

## Opening Events! • Tuesday, March 6th

12:00 p.m. Opening Press Conference at the Fargo Theatre

### Best in Show Announcements

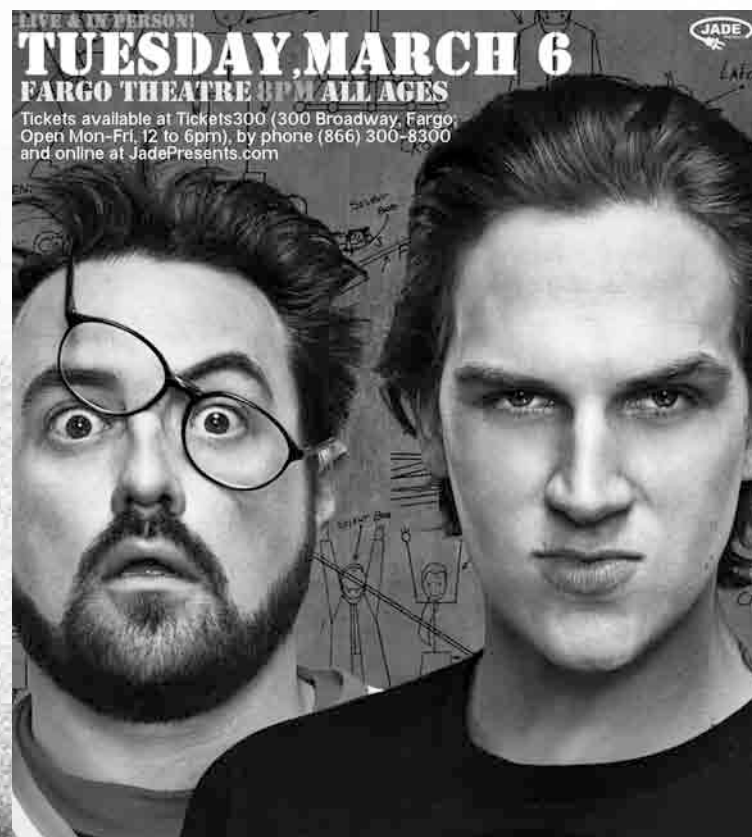


**PRE-PARTY** • 5:00 - 7:45 p.m.  
220 Broadway • Downtown Fargo

8:00 p.m. **LIVE! AND IN PERSON – Jay and Silent Bob Get Old**

**By way of a New Jersey Quick Stop, Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes have become bona fide pop culture icons.** Their on-screen alter egos Jay and

Silent Bob are far more than small-town, small-time pot dealers. Armed with Smith's trademark dialogue (peppered with carnal references, cultural observations, and pop-culture diatribes) they are pranksters, lovers, action heroes and prophets.



"One speaks... at great lengths... whether you want him to or not. The other one...well...he's the quiet type."

– METATRON, DOGMA

Writer/Director/Producer/Actor Kevin Smith first came to fame in 1994 with the international success of his low budget indie comedy *Clerks*. The film introduced Smith's New Jersey "View Askew" universe, the characters of Jay and Silent Bob, and struck a chord with a generation.

Jay and Silent Bob appeared in many of Smith's following films, including *Chasing Amy*, *Dogma*, and *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*. The duo has also been featured in a cartoon series and are hitting the circuit to bring their own interactive podcast to local audiences.

**The Fargo Film Festival is thrilled to welcome our opening night guests of honor Kevin and Jason as they appear live on stage!**

## Wednesday Morning • March 7th

9:00 a.m. Registration / Box Office Opens

10:00 a.m. **My Hometown • Animation**  
(7 min) Directed by Jerry Levitan and Terry Tompkins, Toronto, ON, Canada – In 2009, Yoko Ono wrote a timeless message of home, hope, faith and love. Weaving a storyline that encompasses children and places from all over the world, this animation plays out Yoko's instructional positivism, using a backdrop of her voice, recorded especially for this film.

10:10 a.m. **Falling • Experimental**  
(7 min) Directed by Karim Azimi, Aradbil, Iran  
A human being is exiled to roam and endure loneliness.

10:20 a.m. **Serial Killer • Student Film**  
(3 min) Directed by Adam Jacobs, Brooklyn Park, MN  
Two chaps have an argument about the mysterious man skipping towards them.

10:25 a.m. **Heliotropes • Animation**  
(4 min) Directed by Michael Langan – The parallel goals of man and nature are explored through the most primitive and sophisticated means – to simply stay in the light.



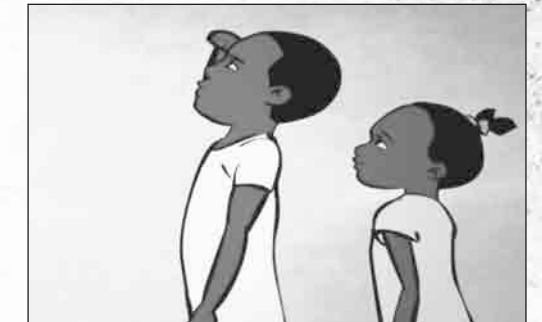
10:30 a.m. **The Power of Two**  
**Documentary Feature**  
**Honorable Mention**

(94 min) Directed by Marc Smolowitz, San Francisco, CA  
Twin sisters Anabel Stenzel and Isabel Stenzel Byrnes have have battled with the fatal genetic disease cystic fibrosis (CF) and are miraculous survivors of double lung transplants. Defying all odds, Ana and Isa have emerged as authors, athletes and global advocates for organ donation, and their connection to the CF and transplant communities provides rare insight into the struggles – and overlooked joys – of chronic illness.

12:00 p.m. **Luncheon** and Panel Discussion  
**"The Gift of Life"**

**MODERATOR:** Kevin Wallevand  
**Juano's** • 402 N. Broadway • Fargo

A discussion about organ donation, organ transplant recipients and the ongoing challenge of raising awareness. Panel members include local doctors and the cast and crew of **The Power of Two**.



My Hometown



Falling



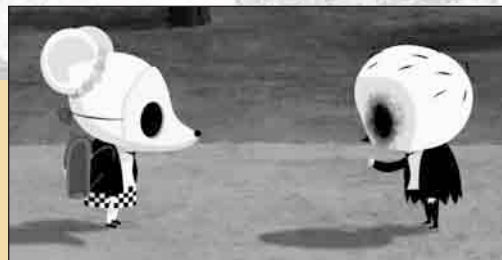
Heliotropes



The Power of Two

FILMS IN THE FARGO FILM FESTIVAL HAVE NOT BEEN RATED FOR ADULT CONTENT AND MAY INCLUDE: VIOLENCE, NUDITY, LANGUAGE AND ADULT SITUATIONS. VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED.





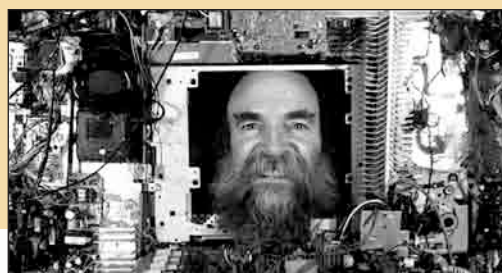
Birdboy



God!



