

THE A3F

ALMOST FAMOUS FILM FESTIVAL



RECAP - 72 HOUR SHORT FILM CHALLENGE 2026

The A3F 72 Hour Short Film Challenge took place February 13-16, 2026 with 33 teams participating as the A3F entered its 21st year!

“We had a bit of dip in the number of registered teams,” said Jae Staats, A3F Director. “This was kind of expected after last year’s 20th Anniversary and this past fall’s special All-Star Challenge.” However, the smaller number of teams didn’t affect the enthusiasm or quality of the films.

The Theme of this year’s challenge was “Do Over,” the Line of Dialogue, “There’s always tomorrow,” and the Prop, an Eraser. Twenty-six teams beat the 72 hour deadline and had their films watched by our panel of judges.

The Top 20 films made their World Premier on Thursday, Feb. 26 at AMC Arizona Center 24 Theatres in downtown Phoenix. Over 280 “very” enthusiastic movie-goers made the evening one to remember as the energy was electric! “Just a fantastic Top 20 Screening!” said Jason Francois, Assistant A3F Director.

The night concluded with an Awards Ceremony, T-Shirts being thrown into the crowd and lots of congratulatory high-fives and hugs!



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“This was my first time attending an A3F event and I was just blown away by the atmosphere and energy inside the theater. It was so much fun and I can’t wait to attend the next one!” —

Emily S.

“Thank you for spotlighting valley filmmakers and giving them a night to really shine!” —

David H.

www.THEA3F.net