grow, building a life rooted in the enduring power of family, love, and connection.

### ***Self-Portrait of a Scar* - Álvaro de Miguel Lopez (Spain)**

Synopsis: The work explores how fragments of memory come together through the voice of a mother, who, with her words, gradually weaves the narrative. She pieces together elements, revealing—without fully revealing—an underlying truth. The film is about how to recall an inherent childhood trauma without reliving it as traumatic. Through the mother's voice and the deconstructed memory of the child who experienced it, recalling as a child does; healing, just as the human body does, leaving a scar as proof of a past.

### ***Dear Grandpa* - Angela Suarez (Spain)**

Synopsis: Through a series of photographs my grandfather once took, I retrace the fragments of his life — the people, places, and memories that now slip away from him. As he faces Alzheimer's, this one-minute short becomes an act of reintroduction: a quiet attempt to remind him, and perhaps myself, of the world he captured and the love that still remains within each frame.

### ***What Remains On the Screen* - Mehmet Katalioğlu (Turkey)**

Synopsis: Ahmet Atalı is an old man left alone with his memories in his old village house where the echos of the past are in every corner. He lost his family and was left to his own fate by his living children. In the midst of this deep loneliness, modern technology offers him unconsolation: an advanced artificial intelligence system. Ahmet uploads photos, audio recordings and all memories of his wife and children, whom he lost years ago, to this system. Artificial intelligence brings together these memory particles to revitalise the family on the walls of the house.

## **Films (Continuation)**

### ***You're Not a Fool, Grandpa* - Adrien Lhoste (France)**

Synopsis: A little girl, now a woman, writes to her grandfather, wounded by a mental disorder. She watches him as he seethes inwardly, pondering the place of childhood in suffering.

### ***Motivation* - Brinely Jones (US/GWU)**

Synopsis: An interview with my sister about music and motivation.

### ***The Last Smile* - Aseel Alrasheedi (US/GWU)**

Synopsis: The film explores the emotional weight of memory through a personal story that reflects on love, loss, and the quiet moments that shape who we become. It captures how a single smile can hold lasting meaning, leaving an imprint that continues to live within us even after the moment has passed.

### ***Love* - Jeremiah Engermann (USA/GWU)**

Synopsis: A short film about love.

## **The People**

### ***The Founder***

**Hanan Daqqa** is the founder of *DaQQa Productions* and the creator of the *Not Another Home Movie* concept and course. She is an independent multimedia journalist in Northern Virginia with a background in science and filmmaking, and she teaches writing and storytelling at George Washington University. She is the author of two books, published overseas. Her stories have appeared in *The Lily*, *the Washington Parent* and the *Fairfax County Times*, among other publications.

### ***Qigong Instructor***

**Marga Fripp** is a trauma-informed expressive art therapist and mind-body wellness coach, certified Mindful Movement Qigong teacher, and artist. She is the CEO of Marga Fripp Studio and the Co-Founder and CEO of The Pollinators Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting wellness, mental well-being and social healing, and destigmatizing mental illness. She is also the founder of two successful nonprofit organizations, Empowered Women International, for immigrants and refugee women in The Washington D.C. Area, and APoWeR Romania for domestic violence survivors.

# *The People (Continuation)*

## ***Co-Moderator & Student Poet***

**Preeti Kulkarni** is a senior at the George Washington University, studying International Affairs. She is the author of *Flower Storms on the Riverbank*, a poetry collection described as “a breath of fresh air” from “a voice so young and so wise.” She is also a D.C. Youth Poet Ambassador for Words, Beats, and Life, a D.C.-based nonprofit promoting hip-hop, poetry, and other art forms. She has performed at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and written op-eds for publications like Tangle News and the Baltimore Sun. Her work often explores themes of love, loss, resilience, and growth, deeply rooted in her Indian-American heritage.

## ***Co-Moderator***

**Faye Tyschper** is a junior at the George Washington University pursuing a B.A. in International Affairs. She has cultivated extensive experience in global policy and diplomacy through academic research and professional engagement. In Chile, she examined human rights and historical memory and in Geneva, Switzerland, she conducted field research on the future of multilateral diplomacy, later presenting her findings to UN professionals at a panel hosted by the GW Elliott School of International Affairs. Currently, Faye serves as a Programs Intern at the Convergence Center for Policy Resolution, a nonprofit organization that brings together diverse stakeholders to develop collaborative solutions to complex policy challenges.

