



9TH ANNUAL

FARGO

Film Festival

MARCH 3-7, 2009
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

EXPLORING
New Frontiers





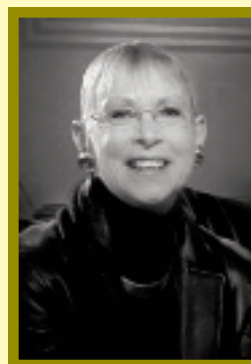
So Close You Can Taste It...
 Fargo's Finest Dining Experience

309 Roberts Street • Fargo, ND • 701-356-9097

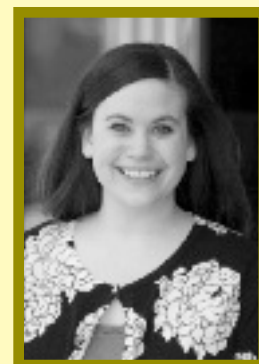
Executive Director Margie Bailly and Film Programmer Emily Beck

Welcome you to the 9th annual Fargo Film Festival

It was “a dark and stormy night” or a “bright and sunny day”... from Antarctica to Africa to Fargo, North Dakota. The stories are the same or enormously different. My heartfelt thanks to the Fargo Theatre staff and volunteers who lovingly crafted the 9th annual film festival. Let the stories begin... dark and stormy, sunny and bright and the range of emotion in-between.



Margie Bailly
FARGO THEATRE
Executive Director



Emily Beck
FARGO THEATRE
Film Programmer



FARGO THEATRE STAFF:

Margie Bailly, Executive Director
Michelle Kaiser, Operations Manager / Executive Assistant
Emily Beck, Film Programmer
Dave Rannow, Box Office Manager

CONCESSION:

Sabrina Horung Stephanie Tyler
Mark Frenzel Matt Miller

PROJECTIONISTS:

Jeremy Grabinger Kyle Iverson
Megan Slator Bryan Liedman
Joel Moline
Ree Seminole, Head Projectionist

TECHNICAL:

Chaz Johnson, Stage Manager

FESTIVAL STAFF:

Margie Bailly, Director and Programmer
Emily Beck, Programmer and Festival Operations
Michelle Kaiser, Volunteer Coordinator
Lynette Triebwasser, Graphic Designer
Susan Revland, Organizational Consultant
Greg Carlson & Richard Vaudrin, Webmasters
Michael Kinkle & Brandon Wenthe, Festival Interns

FARGO THEATRE OFFICERS:

Nick Chase, President
Steve Risher, Vice President
Susan Thompson, Treasurer
Nicole Crutchfield, Secretary
Carol Grimm, Immediate Past President

FARGO THEATRE BOARD:

Dan Altenbernd	Bud McCroskey
Cynthia Baumgardner	Dick Reis
Tom Brandau	Jeff Schlossman
Kevin Brooks	Robin Schmidt
Greg Danz	Kay Schwarzwalter
Lee Dobrinz	Ellen Shafer
Liz Gibb	Rich Zeck
Doug Hamilton	Lance Johnson, Director Emeritus
Bill Marcil	Margie Bailly, Executive Director
John Machacek	

OFF BROADWAY THEATRE COORDINATORS:

MSUM Faculty and Film Students

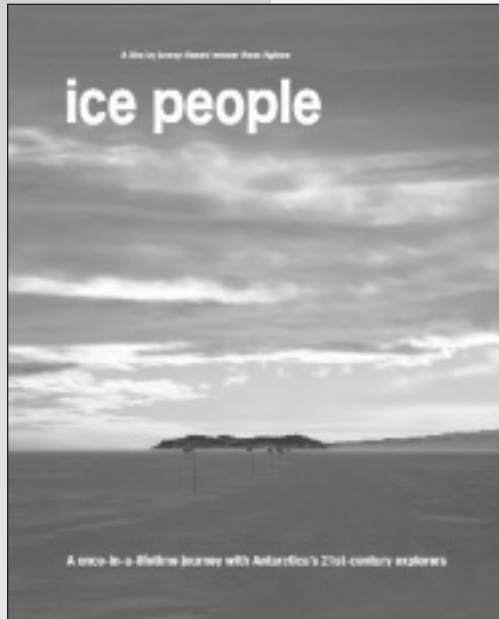
FESTIVAL COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS:

Anthony Adah	Dianne Herzberg	Karen Olson
Kari Arntson	Gen Eidem	Kelly Pratt
Judy Anderson	Catherine Erhardt	Raymond Rea
Marige Bailly, Executive Director	James Farragut	Paul Revland, Chair-Student
Emily Beck, Narrative Short Chair	Roland Finger	Susan Revland, Organizational Consultant
Tom Brandau, Chair-Doc. Feature	Sam Huebschwerlen	Sharon Rezac
Greg Carlson, Festival Co-Chair & Chair-Animation	Ryan Jackson, Music Video Co-Chair	Prairie Rose, Co-Chair-NAV
Rebecca Castillo	Martin Jonason	Simon Rowe, Music Video Co-Chair
Sandi Dahl	Michelle Kaiser, Volunteer Coordinator	Ryan Sailor
Barb Dalen	Jeff Kasper	Trina Spaeth
Jaclynn Davis Wallette, Co-Chair NAV	Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson, Festival Co-Chair, Experimental Chair	Tom Speer
Tracie Demianuk	Renato Lib	Mel Stone
Peggy Gaynor	Matt McGregor	Mike Stromenger, Chair-Doc. Short
Brittney Goodman	Christopher Meissner	Tony Tilton
Janet Haak	Heidi Nelson	Richard Vaudrin
Ben Hanson	Matt Olien, Festival Co-Chair and Chair-Narr. Feature	Nikki Willhoit