Mommy's Boy



The Beast Pageant



Heart



Along the Road

## Wednesday Morning • OFF BROADWAY

10:00 a.m. **Birdboy • Animation**  
(12 min) Directed by Pedro Rivero and Alberto Vazquez, Corona, Spain – A terrible industrial accident changes little Dinki's life forever. Now her fate must rest on the wings of her eccentric friend Birdboy, a misfit who hides in the Dead Forest, lost in his fantasies.

10:15 a.m. **GOD! • Invited Film**  
(15 min) Directed by Bryan Liedman, Portland, Oregon  
Documentation of one man's quest to photograph a physical manifestation of (G)god.

10:30 a.m. **Mommy's Boy • Narrative Short**  
(15 min) Directed by Hans Montelius, Stockholm, Sweden  
In this Oedipal psychological comedy, a psychologist tries to heal the relationship between a mother and a son with some very unconventional methods.

10:45 a.m. **The Beast Pageant • Experimental**  
(74 min) Directed by Albert Birney and John Moses, Chadds Ford, PA – Abraham lives deep in the heart of an industrial wasteland. His only companion is a giant machine. Inside the machine are man and a woman who take care of Abraham's every need. Abraham drifts through daily life until a tiny singing cowboy bursts from his stomach and leads him into the wild.

## Wednesday Afternoon • March 7th

1:30 p.m. **Heart • Invited Film**  
(8 min) Directed by Erick Oh, Los Angeles, CA  
An exploration of transcendence, *Heart* presents questions through abstract metaphors and symbols illustrated by the human heart.

1:40 p.m. **Along the Road • Narrative Short**  
(12 min) Directed by Gabrielle Nadeau, Pinendre, QC, Canada  
In a rural town, two eight-year-old girls come together to construct a tragic accident in order to regain a mother's attention.

1:55 p.m. **Nature's Child • Student Film**  
(3 min) Directed by Brooklyn Isham, St. Paul, MN  
This short film captures a young girl's appreciation for the natural elements that surround her.

2:00 p.m. **Clear Blue • Narrative Short**  
(21 min) Directed by Lindsay MacKay, Los Angeles, CA  
Simon, a young lifeguard, is working his first few days at a community pool. The mundane quickly becomes mysterious when Simon follows Flova, an older woman, into the pool and he makes a startling discovery.

2:20 p.m. **cat's cradle • Invited Film**  
(4 min) Directed by Raymond Rea, Moorhead, MN  
This experimental animation is a collaboration between filmmaker Raymond Rea of Density Over Duration and sound artist Helena Thompson of Purest Spiritual Pigs. Combining analog 16mm Xerox animation and traditional rotoscope with digital visual effects, this raw film/video plots the beauty of a failed attempt.

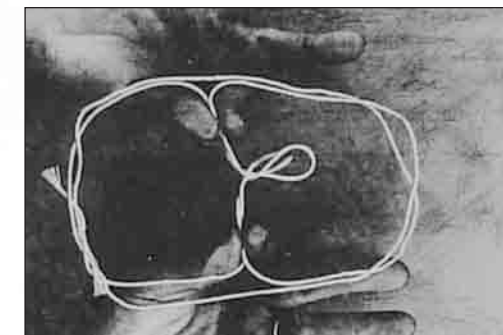
2:30 p.m. **Faster! • Student Film**  
(12 min) Directed by Marie Ullrich, Chicago, IL  
Jasper is a female Chicago bike messenger in a race not only against the clock, but in battle with the hostile city, its raging drivers, its surly security guards, and her tough dispatcher.

2:45 p.m. **The Gloaming • Animation**  
(14 min) Directed by NoBrain, Paris, France  
A character creates a world that is beyond his control.

3:00 p.m. **Bertie Crisp • Animation**  
(8 min) Directed by Francesca Adams, London, UK  
Bertie is a put-upon half bear, half panda living in a trailer park with his sociopathic rabbit wife Grace, who is determined to have a baby... immediately.



Clear Blue



cat's cradle



Faster!



The Gloaming

## Fargo Theatre OFF BROADWAY

Films marked in this manner are being shown in the Fargo Theatre Off Broadway Auditorium.  
All other films will be screened in the Fargo Theatre On Broadway Auditorium.





Vicenta



A Windigo Tale

3:10 p.m. **Vicenta • Animation**

(23 min) Directed by Sam, Spain  
Alfredo is a greedy miser who hides his lottery winnings from his obedient wife Vicenta. After a seductive neighbor changes their lives forever, Vicenta goes to great lengths to uncover the fortune's hiding place.

3:35 p.m. **A Windigo Tale  
Narrative Feature**

(92 min) Directed by Arman Garnet Ruffo, Ottawa, ON, Canada – A Native grandfather desperate to save his troubled grandson shares the dark secrets of their family and community. In an isolated village, an estranged mother and her daughter must reunite to exorcise the voracious Windigo spirit tied to a painful past. The film is inspired by Ojibway spirituality and based on the history of the residential school system, where generations of Native children were forcibly removed from their families and aggressively assimilated into Euro-Canadian society.

3:25 p.m. **Maska • Invited Film**

(23 min) Directed by Stephen Quay and Timothy Quay, Poland – Based on a story by Stanislaw Lem (*Solaris*), the Brothers Quay return with another beautiful and beautifully creepy animation.



Maska

4:00 p.m. **Fast Talk • Documentary Feature**

(56 min) Directed by Debra Tolchinsky, Evanston, IL  
College debaters now speak at unintelligible speeds. Some claim the benefits are clear: more arguments per minute that an opposing team needs to rebut. But is there a dark side to fast talk? To answer this question, filmmaker Debra Tolchinsky spent a year following the Northwestern University debate team as the students try to fast talk their way to another championship. The result? A documentary that will make you question the speed of your own life and keep you talking.



Fast Talk



Blazing the Trail: The O'Kalems in Ireland



The External World



Belly

**Wednesday Afternoon • OFF BROADWAY**

1:30 p.m. **Blazing the Trail:  
The O'Kalems in Ireland  
Documentary Feature**

(86 min) Directed by Peter Flynn, Boston, MA  
In the early 1910s, the New York-based Kalem Film Company made history by sending its leading filmmakers, writers and actors to County Kerry, Ireland. These were the first fiction films to be made in Ireland and among the first American films to be shot overseas. This is the story of cinema's earliest mavericks, of the people and culture they immortalized on film – and of the Hollywood system that ultimately eclipsed them.

3:00 p.m. **The External World • Animation**  
(15 min) Directed by David O'Reilly, Los Angeles, CA  
A boy learns to play the piano.

3:15 p.m. **Belly • Animation**  
(7 min) Directed by Julia Pott, New York, NY  
Oscar is coming of age, against his better judgment. In doing so he must experience the necessary evil of leaving something behind, but he can still feel it in the pit of his stomach.

**Wednesday Evening • March 7th**

**PRE-PARTY • 5:00 - 6:45 p.m.**  
Mezzaluna • 309 Roberts Street North

6:40 p.m. **At the console of the  
Mighty WurlitZer – Lance Johnson**

Evening Host: **Matt Olien, Festival Co-Chair and  
Documentary Feature Chair**

**Reel Life: Focus on  
Documentaries**



7:00 p.m. **The Power of Two  
Documentary Feature  
Honorable Mention**

(94 min) Directed by Marc Smolowitz, San Francisco, CA  
Twin sisters Anabel Stenzel and Isabel Stenzel Byrnes have battled with the fatal genetic disease cystic fibrosis (CF), and are miraculous survivors of double lung transplants. Defying all odds, Ana and Isa have emerged as authors, athletes and global advocates for organ donation, and their connection to the CF and transplant communities provides rare insight into the struggles – and overlooked joys – of chronic illness.

