

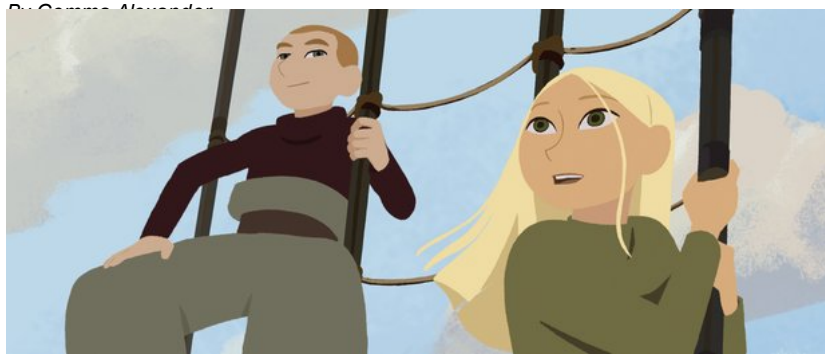
7 Reasons Families Should Get Excited About SIFF 2016 - ParentMap

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7 Reasons Families Should Get Excited About SIFF 2016

Legotastic preview, family films, filmmaking classes and more



SIFF 2016. *Long Way North*

Before I had kids, I would see a dozen movies every year at the [Seattle International Film Festival](#) (SIFF). As a mom, that just isn't possible. But SIFF is the largest film festival in the United States; and among the more than 400 films it screens, there are quite a few family-friendly offerings. In fact, this year, families get a head start on the festivities with a SIFF Films4Families preview on Saturday, May 7 (the full festival runs May 19–June 12). Here are seven reasons for families to get excited about SIFF.

1. Everything Is Awesome: *The Lego Movie* and SIFF preview on May 7

Whet your family's appetite for the rest of the fest (and for Pacific Science Center's exhibit *The Art of the Brick*, opening May 28) by attending a [SIFF Films4Families sneak preview](#) this Saturday, which precedes a showing of *The Lego Movie*; get there early to play in the giant Lego playspace installed in the auditorium. Parents will appreciate the old-fashioned prices (\$5) and adult beverages at SIFF Cinema Uptown's snack bar.

Details: Saturday, May 7 at 1 p.m.; SIFF Cinema Uptown, 511 Queen Anne Ave. N.; \$5

2. Films4Families screenings from around the world

Although many of SIFF's films are appropriate for families, the festival saves parents time by curating a special all-ages program. [Films4Families](#) is a selection of top-quality children's films from around the world, which screen during the earliest time slot on each weekend day of the festival.

This year France is especially well-represented in the program. Look forward to [Belle and Sebastian, the Adventure Continues](#) (you did know the twee indie band was named for a French children's story, didn't you?), arctic adventure movie [Long Way North](#), an animal-focused documentary called *Seasons*, and from the Academy Award-winning team behind the delightful *A Cat in Paris*, a new animated superhero

adventure titled ***Phantom Boy***. Other highlights include ***Rainbow***, an Indian film about two children on a quest to meet a legendary Shab Dukkhi. Screenings is \$13; save money with six-pack and 20-pack ticket bundles. Looking for something family-friendly outside the F4F program? Try ***Kedi***, a movie about the free-roaming cats of Istanbul.



SIFF filmmaking classes

3. Crash course in filmmaking

Why just watch movies when you can make them? ***Crash Kids*** is a non-competitive movie production challenge during which children go from concept to movie screening in one day. Teams of kids aged 9–12 work with a professional media educator to create a short film in just eight hours. The program is offered throughout the year, but there are two workshops associated with the festival – on Saturday, May 7 and Saturday, May 14.

Details: Registration is \$50 and scholarships are available.

4. Catch the FutureWave

FutureWave, SIFF's youth education arm, focuses on digital literacy and offers youth education programs year-round, but during the festival ***FutureWave*** is also a film program of special interest to teens. The selection of films is eclectic, ranging from misfit road-trip movie *Microbe and Gasoline* to *Before the Streets*, a redemption story about a young man's return to Native traditions. It is the first film set among the Atikamekw communities of Québec and features an indigenous cast speaking in their native language. Also during the festival, the FutureWave Youth Juries (seven students between 8–12 years old, and seven between 13–18 years old) get to be "the Academy" and select the recipient of a Best Film award in their respective program. This year's juries have already been selected, but all festival goers are invited to rate each movie they attend and cast their ballot in the Golden Space Needle Awards.

5. Virtual SIFF

A four-day miniature festival within the festival, ***SIFFX*** explores and celebrates virtual reality (VR) and the technology that makes immersive storytelling possible. While many of the events are geared towards filmmakers and tech nerds, there's plenty for families to get excited about, starting with a screening of **360° documentaries at Pacific Science Center's Laser Dome** on Thursday, June 2. (A warning: Even though the medium is thrilling, the subject matter can be heavy; one of the films is *The Crossing*, Susan Sarandon's immersive video diary about the Syrian refugee crisis.)

The next day, the Pacific Science Center Laser Dome will screen the stereoscopic VR documentary ***Seeking Pluto's Frigid Heart***. June 3–5, explore the X Gallery, a showcase of artistic expression that ranges from a VR interpretation of *Alice in Wonderland* to a memoir about growing up in a war zone.