Tuesday, March 3rd

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

Pre-Party • 5:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Silver Moon Supper Club • 309 Roberts St N, Fargo



Ice People

6:40 p.m. **LIVE! on the Mighty Wurlitzer – Steve Eneboe**

Evening Host: **Margie Bailly,**
Fargo Theatre Executive Director

7:00 p.m. **Ice People** **DF** Invited Film

(77m) Directed by Anne Aghion, New York, NY
Unique in the genre of exploration and adventure films, *Ice People* takes you on one of the earth's most seductive journeys – Antarctica. Emmy-winning filmmaker Anne Aghion spent four months "on the ice" with modern-day polar explorers to find out what drives dedicated researchers to leave the world behind in pursuit of science, and to capture the true experience of living and working in this extreme environment. • **Q&A with FILMMAKER and NDSU Department of Geosciences Dr. Allan Ashworth and Dr. Adam Lewis and geology students Andrew Podoll and Kelly Gorz.**



In Rwanda we say... The family that does not speak dies

8:45 p.m. **In Rwanda we say... The family that does not speak dies** **D** Invited Film

(54m) Directed by Anne Aghion, New York, NY
Since 1999, award-winning filmmaker Anne Aghion has traveled to rural Rwanda to chart the impact of that country's efforts at ethnic reconciliation. *In Rwanda we say... The family that does not speak dies*, her second film on the subject, continues Aghion's quest to learn how the human spirit survives a trauma as unfathomable as the attempt, in 1994, to wipe out the Tutsi minority. *In Rwanda we say...* is the next chapter in a fascinating and intimate look at how, and whether, people can overcome fear, hatred and deep emotional scars to forge a common future after genocide.



Wasteful Sorrow

Wednesday, March 4th

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

9:00 a.m. **Poison Wind** **NAV**

(37m) Directed by Jenny Pond and Norman Patrick Brown, Gilbert, AZ
Poison Wind tells the story of unconscionable greed and a policy of destruction aimed at indigenous people and uranium miners from the 1940's until today.

9:45 a.m. **Wasteful Sorrow** **NAV**
 (13m) Directed by Tanya Carriere, Winnipeg, MB
Wasteful Sorrow tells the story of healing between a teenage girl and her emotionally scarred grandmother. After a surprising dream connects past to present, the girl is able to comfort her grandmother and find her self-forgiveness.

10:00 a.m. **Eyes Wide Open** **MV**
 (5m) Directed by Renae Morriveau, Toronto, ON
 This contemporary music video by M'Girl pays tribute to the power of prayer and its manifestation in our conscious life.

10:05 a.m. **Journey My Heart** **NAV**
 (9m) Directed by Reil Munro, Winnipeg, Canada
 What begins as a documentary about the rigors of physical training becomes a complex portrait of a Pow Wow jingle dress dancer. Joanne Soldier runs miles each day and weight trains in an effort to fulfill a spiritual calling that links her to her elders and generations to come.

10:15 a.m. **The Greatest Silent Sport** **S D**
Best Student Documentary
 (27m) Directed by Rebecca Gilbuena, Tim Gerszewski and Michael Quinn, Fargo, ND – To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the National Trails System Act of 1968, we follow hikers on portions of the 4,600 mile North Country National Scenic Trail. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

10:45 a.m. **Façade** **S**
 (9m) Directed by Andrew Neill, Moorhead, MN
 Two brothers must face their father's return. The problem is their father died six months ago. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

10:55 a.m. **I Can See Everything** **DS**
 (5m) Directed by Kristine Samuelson, Palo Alto, CA
 This cinematic poem considers the planet through the words of Yuri Gagarin aboard the first manned space flight in 1961.

11:00 a.m. **Come Back to Sudan** **DS**
Invited Film
 (12m) Directed by Daniel Junge and Patti Bonnet, Louisville, CO
 Coming home is an emotional journey for everyone. But for Lado Jurkin and his fellow Sudanese refugees, it's the journey of their lives.



Eyes Wide Open



The Greatest Silent Sport



Come Back to Sudan

Festival Icons

Award Winner or Honorable Mention..... **AW**
 Roberts Street Theatre [Ivers Building] **RT**
 Narrative Features **NF**
 Narrative Shorts..... **NS**

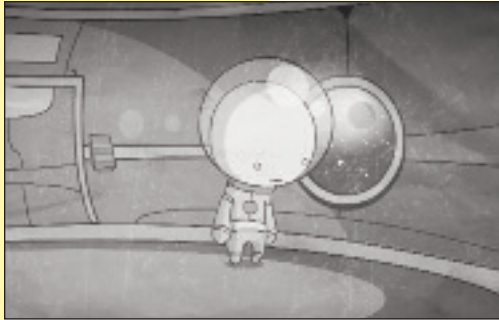
Documentary Features..... **DF**
 Documentary Shorts **DS**
 Animation **A**
 Experimental **E**

Student **S**
 Native American Voices..... **NAV**
 Music Video **MV**

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.



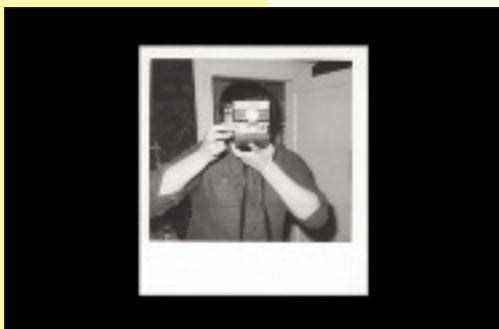
Just Add Water



Space Alone



4 Minutes on an Abandoned Bridge



Click Whoosh

11:15 a.m. ***A Different Kind of Gun*** **DS**
Invited Film

(15m) Directed by Peter Jordan, Palo Alto, CA
Filmed inside Sudan, in a camp for people from Darfur and in a remote village in the Nuba Mountains, *A Different Kind of Gun* tells the harrowing story of children caught in the crossfire of Sudan's two wars. Told in children's voices and filmed, in part, through their own eyes, *A Different Kind of Gun* takes us into the hearts of the country's youngest generation, who will decide one day whether to avenge the deaths of family members or to forgive them.

