

5th Annual Watsonville Film Festival

Sept 29
Oct 2
2016

Re-Opening the Historic Fox Theater!

FIVE YEARS Celebrating Diverse
Voices & Community in the
Heart of the Monterey Bay



WATSONVILLE
FILM FESTIVAL

watsonvillefilmfest.org



Message from the Director

Welcome to the multicultural film festival of the Monterey Bay. This is our big annual pachanga (party) and everyone is invited!

From the beginning of our journey as a Festival in 2011, we have dreamed of presenting the Watsonville Film Festival at the Fox Theater. With the generous support of the Fox owners and numerous businesses, organizations & individual sponsors, that dream is now a reality.

Thank you also to all the amazing volunteers who worked for 10 months so we can be here at the Fox today, and all the volunteers who are helping out during the Festival.

We couldn't be happier about screening a selection of more than 40 powerful films with many filmmakers attending, from local rising stars



to directors from Mexico, New York, Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

In these divisive times, we believe the Watsonville Film Festival plays an important role in bringing everybody to the table to meet each other with openness, respect, and understanding. At the end of the day, we want to do much more than entertain you.

From live music, Batucada parades, a community bicycle ride, collaborations with small business and entrepreneurial ventures, and post-film discussions, we have playfully designed our program to support many different kinds

of interactions, where we can easily enjoy one another and share what really matters to us. Most of all, we will have a blast, and we truly hope you leave feeling like part of our family. Thank you for coming! ¡Gracias a todos!

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

Hank García
Doris Andrade

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Consuelo Alba

BOARD

Katie Roper
Joann Godoy
Alan Hicks
Jacob Martinez
Huve Rivas

Sibley Verbeck Simon

John Speyer

ADVISORY

George Ow Jr.
Geoffrey Dunn
Michelle Williams
Jesse Nickell
Lori Adragna
José Olivas

PRODUCTION TEAM

Gabriel Medina
Alex Santana
Christian Gomez
Gerardo Sandoval
Terence Van Beever
Trinidad Castro
Reynaldo Barrioz
Louie Rodríguez
Daniel Salinas
Lupita Sanchez
Abby Gonzalez
Pancho Rodríguez
Marissa Hicks-Alcaraz
Brenda Avila-Hanna
Paul De Worken
Jaime Sanchez
Digital NEST Members

Our Story

A group of filmmakers, educators and community leaders started the Watsonville Film Festival (WFF) in 2011 with the goal of showcasing our local filmmaking talent.

The mission of the Watsonville Film Festival is to present films that inspire and engage our diverse audience and promote community development in Watsonville.



Watsonville Film Festival Executive Director, Board Members and Production Team at WFF2015.

Since 2012 the WFF has presented an inspiring and engaging Annual Festival and year-round film programming for audiences of all ages at the Mello Center, Watsonville's Cabrillo Center, Green Valley Cinemas and today, the newly re-opened historic Fox Theater.

The Festival has featured Oscar®, Emmy and Pulitzer award-winning directors, including Luis Valdez, Jose Antonio Vargas, Anthony Lucero, Luciana Kaplan, Carmen Marrón, Will Parrinello and Alex Rivera. It has also screened many films by today's up-and-coming filmmakers from

local schools, UCSC and CSUMB.

We believe in the boundless potential of Watsonville and the impact that the arts can have in every community. We invite you to join us in this journey of creativity and celebration of diversity!

Your support allows us to do this work, consider making a tax-deductible contribution of any amount. Please make your check payable to Arts Council Santa Cruz County, with WFF on the memo line. Mailing address Watsonville Film Festival, PO Box 172, Watsonville, CA 95077. You can also securely donate online at watsonvillefilmfest.org/donate/

OPENING NIGHT • LOCAL VISIONS, PAST & PRESENT 6:00 PM

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony officially reopening the Fox Theater after a 7-year hiatus, followed by a **Red Carpet** with filmmakers, talent and VIPs. Reception with appetizers, drinks and live music.

Special recognition to Hank García, Watsonville independent Movie Theater Owner for 44 years

Tribute to Local Pioneer Filmmakers — George Ow, Geoffrey Dunn, Mark Schwartz, Cori Houston for their award-winning documentary series American Dream, which includes Dollar a Day, 10 Cents a Dance.

