



Haunting feature Anda screens at the 2026 New Jersey Film Festival on Sunday, January 25!

By Emma Hackbarth



originally published: 01/20/2026



Anda directed by Jayendra Ganta is a haunting folktale of beauty and obligation. In it, an older woman finds the elixir of youth. It gives her body vitality and her face smoothness for days on end, turning her eyes its custom striking green. Based on a Nordic folktale, this film has a magical rhythm, accentuated by atmospheric music and the revolving settings of forest and home.

Fascinating black-and-white drawings mark the beginning of each chapter. The natural and geometric imagery of these delicate sketches illustrate the rituals which fuel the story, implying an ancient or prophetic knowledge. This mystique of a time *before* resonates from runes to flashbacks to old wives' tales.

Anda works beautifully with space, building a home of wood, ceramic, and gas-lit lamps, in contrast with the earthy darkness of the forest, and the lake's cold vitality.

The protagonist, Norma, starts her day at the kitchen table, practicing language exercises—something Nordic—to a cloth doll. And so Norma begins the central action of the film, by connecting to a culture and time parallel to her present.



Reach New Jersey's largest arts & entertainment audience, [click here for info on how to advertise at NJ Stage](#)

Norma, an endearing woman, lives a peaceful life. She has an innocence, a purity that magnetizes the camera to her. Her dissatisfaction emerges around her age. She pays a younger man, Matthew, to spend time with her each week. Matthew, introduced in red, glows with charisma and the invincibility of youth. Sitting by the fire, they talk about crows and remembering faces. Norma asks if he fears nothing. "I don't know... Maybe getting old," he says, before an alarm goes off and he leaves her.

Alone, Norma looks in the mirror, unhappily brushing at her face. The answer to her worries—the fabled fountain of youth—is delivered by an unusual connection from her past and comes with new responsibility. Revolving around the elixir are a cast of characters who are not quite hostile. Yet, Norma is never fully safe. "Nothing last, and nothing is free," warns the rune-tattooed keeper of the potion—*Anda's* resident witch—who keeps our heroine in line.

The audience is kept on edge as Norma works to fuel the defiance of time. In a house that is no longer a home, and in a borrowed body, Norma toils to keep demons—new and familiar—at bay. After committing herself to the upkeep of the elixir, her moments enjoying the outside world are few. The cost of youth keeps our heroine in one place, climbing stairs and repeating rituals endlessly, more sedentary than before. Mortality is around the corner... or is the very thing Norma fears already here?

Anda is perfect for lovers of folktales and ghost stories. It will be screening on Sunday, January 25, 2026 – Online for 24 Hours beginning at 12 Midnight Eastern USA time! Get more info and buy tickets [here](#).

The 44th Bi-Annual New Jersey Film Festival will be taking place on select Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays between January 23-February 22, 2026. The Festival will be a hybrid one as we will be presenting it online as well as doing in-person screenings at Rutgers University. Most of the films will be available virtually via Video on Demand for 24 hours on their show date. VOD start times are at 12 Midnight Eastern USA. Each General Admission Ticket or Festival Pass purchased is good for both the virtual and the in-person when both are offered. Also, we will be offering two FREE Filmmaking Workshops! The in-person screenings and the filmmaking workshops will be held in Voorhees Hall #105/Rutgers University, 71 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, NJ beginning at 1PM, 5PM or 7PM on their show date. General Admission Ticket=\$15 Per Program; Festival All Access Pass=\$120; In-Person Only Student Ticket=\$10 Per Program. The Filmmaking Workshops are FREE and open to the public but have limited seating and require advance registration. To register email us at njmac12@gmail.com For more info on the Film festival go here: <https://newjerseyfilmfestivalspring2026.eventive.org/welcome>

Reach New Jersey's largest arts & entertainment audience, [click here for info on how to advertise at NJ Stage](#)



FEATURED EVENTS

ART | COMEDY | COMMUNITY | DANCE | FILM | KIDS | MUSIC | THEATRE

To narrow results by date range, categories, or region of New Jersey [click here](#) for our advanced search.

B. F. Skinner Plays Himself – Online for 24 Hours and In-Person at 7PM!

Friday, January 23, 2026 @ 7:00pm
NJ Film Festival
71 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
category: film

[READ MORE](#)

Winnie the Pooh – Popcorn & Pajamas Film Series

Friday, January 23, 2026 @ 7:00pm
Hamilton Stage at Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC)
360 Hamilton Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065
category: film

[READ MORE](#)

Short Doc Program: Portrait of a Monastery, A Way to be Together, Arrested at Delaney Hall, 300 – Online for 24 Hours and In-Person at 7PM!

Saturday, January 24, 2026 @ 7:00pm
NJ Film Festival
71 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
category: film

[READ MORE](#)

ANDA & The Game Camera - Online for 24 Hours!

Sunday, January 25, 2026 @ 12:00am
NJ Film Festival
71 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
category: film

[READ MORE](#)

Sun Ra Do The Impossible - In Person Screening at 7PM

Friday, January 30, 2026 @ 7:00pm
NJ Film Festival
71 Hamilton Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
category: film

[READ MORE](#)

To narrow results by date range, categories, or region of New Jersey [click here](#) for our advanced search.

EVENT PREVIEWS

Lighthouse International Film Society presents a screening of "VESELKA: The Rainbow on the Corner of the Center of the World"
January 23, 2026

New Jersey Film Festival Filmmaker Video Interview with B.F. Skinner Plays Himself Director Ted Kennedy
January 23, 2026

The Eye-opening Documentary B.F. Skinner Plays Himself Opens the 2026 New Jersey Film Festival on Friday, January 23!
January 23, 2026

New Jersey Film Festival Video Interview with John Decker
January 24, 2026

Stunning documentary Portrait of a Monastery screens at the New Jersey Film Festival on January 24, 2026!
January 24, 2026

New Jersey Film Festival Interview with A Way to Be Together Director Trina Bardusco!
January 24, 2026

New Jersey Film Festival Video Interview with Filmmaker Louis Cacchione
January 24, 2026

New Jersey Film Festival Filmmaker Video Interview with Anda Filmmakers and Cast
January 25, 2026

New Jersey Film Academy presents Breaking In Lecture Series with Armand Assante
January 28, 2026

Barrymore Film Center & Teaneck International Film Festival partner to champion independent journalism with the NJ Premiere of "Steal This Story, Please!"
January 29, 2026

[More event previews](#)

New Jersey Stage

© 2026 by Wine Time Media, LLC
PO Box 811, Belmar, NJ 07719
info@newjerseystage.com

Nobody covers the Arts throughout the Garden State like New Jersey Stage!

Images used on this site have been sent to us from publicists, artists, and PR firms. If there is a problem with the rights to any image, please [contact us](#) and we will look into the matter.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), [Bluesky](#), and on our [RSS feed](#)

[Art](#) | [Comedy](#) | [Dance](#) | [Film](#) | [Music](#) | [Theatre](#) | [Ad Rates](#) | [About Us](#) | [Pitch a Story](#) | [Links](#) | [Radio Shows](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)