11:30 a.m. ***Just Add Water*** **DS**

(30m) Directed by Jeffrey Mead, Rochester, NY
Just Add Water brings you to the village of Abilnyang, Sudan, where lack of water produces hunger, poverty and shortens lives. Through the simple act of drilling wells, lives are transformed.

12:00 p.m. **Luncheon** and Panel Discussion
"Environmental Docs: Healing the World"

MODERATOR: Kevin Wallevand

[American Legion](#) 505 3rd Ave. N., Downtown Fargo

1:30 p.m. ***Space Alone*** **A**

(4m) Directed by Ilias Sounas, Athens, Greece
Everyone is looking for a friend, even in space.

1:35 p.m. ***Twistee Treat*** **NS**

(15m) Directed by John Herzog, Orlando, FL
Kyle Thacker, a 15-year-old high school student, finally asks the girl of his dreams out on a date to the local Twistee Treat. Soon after, it occurs to him that the results could prove disastrous. Desperate, he enlists the help of his two older brothers who, in turn, offer him a few helpful dating tips.

1:50 p.m. ***This American Gothic*** **DF**

(63m) Directed by Sasha Waters Freyer, Iowa City, IA
This quirky portrait illuminates Eldon, Iowa, population 998, site of the house that inspired one of the most famous paintings in the world.

2:50 p.m. ***4 Minutes on an Abandoned Bridge*** **E**

(5m) Directed by Todd Tinkham, Durham, NC
These images were captured from an abandoned bridge near Richland, WA. Peaceful and moving, this short film reveals the power and beauty of just one overlooked and forgotten place.

2:55 p.m. ***Click Whoosh*** **DS**

(8m) Directed by Reid Keunnen and Mandy Hubbard Seattle, WA
An homage to a familiar fixture of popular culture that now teeters on obsolescence.

3:05 p.m. **Beyond the Mesas** **NAV** Honorable Mention

(36m) Directed by Allan Holzman, Santa Monica, CA
A chronicle of the forced removal of the Hopi children to boarding schools and their experiences at schools such as Sherman Institute and Phoenix and Stewart Indian Schools. Additional topics include the Oraibi Split, Hopi understandings of education, language loss, government efforts to acculturate Hopis and the future of the people.



Beyond the Mesas

3:40 p.m. **Perfection** **S**

(14m) Directed by Eric Carlson, Moorhead, MN
This film is a compelling story of hitman and his obsession with perfection. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**



Perfection

3:55 p.m. **The Painter of Skies** **A**

(25m) Directed by Jorge Morais Valle, Vigo, Spain
From the darkness of the lost cliffs, a crazy painter and his faithful assistant try to find a solution for the perpetual storms that are destroying their home. A magic boiler and some tormented ghosts will help them to find the light.

4:30 p.m. **African Soul, American Heart** **DS**
Invited Film

(27m) Directed by Deb Dawson, Fargo, ND
20 years after fleeing civil war, a Lost Boy of Sudan returns to help rebuild his homeland. • **FILMMAKERS PRESENT**



Pre-Party • 5:00 - 6:45 p.m.
HoDo • 101 Broadway,
Downtown Fargo

6:40 p.m. **LIVE! on the Mighty WurlitZer - Lance Johson**

Evening Host: **Matt Olien, Festival Co-Chair**

7:00 p.m. **Themes & Variations for the Naked Eye** **E**

(11m) Directed by Caitlin Horsmon, Kansas City, MO
A curious character evokes sensuality through touch, taking the audience through excavations of a series of bodies and creating a reflection on synchresis, objecthood and interiority.



Themes & Variations for the Naked Eye

7:15 p.m. **A Day Late in Oakland** **DS**

(27m) Directed by Zachary Stauffer, Oakland, CA
This powerful documentary focuses on the life of Chauncey Bailey, the journalist who was gunned down on his walk to work in August 2007, and the evolution of Your Black Muslim Bakery, the organization implicated in the killing.



A Day Late in Oakland



One Water



American Herro



Come Hell or High Water



Victim



Beholder

7:45 p.m. **One Water** **DF**
Honorable Mention

(68m) Directed by Sanjeev Chatterjee and Ali Habashi, Coral Gables, FL
Filmed in fifteen countries in both hemispheres, *One Water* churns together stirring visual sequences, compelling expert commentary, hypnotic local music and a score performed by the Russian National Orchestra to immerse audiences in a direct and exhilarating experience of the meaning of water to humanity. • **CINEMATOGRAPHER PRESENT**

9:00 p.m. **American Herro** **DF**
Invited Film

(57m) Directed by Kirk Roos, Fargo, ND
This remarkable story follows a young Kurdish girl coming to America as a refugee. 30 years later, traveling the globe working for Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Diplomat Herro Mustafa, and her first American friend, filmmaker Kirk Roos, visit Iraq and retrace the steps to freedom. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

Thursday, March 5th

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

9:30 a.m. **Come Hell or High Water** **NF**

(95m) Directed by Wayne Shipley, Jessup, MD
This western follows a man who returns home after spending five years in prison. Looking to return to his thriving business and heal old wounds with his daughter, he finds that old rivals and new vendettas make life more difficult than ever.