FILM PROGRAM

Dollar a Day, 10 Cents A Dance - Local Pioneer Filmmakers Award

Newly digitized film produced in 1985 - Producers Attending

Enticed by the promise of jobs and fair wages, 100,000 Filipinos immigrated to the U.S. between 1924 and 1935 to toil on California's farmlands, including the Pájaro Valley. The men survived the loneliness of racial discrimination by creating close-knit bachelor societies. [30 min]



Midnight Warrior

Alex Santana Jr. - Director Attending

A documentary about working, healing and remembering. [5 min.]

Libertad

Brenda Avila-Hanna - Director Attending

Libertad profiles the incredible Alejandra Santiago, an indigenous trans-woman from Oaxaca - now living in Santa Cruz - whose life journey transcends multiple borders. [9 min.]



Emerald Ice

Jeseca Ynez Simmons - Director Attending

A cinematic odyssey exploring the mind of the American poet Diane Wakoski. [16min.]

Finding Blas

Marisol Medina-Cadena - Director Attending

Recovering the secret political life of her great-grandfather, Blas Lara, the director revisits the sites in California where he migrated to prior to the Mexican Revolution and during his activism with the Partido Liberal Mexicano. [12 min.]

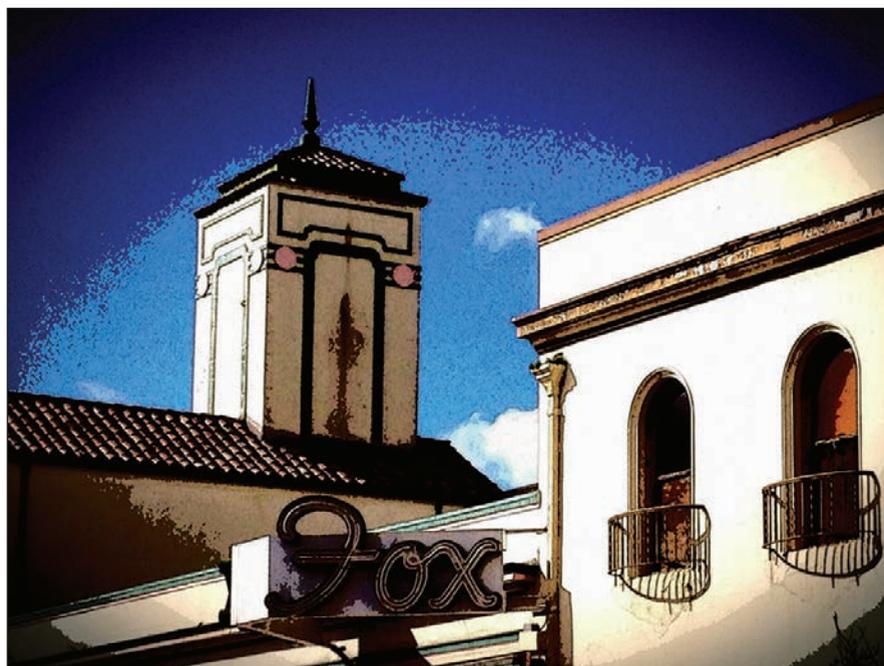
THE FOX: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The Fox is one of Santa Cruz County's oldest movie theaters. It was built in 1923, and originally named the California Theater.

The large auditorium & balcony contained more than 1,000 seats.

The Fox Theater was Watsonville's cultural crown jewel and gathering place of choice for generations of local residents. It was designed by architect G. Albert Landsburgh.

The venue hosted silent films, vaudeville performances, live plays and musical reviews with local, national and international performers for decades. The Fox hosted Mexican movie stars, performances by the Santa Cruz Symphony and



Christmas Concerts by the Watsonville Band.

In 1987, the biopic "La Bamba" directed by prominent Chicano filmmaker/playwright Luis Valdez, premiered at the Fox Theater before opening in Hollywood. The Santa Cruz Film Festival and the Pacific Rim Film Festival also hosted screenings here.

This once-grand theater has gone through many changes and renovations over the years.

Today, the Watsonville Film Festival team is excited to lead the community effort to reactivate the Fox Theater after being closed for seven years. Our vision is to position the Fox as an unique and attractive cultural destination in the Monterey Bay region. The first step is to offer a high-quality program of films, festivals and events that are relevant to our diverse audience.



4:00 PM

Murals + Activism

Visit the Digital Nest to check out the website launch of watsonville-muralarchive.com, created by WFF alum Marisol Medina-Cadena.

