

Award-Winning Filmmakers Kick Off the 17th Annual Boulder International Film Festival: June 24-27, 2021

Welcome Back, Boulder! Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised), Green Carpet Gala, CineCHEF, and a Community Fair at this year's BIFF.

BOULDER , COLORADO, UNITED STATES, June 4, 2021

/EINPresswire.com/ -- BOULDER, CO (Friday, June 4, 2021) – The 17th Annual [Boulder International Film Festival](#)

([BIFF](#)) is pleased to announce the release of its entire program, which will take place Thursday, June 24 – Sunday, June 27, at the beautiful Chautauqua

Auditorium and other venues around Boulder. BIFF attendees will have plenty to choose from, including 40 films from 10 countries, an Outdoor Cinema near downtown Boulder, delicious food at the always fun and lively CineCHEF foodie favorite, and the inaugural BIFF at Home Virtual Cinema.



Searchlight Pictures/Mass Distraction Media/Courtesy photo

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BIFF 2021 will be one of the first big events in Boulder since the 2020 festival last March, and we're excited to come together and celebrate with our community.”

Robin Beeck, BIFF's Executive Director

The theme of this year's festival is Welcome Back: A Celebration of Community, and a celebration is what is in store at the BIFF Community Fair on Saturday, June 26th, Noon – 6:00 pm, on the Chautauqua Green. Nine musicians will perform at BIFF's 9th Annual Singer-Songwriter Showcase, 20 arts & cultural organizations and other non-profits will be on hand to share upcoming performances and activities, plus beer, wine, and food will be available for purchase. The Community Fair is free and open to everyone.

BIFF 2021 will welcome more filmmakers to Boulder than ever before, including Academy Award-winning filmmaker Morgan Neville (Troubadours, Won't You Be My Neighbor?, 20 Feet from

Stardom), who will receive BIFF's first-ever Career Achievement Award in Documentary Filmmaking, and screen his brand-new film, *Roadrunner: A Film About Anthony Bourdain*.

NEW THIS YEAR:

□ **BIFF at Home:** For the first time, BIFF presents select films from the 2021 BIFF program on Eventive's virtual platform, June 24 – July 3. Films will be available to pre-order beginning on June 4.

□ **Outdoor Cinema:** BIFF will hold outdoor screenings at the Boulder High School's Soccer Field. Attendees will BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair) and enjoy some of BIFF's world-class films in the great outdoors.

□ **BIFF 2021 Venues:** In addition to adding Chautauqua Auditorium and the Outdoor Cinema, venues will include Boulder High School Auditorium and Century 16 Boulder.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

CineCHEF 2021

On Thursday, June 24, at 5:30 pm, the festival kicks off at the Rayback Collective with Boulder and Denver's best chefs in this culinary festival favorite, using their talents to create film-inspired dishes of their choosing for attendees to enjoy. Taste the star chefs' cinema-based masterpieces while enjoying music, wine, and beer, indoors and out at the beautiful Rayback Collective.

Opening Night Green Carpet Gala - Friday, June 25, Chautauqua Green

On Friday, June 25, at 5:30 pm, celebrate with the Opening Night Green Carpet Gala on Chautauqua Green, outside the auditorium. Pasta Jay's, Red F Catering and Provisions, and Savory Cuisines will provide a selection of tasty bites to enjoy alongside wines from Francis Ford Coppola Winery, plus local beers, and Spiked Snowmelt hard seltzers from Upslope Brewing, followed by the Boulder premiere of *Summer of Soul (...or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*, directed by Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson.

SUMMER OF SOUL (...OR, WHEN THE REVOLUTION COULD NOT BE TELEVISED)

Over the course of six weeks in the summer of 1969, just 100 miles south of Woodstock, The Harlem Cultural Festival was filmed in Mount Morris Park (now Marcus Garvey Park). The footage was never seen and largely forgotten—until now. *Summer of Soul* shines a light on the importance of history to our spiritual well-being and stands as a testament to the healing power of music during times of unrest, both past, and present. The feature includes never-before-seen concert performances by Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Sly & the Family Stone, Gladys Knight & the Pips, The Staples Singers, Mahalia Jackson, B.B. King, The 5th Dimension, and more. Directed by Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson.

MISSION: JOY – FINDING HAPPINESS IN TROUBLED TIMES

Closing Night Film - Sunday, June 27, Chautauqua Auditorium

Doors Open: 7:00 pm (6:45 pm passholders), Awards Ceremony 7:30 pm, Film: 7:45 pm

From Academy Award-winning director and BIFF alumnus Louie Psihoyos (*The Cove*, *Racing Extinction*), *Mission: Joy* is a documentary with unprecedented access to the unlikely friendship of two international icons who transcend religion: His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu. With genuine affection, mutual respect, and a healthy dose of teasing, these unlikely friends impart lessons gleaned from lived experience, ancient traditions, and the latest cutting-edge science about how to live with joy in the face of all of life's challenges—from the extraordinary to the mundane. Louie Psihoyos in-person.

FREE Community Outdoor Screening

US KIDS

Saturday, June 26, 9:00 pm, Boulder High School Soccer Field

BIFF is proud to host a free community screening of *Us Kids*, an award-winning documentary from Director Kim Snyder about the Parkland students who campaigned so passionately and effectively after a mass shooting at their school. In addition, one of the survivors and activists, Samantha Fuentes, will be on-hand, along with Kim Snyder, Boulder Mayor Sam Weaver, U.S. Congressman Joe Neguse, educator and community activist Tim Hernandez, and others for a “Listen In” and discussion about ways to prevent gun violence in the future.

ROADRUNNER: A FILM ABOUT ANTHONY BOURDAIN

Saturday, June 26, 4:15 pm, Chautauqua Auditorium

A documentary about the uncommon life of the late storyteller, explorer, and chef, Anthony Bourdain, who exploded onto the scene in 2000 with the publication of his restaurant memoir *Kitchen Confidential*.

TOM PETTY, SOMEWHERE YOU FEEL FREE

Saturday, June 26, 8:00 pm, Chautauqua Auditorium

This film offers a unique take on the Petty legacy, diving deep into a condensed period of creativity and freedom for the legendary rock star.

The entire festival program is available online, and all [festival tickets](#) and passes are on sale at www.biff1.com.

About the Boulder International Film Festival

The Boulder International Film Festival (BIFF) brings films and filmmakers from around the world to Boulder, Colorado, for a four-day celebration of the art of cinema. BIFF attracts more than 25,000 film enthusiasts, media, and industry members. Follow BIFF on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. BIFF 2022 is March 3-6.

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