11:15 a.m. **Victim** **S**

(6m) Directed by Marcus Mann, Moorhead, MN
One night, Stacy is abducted by her high school classmate Edward. Now, as she sits in the office of her high school counselor, she is forced to remember the true circumstances of her escape. A girl is kidnapped. A boy is murdered. Who is the victim? • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

11:20 a.m. **Beholder** **DS**

(7m) Directed by Eric Daniel Metzgar, Brooklyn, NY
Beholder is an autobiographical film about a photographer's evolving perspective of New York City.

11:25 **Flute Babies** **A**

(5m) Directed by Gretta Johnson, Chicago, IL
With a little help, a lonely alligator has a new sensation. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

11:30 **Automatic** **E**

(30m) Directed by Sharon Mooney, Chicago, IL
In an attempt to take control of his life, a customer service employee becomes obsessed with a chronic complaint letter writer. Through a series of awkward and funny letters describing his fantasies, their non-existent relationship evolves.

12:00 p.m. **Luncheon** and Panel Discussion
"Framed By Women: Women Filmmakers Discuss the Process"

MODERATOR: Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson
American Legion 505 3rd Ave. N., Downtown Fargo

1:30 p.m. **æ** **S** **Honorable Mention**

(12m) Directed by Maxwell Heesch, Moorhead, MN
After the latest in a line of murders, a lone detective must follow his gut and his gun to solve the crime, with a mysterious symbol as his only clue. The closer he gets to the truth, the more he fears he is losing his mind. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

1:45 p.m. **Indestructible** **DF**

(113m) Directed by Ben Byer, Winston Salem, NC
Diagnosed with ALS, a fatal neurodegenerative disease, filmmaker Ben Byer starts documenting his life on camera. What begins as a series of video diaries grows into an epic journey spanning three years and six countries as he scours the globe looking for answers-and a cure.

3:40 p.m. **This Is Me** **S** **Honorable Mention**

(4m) Directed by David Sam, St. Paul, MN
A young man recounts his experiences of being bullied as a teenager and how painful years of being an outsider made him a stronger person.

3:45 p.m. **Bloodsucker** **DS**

(4m) Directed by Meghan O'Hara, Stanford, CA
Contra Costa County, California has one of the highest foreclosure rates in the country. In 2006, 19 homes were repossessed by lenders. By the end of 2007, the number had ballooned to 1,558. *Bloodsucker* explores one of the unexpected consequences of this crisis.

3:50 p.m. **I Met the Walrus** **A**

(5m) Directed by Josh Raskin, Toronto, ON
In 1969, a 14-year-old Beatles fanatic named Jerry Levitan, armed with a reel-to-reel tape deck, sneaked into John Lennon's hotel room in Toronto and convinced John to do an interview about peace. Using the original interview as the soundtrack, this narrative tenderly romances Lennon's every word in a cascading flood of multi-pronged animation.



Flute Babies



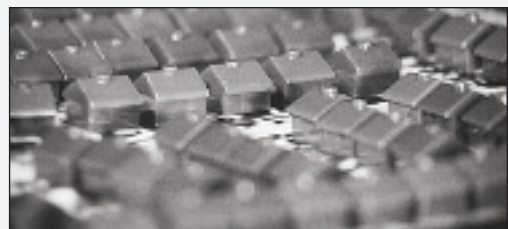
Automatic



æ



Indestructible



Bloodsucker



Random Access Memory



Black



Sita Sings the Blues

3:55 p.m. **Crank Balls** **A**

(5m) Directed by Devin Bell, Santa Monica, CA

The Crank Balls are trapped in a horrible colorless void until an infectious happiness changes their lives forever.

4:00 p.m. **Random Access Memory** **E**

(11m) Directed by Gavin Rehder, Fargo, ND

An exploration of Vertov's "Kino Eye", *Random Access Memory* is an objective eye look at the world through a camera's lens. Your eyes become the lens, your mind the magnetic tape and you see as a camera sees.

• **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

4:10 p.m. **Black** **NS**

(39m) Directed by Seth Anderson and Nathan Anderson, Santa Monica, CA – In this supernatural thriller, a

psychiatrist must face his own fear of death after his psychic wife invites a frightening presence into their lives. As they are both drawn into a situation where dreams easily fuse with reality, the distanced couple must find a common understanding or risk being cut off from each other forever.

• **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

Pre-Party • 5:00 - 6:45 p.m.

John Alexander's • 315 Main Avenue • Moorhead, MN

6:40 p.m. **LIVE! on the Mighty WurlitZer – Tyler Engberg**

Evening Host: **Susan Revland, Festival Organizational Consultant**

7:00 p.m. **Sita Sings the Blues** **A**

Recipient of The Ruth Landfield Award

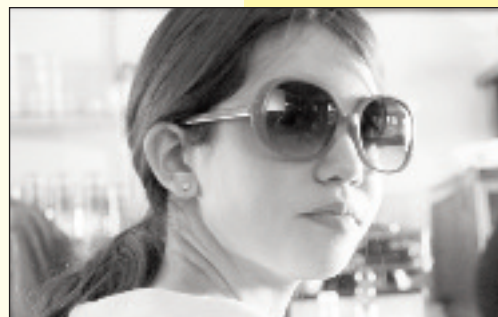
(82m) Directed by Nina Paley, Urbana, IL

Sita is a goddess separated from her beloved Lord and husband Rama. Nina is an animator whose husband moves to India, then dumps her by email. Set to the 1920's jazz vocals of Annette Hanshaw, both ancient tragedy and modern comedy are brought to life in this beautifully animated epic.

