

SXSW EDU

SXSW EDU® Announces Arts Lineup for 2022 Festival

Films, performances, and art installations invite attendees to explore critical topics like trauma, Indigenous education, and gentrification

February 3, 2022, Austin, TEXAS – South by Southwest EDU® is excited to announce a stellar lineup for its 2022 festival. As a complementary program to its conference portion, the SXSW EDU festival focuses on examining topics impacting the education field through the arts. This year's event showcases the work of a diverse set of filmmakers, performers, and artists capturing stories of trauma, Indigenous education, masculinity, gender expression, and equity and gentrification. Featured guests include critically acclaimed Artist **Ben Grosser**; Hip-Hop Educators **Wordsworth, J. Rawls, MC Bravado**, and **Asia Matthews**; and Peabody Award-winner and Director **Kim A. Snyder**; among others.

“The festival is a foundational and unique part of SXSW EDU because it brings to life the topics that we all are grappling with as students, teachers, community members, citizens, you name it. Presenting the emotions, stories, and creativity behind such issues provides a way for us to process and communicate about them,” said Greg Rosenbaum, Senior Director of SXSW EDU.

FILMS:

One of the most celebrated portions of the SXSW EDU festival is the film program. We continue that tradition this year with screenings of 10 films from an array of groundbreaking and up-and-coming filmmakers. These cinematic experiences welcome viewers into a variety of worlds ranging from Nashville's public school system and a musical theater program in New York's Chinatown to a doctor's venture into epidemic roots and youth leaders advocating for justice. Attendees are also invited to join a number of these filmmakers in exclusive Q&A sessions that dive further into these projects. The lineup includes:

- [***Beyond Men and Masculinity***](#) - “Beyond Men and Masculinity,” directed by Alex Gabbay, explores the harmful expectations of masculinity, facilitating discussions on shame, anger, and the transmission of patriarchy, and creating a dialogue around power, relationships, and diversity in gender expression.
- [***By Design: The Shaping of Nashville's Public Schools***](#) - Directors Katie Cour and Jennifer Hill examine historical moments of public schooling in Nashville dating to the 1800s and the effects of city policies and community priorities on schools. **Q&A to follow.**
- [***Curtain Up!***](#) - Hui Tong and Kelly Ng bring us a glimpse at a group of Chinatown kids as they prepare to stage a musical and discover their own cultural identities in the process.

- [**Into the Circle**](#) - From Directors Scott Faris and Meg Griffiths, “Into the Circle” tells the story of a resilient Indigenous family, their journey through life-altering tragedy and the community that helped them reconnect with their Lakota heritage. **Q&A to follow.**
- [**Let the Little Light Shine**](#) - Director Kevin Shaw shares the story of a high-achieving elementary school in Chicago’s fastest-growing neighborhood, South Loop, and how it is a lifeline for Black children—until gentrification threatens its closure. **Q&A to follow.**
- [**Pulau Plastik**](#) - Through a collaboration between science, activism and the arts, Director Dandhy Dwi Laksono follows three protagonists as they explore how plastic is polluting our food and our bodies and what can be done to address the crisis. **Q&A to follow.**
- [**Summer Nights**](#) - In this film, Ohad Milstein offers a window into a 6-year-old child’s world: his fears, his desires, his way of thinking.
- [**The Wisdom of Trauma**](#) - The interconnected epidemics of anxiety, chronic illness and substance abuse are, according to Dr. Gabor Maté, normal. But not in the way you might think. Zaya and Maurizio Benazzo capture Dr. Maté’s journey to understand these ties. **Q&A to follow.**
- [**Tomorrow's Hope: The Promise of Early Childhood Education**](#) - This film from Thomas Morgan brings us into the journey of passionate educators and tenacious kids and their families on the South Side of Chicago, determined to carve out the future - despite a sea of incredible challenges. **Q&A to follow.**
- [**Us Kids**](#) - Determined to turn tragedy into action, survivors of a school shooting are the focus of this film by Kim A. Snyder as they catalyze an unprecedented youth movement that spreads like wildfire across the world. **Q&A to follow.**

PERFORMANCES:

In addition to the collection of films, the festival also features innovative performances from individuals and groups pushing the boundaries beyond traditional educational methods. These performances bring storytelling to a whole new level!

- **“Show U How To Do This: Hip-Hop Educators Rock Mics”** presented by Hip-Hop educators, this performance brings together **Wordsworth** (MTV’s Lyricist Lounge), **J. Rawls** (Producer for Mos Def and Talib Kweli), **MC Bravado** (Vans Warped Tour x Beats Not Bullets), and **Asia Matthews**, (Creative Outsiders Inc.) for an exploration of the connection between their experiences as artists and educators.
- **“Approaching Dance from an Inclusive Perspective”** is from Art Spark Texas and is a multi-part performance with Body Shift Collective, including a Q&A, that uses silence, choreography, and dance to allow participants to witness how dance-educational pedagogies can be made accessible to students of all abilities.
- **“Drag Queen Story Hour”** offers a space for gender expression performance and programming, where drag queens lead a conversation centered on how kids can learn from LGBTQ+ experiences and embrace who they are.

ART INSTALLATIONS:

Understanding the important link between education and art, SXSW EDU is also proud to support the SXSW Art Program. It highlights experiential and conceptual visual works that weave emerging technologies and immersive environments to spark discovery, inspiration, and connection.

“The 2022 SXSW Art Program spotlights five artists from around the world whose work will resonate with our diverse audience of creative professionals,” said Hugh Forrest, Chief Programming Officer of SXSW. “These stellar installations are physical representations of many of the topics that are being discussed at the SXSW Conference, such as the impact of technology on the human spirit, cultural tradition, and the environment.”

Audience members will have the opportunity to engage with three installations such as:

- **“Offer Them Comfort. Offer Them Rest” by Desireé Vaniecia**, a Dallas-based contemporary painter, documents the artist’s fears of motherhood and coming to terms with situations she has no control over. Her portrait work challenges a stereotype of Black women through this depiction of vulnerability.
- **“ORDER OF MAGNITUDE” by Ben Grosser**. Grosser’s artistic film chronicles Silicon Valley’s 21st century obsession with growth through a look at the actions of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg. The project has been called “literal art” by *Fast Company* and “a hilarious satire on 24/7 overlords” by *The Guardian*.
- **“Server: Checks on the Block” by Ciara Elle Bryant**. Server: Checks on the Block, takes a deep dive look at where Nike Air Force 1’s exist in present-day culture. The replica wall of all white boxes and piles of used, worn, dirty, and fresh pairs of Forces provide a space for a celebration of culture to happen. Server: Checks on the Block, takes up space and is a visual bibliography of the impact of Blackness in the world of art and streetwear.

Press Credentials:

To register, please go to sxswedu.com/press

About SXSW EDU:

The SXSW EDU® Conference & Festival is a reflection of the world’s most critical social issues as seen through the lens of education. This year’s event will bring together the learner, the practitioner, the entrepreneur, and the visionary to share their groundbreaking stories, tackle complex issues, and build reimagined paths forward. As a community of diverse people who are united around a like-minded vision for the future, SXSW EDU serves as a place for attendees to renew their purpose in practice from both a personal and professional perspective. It is a place to reinforce the core principles of teaching and learning as well as an opportunity to express your creativity and passion for education. SXSW EDU is a component of the South by Southwest® family of conferences and festivals that has grown from 800 to over 8,000

registrants in the last decade. Join the passionate and innovative community at SXSW EDU, March 7-10, 2022.

Contact:

Liz Stein

SXSW EDU Press & Publicity

press@sxswedu.com

240-461-3053