



THE ATLANTA SCI-FI FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES THE 2021 HYBRID FESTIVAL SLATE, HALLOWEEN WEEKEND.

For Immediate Release

Atlanta, Georgia, October 9, 2021 - MCSFO (The Multicultural Sci-fi Organization) announced the full program for the 5th edition of The Atlanta Sci-fi Film Festival (ASCIFFF) (October 29-31, 2021).

This year's genre-based program will be a hybrid of online and in-person events expected to draw thousands of sci-fi fans, filmmakers, press and industry professionals to some of the most thought provoking, immersive and entertaining new films of the year, along with access to engaging industry panels, Clubhouse chats with the filmmakers, and an outdoor movie screening to complete this Halloween weekend event.

The Halloween weekend kicks off on Friday night in Atlanta with a **Festival Opening Night Party** at the new brewpub, **Biggerstaff Brewing Co.**, located in the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood. A film industry night of networking over great cold beers, wine and delicious food! IG - @biggerstaffbrewing

Continuing on Saturday October 30th, in Atlanta's redeveloped neighborhood of Summerhill, is an outdoor screening event, Dinner and a Sci-fi Movie Under the Stars and will be Free for festival Passholders. Starting at 5:00PM festival goers can choose from over a dozen of the best new restaurants and bars along Georgia Ave., pick up dinner, and walk down to Parking Lot A to enjoy sci-fi themed music, trivia and games before settling down to a surprise feature film beginning at Sundown (7:00PM).

For the virtual component, the 2021 Film Festival program has over 50 shorts and features including: 12 Foreign Films - 5 subtitled and 8 Premieres, 23 U.S. Premieres, 40 Atlanta Premieres, 8 films from first-time filmmakers and 2 Student Films. In addition to Live Action and Animation categories, we have 3 films in our new "Other Immersive Art" category.

We're extending our Dinner and a Sci-fi Movie experience at home by teaming up with EatOkra to connect festival attendees with black owned restaurants to enjoy while watching this year's selection of international sci-fi films! EatOkra is a user-friendly app

that connects people nationwide to Black-owned culinary artists and restaurants in their area. Festival attendees can just download the EatOkra app to find some tasty eats, and share what they ordered along with their favorite sci-fi film, on their social media pages using the hashtags #ASCIFFF2021 and #EatOkra
Look for this husband and wife team on the Tamron Hall show Oct 21, 2021 on ABC!

“Like most film festivals who had to pivot due to the pandemic, we feel fortunate to have found a way to continue bringing fresh, exciting, and independent science fiction content that will intrigue and excite movie-goers online and in person. Through laptops, phones, tablets and TVs, this year’s films will bring together a diverse audience of sci-fi fans from around the country to experience the work of some of the most talented storytellers and world-builders.” says Atlanta Sci-fi Film Festival Director, Amanda Ray.

The festival will launch several film blocks for viewing online starting Friday Oct 29th 8:00 PM EST through Sunday evening. Like every year, the festival attracts a diverse assortment of films representing the LGBTQ+ community as well as strong African American and female lead characters and directors. Passholders will have access to over 40 of the best films, and ticket holders can choose from the best curated block of shorts or features to watch. All films will be restricted to access in the United States due to rights and/or filmmaker or distributor discretion. There will be Special Midnight Scream sci-fi films Saturday and Sunday at 12:00 AM for a Halloween freight, and Free Saturday and Sunday Afternoon Matinee live-stream of honorable mentions. Attendees will also get a chance to speak to some of the directors, cast and crew on Clubhouse throughout the weekend.

Vimeo OTT is the chosen platform to create the ASCIFFF online experience across the web and mobile devices. Premium viewing from your TV or Movie Projector via a computer is another great way to enjoy the films.

In addition to film screenings, attendees will have access to **Seven Industry Panel** discussions Sunday October 31st starting at 2:00 PM EST online.

1. A Conversation with Panavision - In this panel discussion, Panavision representatives will explore the current state of production and the role played by both legacy and emerging technologies in modern filmmaking. Topics will also include Panavision’s flagship Millennium DXL2 large-format camera system—which has been used to capture features such as In the Heights and Coming 2 America, and series including Mythic Quest and Shadow and Bone—as well as the company’s ongoing support for the independent film community through the Panavision New Filmmaker Program.