John
Alexander's
American Classics Restaurant & Tavern

THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH PRE-PARTY
5:00 - 6:45 p.m. • 315 Main Avenue • Moorhead

8:30 p.m. **50 States** **NS**
 (13m) Directed by Caity Birmingham, Chicago, IL
50 States is the story of 12-year-old Jane and her father Charlie, as they travel together on a road trip. Jane dreams of visiting all fifty states, but instead finds herself traveling the familiar confines of the Midwest with a father she hardly knows. As their trip draws to an end, Jane realizes she must find her own road to happiness, because growing up, there is no map. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**



50 States

8:45 p.m. **Good Looking** **NAV**
Honorable Mention
 (17m) Directed by Joseph Lazare, Toronto, ON
 A struggling and quirky young actor finally lands a role. Unfortunately, it's as a bimbo in a zombie film. Now she must decide what's more important: getting the part or maintaining her self-esteem.



Good Looking

9:05 p.m. **Moccasin Flats: Redemption**
Best Picture **NAV**
 (96m) Directed by Rob King, Toronto, ON
 After doing a bid for a crime he says he didn't commit, Red returns to the pressure cooker that is The Flats, a community hotly debated as being Canada's Worst Neighborhood, only to find himself in the midst of gang activity brewing on the verge of an all out war.



Moccasin Flats: Redemption



The Ruth Landfield Award

HONORING FILMS CELEBRATING WOMEN OF COURAGE, CONVICTION AND COMPASSION

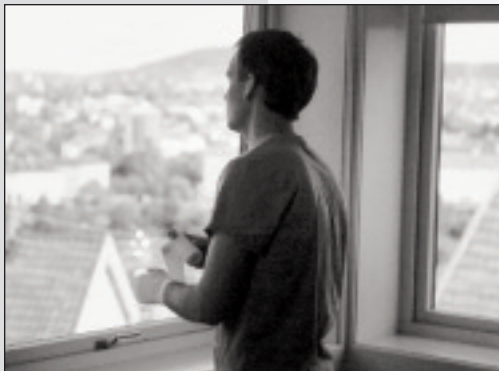
With the death of community arts patron, Ruth Landfield, the Fargo Film Festival will to continue in perpetuity, this award honoring Ruth and her long-standing commitment to the health and well-being of the historic Fargo Theatre. Films of artistic merit "about or by" women of courage, conviction and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



Beautiful Resistance



Small Town Silver Screen



A Helping Hand



Alaska Far Away

Friday, March 6th

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

9:30 a.m. ***The Letter* S**

(12m) Directed by Johan Anderson, Moorhead, MN
In the midst of confusion and anxiety in the last months of World War II, a couple finds themselves separated by more than just land and sea. In a series of flashbacks, the young wife of a soldier copes with a fateful letter she receives.

9:45 a.m. ***Beautiful Resistance* NAV**

(30m) Directed by Allan Holzman, Santa Monica, CA
Beautiful Resistance interweaves America's attempt to destroy Native Culture through the Boarding School system, where educational dictum was "Kill the Indian to save the man," and contemporary Native artists' courageous efforts to keep their transforming culture alive by communicating their stories, myths and evolving emotions and lifestyles through art.

10:15 a.m. ***The Fargo Theatre* S**
Invited Film

(10m) Directed by Nikki Willhoit, Fargo, ND
A vibrant look at the Historic Fargo Theatre and the people behind the scenes. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

10:25 a.m. ***Small Town Silver Screen* DF**

(78m) Directed by Bryce Jarrett, Sioux Falls, SD
This documentary film tells the story of historic, small-town theatres, their owners and their patrons in rural South Dakota. It focuses on the theatres' origins and closings, revival by community members and the struggle to survive against multiplex competition.

12:00 p.m. **Luncheon and Panel Discussion**
"An Animated World"

MODERATOR: Greg Carlson

American Legion 505 3rd Ave. N., Downtown Fargo

1:30 p.m. ***A Helping Hand* NS**

(15m) Directed by John-Kristian Dalseth, Oslo, Norway
Discovering a flat tire is not a good way to start your morning, but help is never far away.

1:45 p.m. ***Alaska Far Away* DF**

(91m) Directed by Paul Hill and Joan Juster, San Francisco, CA
In the midst of the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal gave 202 destitute Midwestern farm families a chance to start over – in Alaska. Witness the story of this bold government experiment, and the families who found themselves thrust into the national spotlight along the way.

• **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

3:20 p.m. **Hot Dog** **A**
 (6m) Directed by Bill Plympton, New York, NY
 Our plucky hero joins the fire company to save the world from house fires and gain the affection he so richly deserves. But things don't always go according to plan.



Hot Dog

3:25 p.m. **Dear Fatty** **A**
 (7m) Directed by Hsin-I Tseng, Los Angeles, CA
 A little girl writes a letter to her pet hamster Fatty in this short cut-out animation. Stop motion characters are combined with collage backgrounds and cut-outs of a real hamster to create this fantasy story. Fatty meets lots of animals during her travels and learns about the outside world.



Dear Fatty

3:35 p.m. **575 Castro St.** **DS**
Invited Film
 (8m) Directed by Jenni Olson, San Francisco, CA
 Set to the original audio cassette recorded by Harvey Milk in November 1977 to be played "in the event of my death by assassination". **Sponsored by the PRIDE Collective and Community Center and the ND Human Rights Coalition**



575 Castro St.

3:45 p.m. **This Bus, Every Day** **NS**
 (4m) Directed by Todd Tinkham, Durham, NC
 "I ride this bus every day. And every day, I think about my life: my family, my parents, my childhood." So begins this powerful examination of life, reflection and the meaning our memories can bring to our lives.

