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## SIFF 2017 – Day 15

*Mike Ward*

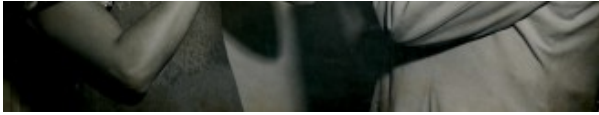


**The 43rd Seattle International Film Festival is here!** With **400** films at the ready, the festival has cast a wide net, featuring first- and second-time filmmakers more than ever before, showcasing films from 80 different countries. Parties, galas, interviews, red carpet events, and big adventures await the more than 150,000 individuals who will attend the festival this year!

The festival runs from **May 18 through June 11** and for all the details, visit the home of the Seattle International Film Festival, [www.siff.net](http://www.siff.net).

### DAY FIFTEEN – JUNE 2, 2017





### ***FINDING KUKAN***

A film which begins with a look at the first-ever film to win Best Documentary at the Academy Awards, *Finding KUKAN* has an amazing story to tell. Few, if any, discuss *KUKAN: The Battle Cry Of China*, which made history but was essentially forgotten. Additionally, the film's subject, Ling-Ai Li seemingly disappeared, notable as the film was co-created by her to document China's resistance against the Japanese during World War II. Li never received a credit for her work on the film and director Robin Lung set out to unearth the mysteries of why the film has been ignored, but also what happened to the woman who made the film a reality in the first place. *Finding KUKAN* has received rave reviews and appeals to those who like documentaries, mysteries, historical cinema, and compelling human interest stories.



### ***FOOTNOTES***

After launching SIFF's mini-4-day festival of screenings at the Kirkland Performance Center, *Footnotes* moves to the Uptown and serves as a French musical described as a combination of 2016's *La La Land* and 1980's *Norma Rae*. In *Footnotes*, a 20-something laborer leaves a dead-end job to work for a high-end shoe designer. When things go sideways, she is convinced into joining her co-workers to head to corporate and protest.





## ***WHOSE STREETS?***

This blistering and insightful documentary takes us back to Ferguson, Missouri, 2014, in the wake of the police shooting of Michael Brown. Directors Sabaah Foleyan and Damon Davis take viewers into the heart of the protests, the activism, and the anger that engulfed the city, adding the unrest as a snapshot for other cities experiencing the same powderkeg of emotions as similar incidents unfolded in their locations. *Whose Streets?* is unflinching, tough to watch, but important and necessary.

Day Fifteen sets up the penultimate weekend for SIFF 2017, with a massive slate of films to run through the weekend. Let's look at the 28 other titles playing today!

## **THE 31 FILMS PLAYING TODAY**

### ***AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL | SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN | 4:00 PM***

Wheelchair user and computer geek Joaquin is thrust into a dangerous game of survival, double-cross, and redemption when he discovers his new neighbors, including a single mother whom he has feelings for, are planning a bank heist by tunneling below his home.

### ***CHAMELEON | SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN | 9:00 PM***

This explosive and brutal Chilean thriller takes place on a wealthy lesbian couple's peaceful day together, which becomes a nightmare of psychological and physical terror after a soft-spoken unexpected

guest undergoes a shocking transformation.



***CLOSE RELATIONS I PACIFIC PLACE I 11:00 AM***

Documentarian Vitaly Mansky (*Under the Sun*) crisscrosses the Ukraine on a personal journey to interview his own extended family members and discover how society, culture, and loyalties have become fractured during a time of dizzying political change.

***DEATH IN SARAJEVO I KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER I 6:30 PM***

Academy Award®-winning director Danis Tanovic (*No Man's Land*) tells a sprawling, multi-character narrative that travels from the basement to the penthouse of Sarajevo's luxurious Hotel Europe as the staff prepare for a huge national celebration.

***EMMA' (MOTHER) I SIFF FILM CENTER I 9:00 PM***

In this lyrical and humanist drama set in 1960s Indonesia, a woman discovers that her husband has taken a second wife, which, though legal and in accordance with Muslim practice, leaves her quietly devastated as she struggles to keep their marriage and family intact.

***FINDING KUKAN I ARK LODGE CINEMAS I 4:30 PM***

A filmmaker turns detective to uncover the remarkable story of Ling-Ai Li, the un-credited female producer of *KUKAN*, a 1941 Academy Award®-winning documentary revealing the atrocities of

World War II China that has been lost for decades.

***FOOTNOTES / SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN / 7:00 PM***

*La La Land* meets *Norma Rae* with a pinch of Jacques Demy in this toe-tapping working-class musical comedy with a social conscience about a young woman who gets her dream job at a luxury shoe factory, only to become enmeshed in a labor strike.

