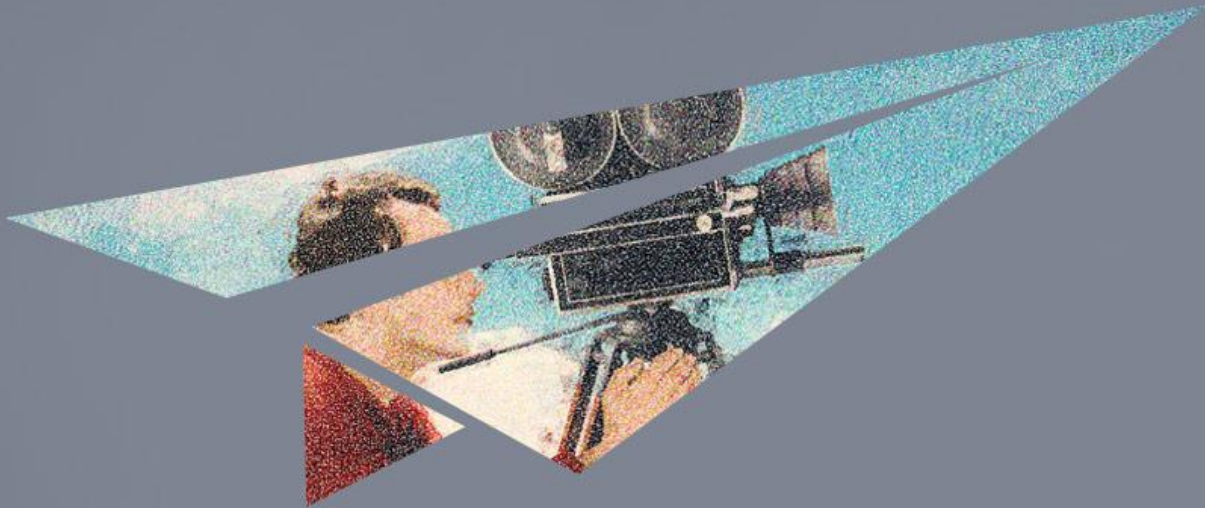


LAUNCH  PAD



**FEATURE FILM**  
SCREENWRITING COMPETITION

**TOP 100**

**FINALIST BOOK**

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## **10 MILES OUTSIDE OF HOMER, ALASKA** by Julia Bergeron

Action | Comedy | Thriller

Three siblings must overcome their ludicrous childhood grudges to outsmart a group of mercenaries who have descended upon their family-run Alaskan lodge.

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## **23 YARDS** by Maahir Khan

Drama | Sports

A rising cricket star in Afghanistan seeking to escape life on his father's opium farm struggles to balance his dreams with his family obligations after his brother joins the Taliban.

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## **A FRIEND IN THE DARK** by Zaza Karaim

Drama | LGBTQ | Teen

A shy teenager left reeling from his roommate's suicide witnesses the sexual assault of another student at his all-boys boarding school and must convince the other boy to come forward so they can dismantle the tradition of abuse before someone else gets hurt.

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## **ABOVE US ONLY SKY** by Nathan Patton

Drama | Sci-Fi

When humanity becomes immune to death, a frantic mother and her diabetic daughter must traverse a dangerous and unstable country to find a mysterious medical facility before the girl slips into a permanent coma.

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## **ACIDS** by Amelia Phillips

Drama | LGBTQ | Period

In 1982 New York, as a mysterious and terrifying epidemic afflicts gay men, a closed-off lesbian doctor risks her livelihood by taking an infected pregnant woman into her home.

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## **AFTERMATH** by Justin Boyd

Horror | Teen | Thriller

A prom after-party becomes a fight for survival when the release of a dangerous biological agent turns a small town into a war zone.

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## **AMALGAM** by Erez Mossek

Adventure | Drama

An alcoholic who's spent years working an illegal gold mine in French Guiana finally strikes it rich and strong-arms a 19-year-old runaway missionary into helping him get the gold out of the country.

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## **ARGONAUTA** by Suzanne Rindell

Sci-Fi | Thriller

In a world ravaged by climate change where the richest humans live aboard massive, self-sustaining yachts, a couple rescues a charming young man in a lifeboat who threatens to upend the careful balance of their lives.