3:50 p.m. **When the Landscape Is Quiet Again: The Legacy of Art Link** **DS**
Recipient of The Prairie Spirit Award
 (57m) Directed by Clay Jenkinson and David Swenson, Washburn, ND
 A portrait of Art Link, the last true agrarian Governor of North Dakota, this film depicts Link's years of public service and efforts to ensure North Dakota's responsible development of natural resources. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

2009 Prairie Spirit A W A R D

When the Landscape Is Quiet Again: The Legacy of Art Link
 Clay Jenkinson and David Swenson, Washburn, ND

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





...And on the 7th Day, God Rocked



Rabbit



Brainless



Mexican Standoff



Butterflies Die in Snow

Pre-Party • 5:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Green Market at the Plains Art Museum
704 1st Avenue North • Downtown Fargo

CAFÉ MUSE GREEN MARKET
• CATERING •

6:40 p.m. **LIVE! on the Mighty WurlitZer – Lance Johnson**

Evening Host: **Emily Beck, Festival Programmer**

7:00 p.m. **...And on the 7th Day, God Rocked** **NF**
Honorable Mention

(98m) Directed by Jason Page, Duluth, MN
Many have entered, only one can win. Who will you root for in this laugh-out-loud rockumentary about a Christian Battle of the Bands? • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

8:40 p.m. **Rabbit** **A** **Honorable Mention**

(9m) Directed by Run Wrake, London, UK
A selection of 1950s educational stickers, discovered in a provincial junkshop twenty years ago, provide the ingredients for this adult fairytale. Once, they were new, delivering a simple message to those also young. Like us, however, they have grown older and now present a more complex meaning. *Rabbit* tells a tale of lost innocence, greed and the random justice of nature. When a boy and girl find an idol in the stomach of a rabbit, its magical abilities lead to riches, but for how long?

8:50 p.m. **Brainless** **S** **NS**
Honorable Mention

(4m) Directed by Jeremy Wanek, Edina, MN
A man sits back to read his newspaper when an unexpected visitor drops in for a bite to eat.

8:55 p.m. **Mexican Standoff** **MV**
Best Music Video

(5m) Directed by Bill Plympton, New York, NY
Mexican Standoff is a music video for the Dutch band Parson Brown. The story is about a three-sided love affair that goes absolutely wrong and the hearts that break along the way. The technique is pencil on paper which was then scanned and composited digitally.

9:00 p.m. **Butterflies Die in Snow** **NS**
Honorable Mention

(15m) Directed by Karim Azimi, Ardabil, Iran
In this wacky comedy, the search for inspiration takes two filmmakers on a bizarre journey. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

9:15 p.m. **2-Minute Movie Contest**

Saturday, March 7th

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

9:00 a.m. **The American Carver** **NAV**

(60m) Directed by Hans Erchinger-Davis, Bellingham, WA
The American Carver follows Jewell Praying Wolf James and 17 others from Washington State to the Pentagon, in an attempt to carve and transport 20,000 lbs of a 9/11 memorial totem pole.

10:00 a.m. **The Circle of Life** **A**

(5m) Directed by Ilias Sounas, Athens, Greece
 Life constantly changes as it comes full circle.

10:05 a.m. **Tyger** **A**

(4m) Directed by Guilherme Marcondes, New York, NY
 A stunning combination of live-action puppetry and animation, this short film follows a magical tiger's exploration through the urban jungle.

10:10 a.m. **Doxology** **A**

(7m) Directed by Michael Langan, San Francisco, CA
 Before reaching spiritual enlightenment, a young man must face a dancing Oldsmobile, endure a boozy encounter with God. *Doxology* combines groundbreaking stop-motion animation techniques and unusual storytelling with the time-honored quest for spiritual awakening.

10:20 a.m. **Seeking You** **A**

(4m) Directed by Jean-Julien Pous, Paris, France
 A man loses his love and sets out on a Hong Kong night to find her, only to realize that it's not with her he's in love, but with the city itself.

10:25 a.m. **Swimming Moon** **A**

(4m) Directed by Nahomi Maki, Los Angeles, CA
 A being is driven to madness by the full moon, discovering a sensitive, beautiful and deep dream world.

10:30 a.m. **Idiots and Angels** **A**

(78m) Directed by Bill Plympton, New York, NY
 Angel is a selfish, abusive, morally bankrupt man who hangs out at his local bar, berating the other patrons. One day, Angel mysteriously wakes up with a pair of wings on his back. The wings make him do good deeds, contrary to his nature.

12:00 p.m. **Luncheon** and Panel Discussion

**"Unfiltered and Unrated:
 Guests of the Fest Tell All"**

MODERATOR: Tom Brandau

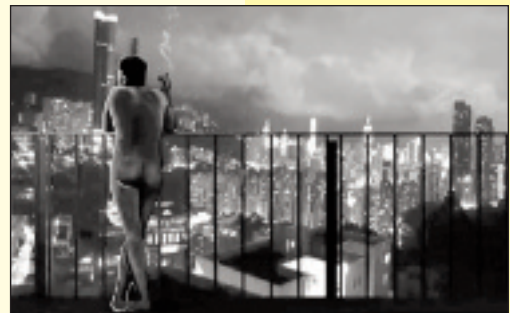
American Legion 505 3rd Ave. N., Downtown Fargo



The Circle of Life



Doxology



Seeking You



Swimming Moon



Idiots and Angels



One Drum



Kanizsa Hill



Pim, Pam, Pum



Las Gafas

1:30 p.m. **One Drum** **MV**
Honorable Mention

(5m) Directed by Helen Haig-Brown, Toronto, ON
One Drum is a plea to unify and create a movement of truth: the truth we speak from our indigenous knowledge, the truth that flows from our ancestors, and about our relation to the land and one another.