Come learn about the stories behind the murals in Watsonville, meet local muralists, see a photo exhibit, and share your memories of Watsonville murals at our community partner Digital NEST, located at 318 Union St. across from the Fox Theater.



6:00 PM

Latino Americans in the Pájaro Valley

Digital NEST filmmakers - Directors Attending

The Digital NEST, Watsonville Public Library & Watsonville Film Festival present a series of short oral histories of Latino Americans living & working in the Pájaro Valley.

[45 min. English & Spanish with English subtitles. All ages]



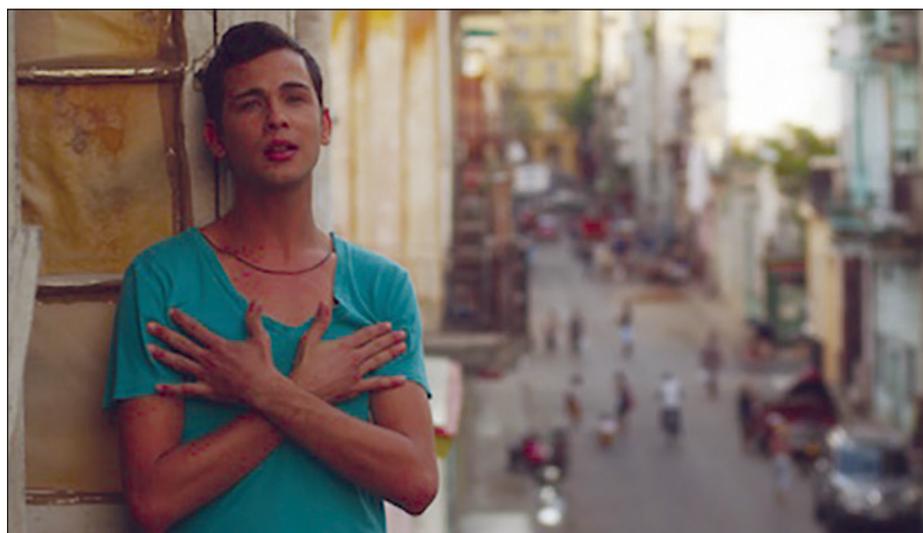
7:00 PM

Landfill Harmonic

Brad Allgood, Graham Townsley

Landfill Harmonic follows the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura, a Paraguayan youth musical group whose families live and work near a dump — and they play instruments made entirely out of garbage. When their story goes viral, the orchestra is catapulted into the global spotlight. The film is a testament to the transformative power of music and the resilience of the human spirit. [84 min. Spanish w/ English subtitles. All ages]

Opening live performance by El Sistema Youth Music Program.



9:15 PM

Viva

Paddy Breathnach

Jesús, a young hairdresser working at a Havana nightclub that showcases drag performers, dreams of being a performer himself. Encouraged by his mentor, Jesús finally gets his chance to take the stage. But when his estranged father abruptly re-enters his life, Jesús' world is quickly turned upside down. Viva was Ireland's entry for the Best Foreign Film Academy Award for 2015. [100 min. Spanish with English subtitles. Rated R]

12:00PM

The World in Short

A powerful, eye-opening collection of fiction & documentary shorts by local and international directors. Many of them will be in attendance.

Inspirational Filmmaker Award

honoring Soyeon Kim, as a filmmaker, animator and educator, who founded the Animation program at CSUMB.



Ahco On The Road - Dir. Soyeon Kim

Animated story of a baby elephant on a journey to find her way back home after being separated from her mother.

El Cacao - Dir. Michelle Aguilar

In the lush rainforest of Panama, a family grows cacao beans for a global chocolate market.

Four Postcards to Marta -

Dir. Hernán Talavera

A small film, made from a few postcards.

The Call - Dir. Brianna Beavers

A young girl has a revealing phone conversation.

As Seen On TV - Dir. Gabriel Norwood

After the loss of his parents, Adrian tries to cope with his depression by buying absurd gadgets.

Carla - Dir. Jacqueline Aquino

A young woman finds herself on a journey of self-reflection.

Baggage - Dir. Jessica Scrimshaw

Animated story about relationships and the baggage that we all carry.

Apis Mellifera - Dir. Cristian Duran & Joey Cloud

A poetic journey into the lives of honeybees.

Periods Suck - Dir. Jonathan Rome

Three girls explain the torture & effects of their menstruation.

What Could Be - Dir. Spencer Merritt

Can one feeling, one word, change a life?