6. Celebrating African films

SIFF's film program "[Celebrate Africa](#)" helps audiences become more informed about the diverse wonders and challenges of life on Earth's second-largest continent using films you won't have a chance to see anywhere else. Movies like [Eye of the Storm](#), which deals with child soldiers, and *Action Commandante*, the story of a 20-year-old martyred in the fight against apartheid, are eye-opening for teens.

Younger siblings will engage with [Lamb](#), the story of a 9-year-old boy trying to keep his pet from becoming a religious sacrifice, and all ages will get a kick out of the short film [Alive & Kicking: The Soccer Grannies of South Africa](#).

Not officially part of the program, but great for kids, [Naledi: A Baby Elephant's Tale](#) tells the true story of an orphaned baby elephant raised by the men of a rescue camp. (Sunday, June 5, 4:30 PM SIFF Cinema Egyptian, Monday, June 6, 6 p.m., Kirkland Performance Center.)

7. For short attention spans

Most kids have no problem sitting through a movie — as long as it's one they like. When you've gone to the trouble of buying tickets and hauling the whole family to a theater, it's nice to be able to tell a wiggly kid, "Hang on, a new movie is starting in a couple minutes." SIFF has two short film events especially for families. [The Family Picture Show](#) is a playful set of animated, live action, and documentary short films curated especially with young viewers in mind. (Saturday May 28, 11:30 a.m. SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater); and [FutureWave Shorts – The Best of NFFTY](#) collects short films by filmmakers 18 and under from around the world. (Monday, May 30. 3:30 p.m. SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater). The Wavemaker Award for Excellence in Youth Filmmaking will be presented at this screening.

If you go ...

Box office: The festival box office opens Thursday, May 5. [Buy online](#) or by phone at 206-324-9996, and in person at any SIFF venue box office.

Locations: If you haven't been to SIFF since you moved to the suburbs, you might be surprised to find the festival at a theater near you. In addition to theaters all over Seattle, SIFF has screenings at Lincoln Square Cinemas in Bellevue, at Kirkland Performance Center, Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center and Shoreline Community College.

Showtimes for Films4Families and other family-friendly SIFF screenings

[Belle and Sebastian, the Adventure Continues](#)

d. Christian Duguay | France 2015 | 97 min

Friday May 20, 4:30 p.m. Majestic Bay Cinemas
 Sunday May 22 11:00 AM SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater
 Saturday May 28 1:00 PM Shoreline Community College

Oddball

d. Stuart McDonald | Australia 2016 | 93 min
 Saturday May 28 1 p.m. Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center
 Saturday June 4 11:30 a.m. SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater
 Sunday June 5 1 p.m. Ark Lodge Cinemas

Long Way North

d. Rémi Chayé | France, Denmark 2015 | 81 min
 Saturday May 21 11 a.m. Pacific Place Cinemas
 Sunday May 22 1 p.m. Lincoln Square
 Sunday May 29 1 p.m. Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center

Phantom Boy

d. Jean-Loup Felicioli, Alain Gagnol | France, Belgium 2015 | 84 min
 Monday May 30 11 a.m. SIFF Cinema Egyptian
 Thursday June 9 6:30 p.m. SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater

Rainbow

d. Nagesh Kukunoor | India 2015 | 103 min
 Monday May 30 1 p.m. Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center
 Saturday June 4 1 p.m. Kirkland Performance Center
 Sunday June 5 11:30 a.m. SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater

Seasons

d. Jacques Perrin, Jacques Cluzaud | France, Germany 2015 | 95 min
 Sunday May 29 11 a.m. Pacific Place Cinemas
 Tuesday May 31 7 p.m. SIFF Cinema Egyptian

Kedi

(not part of Films4Families)
 Saturday May 21 11 a.m. SIFF Cinema Egyptian
 Saturday May 28 3 p.m. SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater
 Monday May 30 noon SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater
 FutureWave Showtimes

Microbe and Gasoline

d. Michel Gondry | France 2015 | 105 min
 Saturday May 21 1 p.m. Majestic Bay Cinemas
 Monday May 23 7 p.m. SIFF Cinema Egyptian

As You Are

d. Miles Joris | USA 2016 | 105 min
 Thursday May 26 9 p.m. SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater
 Friday May 27 4 p.m. Pacific Place Cinemas

Morris From America

d. Chad Hartigan | USA 2016 | 89 min
 Wednesday June 1 7 p.m. SIFF Cinema Egyptian
 Thursday June 2 4:30 p.m. SIFF Cinema Egyptian

First Girl I Loved

d. Kerem Sanga | USA 2016 | 90 min
 Thursday May 26 7 p.m. Pacific Place Cinemas
 Saturday May 28 4:15 p.m. Pacific Place Cinemas

Hunt for the Wilderpeople

d. Taika Waititi | New Zealand 2016 | 93 min
 Friday June 3 6 p.m. Kirkland Performance Center
 Saturday June 4 8:30 p.m. SIFF Cinema Egyptian

Girl Asleep

d. Rosemary Myers | Australia 2016 | 77 min
 Wednesday May 25 7 p.m. Pacific Place Cinemas
 Saturday May 28 noon SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater

Before the Streets

d. Chloé Leriche | Canada 2016 | 97 min
 Saturday June 4 8:30 p.m. SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater
 Sunday June 5 noon SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater

Slash

d. Clay Liford | USA 2016 | 101 min
 Friday May 20 4 p.m. SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater
 Saturday May 21 8:30 p.m. SIFF Cinema Uptown Theater