1:35 p.m. **Old Dog** **S** **Invited Film**

(20m) Directed by Tyler Schwanke, Moorhead, MN
Dewayne is a retiree who is more interested in fishing and the weather channel than spending time with his wife Millie. Fed up his ungrateful attitude, Millie decides to leave and live with her sister Doris. A week away will show Dewayne how much he doesn't appreciate everything Millie does for him and how he needs to win her back. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**

1:55 p.m. **Kanizsa Hill** **A**

(8m) Directed by Evelyn Lee, Los Angeles, CA
After being shot, a head and a body learn to exist independently from one another while seeking reunification.

2:05 p.m. **Pim, Pam, Pum** **NS**
Honorable Mention

(3m) Directed by Andoni De Carlos Yarza and Asier Urbieta, Sevilla, Spain
Mikel must find his brother to avoid problems when he gets home.

2:10 p.m. **Las Gafas** **NS**
Best Narrative Short Film

(12m) Directed by Alberto Martin, Santa Cruz De Tenerife, Spain
Two men sit in the sweltering desert sun. They have orders from a chief they have never seen to embark on a mission they cannot fully grasp. The mission: to recover a lost pair of eye glasses.

2:25 p.m. **Raw** **DS**
Honorable Mention

5 minutes
Directed by Shelly Roby, San Francisco, CA
Raw captures a candid, up close and personal conversation with legendary documentary filmmaker Les Blank, as he discusses the similarities between cooking and filmmaking.

2:30 p.m. **Richart** **DS**

Honorable Mention

(23m) Directed by Dawn Smallman, Vanessa Renwick and Greg Snider, Portland, OR
While confined to a psychiatric ward at age 50, Richard "Richart" Tracy made this discovery: "If you want to get out of the hospital – start making art like this. They will get rid of you – fast!" Seventeen years later, he's turned three residential lots into a massive maze of his artistic, sculptural visions.



Richart

2:55 p.m. **First Kill** **S** **NS**

Honorable Mention

(16m) Directed by Micah Ranum, Tallahassee, FL
For everything, there is a first. First words, first step... FIRST KILL.



First Kill

3:15 p.m. **Double Thunder** **E**

(6m) Directed by Potter-Belmar Labs, San Antonio, TX
The first movement of this meteorological metaphor logs a journey, through town and countryside, far away from home. The second is a composition of solace and stillness. In the third and final movement, we weather a terrible thunderstorm.



Double Thunder

3:20 **Mr. Brown** **DS** **Invited Film**

(11m) Directed by Tom Brandau, Moorhead, MN
Mr. Brown tells the story of Jim Brown, who grew up in the Twin Cities during the 1930s and 1940s. Using actors to recreate Brown's stories, Brandau conveys the insults, indignities and open discrimination that Brown experienced as an African American. Despite the adversity, Brown persevered to become an accomplished dancer, author, father, grandfather and positive force in his community. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**



Mr. Brown

3:30 **FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story** **DS**

(86m) Directed by Melody Gilbert, St. Paul, MN
Walter "Fritz" Mondale believes politics and public service can build bridges rather than barriers. *FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story* explores the former Vice President's extraordinary life from the 1960's through today, from Minnesota to the White House and back. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**



FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story

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6:40 p.m. **LIVE! on the Mighty Wurlitzer -
Steve Eneboe**

Evening Host: **Doug Hamilton, Fargo Theatre
Board Member - "Best of Festival Films"**

Best in Show Awards

7:00 p.m. **Harvest Moon** **S** **NS**
Best Student Narrative Short
Recipient of The Rusty Casselton Award

(9m) Directed by Micah Ranum, Tallahassee, FL
Sometimes love sucks! A couple on the brink of divorce find themselves fighting for their love and life, when a group of burglars breaks into their palatial mansion. Surprisingly, this just may be the marital counseling the couple has been waiting for.



Harvest Moon

7:15 p.m. **2-Minute Movie Contest Winner**

7:20 p.m. **I Am So Proud of You** **S**
Best Animation

(22m) Directed by Don Hertzfeld, Goleta, CA
With powerful minimalism, Academy Award nominated director Don Hertzfeld continues the story of Bill the stick figure as he contemplates life lessons, family sagas, mental illness, broken bloodlines, ball-bearing seals and a couple of deadly trains.



I Am So Proud of You

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 mourn the passing of this visionary and friend.

7:45 p.m. **Abel Raises Cain** **DF**
Documentary Feature Winner
Recipient of The Bill Snyder Award

(82m) Directed by Jenny Abel and Jeff Hockett, Los Angeles, CA
 Jenny's father Alan Abel has a rather unusual job: he is a professional prankster. Hailed by some journalists as the "word's greatest hoaxer," yet scorned by others as a menace to the media, Jenny tells her father's true tale for the first time. She reflects on her childhood and follows her father on the road during his most recent hoax, reminding us all you can't believe everything you see, read or hear.

• **DOCUMENTARY FILM "STAR" ALAN ABEL PRESENT**



Abel Raises Cain

9:15 p.m. **River** **NF**
Best Narrative Feature

(80m) Directed by Mark Wihak, Regina, ON
 A lyrical evocation of those life-changing friendships of youth – passionate, all consuming and sometimes as brief as summer. Stan and Roz live in a small city a long way from anywhere. Stan is making progress on a novel while Roz toils away at a dead-end job and roams the city with her camera. When these two strangers meet, they nurture each other's dreams and discover what is possible in friendship and in themselves. • **FILMMAKER PRESENT**



River

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

Rusty Casselton

HAROLD "RUSTY" CASSELTON, chair of the Film Studies

Department at Minnesota State University Moorhead and one of the Fargo-Moorhead area's most respected film historians, died

December 30, 2007 at the age of 53. Rusty 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.