  
**MEZZALUNA**

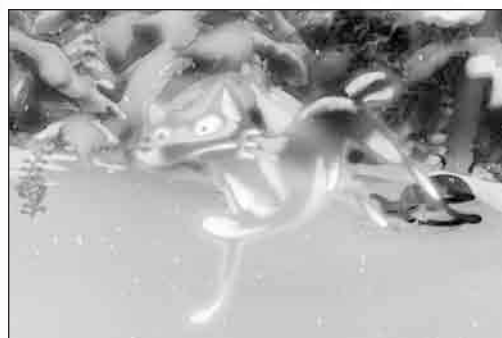


The Power of Two





Age of Champions



The Tannery



Above the Knee



Performance Anxiety



9:15 p.m. **Age of Champions**  
Winner Best Doc. Feature  
and The Bill Snyder Award

(70 min) Directed by Christopher Rufo, Sacramento, CA  
A humorous and heartfelt portrait of unique athletes  
(a 100-year-old tennis champion, an 86-year-old pole vaulter  
and more) chasing gold at the National Senior Games.

**Thursday Morning • March 8th**

9:00 a.m. Registration / Box Office Opens

10:00 a.m. **The Tannery • Animation**  
(6 min) Directed by Iain Gardner, Edinburgh, Scotland  
A recently deceased fox has a life after death experience.

10:10 a.m. **Above the Knee • Narrative Short**  
(12 min) Directed by Greg Atkins, Toronto, ON, Canada  
Jack's suit-and-tie career never quite fit. As he summons the  
courage to dress for the job he wants, he risks changing  
the way his co-workers and his wife see and treat him.

10:20 a.m. **Reservation Realities**  
**Student Film**  
(10 min) Directed by Shanice Little Whiteman, St. Paul, MN  
—The youth of Kyle, South Dakota created this collection of  
short stories and spoken word pieces to illustrate the pain  
and hope of their world.

10:30 a.m. **Performance Anxiety**  
**Documentary Short**  
(9 min) Directed by Charles Merzbacher, Cambridge, MA  
A boy plays his violin on the city streets. The passersby  
love it, but his father struggles with the role of Stage Dad.  
*Performance Anxiety* is a short, wry documentary about  
perils of parenthood and the double-edged nature of art.

10:45 a.m. **Fast Talk • Documentary Feature**  
(56 min) Directed by Debra Tolchinsky, Evanston, IL  
College debaters now speak at unintelligible speeds. Some  
claim the benefits are clear: more arguments per minute  
that an opposing team needs to rebut. But is there a dark  
side to fast talk? To answer this question, filmmaker Debra  
Tolchinsky spent a year following the Northwestern  
University debate team, as the students try to fast talk their  
way to another championship. The result? A documentary  
that will make you question the speed of your own life and  
keep you talking.

**Thursday Morning • OFF BROADWAY**

10:00 a.m. **Devil's Gate • Experimental**  
(20 min) Directed by Laura Kraning, Los Angeles, CA  
*Devil's Gate* explores the metaphysical undercurrents of a  
Southern California landscape scarred by fire. Merging  
an observational portrait with an otherworldly textual  
narrative, it unearths a subconscious of the landscape,  
as the echoes of the past reverberate in the present and  
infect our perception and experience of place.

10:20 a.m. **Currency • Narrative Feature**  
(85 min) Directed by Brad Rosier, Indianapolis, IN  
Part mystery and part drama, this film gives us snapshots  
of the lives of a writer, a child, mobsters, an old woman  
and a scientist. The action moves from prohibition days to  
the present and back again with scenes set in the streets,  
a railroad dining car, motels, and a historic mansion.  
Questions are raised; connections are made. We all  
ask why. And we all die.



Devil's Gate



Currency

12:00 p.m. **Luncheon** and Panel Discussion  
**"Hot Talk"**

**MODERATOR:** Matt Olien

Juano's • 402 N. Broadway • Fargo

In her documentary, **Fast Talk**, Debra Tolchinsky raises questions  
about the highly competitive world of modern collegiate debate.  
Debra and community members involved in scholastic debate will  
lead a lively conversation.

**Thursday Afternoon • March 8th**

1:30 p.m. **Daisy Cutter • Animation**  
(7 min) Directed by Enrique Garcia and Ruben Salazar,  
Spain — Every day in a park in Baghdad, little Zaira  
collects daisies for a friend she misses.

1:40 p.m. **Sang froid (Cold Blood)**  
**Narrative Short**  
(5 min) Directed by Martin Thibaudeau, Montreal, Canada  
When a worried-sick mother takes her son to the hospital,  
she quickly realizes a different kind of emergency has  
been brewing.



Daisy Cutter



Sang froid (Cold Blood)





Come Wander with Me



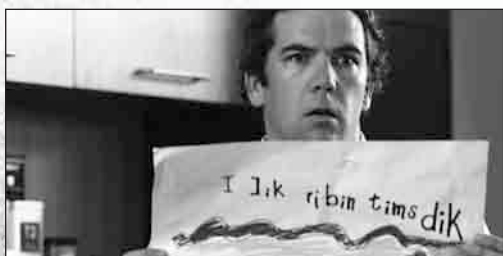
Drum Beats



The Monster of Nix



Crooked Beauty



dik

1:45 p.m. **Cuddle Group • Experimental**  
(8 min) Directed by Erica Eyres, Canada  
Dr. Gerry Winecott's revolutionary touch-based therapy is used to treat catatonics, agoraphobics, and those suffering from fears of intimacy, slowly introducing touch by use of small animals, and eventually Dr. Winecott's own body.

1:55 p.m. **Come Wander with Me Student Film**  
(6 min) Directed by Hugo Coulais, New York City, NY  
Scott, a young photographer working in New York, recounts the bizarre events of the day before when a strange woman abandons a man in a wheelchair in front of a crosswalk... and disappears.

2:00 p.m. **Drum Beats Documentary Short**  
(9 min) Directed by Brad Barber, Provo, UT  
Shot on hand-processed black and white Super 8 film, this film tells the story of three unlikely drummers: a stay-at-home mom from Hong Kong, a nine-year-old boy, and a paint bucket drummer 'turning over lids' on the 3rd Street Promenade in Santa Monica.

2:10 p.m. **The Monster of Nix • Animation**  
(30 min) Directed by Rosto, Paris, France  
Life is good in the idyllic fairy tale village of Nix until an all-devouring monster appears and young Willy must fight it. Alone.

2:40 p.m. **Crooked Beauty Documentary Short**  
(30 min) Directed by Ken Paul Rosenthal, San Francisco, CA  
This poetic documentary chronicles artist-activist Jacks McNamara's transformative journey from psych ward patient to pioneering mental health advocate.

