

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Nogales International Film Festival Returns to Screen Films onto the US-Mexico Border Wall

**Nogales, AZ / Nogales, Sonora** — At the intersection of two nations, the **Nogales International Film Festival (NOGAIFF)** is redefining what a film festival can be. Through its signature event, ***Film on the Fence***, films are projected directly onto the U.S.–Mexico border wall, creating a shared cinematic experience where audiences gather on both sides simultaneously. What is often seen as a place of division becomes a powerful stage for storytelling, connection, and cultural exchange.

Presented by the Southern Arizona Film Society, NOGAIFF has emerged as one of the most unique and socially impactful film festivals in North America. Set in the twin cities of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, the festival brings together filmmakers, artists, and audiences from across the United States, Mexico, and around the world to experience film in a way that transcends borders, language, and geography.

This year's festival continues to expand its national presence with a powerful lineup of films and distinguished guests. Among the highlights is the Sundance Award-winning film ***American Pachuco***, which celebrates the legacy of Latino filmmaking pioneer **Luis Valdez**. The festival will also welcome Emmy and Tony-nominated director, producer, and writer **Ben DeJesus**, a four-time Imagen Award winner, along with directors, actors, and producers for projects such as the Netflix film ***Selena y Los Dinos and Las Tres Sisters***. Together, these voices reflect the depth, diversity, and impact of Latino storytelling in today's film landscape.

More than a festival, NOGAIFF is a platform for voices that are often underrepresented in mainstream cinema. With all screenings free and open to the public, the festival ensures accessibility for borderland communities that have historically had limited access to arts and cultural programming. Its programming highlights stories rooted in identity, migration, culture, and community, while creating meaningful opportunities for emerging filmmakers to present their work on an international stage.

The festival's rapid growth and critical attention have positioned Nogales as an emerging destination for film, art, and cultural dialogue. Through binational screenings, filmmaker conversations, student showcases, and networking events, NOGAIFF continues to build a creative ecosystem that supports artists while fostering collaboration across borders.

"Film in the borderlands is more than art, it is a reflection of who we are and a way for our border communities to unite, see themselves and be seen," said Oscar Rene Coronado, Director of the festival. "When we project these stories on the border wall, we are reclaiming that space for our voices, our cultures, and our shared humanity."

Submissions are now open for the upcoming edition of the Nogales International Film Festival. Filmmakers from around the world are invited to submit their work for consideration, with all selected films screening as part of the festival's binational program across both Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, including the opportunity to be featured in *Film on the Fence*. Filmmakers based in Arizona and Sonora may submit at no cost, reinforcing the festival's commitment to accessibility and regional storytelling.

As the festival continues to expand its national and international reach, NOGAIFF is also seeking sponsors and partners who are committed to supporting arts, culture, and community engagement in the borderlands. Sponsorship opportunities offer brands and organizations a chance to align with one of the most distinctive and meaningful cultural events in the film landscape today.

Filmmakers can submit and learn more at [www.soazfilm.org/nogaiff](http://www.soazfilm.org/nogaiff).

For press inquiries, sponsorship opportunities, or interview requests, please contact the Southern Arizona Film Society.

[www.soazfilm.org](http://www.soazfilm.org)

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## About the Southern Arizona Film Society and Nogales International Film Festival -

The Southern Arizona Film Society is dedicated to using film as a tool for cross-border collaboration, cultural exchange, and supporting low income, underrepresented, and marginalized filmmakers through education, resources, and production support at no cost to artists. The Nogales International Film Festival (NOGAIFF), formerly the Borderlands Film Festival, reflects this mission by showcasing the stories of filmmakers from both Arizona and Sonora. Events like *Film on the Fence* exemplify the Society's commitment to transforming borders into bridges through the power of cinema.