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## **AUDIT** by Geordie Sabbagh

Action | Crime

Three accountants decide to rob the unclaimed safety deposit boxes they have been hired to audit, but when they unknowingly take \$10 million from the wrong person, they get caught up in a dangerous web of criminals who want the money for themselves.

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## **BARONESS** by Brent Hartinger

Comedy | Horror

A baroness is invited to the home of her wealthy partner to meet his seven children, but she soon becomes convinced that their plucky, fun-loving governess seems to be hiding a dark secret, and the hills surrounding the lavish estate may be alive with more than just music.

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## **BLUES FOR THE FATHER** by Joseph L Harrison and Barry Kohl

Drama | Period

A record label scout struggles to hide his own mixed race heritage and balance two separate families while traveling the 1950s American South buying Black music for white artists to record.

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## **BREAST IN SHOW** by Andrea Berting

Comedy | Drama

A young breast cancer patient helps her senior support group members learn to love their bodies again by teaching them the art of burlesque.

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## **BUFFALO** by Sarah Dixon

Drama

A young but seasoned Black ranch hand from Oklahoma goes on a cattle drive across the country and discovers a new inner strength during her perilous journey.

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## **CAST LIST** by Connor Smith

Comedy | Musical | Thriller

An aspiring performer desperate to make her Broadway debut before turning 30 contemplates murder to secure her a leading role.

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## **CHEATERS** by Caitlin Gallo and Brittany Harris

Comedy | Teen

An uptight nerd and a jaded loser fight to bring down a massive college admissions scandal at their elite prep school.

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## **CHIMERA** by Andrew Kaberline

Horror | Thriller

A woman who ran away as a teenager is forced to return home and confront the monstrous creature who is pretending to be her.

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## **COLD, NEVADA** by Chris Bean

Crime | Drama | Period

A small town sheriff walks the uneasy line between duty and obsession, spending over four decades refusing to let a trio of unsolved murders go cold.

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## **CRUSH THE MONSTER** by Alex Odaguar

Drama | LGBTQ | Period | True

A young man fights charges of homosexuality in 1950s Boise, Idaho, forcing him to confront buried secrets that he must unravel before he is sentenced to life behind bars.

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## **CUTTHROAT** by Carolyn Kras

Comedy | Horror | Teen

When their classmates become the targets of a masked serial killer who seems to be picking off the competition for an elite university, a group of teenagers at a prestigious prep school must stay alive and unmask the murderer while perfecting their college applications.

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## **DAUGHTER OF THE SAMURAI** by Esther Shihabi

Drama | Period

The daughter of a samurai travels to America in an arranged marriage, but when her husband dies and she returns to Japan with her child, she finds that her way of life has changed too much to fit in with her traditional family.

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## **DIRT** by Baakal Geleta

Horror

A closeted young man takes a job at a remote industrial disaster site assisting a suspicious recluse and finds that the job begins to consume him.

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## **DIRTY MOVIES ON VHS** by Whitney Melton

Comedy | Teen

Desperate to have a great 16th birthday to make up for his unimaginably bad one a year ago, a straight-A student reluctantly agrees to steal a copy of the Pam Anderson-Tommy Lee sex tape to show at his party.

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## **DOLJABI** by Robert Park

Drama

The divergent paths of a Korean American boy's life unfold based on the choices he makes at his traditional Korean first birthday party, where children are tasked with choosing a symbolic item believed to predict their future.

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## **DREAM HOUSE** by Ryan Berry and C.L.R.

Horror | Thriller

When a family of overachievers starts to slip up, tensions rise to the surface and the foundations of a house built on winning begin to crack.

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## **DUMPLINGS FOR CHRISTMAS** by David Au and Mark Neal

Comedy | Drama | LGBTQ

A gay Chinese American novelist reluctantly returns to his Connecticut hometown to spend Christmas with his eccentric family for the first time in years, bringing along news of his recent engagement, and hiding the fact that his perfect fiancé might be cheating on him.

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## **EAST OF WESTWOOD** by Amir Mosallaie

Comedy | Drama | Teen

When his best friend kisses him just before he is going to move away, a timid, closeted Iranian-American teenager fights off a sexual awakening as he helps his overbearing mom plan his graduation party.

