



**BEHIND THE
CURTAIN
BEYOND THE
SCREEN**

REVIEWS

THE CENTER OF IT ALL

Not just a stage—
a cultural cornerstone of
Long Island, in your backyard.

For over four decades, the Staller Center for the Arts has been more than just a performing arts venue — it's been the cultural heartbeat of Long Island.



won't find on streaming platforms—many make their U.S. or East Coast premieres right here. With Q&As, special events, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere, it's a festival experience like no other.

Beyond the films and performances, the Staller Center is home to the Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery, which presents contemporary art exhibitions throughout

institution. It brings the world to Long Island—and gives Long Island a place to come together.

Whether you're attending your first show or your hundredth, whether you're a student, a lifelong supporter, or someone just discovering all that's offered, one thing is clear: the Staller Center for the Arts has something for everyone.

Located on the campus of Stony Brook University, the Center has become a beloved destination where world-class entertainment meets local community spirit. From internationally acclaimed musicians and Broadway stars to groundbreaking independent films, Staller Center is where artistry thrives—and it's all right in your backyard.



The Center presents a dynamic calendar of performances each season, featuring music, dance, theater, comedy, and film. Audiences have experienced unforgettable nights with renowned artists like Renée Fleming, Audra McDonald, Leslie Odom, Jr., and Brian Stokes Mitchell, laughed along with comedians like Jay Leno, Kevin James, and Wanda Sykes, and witnessed awe-inspiring performances by groups like the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Emerson String Quartet. On the cinematic side, the Stony Brook Film Festival has welcomed acclaimed filmmakers and actors such as Alan Alda, Tilda Swinton, Brian Cox, Ralph Macchio, and many others, alongside a diverse slate of international directors making their World or U.S. premieres. Whether it's a solo violin recital, a night of stand-up comedy, or a powerful

independent film followed by a filmmaker Q&A, Staller offers something for everyone—seasoned arts lovers and curious newcomers alike.

At the core of the Center's identity is a commitment to accessibility and community engagement. Ticket prices are kept affordable, student and youth outreach programs bring the arts to new generations, and local residents are invited to feel ownership of this one-of-a-kind resource. The Center is not just for the university—it's for everyone.

One of Staller's most celebrated events is the Stony Brook Film Festival, held each July. For ten days, the festival transforms the main stage into a cinematic showcase, drawing filmmakers and audiences from around the world. These are films you



the year, further expanding the Center's cultural reach. The building itself serves as a gathering place—a space where creativity, conversation, and community intersect.

What sets Staller apart is its dual identity: both a high-caliber performing arts center and a deeply rooted local



Community engagement is at the core of the Staller Center for the Arts, especially when it comes to inspiring young audiences on Long Island.

One of its most impactful initiatives is the Instrument Petting Zoo (IPZ)—a free, hands-on program introducing children ages 3–8 to orchestral instruments. Since launching in 2015, the IPZ has reached thousands of children through visits to schools, libraries, Head Start classrooms, hospitals, and nonprofits. Many participants are encountering instruments like the cello or trombone for the very first time.

With help from Stony Brook University music students and faculty, the program offers more than just a musical experience—it fosters connection and

curiosity. Visits to places like Stony Brook Children’s Hospital highlight the emotional impact of this work, as children light up at the chance to engage with live instruments in an interactive setting.

The IPZ also supports university students by offering paid teaching experience that strengthens their skills in leadership, communication, and outreach—preparing many for careers in music education.

In parallel, Staller’s “Seats for Students” and “Films for Students” initiatives offer Stony Brook students free or low-cost access to global performing arts and cinema. These programs remove financial barriers, allowing students to engage with diverse cultures and high class performances.

Together, these efforts underscore Staller’s commitment to keeping the arts accessible, meaningful, and alive for all ages.

Behind Every Event, a Little Magic—and a Lot of You

Behind every performance, every film screening, and every moment of inspiration at the Staller Center, there’s a little magic—and a lot of you. From sparking a child’s first musical curiosity to bringing international artists and filmmakers to Long Island, none of it would be possible without the generous support of our members, donors, and sponsors.

So how do we make it all happen? Through the commitment of this passionate community.

At the core of that support is our Membership Program. Staller Center

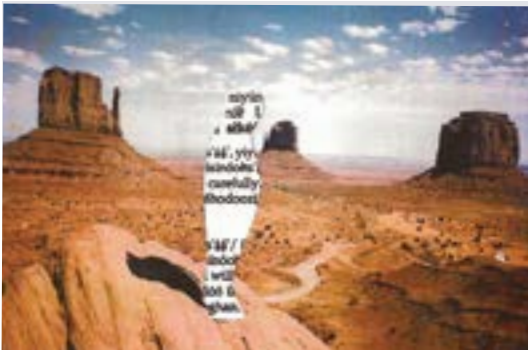
members help sustain our programming throughout the year while enjoying special benefits like early ticket access, invitations to exclusive events, and public recognition. Their support makes a real impact—fueling everything from live performances to youth outreach and the beloved Stony Brook Film Festival.