***GHOLAM / SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE / 4:00 PM***

Shahab Hosseini, star of 2016 Oscar®-winner *The Salesman*, gives a mesmerizing performance as an enigmatic Iranian cab driver in London who strives to live a quiet life on his own terms until his mysterious past threatens to overtake him.



***GIVE ME FUTURE / ARK LODGE CINEMAS / 9:00 PM***

Not your average concert documentary, *Give Me Future* electrifyingly follows EDM musical trio Major Lazer as they navigate the behind-the-scenes challenges of staging a historic free concert in Havana, while also examining the recent changes in Cuban culture.

***GODSPEED / SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN / 3:00 PM***

Hong Kong comedy legend Michael Hui gives an impressively restrained performance as a down-on-his-luck taxi driver who accidentally picks up a drug mule, in Taiwanese director Chung Mong-Hong's (*Parking*) offbeat, a violent road movie.

***GOOK I ARK LODGE CINEMAS I 6:30 PM***

Two Korean brothers spend the day hanging out in their father's South Central shoe shop on the first day of the 1992 Rodney King riots in a racially charged indie comedy that blends the social commentary of Spike Lee with the visual and comedic style of Clerks.

***THE HIPPOPOTAMUS I SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE I 6:30 PM***

Adapted from the deliciously witty novel by Stephen Fry, Roger Allam gives a wonderfully cantankerous performance as a profane, drunken writer who takes a job investigating a series of unexplained miracle healings at a friend's country manor.

***I, DANIEL BLAKE I PACIFIC PLACE I 7:00 PM***

Winner of the Palme d'Or at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival, the latest from Ken Loach tells the story of a carpenter who suffers a debilitating heart attack and must fight against the bureaucratic welfare system that insists he must return to work even though it may kill him.

***IN THE RADIANT CITY I SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE I 8:45 PM***

Rachel Lambert's incisive first feature, co-produced by Jeff Nichols (Midnight Special), is an intimate drama about a man who testified

against his brother for committing a horrendous crime. Twenty years later he returns to his rural Kentucky hometown to face his fractured family.

***INFINITY BABY / PACIFIC PLACE / 9:30 PM***

Nick Offerman and Kieran Culkin lead a remarkable ensemble of hip comic actors in this absurdist, droll black comedy from Bob Byington (*7 Chinese Brothers*) about a company who farms out three-month-old babies who will never age due to a freak pharmaceutical side effect.

***IVAN / SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN / 6:30 PM***

Ivan is an ambulance driver in a small Russian town who becomes inspired to make much-needed changes to his life after he unexpectedly becomes the temporary guardian of a charming yet sassy ten-year-old girl in this funny and compassionate drama.

***KAKEHASHI: A PORTRAIT OF CHEF NOBUO FUKUDA / KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER / 4:30 PM***

Rising from his job as an immigrant dishwasher at Benihana to a James Beard Award-winning chef, Nobuo Fukuda's inspiring culinary journey was made possible by embracing kakehashi, the act of bridging the gap between his native Japanese cuisine and Western cooking.

***LANE 1974 / SIFF EGYPTIAN / 7:00 PM***

When his daughter gets involved with a manipulative drug dealer, a loving father fights to save her and finds himself resorting to extreme measures in a dramatic *Taken*-style psychological thriller from Icelandic director and star Baltasar Kormakur.





***MELLOW MUD I SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN I 1:00 PM***

After the death of her grandmother, a fiercely independent teen in rural Latvia is thrust into adulthood, and must shoulder raising her younger brother, avoiding a nosy social worker, and navigating a relationship with her English teacher, all in hopes of finding her estranged mother.

***MR. LONG I SIFF EGYPTIAN I 9:30 PM***

Yojimbo meets Tampopo in maverick director Sabu's surprisingly tender modern fable about a taciturn sword-wielding hitman who hides out in a Japanese village, makes friends, and cooks surprisingly tasty noodles, until his past comes back to haunt him.

***ON THE ROAD I SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN I 3:30 PM***

Filmmaker Michael Winterbottom (24 Hour Party People) travels with indie-rock band and Grammy nominees Wolf Alice throughout the UK, crafting a riveting documentary/fiction hybrid that is part tour chronicle and part backstage romance.

***PARIS PRESTIGE I KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER I 8:30 PM***

With a pulsing soundtrack and neon-drenched visuals, musicians-turned-filmmakers Hamé and Ekoué dive into Paris's vibrant nightlife scene to tell the story of two brothers with differing views of what the future should be for their family-owned bar.

***PATTI CAKE\$ I SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN I 6:30 PM***

Newcomer Danielle Macdonald gives a star-making performance as a big girl with big talent who fights her way through the strip malls and strip clubs of New Jersey, building her crew, battling an army of



haters, and honing her rap skills.