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## **FIVE WITH A BULLET** by Christopher Isenegger

Comedy | Thriller

When the head of their record label dies, five of the world's biggest rock stars are invited to his Malibu mansion to pay tribute, but they soon find themselves on a very different kind of hit list as they're hunted down one-by-one.

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## **FRANK DRESDEN** by Colin McLaughlin

Action | Thriller

Grieving the death of his wife, an aging former spy sets out to track down the Soviet agents who tortured him and killed his partner during the Cold War thirty years earlier.

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## **FREELANCE** by Mike Gerbino

Horror | Thriller

A video editor desperate for work takes on a mysterious, well-paying job cutting what appear to be snuff films, but her life begins to spiral out of control when she is haunted by visions of the people onscreen.

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## **GHOST WRITER** by Courtney Hull

Comedy | Drama | Supernatural

A young woman struggling to come to terms with her brother's sudden death is given purpose when his ghost starts to visit her, begging her to finish his novel.

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## **HAPPY LITTLE ACCIDENTS** by Andy Erikson

Comedy

After the sudden death of their father, a wildly dysfunctional family attempts to overcome their grief by pulling off a Bob Ross art heist.

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## **HIGHER ART** by Mariya Alexander and Crystal Sugarman

Comedy

After stealing a weird and rare art piece to get back at their predatory boss, two best friends are thrown into a night of chaos that mixes stolen drugs, the Russian mafia, a Mexican cartel, and a vagina painting.

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## **IN THE MEANTIME** by Joe Wielosinski

Comedy | Drama | LGBTQ | Romance

An elementary school teacher falls for her student's imaginary sister, sending her into a surreal romance with a woman no one else can see.

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## **INSIDE LIFE** by Vanessa Herron

Drama | Teen

An imaginative Black teenager embarks on a mission to take care of her autistic brother to keep their father from sending him to a group home.

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## **JUMPMAN** by Matthew Breault and Alex George Pickering

Biopic | Drama | Period

Based on the life of Shigeru Miyamoto, a young outcast with a unique outlook on life who gains fame and fortune in the world of gaming by creating Nintendo's most iconic titles, while struggling to cope with the difficulties of real life.

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## **KILLING KELLY** by Katy Erin

Action | Comedy | Horror | LGBTQ

In order to fulfill a childhood promise, three friends set out on a dangerous cross-country road trip through a zombie apocalypse in order to kill their friend Kelly before she can be infected.

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## **LEGEND OF THE SKY DRIFTERS, OR MURPH AND ALEX GO TO TIME-JAIL** by Dustin Milligan

Comedy | Sci-Fi

After joining a time-traveling sex cult, two best friends are captured and sentenced to spend eternity in an extradimensional time-jail. "The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy" meets "Booksmart."

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## **LET'S GO CRAZY** by Cory Krueckeberg

Coming-of-Age | Drama

A unique kid's thirteenth birthday weekend with his troubled mom is cut short when she takes him for a ride he'll never forget

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## **LIABILITY** by John Kelley

Thriller

A liability insurance adjuster finds himself unraveling when he's called to investigate a series of horrific and unexplainable fatal industrial accidents.

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## **M.O.M.** by Ronald Johnson and Christopher Oroza Nostas

Comedy | Horror

An anxious middle schooler steals a self-driving prototype car to give his friends a ride to the biggest bar mitzvah of the year, but he will have to find the courage to save them all when the vehicle goes rogue and drags them along on a murderous rampage.

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## **ME & MY MOTHER-IN-LAW** by Lauren Fields

Comedy | Drama | LGBTQ

When all flights are grounded due to weather, a widow and her estranged mother-in-law are forced to take a road trip together to her husband's Florida hometown in the hopes of getting his body buried within forty-eight hours in keeping with Jewish tradition.

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## **MERCHANDISE NO. 5** by Danny Hogan

Action | Crime | Drama | Thriller

In the aftermath of a violent drug heist at a chemical plant outside of New York City, a chemist whose own pharmaceutical addiction has left his short-term memory in shambles must retrace his steps to uncover his true involvement in the crime before the DEA and the cartel can catch up with him.

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## **MIND GAMES** by Helene Griffin

Comedy | Drama

A woman whose intrusive thoughts visit her in the form of a talking bug must conquer her anxieties in time to compete on a national trivia show.

