2:55 pm – Inauguration & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

3:00 pm - Opening Film - Program 1

*Salsipuedes* directed by Ricardo Aguilar/Manolito Rodriguez (95 min). Opening Night film - Panama’s Official Entry Best “Foreign Language Film” category 2017 Academy Awards and the Marché du Film, Cannes Festival 2017.

**Synopsis**: The story of a young boy, Andres Pimienta, who is sent to the United States to be kept away from the bad influences, but returns 10 years later and meets his father, Bobby, encounter that will change his destiny. **Q & A.**

5:00 pm – Short Films & Documentary - Program 2

*Aves de Papel* directed by Beatriz Ledezma (22 min).
Selected for the “Short Film Corner” at the Marché du Film, Cannes Festival 2017.

**Synopsis**: A friendship that transcends the barriers of the impossible, Daniel and Belen, two friends who manage to communicate through paper birds beyond what life allows. **Q & A.**

*El Amateur* directed by Ana Patricia Angulo (25 min).
Short film presented at the Cannes Festival 2016.

**Synopsis**: Hilario is a young rebel who must face the biggest challenge of his life, becoming a disciplined boxer.

*Monstro* directed by Allan Tsimogianis (14 min).
Winner of Best Direction at the Hayah Film Festival.
Short Film from Diplomado Internacional (International Film Course).

**Synopsis**: Two men faced by a dark past.

5:50 pm – Short Films & Documentary - Program 2

*En Guerra Avisada* directed by Oscar Faarup (11 min).
Short film winner of HAYA Short Films Festival in Panama.

**Synopsis**: Explosive mines trap two soldiers in a war. They must join forces to save their lives. **Q & A.**

6:50 pm – Short Films & Documentary - Program 2

*The Last Soldier* directed by Luis Romero (40 min).
TV documentary winner of the Latin America TV format fund, presented in 14 countries of the region, which tells the story of the American presence in Panama and the social relations that were generated for almost a century. It emphasizes the unusual coexistence which included a system of American laws to govern in the "canal zone", parallel to Panamanian laws.

7:30 pm - Closing Film - Program 3

*Oasis* directed by Jorge Ameer (71 min).
Panama’s Official Entry for 2018 Academy Awards & Golden Globes Awards (Official HFPA Hollywood Foreign Press voting members screening for Golden Globe consideration) and World Premiere at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival March Du Film.

**Synopsis**: Two friends embark on a tropical expedition to bury their past. An encounter with a mysterious indigent will change the course of their trip, as what lies beneath their friendship maybe more sinister than meets the eye. **Q & A.**
Viva Panama Organization (VPO) is a non-profit corporation that has developed diverse programs throughout its 26 years striving for spreading the Culture of Panama in California and the world, and one of these programs is Films from Panama & the Americas Festival (FFPAF), formerly known as Panamanian International Film Festival in Los Angeles), serves as a platform to promote and expose the harvest of Panamanian & Latin-American filmmakers, facilitating screenings, exhibitions and promoting the networking between participating countries and the industry in Hollywood, hoping to stimulate the development of film projects between Panama, Latin-America & USA.

Films from Panama & the Americas Festival & Gala are held during the International Week of Panama in Los Angeles County, established by Viva Panama Organization in 2003, in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

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