2:15 PM

The Great Sasuke

Dir. Mikiko Sasaki - Director attending

One life-changing year in the career of Japanese wrestler and local politician known as The Great Sasuke, who singlehandedly made Mexican-style Lucha Libre popular in Japan. [73 min. Japanese w/ English subtitles. All ages]

Opening short: Mother of All Rivers

Dir. Will Parrinello

In Honduras, Berta Cáceres rallied the indigenous Lenca people and waged a grass-roots campaign to pressure the world's largest dam builder to pull out of a major project. [9 min. Spanish w/ English subtitles. All ages]



4:30 PM

En el último trago / One for the Road

Dir. Jack and Yossy Zagher Kababie - Producer attending

Mexican film veterans Luis Bayardo, Eduardo Manzano & José Carlos Ruiz play octogenarians who set out on a road trip in order to fulfill the dying wish of a lifelong friend. One for the Road is a funny and endearing exploration of aging, friendship & love, set to the timeless music of José Alfredo Jiménez. [93 min. Spanish w/ English subtitles. Ages 13+]

Opening short: Piel Canela

Dir. Alejandro de Vega

To regain the trust of his girlfriend, Manuel will have to do something desperate.



7:00PM

Ovarian Psycos

Dir. Kate Trumbull & Joanna Sokolowski - Director & Ovas attending

"Whose streets? Our streets!" Ride along with the Ovarian Psycos, a group of young women of color bringing feminist ideas, Indigenous knowledge, and the legacy of the Chicano/a civil rights movement onto the streets of Los Angeles. The group cycles through the barrios and boulevards of the Eastside, committed to collectively confronting injustice, racism and violence, and demanding and creating safe spaces for women. [72 min. English. Ages 13+]

Opening short: Mama Agatha

Dir. Fadi Hindash

Mama Agatha is a 59-year-old Ghanaian woman who runs a bicycle training program for migrant women in Amsterdam. [16 min. Dutch w/ English Subtitles. All ages]

"Congratulations to the amazing team that is bringing the Fox to life and bringing arts and film to the community."

— State Senator Bill Monning

**STAY
CONNECTED!**

**WATSONVILLE
FILM FESTIVAL**

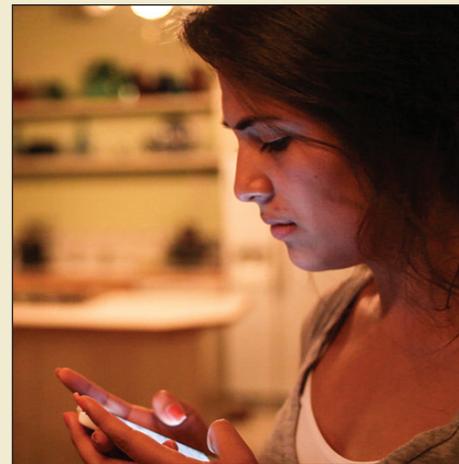
f **🐦** **📷**

FOLLOW OUR YEAR-ROUND SCREENINGS
watsonvillefilmfest.org

9:15PM

HORROR SHORTS

[105 min. English, Spanish, Chinese with English subtitles. Ages 15+]



Lurker - Mimi Zarate & Gabriel Medina - Directors Attending

Home alone, a young woman receives strange messages, which triggers unexplainable events. [World Premiere]

They Will All Die In Space - Dir. Javier Chillón

The starship Tantalus drifts through space, harboring a terrible secret.

La ropavejera / The Huckster - Dir. Nacho Ruipérez

Nine children spend their days forsaken by fate, under the abuses of the Huckster.

The Maw - Dir. Jess Moss

A dark animation about a child who is isolated from society.

Hansel + Gretel - Dir. Soyeon Kim

A new take on the Brothers Grimm fairy tale.

Right Side of the Tracks -

Dir. Richard Medina III

A young girl finds a mysterious painting inside an abandoned tunnel, which ends up being much more than she bargained for.

Where Are You? - Dir. Jonathan Rome

A stubborn boy runs away from his sister and hides in a corn maze; confusion reigns.

Fish Eye - Dir. Tong Zhou

A paranoid young maid is hired by a mysterious man, and finds evidence related to an unapprehended serial killer.

El espejo humano / The Human

Mirror - Dir. Marc Nadal

A 17-year old with social anxiety watches the cruelties reported on the news every day, bringing her mind closer and closer to the dangerous nature of society.