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## **MINOTAUR** by Tim Auld

Action | Drama | Thriller

A Gulf War veteran treks through the remote wilderness in search of a missing teenager, only to find herself hunted by a soldier who's convinced he's still in Vietnam.

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## **MISS CHRISTMAS CITY**

### **by Christine Pfeiffer Stocke and Dan Stocke**

Comedy | Romantic Comedy

More than a decade after she was first runner-up in a local Christmas pageant, a successful designer returns home as a judge for the competition and finds the best friend who stole her crown has now also stolen her ex-boyfriend, giving their years-long rivalry a new depth as they both fight to come out on top.

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## **MONSTER** by Elizabeth Urwin

Drama | Thriller

A woman obsessed with finding the fabled lake monster in her Pacific Northwest town is pulled into the search for a young boy whose mother insists he was taken by the beast.

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## **MOSCOW FALL** by Nickolas Daniel

Drama | Period | Sports | Thriller | True

An exiled Russian journalist conspires to help a Red Army hockey captain defect to the United States during the fall of the Iron Curtain.

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## **MOTHER TIME** by Alex Bernard and David Donnella

Comedy | Sci-Fi

When a scientist invents time travel and discovers he's his own father, he must decide whether to knock up his own mother in the past, or risk completely ruining his present day life by changing history.

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## **MY WILD AND SECRET WORLD** by Adam Sandel

Comedy | Coming-of-Age | Drama | Period

A boy finds refuge from family crises in his love of theatre and performing as he comes of age in the tumultuous 60s and 70s.

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## **NELLIE BLY TAKES ON THE WORLD** by Brittany Bookbinder

Biopic | Drama | Period

The true story of the harrowing ten days that journalist Nellie Bly spent undercover in a 19th century women's asylum in an attempt to expose horrible conditions and mistreatment.

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## **NITS** by Aaron Mobley

Comedy | Thriller

A lice-plagued Arkansas teacher accidentally takes a bag of stolen money after a one-night stand and uses it to revitalize her underfunded school while dodging the dangerous collectors on her tail.

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## **NORTH OF FEAR - SOUTH OF PAIN** by Dragos Munteanu

Action | Thriller

A widowed mother fights to protect her children from a blood-thirsty grizzly bear hunting them down in the frigid wilderness of Yellowstone.

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## **NOT TODAY** by Meron Girmaiy

Comedy | Teen

When her best friend comes down with chickenpox and can't go to school, a socially anxious teenager has to pull off the elaborate promposal her friend had planned for that day.

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## **NURSE CONFIDENTIAL** by Tony Martin

Biopic | Drama | Period

The true story of English nurse Edith Cavell who secretly helped operate a spy network out of her nursing school to smuggle prisoners out of German-occupied Belgium in WWI.

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## **OFFSPRING** by Nicholas Pappas

Period | Sci-Fi | Thriller

Three small-time criminals find themselves in over their heads when they kidnap a millionaire's son and discover the boy has dangerous powers and his father is unwilling to negotiate.

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## **OLD FRIENDS** by Brandon Cohen

Comedy | Drama

At the suggestion of his adult children, a lonely widower's social life takes a turn when he reconnects with a wild old buddy who hasn't matured much since high school.

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## **OUT OF THE SKY** by Arnon Shorr

Sci-Fi | Thriller

After the pilot has a heart attack, a man who is afraid of flying must figure out how to land a plane just as a mysterious creature latches onto the aircraft.

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## **POTENTIAL** by Hannah C. Langley

Horror | Thriller

A young woman grudgingly agrees to move in with her husband's parents, but their obsession with her getting pregnant slowly begins to consume her.

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## **PULL** by Marc Messenger

Drama | Sci-Fi

A young and lonely autistic electrician befriends an alien with gravitational powers who hides underground in order to avoid falling upward into the sky.

## **PULSE** by Pascal Mercay

Action | Thriller

A world-weary medical courier delivering a transplant heart finds himself hunted across the city by ruthless criminals willing to do anything to steal it for themselves.

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## **RICE** by Omar Kamara

Drama

A 9-year-old Sierra Leonean American watches as his immigrant parents clash over the course of a summer, exposing his father's domestic violence and forcing the boy to shed his innocence and understand the dire consequences of the abusive behavior.

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## **RUBY SAFEWAY** by Amanda Biggs

Comedy

When her store burns to the ground, a fiercely loyal and socially inept Safeway cashier embarks on a cross-country adventure with her former coworker to chase the only job she knows how to do.