***THE REAGAN SHOW | SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN | 8:45 PM***

Made up entirely of archival news and White House footage, this captivating you-are-there documentary captures the pageantry, absurdity, and mastery of the made-for-TV politics of the original performer/president, Ronald Reagan.

***SOUL ON A STRING | SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN | 12:00 PM***

A compassionate Buddhist embarks on a mystical quest through Tibet, pursued by black-traders and a man hell-bent on vengeance. Along the way they encounter mysterious travelers, among them a loyal elf, a lovestruck woman, and a mute psychic.

***THOSE SHOCKING SHAKING DAYS | SIFF FILM CENTER | 7:00 PM***

Experimental filmmaker Selma Doborac presents a radical and uncompromising essay on the impossibility of depicting the atrocities of war through insightful subtitles and meditative footage of abandoned structures that belong to the present as well as to the past.

***THOSE WHO REMAIN | SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN | 12:30 PM***

A 60-year-old Christian farmer struggles to hold onto the land he has tilled for decades despite mounting tensions in Lebanon's picturesque Akkar District, a microcosm of the country's various religious factions and the repercussions of the Syrian crisis.

***THE TURKISH WAY | SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN | 1:30 PM***

Internationally renowned restaurateurs the Roca Brothers, stars of last year's scrumptious *Cooking Up a Tribute*, return for a tour through the diverse culinary cultures of Turkey, diving into the savory cuisine at the heart of one of the world's major crossroads.

***WHOSE STREETS? | SIFF EGYPTIAN | 4:30 PM***

The story of 2014's Ferguson, Missouri, uprising as told by the people who lived it, this unflinching documentary gets to the heart of how the police shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown inspired a community to fight back against injustice—and sparked a global movement.

***WITHOUT NAME | SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN | 9:30 PM***

In this psychologically tense slice of hallucinogenic eco-horror, a land surveyor on a secretive mission in a remote and unnamed Irish forest begins to have strange visions after his equipment goes haywire, leading him suspect that someone—or something—is lurking in the woods.

***WOODPECKERS | SIFF CINEMA UPTOWN | 6:00 PM***

This hard-hitting but compassionate prison story from Santo Domingo, shot on location with real inmates, tells the love story between two prisoners in neighboring institutions who communicate through an elaborate sign language known as woodpecking.

## NEWEST FEATURES, ARTICLES, INTERVIEWS, MUSINGS FROM AROUND THE CITY...

- The crew at *The Sunbreak* have a [roundtable discussion](#) about the first half of SIFF 2017, showcasing great films and spotlighting other highlights they have experienced.
- Brent McKnight reviews [Dirtbag: The Legend of Fred Beckey](#), a must unique Northwesterner, spotlighted at the age of 93 in this new documentary.
- Abby Quinn, co-star of SIFF Centerpiece Gala film, **Landline**, talks to her hometown newspaper, [the Woodinville Weekly!](#)
- And speaking of Gillian Robespierre's **Landline**, Erik at FilmJabber [shares his thoughts on the film](#).
- Matt Oakes, *Silver Screen Riot* reviews Argentinian crime drama, [At the End of the Tunnel](#), which makes its SIFF premiere tonight.
- Paul Carlson, *Escape Into Film* adds daily to his long list of [SIFF capsule reviews](#).
- TwoOhSix.com [sits down with Mark Dennis and Ben Foster](#), directors of the movie which has surprised more people perhaps than any other, **Time Trap**.
- Brent McKnight reviews [Small Town Killers](#) and lives to tell about it.

## PODCASTS

- *CinemaSquabble*, [Episode #58](#) (with co-hosts Adam Gehrke, Sara

Michelle Fetters, and special guest Tom Tangney)

- *CinemaSquabble*. [Episode #57](#) (with co-hosts Adam Gehrke, Sara Michelle Fetters)
- *Feelin' Film +*. [Episode #3](#) (with host Aaron White and guest Mike Ward)
- *Feelin' Film +*. [Episode #2](#) (with host Aaron White and guest Mike Ward)
- *SIFF Film Critics' Roundtable*. Courtesy of David Chen via his Periscope account...  
[Why Film Criticism?](#) (watch it while you can!)
- *SIFFcast*. [Programmer's Roundtable](#)

***For all of Should I See It's coverage of the 2017 Seattle International Film Festival, visit [Should I See It's SIFF 2017 portal!](#) for reviews, daily journals, and more!***

## **NEED MORE INFO?**

To see the alphabetical listing of all **400** films playing this year's festival, [click here!](#)

For ticket information, [click here!](#)

For a calendar of all events happening at SIFF 2017, [click here!](#)

To learn more about SIFF and the Seattle International Film Festival, [click here!](#)

## **AND NOW...DISCLAIMER STUFF**

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