**WINNER** 3:15 p.m. **Somewhere Only We Know Experimental Honorable Mention**

(5 min) Directed by Jesse McLean, Chicago, IL  
What can a face reveal? Balanced between composure and collapse, individuals anxiously await their fate.

3:20 p.m. **dik • Narrative Short**  
(10 min) Directed by Christopher Stollery, Randwick, Australia – A six-year-old boy brings home a piece of school work that provokes his parents to question his sexual orientation. And their own.



3:30 p.m. **Silver Tongues Narrative Feature Honorable Mention**  
(88 min) Directed by Simon Arthur, New York City, NY  
This drama twists and turns as a couple unravels through a series of encounters where nothing is what it seems.

#### Thursday Afternoon • OFF BROADWAY



1:30 p.m. **Top Secret Rosies: The Female Computers of WWII Documentary Feature • Winner The Ruth Landfield Award**

(57 min) Directed by LeAnn Erickson, Glenside, PA  
Virtually forgotten by history, a group of American women worked as early computer analysts assisting in World War II espionage operations. Many of them are still living and offer their memories of this fascinating period of history.

2:30 p.m. **Blue Mantle • Experimental**  
(34 min) Directed by Rebecca Meyers, Cambridge, MA  
Shot along the Massachusetts coast, text, image, and sound are poetically combined to explore and meditate on the coastal inhabitants drawn to the powerful waves.

3:05 p.m. **In the Absence of Light, Darkness Prevails • Experimental**  
(13 min) Directed by Fern Silva, Brazil  
Suggesting a future already arrived, the destruction and the creation of life are merged, and a civilization's history is swallowed by the life of the planet.

3:20 p.m. **Horsemen • Documentary Feature**  
(98 min) Directed by Nancy Muquing Wu, China  
Horses have for centuries played a key role in Songpan, but much has changed since China opened its doors to the rest of the world. Stimulated by government authorities, tourism has grown into an important business, but the inhabitants of Songpan still struggle to survive.



Top Secret Rosies: The Female Computers of WWII



Blue Mantle



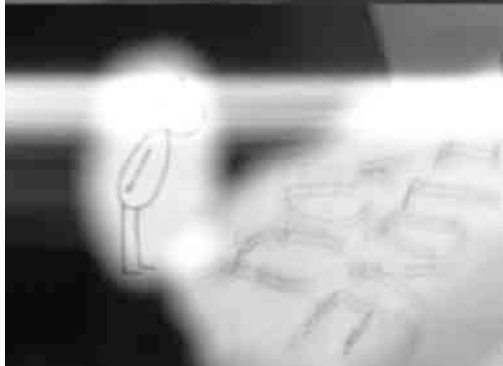
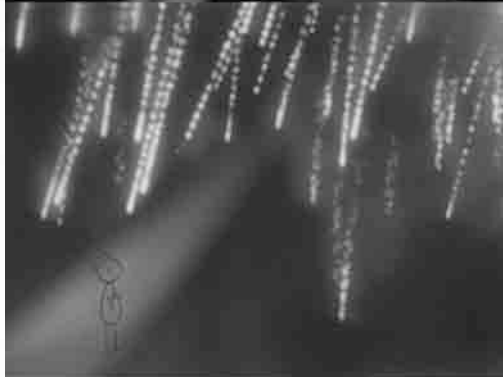
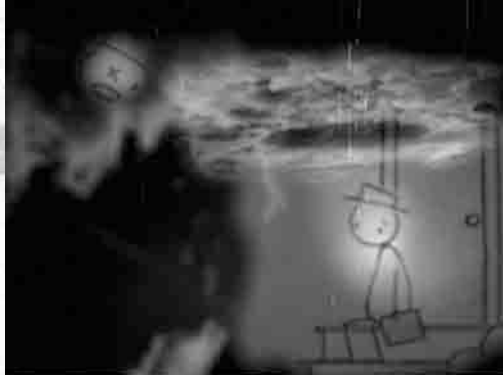
Horsemen



### The Ruth Landfield Award

HONORING FILMS CELEBRATING WOMEN OF COURAGE, CONVICTION AND COMPASSION  
With the death of community arts patron Ruth Landfield, the Fargo Film Festival will continue in perpetuity to present this award honoring Ruth and her long-standing commitment to the health and well-being of the historic Fargo Theatre. Films of artistic merit about or by women of courage, conviction and compassion are selected as recipients of the Ruth Landfield award.





## Thursday Evening • March 8th

**PRE-PARTY** • 5:00 - 6:45 p.m. • John Alexander's  
315 Main Avenue • Moorhead, MN

John  
Alexander's  
American Classical Restaurant & Market Bar

6:40 p.m. **At the console of the  
Mighty Wurlitzer – Tyler Engberg**

Evening Host: **Greg Carlson,  
Experimental Film Chair**



7:00 p.m. **An Evening with  
Don Hertzfeldt**

***It's Such a Beautiful Day***

**Winner Best Animation**

(23 min) Directed by Don Hertzfeldt, Austin, TX  
In the concluding chapter of Hertzfeldt's animated trilogy, Bill, a contemplative stick figure, works to piece together his shattered psyche as he struggles with his memory.

The entire animated trilogy will be screened together for the first time via new 35mm prints, immediately followed by a live on-stage interview and audience chat with Oscar-nominated director Don Hertzfeldt.

AN EVENING WITH DON HERTZFELDT SPONSORED IN PART BY:

**Station House Studios and Southpaw Filmworks**

9:30 p.m. **Adventures in Plymptoons!  
Documentary Feature**

(85 min) Directed by Alexia Anastasion, New York City, NY  
Bill Plympton is a beloved and innovative Academy Award-nominated animator. Through interviews with family, friends, colleagues, critics and fans, filmmaker Alexia Anastasio paints a portrait of Plympton's life and career.

9:30 p.m. **1st Annual Bunny Lebowski  
Pro-Am Invitational**

Join us at All-Star Bowl to celebrate all things the Dude. **\$10 admission** includes shoe rental and bowling. Participate in a *Big Lebowski*-themed costume contest and trivia contest.



RECIPIENT OF THE 2012  
TED M. LARSON AWARD

*Don Hertzfeldt*



**DON HERTZFELDT** is an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker whose distinctive animation style and unique brand of humor have won acclaim from audiences and festivals around the world. In 1999, his film *Billy's Balloon* was nominated for the Palme d'Or Best Short Film at the Cannes Film Festival. He was the youngest director named in the "They Shoot Pictures, Don't They" list of "100 Important Directors of Animated Short Films" and in 2010 he received the San Francisco International Film Festival's Persistence of Vision Lifetime Achievement Award at age 33.

Don's films range from the hilarious (*Wisdom Teeth, Rejected*) to the intensely personal and moving portraits of his recent trilogy featuring contemplative stick figure Bill.

Chapter one, *Everything Will Be OK*, won the Sundance Film Festival's Jury Award in Short

Filmmaking and was named by many critics as one of the "Best Films of 2007".

Chapter two, *I Am So Proud of You*, received twenty-seven awards and was described by the San Francisco International Film Festival as, "[his] best yet... even the Hertzfeldt faithful may be too stunned to laugh."

