Alexandria Film Festival returns to Port City for sixth rendition

Break out the popcorn and candy, cinephiles, because the Alexandria Film Festival returns to the Port City with more than 40 feature-length and short films Friday.

“UPRISING,” a documentary about the Egyptian revolution filmed by Fredrik Stanton and Samar Ezeldin, headlines the three-day event with a world premiere showing at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at noon Saturday. Stanton and Ezeldin will join the audience for a question-and-answer session.

Emmy-winning filmmaker Aaron Hose likewise will join audiences watching his documentary “Break Through,” which follows the trials and tribulations of a group of theater students creating a play about issues facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth across the country. The film will be shown at 1 p.m. Sunday at the trademark office.

Interested in the natural world? Austin filmmaker Laura Brooks will be in town to show “Bat City,” a look at how the Mexican free-tailed bats of her hometown survived the wrath of their human neighbors to become a tourist attraction and unlikely symbol for the Texas city. The 51-minute film will run at the Beatley Central Library at 1 p.m. Saturday.

The local celebration of cinema, marking its sixth year in Alexandria, kicks off at Beatley at 11 a.m. Friday with “Cool It,” a film that follows controversial author Bjorn Lomborg and deals with the climate change debate. For a full schedule, ticket information and a synopsis of each film, visit alexandriafilm.org.

-Times Staff