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## **RUNNING WITH THE QUEEN** by David Lesser

Action | Adventure | Thriller

A U.S. Marshal and a former astronaut team up to protect an autistic, fantasy-prone 17-year-old boy so that he can testify in the trial of the Russian mobster who killed his parents.

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## **SAVING CINDERELLA**

### **by Chris Saranchock and Melinda Saranchock**

Adventure | Comedy | Fantasy

Cinderella's stepsisters attempt to revamp their ugly public image by saving their sister when she's kidnapped by an evil fairy in league with their mother.

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## **SCAM** by Taylor Hopkins

Thriller

A skilled telephone scammer must grift his way to a hefty ransom in a matter of hours when his nephew is kidnapped by the vengeful son of one of his former victims.

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## **SÉVERIN** by Maggy Torres-Rodriguez

Drama | LGBTQ | Period

A French teenager is sent to a concentration camp during World War II under suspicion of being a homosexual, where he is forced to fight for Germany as his only hope for survival.

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## **SIEGE ON SAND MOUNTAIN** by John Park

Drama | True

In 2002, a rural Alabama farmer refuses to back down against the corporation destroying his town, drawing him into a battle against chemical giant Monsanto that goes beyond the courtroom thanks to the company's underhanded and dangerous tactics.

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## **SIRENS** by Daniel Cova

Drama | Thriller

With nuclear war imminent, three friends race against the clock to find shelter as the world around them devolves into chaos.

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## **SORRY** by Brittany Pratt

Drama | Teen

A teenager who witnesses his abusive father kill a classmate in a hit and run struggles with the guilt of keeping the secret, fearing the consequences of coming clean after he befriends the victim's grieving sister.

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## **SPOKEN FOR** by Micki Colker-Pearlman

Drama | LGBTQ | Period

A Holocaust survivor in 1960s London forms an unlikely relationship with a female singer that threatens to disrupt her marriage and separate her from her Jewish community.

## **STARDOGS** by Michael Snow

Family | Sci-Fi

After moving to the middle of nowhere following his parents' separation, a 12-year-old boy must team up with his new friends to save their town from an alien invasion.

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## **STRAYS** by Robert Wooldridge

Drama

A surveillance officer becomes infatuated with a younger man he catches shoplifting, but his obsession soon grows into something that could upend his carefully balanced life.

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## **THE CARRIER** by Todd Restler

Dark Comedy

The CEO of a struggling health insurance company devises a scheme to kill high cost claimants to avoid layoffs, increase profits, and boost the stock price.

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## **THE COFFIN CLUB** by Joel David Santner

Drama

A grieving widower begins building his own coffin after his wife's death with the intent to follow her, but his nosy neighbor and the local pastor join him in a show of solidarity, inadvertently creating a group of coffin-making misfits in their small town.

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## **THE FASTEST THING IN THE VALLEY** by Nicole Ramberg

Drama | Period | Teen

Desperate for more out of life than their conservative small town envisions for them, four girls in the 1950s work together to compete against the boys in a hot rod drag race.

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## **THE LAKE** by Brian La Belle

Horror

A family's plans for summer fun in a rustic lakeside cabin take a horrifying turn when they discover a supernatural menace haunting the house.

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## THE LAST BLOCKBUSTER

by Jeremiah Castleman and Justin Miller

Comedy | Sci-Fi

On the eve of the 2009 Blockbuster Video collapse, a struggling store manager must fight to save her family from falling apart, her store from shutting down, and the human race from a mysterious threat.

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## THE LAST STEPHENSON

by Katherine D Stewart and Gordon Kalton Williams

Drama

When his only son returns home from years abroad having become a Buddhist monk, a conservative Australian man struggles to accept the unexpected development.

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## THE MIRAGE (AL SARAB) by Ali Ahmed

Drama

A resilient young Syrian girl struggles to preserve her innocence amidst the tough life in a refugee camp while her mother struggles to protect and provide for them.

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## THE MURAL by Carolyn Bradley

Drama | Period | Romance

In 1972 Northern Ireland, a Catholic teenager who's entangled with the violent Provisional IRA struggles to stay true to the mission when he falls in love with a Protestant girl on the opposite side of the conflict.