Nearly two years in the making, the 23-minute *It's Such a Beautiful Day* is Don's longest and most ambitious, piece to date: blending traditional animation, experimental optical effects, trick photography, and new digital hybrids printed out one frame at a time, the movie was captured entirely on an antique 35mm animation stand, one of the last operating cameras of its kind left in America.

THE FARGO FILM FESTIVAL  
HONORS THE LIFE AND WORK OF

*Ted M. Larson*



**TED LARSON** (1940-2000) is best known for his presentations of classical film, seminars and movie series events at colleges, theatres and arts centers throughout the region. In 1998 he was named Distinguished Alumnus of Minnesota State University Moorhead, where he taught for 32 years. Ted directed MSUM's International Film Festival and Summer Cinema Film Series for more than 20 years. A long-time member of the Fargo Theatre's board of directors, Ted influenced planning for the first Fargo Film Festival.

Through his work in locating, restoring and reconstructing lost and rare films, Ted and his longtime collaborator and friend, Rusty Casselton, have made donations of valuable motion pictures to The Library of Congress, The George Eastman House, The UCLA film and Television Archive and The Museum of Modern Art. Until his death he also administered the Colleen Moore Film Grant program at MSUM, which funds projects for student filmmakers. Ted was a unique presence who impacted constituencies, institutions and audiences.





Hamster Heaven



Papa's Boy



After the Shearing



A Short Film About Ice Fishing



Madtown

## Friday Morning • March 9th

9:00 a.m. Registration / Box Office Opens

10:00 a.m. **Hamster Heaven • Animation**  
(3 min) Directed by Paul Bolger, Dublin, Ireland  
Two hamsters. One cage. She is sleepy. He is concerned. When she does not wake up and is laid to rest in rubbish, he is left alone. Refusing to give up on her he escapes, finding her alive and well. Reunited, their romance continues in a brave new world.

10:05 a.m. **Papa's Boy • Animation**  
(3 min) Directed by Leen Lenmetty, Dublin, Ireland  
A young mouse dreams of being a dancer, but his father would like him to follow in his footsteps as a boxer. One day when Papa Mouse leaves home, a huge black cat pounces. In the face of this terrible danger, will boxing fists or the power of the pirouette be more effective?

10:10 a.m. **After the Shearing Narrative Short**  
(11 min) Directed by Vanessa Rojas, Oakland, CA  
Maggie, a young girl living on a sheep farm, struggles to cope with her mother's battle with cancer. Using the rural surroundings she knows so well as her anchor to a world turned upside down, Maggie devises a plan and makes a heroic attempt to save her mother's life.

10:20 a.m. **A Short Film About Ice Fishing Narrative Short**  
(8 min) Directed by Jason Shahinfar, New York City, NY  
In rural South Dakota, two friends go out for a day of ice fishing only to cause total destruction.

10:30 a.m. **Madtown • Documentary Short**  
(13 min) Directed by Michael Pickering and Mike Scholtz, Wrenshall, MN – A Wisconsin protest documentary in three acts, *Madtown* goes inside the Capitol to hear from the people who occupied it for 17 days in opposition to Governor Scott Walker's union-busting bill.

10:50 a.m. **Like Sugar on the Tip of My Lips Student Film**  
(13 min) Directed by Minji Kang, New York City, NY  
Susi, a blind young woman, has grown up with a naive dependence on her older sister Laura. As Laura helps Susi prepare for her first date, we get a glimpse at the distressing obsession that has actualized in Laura.

11:05 a.m. **Ingrid Pitt: Beyond the Forest Student Film**

(6 min) Directed by Kevin Sean Michaels, New York City, New York – An eight-year-old Jewish girl named Ingrid Pitt escapes from a concentration camp, in this cross-generational collaboration between Oscar-nominee Bill Plympton and ten-year-old first-time animator Perry Chen.

11:10 a.m. **Grandpa Looked Like William Powell • Animation**

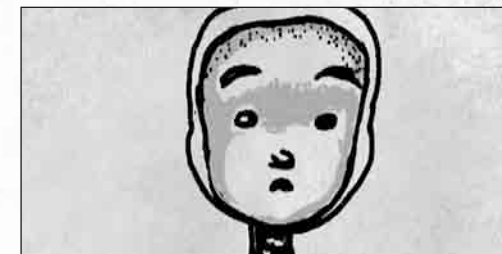
(4 min) Directed by David B. Levy, New York City, NY  
A little piece of family history leads to a charming discovery.

11:15 a.m. **Francois Marconi: Man or God? Student Film**

(12 min) Directed by Patrick McKeown, Moorhead, MN  
We take an in-depth look at the life and work of one of the greatest living filmmakers: Francois Marconi.

11:30 a.m. **The Books: An Video and Audio Retrospective • Invited Films**

(35 min) Directed by Paul de Jong and Nick Zammuto  
Through a delightful cosmic alignment, Paul de Jong and Nick Zammuto met while living in the same NYC apartment building. Through that encounter one of the city's most fertile creative partnerships was born. Sometimes overlooked in discussions of their spacious soundscapes, the Books' accompanying video work represents a collection of images impossible to forget.



Ingrid Pitt: Beyond the Forest



Grandpa Looked Like William Powell



Francois Marconi: Man or God?

## Friday Morning • OFF BROADWAY

10:00 a.m. **Pioneer • Narrative Short**  
(15 min) Directed by David Lowery, Fort Worth, TX  
A father tells his son the most epic bedtime story ever.

10:15 a.m. **Photos & Drawings Narrative Short**  
(14 min) Directed by Jon Maichel Thomas, Minneapolis, MN  
Two artists find inspiration through a chance meeting.



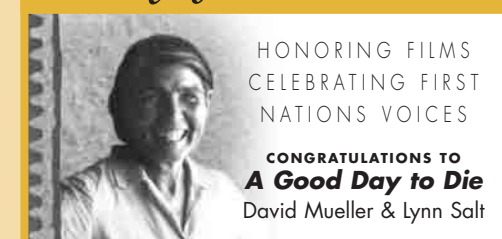
10:30 a.m. **A Good Day to Die Documentary Feature Winner Mary John Award**

(90 min) Directed by David Mueller and Lynn Salt, New York City, NY – Dennis Banks co-founded the American Indian Movement (A.I.M.) in 1968 to call attention to the plight of urban Indians in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The film presents an intimate look at Banks' life and the founding of a movement that, through confrontational actions in Washington DC, Custer, South Dakota, and Wounded Knee, changed the lives of American Indians forever.



Pioneer

## Mary John Award







Ant Farm



Together: Dancing with Spinner Dolphins



The Mariner



Teen Writes: The Group That Opened the Box



Flagpole

12:00 p.m. **Luncheon** and Panel Discussion  
**"Acting for the Camera"**

**MODERATOR:** David Wintersteen

**Juano's • 402 N. Broadway • Fargo**

A conversation on the art, craft and business of acting with special guests Rich Sommer and Fred Stoller.

## Friday Afternoon • March 9th

1:00 p.m. **Ant Farm • Student Film**

(6 min) Directed by Adam Smith, Moorhead, MN

Two ants discuss the nature of their existence and farming techniques without realizing they are part of an experiment concocted by a young mad scientist.

1:15 p.m. **Together: Dancing with Spinner Dolphins • Experimental**

(4 min) Directed by Chisa Hidaka, New York City, NY

In the deep blue of the Pacific Ocean a Spinner Dolphin and human dancer discover a common language to express their mutual affection and shared excitement. Eye to eye, two of the planet's most creative creatures dance... together.

