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## **NFFTY Launches NFFTYX - VR and 360° Program Showcasing the Best New Emerging Makers**

The largest and most influential festival for filmmakers ages 24 and under marks its 11th year with their biggest program yet with 257 films from 27 countries and its inaugural journey into immersive and 360° storytelling with NFFTYX.

### **NFFTYX, APRIL 27 - APRIL 30 IN SEATTLE, WA**

Seattle, WA (April 13, 2017) -- [NFFTY](#) (pronounced "nifty"), National Film Festival for Talented Youth, has announced the complete schedule for its 11th festival, taking place April 27 - April 30, 2017 in Seattle. The 2017 selections include 257 films from 27 countries, and the launch of a new 360° and virtual reality program.

NFFTYX officially kicks off at this year's festival, a 360° and virtual reality track created in partnership with [fearless360°](#), a start-up devoted to developing content, curriculum and programming for traditional and immersive media. This year, [NFFTYX](#) will include:

The [360° Shorts Gallery](#) will invite participants to pull on a headset and experience how young makers are utilizing the 360° form including a line-up of fiction, nonfiction and experimental stories and immerse us in new worlds. Participants can be transported through the hallucinations of a woman on her deathbed in Matt Thompson's (21) "After". "Family Portrait" by Kelsey Sante (22) explores domestic violence through the eyes of a child. There will be multiple curated programs with a mixture of works from NFFTY filmmakers and older immersive storytellers. The gallery is free and will run from 10am-5pm at the Museum of Pop Culture (formerly EMP) on April 28 and April 29.

Virtual Artist Scott Bennett will be in attendance both days from 12-5pm to demo an interactive VR piece using a virtual reality painting program called Tilt Brush. By using the hand controllers, the viewer can fly/float/drift through the painting as it evolves and morphs based upon the viewer's perspective. The experience is unique to each person as they are free to go where they want or simply sit and be in the space. Scott is an artist In Residence at the University of Washington's CoMotion Labs (a VR/AR startup incubator).

[NFFTYX Bootcamp](#) is a two-day hands-on, intensive workshop to learn how to conceptualize and shoot in 360° at NFFTY, concluding with teams using a 360° camera package and tasked with shooting a single shot film at preselected locations around Seattle Center. The Bootcamp will run from 9:00am -1:00pm on Saturday April 29 and 9:00am-12:00pm on Sunday April 30 and will be led by local filmmaker and educator Sandy Cioffi (fearless360°), LA-based VR maker James Kaelon (The Visitor), and indie cinema pioneer Rose Troche (*Go Fish*, *Six Feet Under*, *The L Word*). The films created at the Bootcamp will premiere at the NFFTY Closing Night party held at KCTS Television on Sunday, April 30.

[Look All Around You - Making in 360° panel](#) brings together leading thinkers and makers in immersive media. Presenters will explore nuts and bolts topics like how to get started in 360° and what's the best affordable gear, as well as more conceptual topics, like what can filmmakers learn from gaming and theater about world-building, and what is the difference between creating narratives vs. experiences. Panelists include:

- James Kaelan, Director of Development & Acquisitions at Wevr
- Kayla Briet, NFFTY Alumna and VR filmmaker
- Rose Troche, indie cinema pioneer (*Go Fish*, *Six Feet Under*, *The L Word*) and VR maker
- Dacia Sáenz (moderator), Adobe After Effects team member and VR filmmaker.

### **More about fearless360°:**

*fearless360°* is thrilled to be working with NFFTY to curate and produce the inaugural year of NFFTYX and introduce immersive technologies and content to a new audience of talented young makers.

*fearless* has spent the last year producing XR technology festivals and educational programming with the goal of showcasing uses of this new technology that not only *delight* and *educate* but also have the potential *to solve our most pressing problems*. They launched with [SIFFX](#) last June and followed up with [TWIST360°](#), a queer immersive media festival, in the fall.

Guided by a commitment to "XR For Everyone", *fearless360°* is inspired by the potential of interdisciplinary, immersive and expanded media to round out binaries, create new spaces for meeting and connection, and build a better world.

### **More About NFFTY**

NFFTY is the largest and most influential film festival in the world for young filmmakers. NFFTY occurs each spring in Seattle and includes over 200 film screenings panels, contests, parties and networking opportunities for young filmmakers. Young filmmakers from around the world submit feature-length and short films in narrative, documentary, animation, music video, and experimental. Since its launch, NFFTY has screened films from over 2,500 filmmakers, ranging in age from 5 - 24 years.

Founded by three then-teenagers Jesse Harris, Kyle Seago and Jocelyn R.C. in 2007, NFFTY has since expanded its reach to an ever-growing number of young artists and audiences of all ages. It expects an audience of over 12,000 for 2017.

NFFTY now looks toward its 11th festival, happening April 27 - April 30. Over 1,200 emerging filmmakers from around the globe submitted their work for consideration in this major milestone of the festival's history. The festival will also launch its first ever foray into 360° storytelling and exploration of virtual reality through NFFTYX.

Tickets are available at [nffty.org](http://nffty.org). The festival is held at the Cinerama (2100 4th Ave, Seattle, WA) and Uptown Cinema (511 Queen Anne Ave N, Seattle, WA). The 360° NFFTYX Gallery is at MoPOP (Museum of Popular Culture, 325 5th Ave N, Seattle, WA)

Visit the official website, [NFFTY.org](http://NFFTY.org) for more information about this year's event, and to purchase tickets.

NFFTY is pleased to acknowledge its Presenting Sponsor of the 2017 Festival, including  
NFFTYX: Oculus.

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