9:00AM

Community Bike Ride with Ovarian Psychos

Join our invitadas especiales, The Ovarian Psychos Bicycle Brigade, in town from East LA for the Festival, cycling around Watsonville for healing and celebration of our communities. Meet at the parking lot behind the Fox Theater.



12:00PM

El Canto del Colibrí

Marco Castro-Bojorquez - Director attending

Much like the seldom-heard song of the hummingbird, the voices of Latino fathers are rarely heard in addressing LGBTQ issues. The film amplifies their voices, seeking to fight isolation and build bridges of hope and solidarity among our Latino fathers, their families and community activists. [53 min. All Ages. Bilingual Spanish/English]

Opening short: Libertad

Dir. Brenda Avila-Hanna.

See Opening Night Program for synopsis.



2:00PM

Indivisible

Hilary Linder - Director attending

Three DREAMers fight for a pathway to citizenship and a chance to be reunited with their loved ones who were deported. An emotional & inspiring film about the young people at the heart of our nation's immigration debate. [80 min. English, Spanish, Portuguese w/ English subtitles. All ages]



4:00 PM

Boy & the World

Alê Abreu

Cuca lives a life of quiet wonder, exploring all that the countryside has to offer. But, his life is shattered when his father leaves for the city. Determined to reunite his family, Cuca embarks on a journey that unfolds like a tapestry. 2015 Academy Award Nominee for Best Animated Film. [80 min. No dialogue. All ages]

Opening Short: Noir

Dir. Soyeon Kim - A black crow searches for its identity.

Post-screening drum performance & parade with Roots of Brazil, featuring members of SambaDá.

5:45PM

Closing Fiesta at Plaza Vigil

Join us for a fun community celebration to close the festival, with food & drink, and live music by **Los Malangueros**. Sponsored by the Plaza Vigil Merchants Association. Free to the public • 23 East Beach St., across from La Placita.



The Watsonville Film Festival does much more than screen a great selection of films for four days. WFF is about bringing everybody together and making Watsonville a stronger and more vibrant community, un lugar de encuentro y conexión.

Re-opening the Fox Theater required a lot of hard work and faith in ourselves and in our community. And this is just a beginning. Our goal is to grow as a Festival and as an arts organization, to present year-

round screenings & host regional cultural celebrations, and to create a permanent space for these activities. We hope you will join us in making this dream a reality.

Amigos del Festival Become a Friend of the Festival

If you appreciate what we have achieved so far and want to see it continue and grow, we ask that you take us out to lunch! That is, for the price of a lunch, \$10/month or more, you can sustain our

festival and ensure it continues throughout the year. Amigos will get special discounts and advance notice of our upcoming events.

Compadres del Festival Become a Partner of the Festival

Our goal is to have each of the seats filled with compadres - partners like you who want to invest in the health and well being of this community, and who believe in our vision of creating a permanent

home for the Watsonville Film Festival. We ask that you invest in the festival and our vision, by giving \$100 month.

In return, you will receive film passes, special event invitations and advance notice of screenings & events.

To learn more about these opportunities, please stop by our table in the lobby during the Festival or email Executive Director Consuelo Alba at: watsonvillefilmfest@gmail.com