## ***Keynote Speaker & Judge***

**Akshay Bhatia** is a Georgia-born, Atlanta-based filmmaker. He recently served as Francis Ford Coppola's personal assistant and directorial apprentice on *Megalopolis*, where he followed the project from pre-production all the way through post-production and premiere. During the shoot, he aided in directing and writing scenes for the film, and apprenticed under Roman Coppola to help rehearse the many practical special effects in the film. He also collaborated with Mike Figgis on *MegaDoc*, the behind-the-scenes documentary on the making of *Megalopolis*. Along with the active development of his debut feature *TAM*, Bhatia is on a festival tour of his latest short film titled *The Preakness*, which was nominated by the Georgia Film Critics Association for the 2024 Oglethorpe Award for Excellence in Georgia Cinema. In addition to his directing and producing endeavors, Bhatia co-operates Atlanta based production company *Reel Friends*, specializing in repertory screenings and community focused film events at the historic Plaza and Tara Theaters.

## *The Judges*

**Mark Ricche** is co-founder and CEO of the award winning indie film production company CrypticPictures.com, a privately held production company with offices in the U.S. founded in 2009. The company focuses on consultation, production and digital theatrical releases for the independent film market.

**Dr. Mark Yoffe** is an American cultural anthropologist, ethnologist, folklorist, and culture critic who is engaged in the study of countercultures and youth movements around the world. He is the founder and curator of the International Counterculture Archive at George Washington University Library in Washington, DC. Dr. Yoffe also curates the Peter Reddaway Soviet Samizdat Archive, one of the largest collections of Soviet samizdat in the United States.

**Jan Roberts-Breslin** is Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies at Emerson College, Boston, Massachusetts, where she also holds the position of Professor of Visual and Media Arts. She was the Founding Director of the MFA in Film and Media Art program and served as Interim Provost from 2021-2024. She is a media artist whose experimental video work has won awards at international and domestic festivals, been broadcast on PBS and exhibited at major contemporary art museums. She is the author of *Making Media: Foundations of Sound and Image Production*, 5th edition (2022) by Routledge Publishing. She was a Visiting Scholar at Communications University of China in Beijing from 2014-2018. Ms. Roberts-Breslin holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Film and Video Production from Temple University.

**Marcel Richardson Villenas** is a senior at George Washington University pursuing a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication with a minor in International Affairs. As a member of the Not Another Home Movie team, Marcel aims to start a career in video production, telling engaging and meaningful stories through film. For the festiva

## *The Judges (Continuation)*

### **The GW ISEO Team featuring:**

- **Wendy Ellis, DrPH, MPH, Director, Institute for Socioeconomic Opportunity**
- **Purva Trivedi, MPH, Policy Analyst, Institute for Socioeconomic Opportunity**
- **Fatima Waseem, MPH, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Socioeconomic Opportunity**
- **Darcy Cherlin, MPH, Research Project Manager, Global Food Institute**
- **Amber Holland, PhD, Senior Communications Associate, Institute for Socioeconomic Opportunity**

### ***NAHM Film Festival Organizers***

#### **Festival Mastermind - Hanan Daqqa**

From collaborations, partnerships, sponsorships, funding, filtering films, judging, marketing, recruiting to flyer distribution, Daqqa has been involved in all aspects of the festival.

#### **Festival Operations Manager; Festival & Website Designer; Backstage Manager - Nina Feliciano**

**Nina Feliciano** is a composer, arranger, vocalist, and percussionist. The music she writes is minimalist in essence, complementing themes of inspiration, motivation, introspection, and catharsis. She is looking forward to collaborating with more creative individuals to help tell their stories through music.

#### **Social Media & Marketing Manager; Zoom Moderator - Beteel Abu-Ageel**

**Beteel Abu-Ageel** is both an artist and biologist, Beteel believes in serving others through the intersection of science and art.

#### **Artistic Manager - Marcel Richardson Villenas**

## *Our Volunteers*

Eiana Abu-Ageel  
Ruwaa Abu-Ageel  
Lady Ankrah  
Alex Donohue  
Jake Fassett  
Nina Feliciano  
Ananya Gondesi  
Zach Gindi-Chiafullo  
Olivia Kewenvoyouma  
Sarah Lerche

Justin Moore  
Mikayla McCloud  
Mia Mckenzie  
Lillie O'Donnell  
Jude Poisson  
Cathy Sontheimer  
Elsa Sontheimer  
Keith Sontheimer  
Peri Stevens  
Callie Taylor

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