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## THE REGENT by Priscila Santa Rosa

Biopic | Drama | Period

When the Emperor's illness makes timid Princess Isabel the regent of the Brazilian Empire, she must find the strength to fight against the nation's most powerful men to help end slavery in her country.

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## **THE SPY'S WIFE** by Charles Carlisle

Drama | Period | Thriller

At the height of the Cold War in Moscow, the wife of a CIA operative unexpectedly finds herself enlisted to meet with a possible informant and obtain vital information that could prevent nuclear war.

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## **THE WOMAN WITH NO NAME** by David Weston

Action | Thriller

After a brutal attack leaves her unable to speak, an FBI agent infiltrates a human trafficking cartel to rescue the man who tried to kill her.

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## **TROKITA** by Bernardo Duran

Action | Comedy

Two friends who run an ice cream truck in East LA find themselves running from the mob when a black market organ is mistakenly put in their truck's cooler.

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## **UNCUT** by Neer Shelter

Action | Drama | Thriller

A triad drug runner struggling to provide for his young son is forced to team up with an elderly Hasidic man to complete his nightly deliveries when he runs afoul of both his own employers and a rival gang.

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## **UNICORN** by Sheila Erdmann

Comedy | Drama | Fantasy

A lawyer stumbles upon an actual unicorn and enlists the help of a local vet to stop a hunter from getting his hands on the magical creature before it can reunite with its child.

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## **WAR-TORN** by Morgan Hage

Drama | Period

Growing up during the Lebanese Civil War, a Christian boy refuses to give up on his friendship with a girl from a Muslim family, despite the complex societal rules of war-torn 1970s Beirut trying to pull them apart.

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## **WE THE CHILDREN** by Taya Walter

Drama

After being separated from their undocumented parents, two migrant children navigate a fantasy world to escape the reality of life in an immigration detention center, while a volunteer nurse fights to get them the medical care they need.

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## **WEIGHT** by Caleb John Cushing

Drama | Sports | Teen

A high school varsity wrestler struggles to survive his final season on the team, battling deteriorating physical and mental health along with the expectations of his coach and teammates.

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## **WHEELCHAIR** by Andrew McLinden

Drama | Teen

A boy struggling to deal with his father's death from a terminal illness discovers a weird ability to diagnose illnesses in other people just by looking at them.

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## **WHEELS COME OFF** by Kryzz Gautier

Drama | Sci-Fi

In a post-apocalyptic America, a fiery teenager, her paraplegic mom, and their clueless robot must venture out into the dangerous world when the mother's wheelchair breaks.

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## **WHILE WE WAIT** by Joshua Hunt

Drama

A dysfunctional family comes together to wait for the end as an airborne virus that will destroy humanity quickly spreads.

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## **WHITE GOLD** by Rex Cheung

Crime | Dark Comedy | Drama | True

A recently widowed Chinese American mother becomes the kingpin of an international baby formula smuggling ring.

## **WIDE OPEN SPACES** by Niki Ang

Drama | LGBTQ

An Asian American freshman at a conservative Christian college wrestles with her faith and questions a lifetime's worth of indoctrination when she falls in love with one of her new female friends.

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## **WISHING WELL** by Gary Bickal

Sci-Fi

After a meteor crashes in the desert, a lonely gas station owner finds a mysterious device that can transform his dreams into reality, but when a vivacious scientist shows up to investigate, his desperate desire to impress her turns his dreams into nightmares.

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## **YOU BETTER RUN** by Gareth Wronski

Thriller

A journalism student lets herself be lured into a trap in hopes of saving her friend who was taken by a sinister fraternity of privileged young men who hunt humans for sport.

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## **YVES** by Laura Piety

Drama | True

A young Congolese refugee uses his imagination to survive as his family ventures on a long and dangerous journey to South Africa.

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## **ZIVIA** by Anokh Singh Dhillon

Action | Biopic | Drama | Period

Trapped, abandoned and facing certain death by the Nazis, a young woman leads the largest act of Jewish resistance during World War II: the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Based on the true story of Zivia Lubetkin.

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## **ZOMBIE BOIZ** by Stevie Yun

Comedy | Drama | Teen

Three queer, non-white teens fight for a life-changing record deal in a local Battle of the Bands, while trying not to let their friendships and personal lives fall apart in the process.