



RIFF 2019 CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

WHEN: Saturday, April 27

WHERE: Ridgefield Theater Barn
32 Halpin Lane, Ridgefield CT

Ridgefield Library
472 Main Street, Ridgefield CT



WHAT: Innovative, imaginative, and engaging film programming for young children, tweens, teens, and families

WHO: **Programming Strands**

3-7 Years Old (LIBRARY) Shorts - 52 minutes

Animation and short films both in English and with no dialogue + Activity
Kid Flicks Tour (New York International Children's Film Festival)

8 + (THEATER BARN - DAY) Shorts - 79 minutes

Animation, short films from around the world, in English, with subtitles, and also with no dialogue + post screening educational Q&A
Kid Flicks Tour (New York International Children's Film Festival)

RIFF REPRISE - Youth Filmmaker Initiative Films – 18 minutes

Two short films produced for RIFF 2018 by local children (grades 4-6)
by former Nickelodeon producers

12-15 Years Old (THEATER BARN - DAY) Shorts - 80 minutes

Animation, Documentary, Narrative Fiction from around the world
Curated by RIFF

PG 13 (THEATER BARN – Evening) *Liyana* (Feature Doc/Animation) - 77 min.

LIYANA is a genre-defying documentary that tells the story of five children in the Kingdom of Eswatini who turn past trauma into an original fable about a girl named Liyana who embarks on a perilous quest to save her young twin brothers. The film weaves her animated journey together with poetic documentary scenes to create an inspiring tale of perseverance and hope.

Executive produced by Emmy-winner Thandie Newton, and produced by Oscar-winner Daniel Junge, LIYANA features innovative animated artwork by Shofela Coker and an original score by Philip Miller. Critically acclaimed as *exquisite*, a *staggering feature debut*, and *one of the year's very best*, LIYANA has played at festivals around the world, including the British Film Institute's London Film Festival and MoMA's Doc Fortnight, and has won 28 jury and audience awards so far. *The Sunday Times* describes the film as *part documentary, part animation, and pure magic*. (100% Score on Rotten Tomatoes from both critics and audience.)

PRAISE FOR LIYANA



"A lyrical work that's as bright and captivating as it is poignant."

– Sheri Linden, The Hollywood Reporter

"Gorgeous... unlike any documentary you've ever seen."

– Devan Coogan, Entertainment Weekly

"The standout film for me this year."

– Lisa Adams, Huffington Post

"True art. Shot through with equal parts trauma and hope"

– Kimber Myers, Los Angeles Times

"Brilliant... the world desperately needs to see more stories like this."

– Iquo B Essien, Shadow & Act

"A joyous, affecting, and incredible piece of documentary filmmaking."

– Chris Olson, UK Film Review

"Uplifting. Shows the optimism and self-awareness that can come from creativity."

– The New York Times

"As tough as the subject matter may get at times, the film is guaranteed to be an uplifting one for viewers of all ages"

– Matt Fagerholm, Roger Ebert

"A predominance of sunshine and small, smiling faces in its articulation of tough times has understandably made this summer-bright doc a hit."

– Variety

"The children's stories alone would have been compelling, but illustrating them in this medium adds even more depth, nuance and emotion."

– Kimber Myers, Los Angeles Times

"Part documentary, part animation, pure magic"

– Shelley Seid, Sunday Times

ADDITIONAL FESTIVAL ELEMENTS

FOOD & DRINK: Healthy Snacks available (either for purchase or underwritten)
Food Truck and / or Ice Cream Truck on site at Theater Barn

CRAFTS: Hands on Craft Activity at Library

FACE PAINTING: Face Painting at Theater Barn

PRIZE DRAWS: Prize Draws at both locations throughout the day for various fun and educational prizes.

RIFF CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL EXCLUSIVE UNDERWRITER - \$5,000

- Acknowledgement as Underwriter in all press releases and online media
- Logo and Underwriter Acknowledgement on RIFF Website
- Prominent Signage at both Screening Locations
- 2 VIP Founders Passes for RIFF Film Festival (October 10-14-19) + year round events
- Access to photos from the event for promotional purposes
- Hosting sponsorship for family-friendly program during RIFF (October 10-14-19)
- Logo included in RIFF festival trailer which plays before every film screening
- Quarter Page ad in Official RIFF Film Program Guide



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