



**12TH ANNUAL CHELSEA FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ITS
2024 CLOSING FILM:
BEFORE WE BEGIN**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24th, 2024

Chelsea, NY — The 12th Annual Chelsea Film Festival (CFF) is releasing its Closing Film selected at this year’s edition.

The Film below, includes the Runtime, Genre, Country of Origin and Director(s).

The **CFF** program will highlight Films from independent or emerging filmmakers through regular screenings and world premieres.

As Ingrid Jean-Baptiste, Founder of The Chelsea Film Festival, stated: **“Making the World a Better Place by Giving a Voice to the Unheard”**.

The Chelsea Film Festival (CFF) will hold its twelfth edition both in-person at **Regal Theatres 14th St.** October 16-20 and online on FilmFestival+ (<https://filmfestivalplus.com>, also accessible through AppleTV) from October 16-31, 2024.



BEFORE WE BEGIN

Directed by Shazeb Fahim

79 min | Romance, Drama, Comedy | United States | 2024

WORLD PREMIERE

Cast: Yesly Dimate, Monica Giordano, Jamie Eddy, Shazeb Fahim, Paige Hapeman, Andrew Fama

Logline: Questioning her impending move to New York, a young artist contends with evolving relationships, including an unexpected connection with a 'peculiar' philosophy student.

Synopsis: Olivia, a young artist living in Boston, questions her impending move to New York. At a dinner party, and a chance encounter the very next day, Olivia finds an original and unexpected connection with Phillip, a 'peculiar' philosophy student. Over the course of the fall, as her move approaches, Olivia must contend with her evolving relationships, and find the courage to match her ambition and pursue her desires.

Director's Bio: Shazeb Fahim began his artistic career as a stand-up comedian before embarking on his lifelong passion for film. His feature film, *FIRST FALL* (2021), was shot entirely on an iPhone, telling the story of two friends, post-graduation, who

unexpectedly re-enter one other's lives. His second feature film, BEFORE WE BEGIN (2024), follows a young abstract artist who finds an unexpected connection with a peculiar philosophy student, just as she's decided to move away. Shazeb is dedicated to telling human-scaled stories capturing specific moments of life with humor and love.

Director's Statement: "Before We Begin" sets out to capture the moment in which we've decided what we must do, but have to find 'how' we're going to do it. Whether it be work, art, or love — or all three, as is so often the case — there comes a time for a leap of faith, in which we don't know what will happen on the other side, but must trust ourselves to pursue it.

The sensibility of "Before We Begin" was informed by a period tradition, specifically the films of Merchant Ivory, in which sensuality is born out of tension, thereby creating a 'contemporary-period' film.

This story depicts the challenges of responsibility as we grow older, both for ourselves and others. There are the shifting dynamics of friendships and their necessary evolution, the conflict and beauty in encountering love as our lives develop, and the humor therein. It is a reflection of the time in which the greatest act for others we can commit, is that which is best for us, in trust, that the people we care for will act the same in turn.

Ultimately, this is a film I hope you will find a piece of your own life's journey within.

Followed by Q&A with Filmmaker & Cast.

Location: REGAL Union Square, 850 Broadway New York, NY 10003

Date: Sunday, October 20th

Time: 2:00PM (Film starts promptly at 2:00PM)

CFF was founded by actresses Ingrid & Sonia Jean-Baptiste to give voices to the unheard by providing a platform to independent films and discovering new talents.

Chelsea Film Festival Board of Directors consists of renowned industry insiders: Paul Calderon, Elizabeth Kemp, Pascal Chemin and John Patrick Shanley.

The Advisory Board includes: Aaron Pierce, Bruno Chatelin, Kiki Lambden-Stout, Michael Ruotolo and Lawrence M. Kay.

Our Mission: Chelsea Film Festival (CFF) - 501(c)(3) non-profit cultural organization - is an international film festival, enlightening the work of emerging filmmakers, producers, and actors. It offers a wide range of films, such as shorts, documentaries, and feature-length pieces. It empowers the work of risk-taking storytellers and remains committed to its mission to discover and develop independent artists and audiences around the world.

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