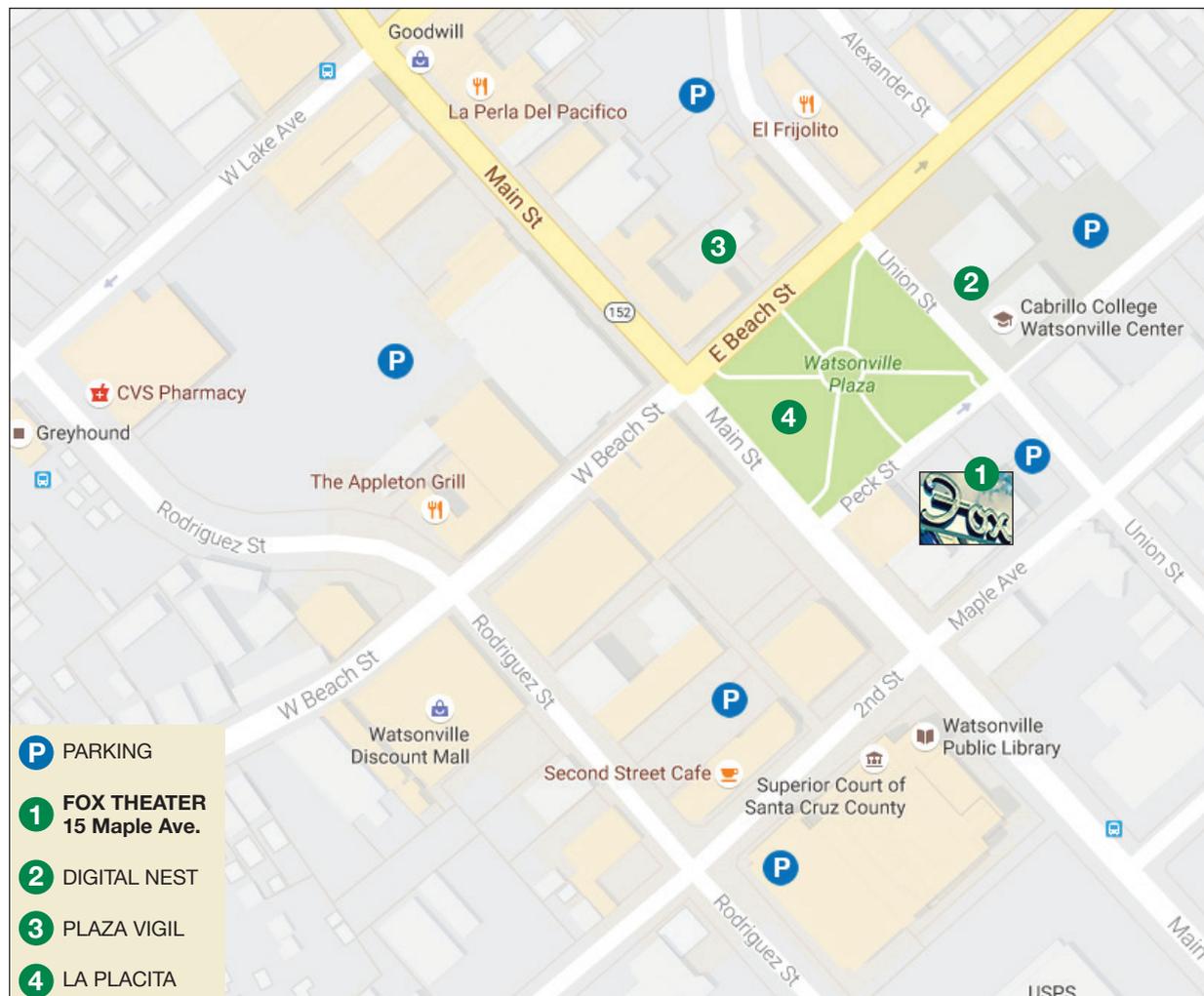
Share Your Memories of the Fox Theater!



Many people in and around Watsonville have had unforgettable moments of the Fox Theater, Built in 1923, The Fox offered rich & diverse entertainment over many decades, reflecting the community it has served.

As we embark in the journey of bringing this beautiful jewel back to life, we invite you to share some of your personal stories, memories and photos you may have of the Fox. Perhaps you worked at the theater, had your first kiss there, or watched a movie that changed your life....

Our intent is to honor this collective history by gathering as many stories as possible, sharing them on social media and then selecting some to be published as a book. You can share these stories with us during the Festival, or by emails through our website, foxwatsonville.org, and Facebook page: Fox Theater Watsonville. Good ol' U.S. mail works too: WFF, PO Box 172, Watsonville CA 95077



- P** PARKING
- 1** FOX THEATER
15 Maple Ave.
- 2** DIGITAL NEST
- 3** PLAZA VIGIL
- 4** LA PLACITA

¡GRACIAS A TODOS! THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL SPONSORS!

Producers

GREEN VALLEY CINEMA
Ow Family Properties



Movie Stars

Joann & Marcos Godoy
Ainsley-Hicks Family Foundation



Digital NEST

Directors

Nina &
Sibley Simon



Cinematographers

Amy Newell
Bud & Rebecca Colligan
John Speyer



Screen Writers



Councilmember Rebecca García
Liz Raptis Picco
Katie Roper
Dan Carrillo
Comité de Derechos Humanos

Set Designers

CA Assemblymember Luis Alejo • Jim Brown • Roger V. Smith
My Mexico Tours • Second Street Cafe • Pajaro Valley Community Alliance



Crew Members

Jacob Martinez • Debra Hicks • Mas & Marcia Hashimoto • Japanese American Citizens League • Aimee Mizuno • Watsonville Bike Shack