Rusty participated in the Fargo Film Festival from the time of its inception, often 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 will be greatly missed by the Fargo Film Festival, his students, his extended family, his friends, his colleagues, and his wife Cindy and daughters Hannah and Amanda.



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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. He was named Distinguished Alumnus of Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) in 1998 for contributions to students and film studies.

A Glyndon, Minnesota native, Larson graduated from MSUM in 1962 with speech/theatre and English degrees and taught at Benjamin Franklin Junior High School in Fargo for six years. He then joined the speech and theatre arts faculty at MSUM, where he taught for 32 years. He directed MSUM's International Film Festival and Summer Cinema Film Series for more than 20 years. He also held a master's degree in speech and drama from the University of Kansas.

A long-time member of the Fargo Theatre's board of directors, he was one of the initiators and co-producers of its Silent Movie Night, which began in 1974. He also collaborated with symphonies in Butte and Billings, Montana, as a guest scholar. Most recently, and up until his death, 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. He and Rusty have also provided Kevin Brownlow, British film documentarian, with rare film footage for his television productions *Universal Horror* and *Lon Chaney*.

Among his many achievements, Larson has helped a number of talented young filmmakers develop careers. His former students have worked with the likes of Steven Spielberg, David Letterman and George Lucas.

Ted was a unique presence who impacted constituencies, institutions and audiences throughout the United States. We are deeply saddened by his death and acutely aware that Ted Larson is indeed irreplaceable.



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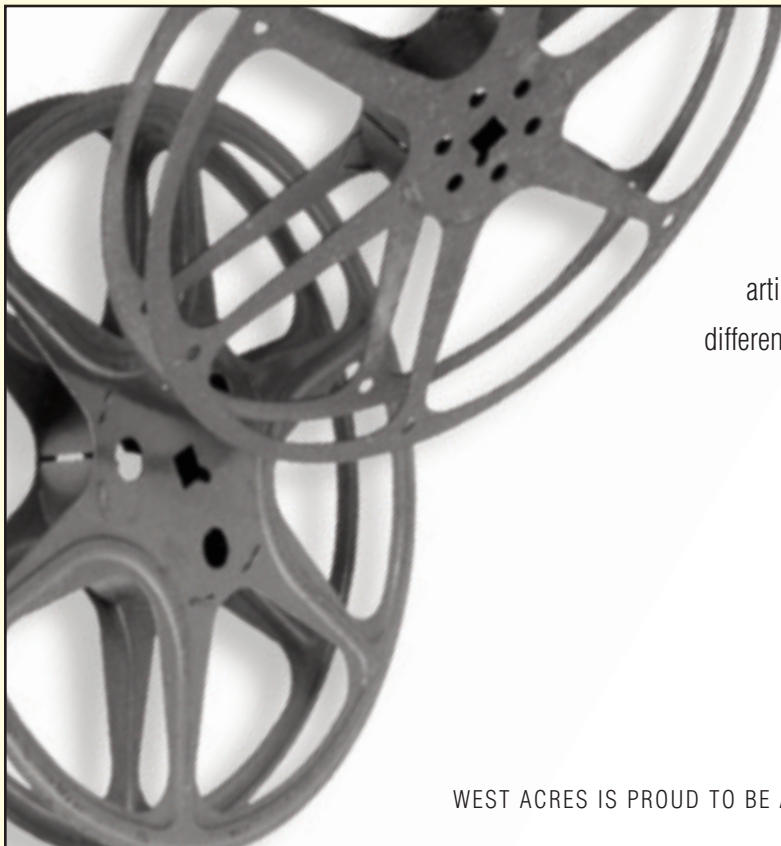
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Margie Bailly,
executive director,
film commissioner,
OPEN reader.

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THE PREMIER CITY MAGAZINE FOR THE FARGO/MOORHEAD AREA

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Art of the Guitar
Spring Gala

Saturday, May 2
7 p.m. - Midnight
Plains Art Museum

A celebration of acoustic guitar with . . .

Branda Waller, Tom Carvall, & Tim Sparks
Dancing to Post-Traumatic Funk Syndrome
Bountiful food inspired by Spain from Green Market Catering
Art of the Guitar: A Luthier's Renaissance Exhibition
Cocktails by Sidestreet Grille & Pub
Atomic Coffee Unplugged
Wine tasting by Happy Harry's Bottle Shops
Desserts by Nichole's Fine Pastry
Silent auction of art

Purchase Tickets:
704 1st Ave. N., Fargo, ND 58102
701.232.3821 • plainsart.org
eTickets at: fargostuff.com

PlainsArt
Museum

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IN-FORUM

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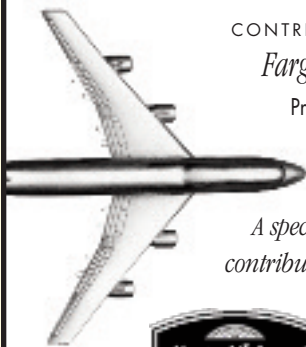


CONTRIBUTORS TO THE

Fargo Film Festival Journey Fund

Providing travel stipends for deserving filmmakers attending the festival

A special thank you to our partners whose contributions have made this fund possible.



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OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO



SPIDER AND COMPANY
INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH CREATIVE



For providing a gathering space for festival filmmakers and volunteers.



THE MANY LAYERS OF THE FARGO FILM FESTIVAL



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10:30am-2:00pm



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Closing Night
PRE-PARTY

Saturday, March 7 • 2009
5:00 – 6:45 p.m.

220 broadway, fargo • 701.526.0149 • montesdowntown.com

Connecting Generations & Building for the Future!

Taking a look at the new second screen theatre (from left): Fargo Theatre executive director Margie Bailly and film programmer Emily Beck, with State Bank & Trust chairman Dick Solberg and president Mike Solberg.



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