We’re also deeply grateful for the major donors and corporate sponsors who help bring our most ambitious ideas to life. Their generosity allows us to commission new work, expand cultural programming, and keep the arts accessible to all.

The success of the Stony Brook Film Festival and the Staller Center’s season is a direct reflection of this strong, committed community. Thanks to you, the magic behind the curtain—and behind the screen—keeps shining bright.



FOSTERING A LOVE FOR THE ARTS



ZUCCAIRE
GALLERY



Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery | Staller Center | First floor
Open every evening of the Film Festival.
FREE ADMISSION

Image: Danielle Shandiin Emerson, *Nali Asdāān Betty*, 2025, paper

**Weaving Words, Weaving Worlds:
The Power of Indigenous Language
in Contemporary Art**

Presenting over 20 artists bringing together the powerful connection between Indigenous language and art.

Reception: Sunday, July 20, 5-7 pm

Featuring a drum procession by Jeffrey Pegram and welcome by Jeremy Dennis, exhibition curator.

COMING THIS FALL!



STANLEY JORDAN TRIO

Members get perks!

stallercenter.com/membership

Before buying tickets check out our membership options for discounts & perks!

Calling all Jimi Hendrix fans

A genre-bending guitar master arrives this October. Known for his revolutionary “touch technique,” Jordan’s music redefines what the guitar can do. His style blends jazz, classical, and rock into an immersive experience, sometimes playing guitar behind his back—a nod to his creative spirit that has drawn comparisons to Jimi Hendrix. With a career spanning over 60 countries and collaborations with artists like Art Blakey, Kenny Rogers, and Les Paul, expect an evening of technical brilliance and surprises at every turn.

Fall 2025 at-a-Glance

BRIAN STOKES MITCHELL
Sat. Sept. 27 • 8 pm

EMERSON LEGACY CONCERT
Sun. Oct. 5 • 5 pm

STANLEY JORDAN TRIO
Fri. Oct. 10 • 8 pm

DISNEY’S MOANA LIVE IN CONCERT
Mon. Oct. 13 • 4 pm

JESSICA KIRSON
Sat. Oct. 18 • 8 pm

COMPAGNIE HERVÉ KOUBI IN SOL INVICTUS
Sat. Oct. 25 • 8 pm

AN EVENING WITH KELLI O’HARA
Sat. Nov. 1 • 8 pm

CELEBRITY AUTOBIOGRAPHY
Fri. Nov. 7 • 8 pm

MIDORI
Fri. Nov. 14 • 8 pm

BINDLESTIFF FAMILY CIRKUS
Sun. Nov. 16 • 4 pm

STARRY NIGHTS
Thurs. Nov. 20 • 7 pm

THE DOO WOP PROJECT: ECHOES OF THE STREET
Sat. Nov. 22 • 8 pm

LEANN RIMES
Sun. Dec. 7 • 7 pm

BELA FLECK & THE FLECKTONES
Sat. Dec. 13 • 8 pm

STONY BROOK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Oct. 11 , Nov. 8, Dec. 6 • 7:30 pm

METROPOLITAN OPERA LIVE IN HD
stallercenter.com

There’s more?

Performances year-round by the Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra, our Met Opera: Live in HD series, and a full season of art exhibitions at the Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery.



KELLI O’HARA

Did you know?

Broadway megastars Kelli O’Hara and Sutton Foster were the last live performance at the Staller Center before it shut down with the rest of the country during the Pandemic? On stage, a cup of water was placed for each of the Broadway stars. Tony award-winner Kelli O’Hara took the stage first and started off with a small joke. “No one drank out of my cup right?” O’Hara asked. “Thank you all for coming out tonight. This may be our last gathering.” And it was. The next live performance for the Staller Center wasn’t until the following Fall of 2021, nearly two years later. The Center continued through the pandemic offering digital outreach programs for children stuck at home and remained successful even with the massive undertaking of creating a virtual live Film Festival.



COMPAGNIE HERVÉ KOUBI

Discovery Shows

We invite you to take a chance on something new—often international, genre-defying, or cutting-edge. Handpicked to surprise, inspire, and spark conversation, they represent the adventurous heart of our season. Hervé Koubi blends contemporary ballet, street dance, martial arts, and narrative. This internationally acclaimed troupe delivers a visually stunning exploration of identity and strength, combining evocative storytelling and physical prowess. Not to be missed!




GET THE SCOOP!

Subscribe to our Backstage Blog

today and be the first to know about new events, sales, discounts, and behind-the-scenes interviews with the stars.



BACKSTAGE AT STALLER



STALLER CENTER
FOR THE ARTS
30TH ANNUAL
**STONY
BROOK
FILM
FESTIVAL**
JULY 17-26, 2025



"This film festival should be on every filmmaker's list. I never knew I was looking for a home when I submitted to Stony Brook, but boy did I find one."
—Scott Monahan



"I can't speak more highly of their staff and administrators for organizing a gem of a festival. If I could give it 6 stars I would!"
—Daniel Rashid

"You run a helluva festival at Stony Brook. When there is such a passion as you engender, you cannot but be affected by it."
—Brian Cox



"We felt warmly welcomed and appreciated as artists and human beings. The quality of the 40 foot screen theater is phenomenal and reminded me why I'm a filmmaker."
—Alessia Mandanici



ALL THINGS FILM FEST

30
years
OF THE BEST IN NEW
& INDEPENDENT FILM FROM
AROUND THE GLOBE



Choose the Pass that's right for you!