1:20 p.m. **The Mariner • Student Film**

(10 min) Directed by Mike McMahon, Moorhead, MN

Frustrated by a disruption in communication with Earth, an astronaut is plunged into depression thinking that the world has ended, and that his wife and son are dead.

1:40 p.m. **Teen Writes: The Group That Opened the Box • Invited Film**

(56 min) Directed by Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson, Moorhead, MN – In the heart of North Dakota, outspoken teens challenge public silence about... everything. A clinical psychologist, a professional writer, and a group of teens collectively form a creative writing and performance troupe called The Group That Opened the Box. The Group explores issues facing teens like sexuality, desire, body image, LGBT identity, abuse and more, all against the backdrop of their hometown, Bismarck.

2:45 p.m. **Flagpole • Narrative Short**

(21 min) Directed by Matt Kazman, New York City, NY

A serious short film. About boners and salami nipples.

3:05 p.m. **At the Formal • Narrative Short**

(8 min) Directed by Andrew Kavanagh, Melbourne, Australia – Modern and ancient rituals collide in this macabre depiction of a high school formal.

3:15 p.m. **Method • Narrative Short**

(9 min) Directed by Rider Strong and Shiloh Strong, Los Angeles, CA – When she lands her dream role, an actress takes her job a little too seriously.

3:30 p.m. **Fred and Vinnie • Narrative Feature**

(89 min) Directed by Steve Skrovan, Los Angeles, CA Fred's friendship with his old pal is put to the test when Vinnie ventures cross country to stay with him. Is Vinnie a freeloading con man taking advantage of an old friend, or is he a well-meaning guy who is truly incapable of dealing with the world? One thing is for sure: everybody knows a Vinnie.

## Friday Afternoon • Fargo Theatre OFF BROADWAY

1:00 p.m. **Among Us • Narrative Feature**

(93 min) Directed by Johan Brisinger, Stockholm, Sweden Cecilia and Ernst live a comfortable life in Stockholm with their son, Alexander. One day an unexpected event turns their world upside down and tests their faith as husband and wife and as parents. As they drift apart a mysterious stranger with exceptional gifts changes their lives forever.

2:35 p.m. **Language of the Unheard • Documentary Short**

(21 min) Directed by Matt Litwiller and Jacqueline Reyno, Los Angeles, CA – Life on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is explored in this gripping documentary.

2:55 p.m. **Achante • Experimental**

(35 min) Directed by Emily McMehen, London, United Kingdom – This visceral portrait of Haitian Vodou combines non-fiction techniques and a hypnotic musical rhythm provided by the Books' Nick Zammuto.

3:30 p.m. **Beatles Stories • Documentary Feature**

(86 min) Directed by Seth Swirsky, Beverly Hills, CA Some of music and entertainment's biggest names share their personal stories of what makes The Beatles special to them. Interviews include Art Garfunkel, Denny Laine of McCartney and Wings, Justin Hayward, Jon Voight and Beatles producer George Martin.



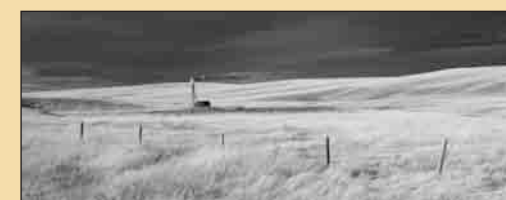
At the Formal



Method



Among Us



Language of the Unheard



Achante





## Friday Evening • March 9th

**PRE-PARTY** • 5:00 - 6:45 p.m.  
Taste of Italy • 613 1st Ave. N. • Downtown Fargo

6:40 p.m. **At the console of the Mighty Wurlitzer – Lance Johnson**

### Storytellers

Evening Hosts: **Tom Brandau, Festival Co-Chair**  
**and Tony Tilton, Festival Co-Chair**

7:00 p.m. **A Finger, Two Dots Then Me Narrative Short**

(8 min) Directed by Daniel Holecheck and David Holecheck, Los Angeles, CA – *A Finger, Two Dots Then Me* is a spoken-word piece based on a popular poem by renowned modern poet Derrick Brown. The film takes a dramatic look at death, life and love through the eyes of Brown, a Beat Poet who has performed around the world for the last decade.

7:10 p.m. **Tooty's Wedding Narrative Short**

(19 min) Directed by Frederic Casella, London, UK  
A young couple's marriage hilariously hits the rocks during a weekend wedding in the country.



7:30 p.m. **Jess + Moss • Narrative Feature Honorable Mention**

(82 min) Directed by Clay Jeter, New York City, NY  
Jess, age 18, and Moss, age 12, are second cousins in the dark-fire tobacco fields of rural Western Kentucky. Without immediate families that they can relate to, and lacking friends their own age, they only have each other. Over the course of a summer they venture on a journey exploring deep secrets and hopes of a future while being confronted with fears of isolation, abandonment and an unknown tomorrow.

9:30 p.m. **2-Minute Movie Contest**



*A Finger, Two Dots Then Me*



*Tooty's Wedding*



*Jess + Moss*

## Saturday Morning • March 10th

9:00 a.m. Registration / Box Office Opens



9:45 a.m. **Melt Winner Best Experimental Film**

(10 min) Directed by Noemie Lafrance, New York, NY  
This short film depicts a delicate, sensual and dramatic experience of the physical body in exile and surrender. Perched on a wall and wrapped in sculptural beeswax and lanolin costumes that are slowly melting away, dancers progress in euphoria and exhaustion as if approaching the sun, melting until their souls escape their ephemeral bodies and disintegrate into light.

9:55 a.m. **Honesty in Perspective Invited Film**

(20 min) Directed by Nicholas Collins, Moorhead, MN  
Jessie reflects on a unique friendship that began with the woman her husband cheated on her with a year prior.



10:30 a.m. **You Don't Know Bertha Constantine Narrative Short • Winner The Prairie Spirit Award**

(24 min) Directed by Andrew Kightlinger, Pierre, SD  
Defying law and societal convention, Bertha Constantine resolves to honor her dead husband's wish to be buried in South Dakota's Badlands.

10:55 a.m. **Duck, Death and the Tulip Invited Film**

(11 min) Directed by Matthias Bruhn, Germany  
A duck meets Death. Death has plenty of time. So they start a conversation where they learn a lot about themselves – and about life.



*Melt*



*Honesty in Perspective*



*You Don't Know Bertha Constantine*



*Duck, Death and the Tulip*

## 2012 Prairie Spirit A W A R D

***You Don't Know Bertha Constantine***  
Directed by Andrew Kightlinger

The Prairie Spirit Award honors films that reflect the unique strength of character that is the legacy of the Northern Plains.





Guard Dog Global Jam



Moon Rock



Cookie



Wings. Dirt. Magic.



A Shadow of Blue

11:05 a.m. **Guard Dog Global Jam**  
**Animation**

(5 min) Directed by Bill Plympton, New York City, NY  
In 2005, Bill Plympton created the Oscar-nominated animated short, *Guard Dog*, about a pug dog who imagines every flora and fauna is out to kill his beloved master. In 2010, he decided to remake the film via the internet, with 70 artists from around the world, with different levels of expertise, recreating each shot of the film in their own style.