2. Afrofuturism on Screen - In an effort to educate and encourage African American filmmakers to create more Afrofuturist films, this panel provides a broader understanding of Afrofuturism, it’s history and some specific elements required in films

made under this subgenre. Afrofuturism for Screenwriters features the following distinguished panelists:

Isis Asare “Sistah Sci-fi” - The First Black Owned Bookstore Focused On Afrofuturism and Science Fiction.

Susana Morris - Associate Professor of Literature, Media, and Communication at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Currently working on a cultural biography of Octavia E. Butler entitled *Positive Obsession: The Life and Times of Octavia E. Butler* (Amistad 2024).

John Jennings - Professor of Media and Cultural Studies at the University of California at Riverside where he examines the visual culture of race in various media forms including film, illustrated fiction, comics and graphic novels. Mr. Jennings is also an author, graphic novelist, curator, Harvard Fellow, New York Times Bestseller, two time Eisner Winner!

Ayana Jamieson - Founder of Octavia E. Butler Legacy Network. Her work centers around the intersections of critical depth psychology, race, culture, and mythology.

3. Women in Sci-Fi - This year’s Women in Sci-fi panel celebrates women working in the male dominated fields of Special FX/ Monster Make-up FX. Sharing their experiences and knowledge on the industry to inspire other women and girls looking to enter the field. Women in Sci-fi features the following professional panelists:

Margaret Caragan- SFX Make-up Artist and owner of Pandora FX. Her work includes transforming NBA player Steph Curry and Ayesha Curry for his Christmas with the Curry’s event in Oakland, Lakeith Stanfield, Sorry to Bother You, prosthetic designer and application, Makeup Asst on Fruitvale Station, Season 6 Contestant on Faceoff. Moderated by Dr. Ida Yoshinaga - Film Professor Georgia Tech’s School of Literature, Media and Communication, specializing in science fiction films.

4. Understanding Set Photography and Cinematography - This panel answers questions about two of the most rewarding but often misunderstood and under-appreciated fields in the film industry: Set Photography aka Unit or Still Photography, and Cinematography and features the following distinguished panelists: **Mike Delatore** - **Cinematographer on Brightburn**, and former Program Manager, film at Panavision and is on the ASC’s “Rising Stars of Cinematography” 2020 list. **Boris Martin**, a unit stills photographer for motion picture industry and network television productions. His credits include: Senior Year, **Jungle Cruise**, The Last Kingdom, **Watchmen**, BrightBurn, Inferno

5. Dune - In preparation for Dennis Villeneuve’s *Dune*, the following distinguished panelists dissect Frank Herbert’s classic, cover it’s timeless themes, Arabic and Muslim influences, gender dynamics. They will also offer strategies for reading what some find is an intimidating multi-layered book and share their expectations for the new movie. Panelists include **Dr. Kara Kennedy** - runs, **Dune Scholar** - a website that publishes accessible research-based analysis of Frank Herbert’s *Dune* series and other science

fiction topics. Her doctoral dissertation on Herbert's full six-book series, was recently quoted in an NBC News [article on Dune!](#)

Dr. Ian Campbell - director of the Arabic program at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Also check out Dune Deep Dive Friday's on Clubhouse hosted by ASCIFFF.

6. Music in Sci-fi Done Right- Understanding the important role music plays in filmmaking, and going beyond synths and the theremin, this panel addresses some challenges indie filmmakers have when creating and finding the right music for their sci-fi films. Guest panelists include: Members of **The Hit House** - award-winning custom music composition and sound design company and Francesca Mormanni - Musician and Editor of "Classical Music Makes Sci-Fi Soar."

7. Judges Panel discussion

This year's guest judges give a brief overview of the submitted films and what filmmakers got right and areas that need improvement. Guest judges include:

Federico Furzan - Rotten Tomatoes Film Critic

Emily Dean - Storyboard Artist/ Director - Director of an upcoming episode of Netflix's Love, Death + Robots. Her credits as a story artist include The Lego Batman Movie, sci-fi thriller Hotel Artemis, and the Academy Award winning animated short, Hair Love!

Nina Villani - Coordinator, at VFX company **Crafty Apes** (sitting in for Chris LeDoux) She's also the COO and Head Writer at Lark Media production company. Nina has worked in the film industry for 7 years, writing, directing, and producing.

ASCIFFF All Access Passes and film listings are now available.

For more information on what this years festival has to offer, please visit ASCIFFF.com

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