FLEX PASS | \$75

Includes passholder perks, plus:

- This Pass provides access to any 5 DAYS, which includes up to 10 Features and 10 Shorts (excludes Closing Night).

The perfect pass for those who cannot make it every night or for those new to the Film Fest experience.



REGULAR PASS | \$100

Includes passholder perks, plus:

- This Pass provides access to all 10 DAYS, which includes up to 18 Features and 18 Shorts
- Awards Ceremony

Good for all 10 days, including Opening and Closing Night films.



GOLD PASS | \$250

Includes passholder perks, plus:

- This Pass provides VIP access to all 10 DAYS, which includes up to 18 Features and 18 Shorts
- VIP Reserved Seating
- Awards Ceremony
- VIP Gift



*Opening Night Party at Elaine's.
Closing Night Party at Curry Club
at Sāghar. **

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS ON SALE NOW

\$15/\$13.50 Senior
Good for 1 film slot per night, which includes 1 Feature and 1 Short.



*Opening and Closing Night Parties are for Gold Passholders, Filmmakers & VIPs. Gold Passes are available for purchase at stonybrookfilmfestival.com/pass.

PASSHOLDER PERKS

ALL PASSHOLDERS RECEIVE:



Guaranteed Priority Seating



Q&As with Filmmakers



Audience Choice Awards Voting



Discounts at Partner Locations



Festival Gift



*Behind the Scenes
of La Gloria*

SCHEDULE (Program subject to change)

S SHORT **F** FEATURE

OPENING NIGHT

Thursday, July 17, 2025 • 7:00 PM

- S** Hearts of Stone (30 min)
- F** The Ties that Bind Us (106 min)

Friday, July 18, 2025 • 7:00 PM

- S** Resaca (11 min)
- F** Mistura (96 min)
- 9:30 PM
- S** Quick Fix (8 min)
- F** Way Home (98 min)

Saturday, July 19, 2025 • 7:00 PM

- S** A Guest in My Country (15 min)
- F** Westhampton (94 min)
- 9:30 PM
- S** We Do Our Best (14 min)
- F** Long Story Short (107 min)

Sunday, July 20, 2025 • 7:00 PM

- S** Blackmoll (19 min)
- F** Never Alone (85 min)
- 9:30 PM
- S** We Buy Houses (8 min)
- F** La Gloria (120 min)

Monday, July 21, 2025 • 7:00 PM

- S** Miracle (7 min)
- F** Nawi (103 min)
- 9:30 PM
- S** The Traveler's Prayer (9 min)
- F** Real Estate (109 min)

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 • 7:00 PM

- S** My Name is Dania (22 min)
- F** Mazel Tov (97 min)
- 9:30 PM
- S** Chatter (11 min)
- F** Midas Man (112 min)

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 • 7:00 PM

- S** Ebb & Flow (18 min)
- F** Ali Eats America (91 min)
- 9:30 PM
- S** Crab Claw (8 min)
- F** A World Apart (113 min)

Thursday, July 24, 2025 • 7:00 PM

- S** 3 Minutos (5 min)
- F** The Umesh Chronicles (124 min)
- 9:30 PM
- S** Wait To Tell Mother (12 min)
- F** Animale (98 min)

Friday, July 25, 2025 • 7:00 PM

- S** Baquine Friends Forever (13 min)
- F** Mad Bills to Pay (101 min)
- 9:30 PM
- S** Sweet Cesspool (6 min)
- F** Uncle Vanya - Bubble Waltz (90 min)

CLOSING NIGHT

Saturday, July 26, 2025 • 7:00 PM

- S** Place Under the Sun (20 min)
- F** The Remnants of You (92 min)

stonybrookfilmfestival.com



STALLER



★★★★★

"It was Film Festival week and crowds turned out at the Staller Center in pre-pandemic proportions. You can catch some great films - c'mon down."
-Al

★★★★★

"One of my favorite local venues to see some really upscale and extraordinary things! And it's basically in my backyard. Highly recommend!!"
-Wessam

★★★★★

Thank you again for providing us with the most entertaining , and captivating Independent Films from around the world! The Stony Brook Film Festival is indeed a premiere showcase for such viewing, discussions, and interactions with varied directors, producers, actors, etc., involved in these cinematic works of art.
-Eddie Senkus

★★★★★

"Just finished another great Stony Brook Film Festival at the Staller Center. Great movies, great theater, and incredible staff. The Staller Center has a full array of events and performances. Put it on your To Do list to enjoy this Hidden Gem!"
-Craig

★★★★★

We are so pleased to be able to support the wonderful and diverse programs that the Staller center brings to the community. We really feel our lives have been enriched by these experiences! Looking forward to the new season.
-Lisa S.

30 years

OF THE BEST IN NEW & INDEPENDENT FILM FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

stonybrookfilmfestival.com