11:10 a.m. **Moon Rock**  
**Winner Best Student Film**  
**Documentary**

(11 min) Directed by Debra Sea, Greensboro, NC  
A woman ventures to recreate the time when an actual rock from the moon ended up on her kitchen table.



11:35 a.m. **It's Such a Beautiful Day**  
**Winner Best Animation**

(23 min) Directed by Don Hertzfeldt, Austin, TX  
In the concluding chapter of Hertzfeldt's animated trilogy, Bill, a contemplative stick figure, works to piece together his shattered psyche as he struggles with his memory.

**Saturday Morning** • Fargo Theatre OFF BROADWAY

10:00 a.m. **Wings. Dirt. Magic.**  
**Invited Film**

(9 min) Directed by Simone LeClaire, Moorhead, MN  
A troubled young boy decides to follow a strange fairy creature into the dark night.

10:15 a.m. **A Shadow of Blue** • **Animation**  
(13 min) Directed by Carlos Lascano  
For a little girl, light and shadows unleash a world of fantasy and unexpected freedom.

10:30 a.m. **Gone** • **Student Film**  
(8 min) Directed by Devon Manney, Moorhead, MN  
A lost balloon goes on a quest to be found.

10:45 a.m. **Small, Beautifully Moving Parts**  
**Narrative Feature**

(73 min) Directed by Annie Howell and Lisa Robinson, New York City, NY – When technophile Sarah Sparks becomes pregnant, her uncertainties about motherhood trigger an impulsive road trip to the source of her anxiety: her long-estranged mother living far away and off the grid. The film is a comic coming-of-parenthood tale for the internet age.



Gone



Small, Beautifully Moving Parts

12:00 p.m. **Luncheon** and Panel Discussion  
**"Making an Indie Work"**

**MODERATOR:** Tom Brandau

Juano's • 402 N. Broadway • Fargo

Special guests Matt Walsh, Joe LoTruglio, Matt L. Jones, and Kirk Roos discuss the making of *High Road*, an almost entirely improvised comedy. Special guests Clay Jeter and Brian Harstine discuss the process of bringing their feature *Jess + Moss* to the silver screen.



Mound

**Saturday Afternoon** • **March 10th**



1:30 p.m. **Mound**  
**Honorable Mention** • **Animation**

(5 min) Directed by Allison Schulnik, Los Angeles, CA  
With the aid of incredible stop-motion, ghoulish figures come to life to the sounds of "It's Raining Today" by Scott Walker.



Don't Be Nervous

1:35 p.m. **Don't Be Nervous** • **Animation**  
(4 min) Directed by Peter Gulsvig, New York City, NY  
Johndace, an obese Edwardian boy, attempts to play fetch with his dog.

1:50 p.m. **Method** • **Narrative Short**  
(9 min) Directed by Rider Strong and Shiloh Strong, Los Angeles, CA – When she lands her dream role, an actress takes her job a little too seriously.



Method





Gynoid



Waiting Room



Bear Force One



2:00 p.m. **Gynoid** Winner  
The Rusty Casselton Award  
Honorable Mention  
Student Film

(15 min) Directed by Shane Mackinnon, Moorhead, MN  
*Gynoid*, which stands for the female form of android, is a short science-fiction drama about a young programmer named Adam tasked to work on a gynoid and who must come face-to-face with the question of what it really means to be human when the gynoid, Thirteen, displays emotional responses.

2:25 p.m. **Waiting Room** • Narrative Short

(10 min) Directed by Robert Machoian and Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck, Davis, CA – After a significant event takes place, a man experiences an unexpected suspension of time.



2:35 p.m. **Bear Force One**  
Honorable Mention  
Narrative Short

(25 min) Directed by Andy Mogren, Studio City, CA  
While leaving Alaska bear country, bears take over the President's airplane, and now it's up to the Commander in Chief, a secret service guard, and a flight attendant to regain control at 30,000 feet in this satire of airplane/hijacking films.



3:10 p.m. **TXT: A Documentary About Kids and Cell Phones**  
Documentary Short  
Honorable Mention

(8 min) Directed by Josiah Bultema and Kyle Gilbertson, Burbank, CA – Our mode of communication is rapidly changing. In a generation where most adults over the age of twenty grew up without the internet, iPads, and cell phones, how has technology evolved youth and their adolescence? Does having a cell phone automatically make you cool? Why do kids enjoy texting more than calling? How would they function without their cell phones? All of these questions and more are explored when filmmakers sit down with kids face-to-face in this documentary.

3:20 p.m. **After-School Special**  
Narrative Short

(9 min) Directed by Jacob Chase, Los Angeles, CA  
A man and a woman have an awkward encounter at an indoor playground in this Neil LaBute – penned slice-of-life starring Sarah Paulson and Wes Bentley.

3:30 p.m. **Bukowski** • Narrative Short

(10 min) Directed by Daan Bakker, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
A chic hotel in Amsterdam has a very special guest for one night: world-famous writer Charles Bukowski. He is twelve and his real name is Tom.

3:40 p.m. **Mustache** • Student Film

(12 min) Directed by Tyler Sorensen, Moorhead, MN  
A bakery clerk grows closer to an eccentric customer.

4:00 p.m. **High Road** • Narrative Feature

(84 min) Directed by Matt Walsh, Los Angeles, CA  
This laugh-out-loud comedy features a totally improvised script and a cast of comedy all-stars. After his band breaks up, Glenn "Fitz" Fitzgerald finds himself dealing drugs out of his garage. After a deal goes terribly awry, Fitz hits the road with his 16-year-old neighbor Jimmy. Amid car chases, guns, and broken bones, they must navigate their way to a safe harbor. Featuring James Pumphrey, Abby Elliott, Joe LoTruglio, Rob Riggle, Lizzy Caplan, Matt L. Jones, and Ed Helms.



TXT: A Documentary About Kids and Cell Phones



After-School Special



Bukowski



Mustache



High Road

THE FARGO FILM FESTIVAL STUDENT AWARD  
HONORS THE LIFE AND WORK OF

*Rusty Casselton*

**HAROLD "RUSTY" CASSELTON** was known around the world for his efforts in film restoration and preservation. Rusty collaborated with mentor Ted Larson for many years, and their efforts resulted in a variety of wonderful opportunities for movie fans, who regularly attended popular events like Silent Movie Night at the Fargo Theatre and the Summer Cinema series on the campus of MSUM. At the time of his passing, Rusty was chair of the Film Studies Department at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

He participated in the Fargo Film Festival from the time of its inception, providing a small army of students to help staff and run the various second venue locations as volunteers. A dedicated educator, Rusty taught film studies courses at Concordia College for 22 years before accepting a position at MSUM in 2001. He is greatly missed by the Fargo Film Festival, his students, his extended family, his friends, his colleagues, his wife Cindy and daughters Hannah and Amanda.







Silver Tongues



Age of Champions



Misdirection

## Sat. Afternoon • Fargo Theatre OFF BROADWAY



### 1:30 p.m. **Silver Tongues** Narrative Feature Honorable Mention

(88 min) Directed by Simon Arthur, New York City, NY  
This delightfully wicked drama twists and turns as a couple unravels through a series of encounters where nothing is what it seems.



### 3:15 p.m. **Age of Champions** Winner Best Documentary Feature and The Bill Snyder Award

(70 min) Directed by Christopher Rufo, Sacramento, CA  
A humorous and heartfelt portrait of unique athletes (a 100-year-old tennis champion, an 86-year-old pole vaulter and more) chasing gold at the National Senior Games.

## Saturday Evening • March 10th



**PRE-PARTY** • 5:00 - 6:45 p.m.  
101 Broadway, Downtown Fargo

6:40 p.m. **At the console of the  
Mighty Wurlitzer – Steve Eneboe**

## Best of the Fest

Evening Host: **Emily Beck,  
Fargo Film Festival Director**



### 7:00 p.m. **Best in Show Awards**

**Presentation of the 2012  
Margie Bailly Volunteer Spirit  
Award to Greg Carlson**

7:10 p.m. **2-Minute Movie Contest Winner**



### 7:15 p.m. **Misdirection** Winner Best Student Narrative

(18 min) Directed by Doron Kipper, Los Angeles, CA  
Peter, the grandson of the famous magician, Castulo the Magnificent, discovers his grandfather's greatest secret, and it is more dangerous than he can possibly imagine.



### 7:35 p.m. **A Morning Stroll** • Animation Oscar Nominee

(7 min) Directed by Grant Orchard, London, United Kingdom – Based on a true story, *A Morning Stroll* follows a seemingly random and momentary encounter between a New York pedestrian and a chicken, which begs the question: who is the real city slicker?



### 7:45 p.m. **5 Dollars** Winner Best Narrative Short Drama

(18 min) Directed by Clay Jeter, Hermitage, TN  
Kenny, 10, and his sister Lou Anne, 9, are paid five bucks to keep their mouths shut when their half-sister Erleen, 15, brings an older boy over to their trailer one afternoon. When Kenny's daddy shows up and almost catches Erleen in the act, Kenny and Lou Anne are put to the test.



A Morning Stroll



5 Dollars

## The Bill Snyder Award FOR DOCUMENTARY FILM MAKING



The Fargo Film Festival documentary award honors the significant career and accomplishments of Bill Snyder. Bill was a Fargo native, award-winning filmmaker, and producer and founder of Bill Snyder Films. Bill died on September 14, 2007. We celebrate the memory of this visionary and friend.





*Incident in New Baghdad*



8:05 p.m. **Incident in New Baghdad**  
**Winner Best Documentary Short**  
**Oscar Nominee**

(22 min) Directed by James Spione, New York City, New York – One of the most notorious incidents of the Iraq War – the July 2007 slayings of two Reuters journalists and a number of other civilians by U.S. attack helicopters – is recounted by U.S. Army Specialist Ethan McCord, whose life was profoundly changed by his experiences on the scene.



*After the Credits*



8:30 p.m. **After the Credits**  
**Narrative Short**  
**Winner Best Comedy**

(15 min) Directed by Josh Lawson, Elizabeth Bay, Australia We've seen it a hundred times before – boy meets girl, boy gets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl back, and they live happily ever after. Until the credits roll. And AFTER that, it's a completely different story.



*Time Freak*



8:45 p.m. **Time Freak • Narrative Short**  
**Oscar Nominee**

(11 min) Directed by Andrew Bowler, Los Angeles, CA – A neurotic inventor creates a time machine and gets lost traveling around yesterday.

THE FARGO FILM FESTIVAL 2012  
 MARGIE BAILLY VOLUNTEER SPIRIT AWARD

*Greg Carlson*

**DR. GREG CARLSON** is a cinephile, moviemaker, critic, and professor of film studies who serves the Concordia College Communication Studies and Theatre Art Department as the Director of Media Activities. He is also the longtime Associate Film Editor for the *High Plains Reader*, where his reviews and interviews appear each week.

Greg is actively involved with many aspects of Fargo-Moorhead movie culture, and work that he has directed and/or produced has been programmed in the Orlando Film Festival, the Free Range Film Festival, the Tallahassee Film Festival, the Dam Short Film Festival, the South Dakota Film Festival, the Milwaukee Short Film Festival, the Illinois International Film Festival, and the Kent Film Festival, among others. In addition to volunteering for the Fargo Film Festival, Greg currently serves on the Fargo Theatre Board of Directors.



9:15 p.m. **LIVE ON STAGE! Matt Walsh and Rich Sommer in...  
 "CELEBRITY"**

An interactive improv game show where "knowing fame wins the game".

**Matt Walsh**

Matt was born in Chicago and attended Northern Illinois University where he received a degree in psychology. After college he moved back to Chicago and quickly began performing comedy.

In 1991 he co-founded the sketch group Upright Citizens Brigade with Matt Besser and Ian Roberts (later joined by Amy Poehler). In 1996 he moved with the group to New York City where they landed a sketch show on Comedy Central and opened a theater.

After 3 seasons of the UCB sketch show Matt worked as a correspondent on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart from 2001–2002.

Matt's extensive movie credits include *The Hangover*, *Old School*, *Bad Santa*, *Due Date*, *Role Models*, and *School for Scoundrels*. He has also appeared on many TV shows including *Hung*, *Community*, *Arrested Development*, and *Reno 911*.

**Rich Sommer**

Rich is best known for his role as Harry Crane on AMC's multiple Emmy and Golden Globe-winning *Mad Men*.

Rich's stage credits include Todd in *Far Away*; Mike in *A Lie of the Mind*; and William Gibbs in *Off the Map*. Rich has appeared on *The Office*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *CSI*, *Law & Order*, *Without a Trace*, *Ugly Betty*, *Nikita*, *Burn Notice*, and in several national commercials. His feature film debut was as Anne Hathaway's drinking buddy Doug in *The Devil Wears Prada*.

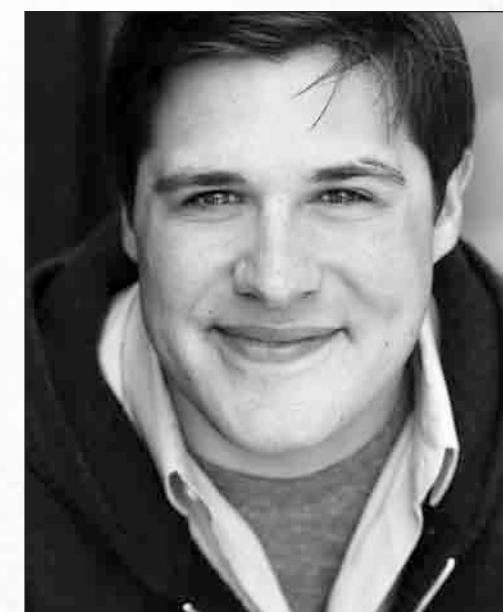
A student, performer and teacher of improvisation, Rich received his training and experience with the Brave New Workshop in Minneapolis and the Upright Citizens Brigade in NYC.

He received a BA in Theatre Arts from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and an MFA in Acting from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Rich and his *Mad Men* castmates have twice won the SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series.



*Matt Walsh*



*Rich Sommer*



**Post Party**

**ecce • 216 BROADWAY**

Featuring new media installations by Simon Tarr and Aaron Valdez. Curated by Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson