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YEARS

FESTIVAL

MARCH
17-21 2020

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Ruby Tuesday



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This project is supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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In Search of Something New

Hello, my name is Emily and I am a cineophile. A movie fanatic. A film nerd. Movies were my first true love. They swept me off my feet at the age of three when I inherited a clamshell-case VHS copy of Disney's *Robin Hood*. And oo-de-lally, it has been a glorious affair ever since.

But recently, I have noticed a complaint rising from the ranks of the dedicated movie-going community: "Hollywood never makes anything new these days." Audiences are growing weary of sequels, remakes, and reboots. While I could never tire of watching a Chris (be it Hemsworth, Evans, or Pratt) save the world in a nifty costume, I must agree that the industry is quite comfortable on the path well-trod. A person should only need one hand to count the number of Spider-Mans (Spider-Men?) they've seen on the big screen.

But fortunately for us, Hollywood is not the alpha and omega of cinema. There are gloriously original voices thriving in film today. For the last 20 years, the Fargo Film Festival team has been on a quest to find audaciously authentic storytellers and share their work with our community. With vision, talent, and sacrifice (and probably an Indiegogo campaign), these independent artists bring their dreams to life on the silver screen. And we, sitting in a darkened cinema, share the euphoric experience of discovering something new.

If you are a fellow movie fan, you have found the perfect home for the next five days. Film festivals are troves of fresh perspectives, novel ideas, and innovative craftsmanship. I am so grateful that you have chosen to spend this time with us. I hope the stories you are about to see move you, challenge you, and surprise you in the best possible ways.

Thank you for coming to the 2020 Fargo Film Festival. **ENJOY THE SHOW!**

Emily



Emily Beck
FARGO THEATRE
Executive Director



DAN FRANCIS PHOTOGRAPHY

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Emily Beck, *Executive Director and Programmer*
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Adam Roder, *Technical Director*
Betsy Dreesen, *Finance Manager*
Sean Volk, *Development & Engagement Manager*
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Tiarra May, *Festival Intern*

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Jensina Bailly, *Alex Popowski*
Angela Hetland-Santiago, *Andrew Ramlet*
Ben Ledinsky, *Johnny Wagner*
Asst. Staff Supervisor

CONCESSION

Daniel Aarness, *Gabe Gerhardt*
Andrew Gullickson

2019 COVER ARTIST

Punchgut

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Mike Burton	Diane Herzberg	Kendra O'Brien,	<i>Nar. Short Chair</i>
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Jennifer Carney	Jessica Hooper	Matt Olien,	<i>Animation Chair</i>
Jeremy Carney	Rachel Hoffman	<i>Executive Committee</i>	Jeff Walkowski
Judy Daniels	Christine Hoper,	Karen Olson,	Leslie Wegner
Tracie Demianiuk	<i>Experimental Chair</i>	<i>Festival Co-Chair</i>	Bev Welder
Cori Edgerton	Kyle Iverson	Sandy Pearce	Jane Wolff
Gen Eidem	Jenny Jensen	Julie Peterson Klein	Lee Wrona

TUES 17TH
7:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Mind My Mind

TUES 17TH
7:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21ST
11:40 a.m.
SCREEN 2



OSCAR WINNER



The Neighbors' Window

TUES 17TH
7:50 p.m.
SCREEN 1

FRI 20TH
3:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2



R.A.W. Tuba



March 17th

Opening Night

Evening Host: Michael Stromenger, Narrative Short Chair

7:00 p.m. ***Mind My Mind***

Winner: Best Animated Film



Directed by Floor Adams | Netherlands | 30 mins
When you need to rely on scripted responses to survive social interactions, it is not easy to go off-script (especially if you are obsessed with German dive bombers and just want to date a girl).

7:30 p.m. ***The Neighbors' Window***

Winner: Best Narrative Short



Directed by Marshall Curry | USA | 20 mins
The lives of a middle-aged couple with small children are shaken up when two free-spirited twenty-somethings move in across the street.

7:50 p.m. ***R.A.W. Tuba***

Winner: Best Documentary Short



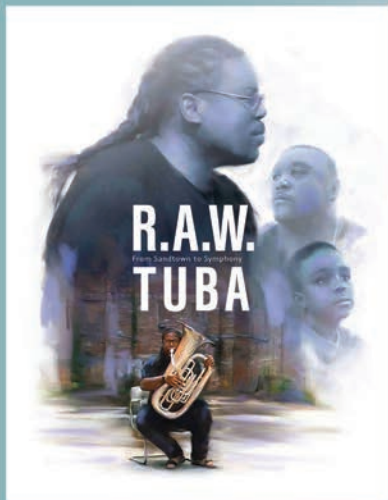
with special guest Richard Antoine White

Directed by Darren Durlach and David Larson | USA | 29 mins
As a child, Richard Antoine White (R.A.W.) experienced poverty and homelessness. Despite these enormous challenges, he followed his passion for music to become principal tubist of the New Mexico Philharmonic.

THE FARGO FILM FESTIVAL WELCOMES SPECIAL GUEST

Richard Antoine White

With over two decades of performing on the world's classical music stages, tubist Richard White has matured into a musician known for his clear sound and stylistic flexibility. He began his tuba studies with Ed Goldstein at age twelve at The Baltimore School for the Performing Arts, where he graduated with honors. He then went to the Peabody Conservatory of Music to study with David Fedderly (Principal Tubist, Baltimore Symphony) where he received his Bachelor's degree. On the advice of Mr. Fedderly, Richard traveled to Indiana University to study with the legendary Professor Daniel Perantoni. He continued his studies there receiving both his Master's and Doctoral degrees.



March 18th

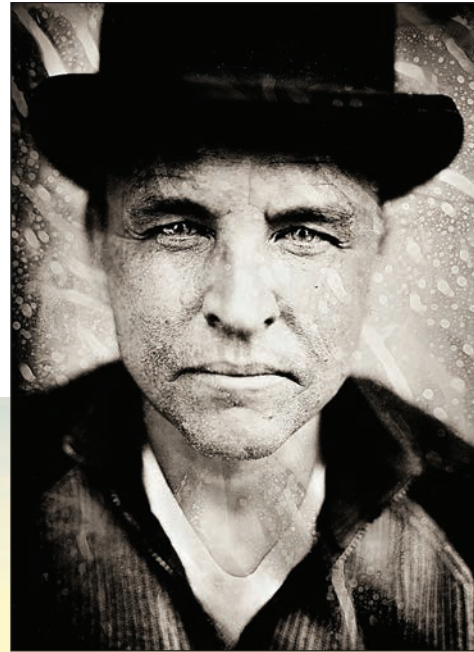
Wednesday Night

Evening Host: Matt Olien, *Festival Executive Committee*



7:00 p.m. **Balkowitsch Winner: Documentary Feature**
Honorable Mention and Prairie Spirit Award
with special guests Shane Balkowitsch and
directors Chelsy Ciavarella and Gregory DeSaye

WED 18TH
7:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1



2020 Prairie Spirit Award

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

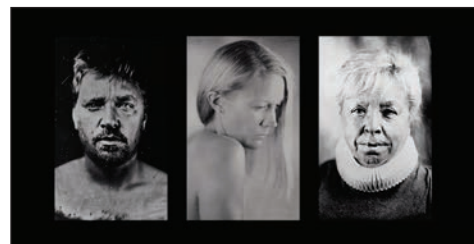
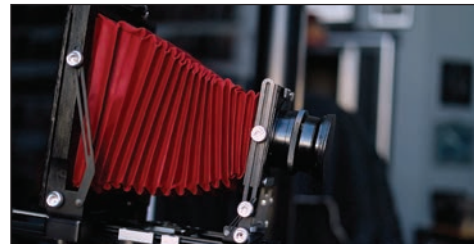
Everyone has a purpose, but most spend their lives searching. For one man, his mission came later in life and has been fueled with passion, spreading like wildfire across the prairies and now spanning the world.

Shane Balkowitsch has a singular desire to reach deep into the past to imprint a moment in time, held firm for future generations.

He is at once a preservationist, an archivist, and an artist through the lost art of wet plate photography and is quickly becoming one of the world's most prolific artists in the genre.

Perhaps the most famous wet plate photograph was taken of Sitting Bull by Orlando Scott Goff in 1881. Balkowitsch has followed in those footsteps and forged a new path, making pictures of Native Americans the primary mission of his work. The photograph that started his calling was of Sitting Bull's great-grandson, Ernie LaPointe. That image began his journey of photographing 1,000 Native Americans through this historic and beautiful process.

With a single 10 second exposure pressed with silver on glass, Balkowitsch captures his enduring vision.



SOUNDS OF THE
Criterion Collection
WITH RYAN HULLINGS

March 19th
Thursday Night

Evening Host: Greg Carlson, *Festival Executive Committee*

THU 19TH
7:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1

7:00 p.m. **Ryan Hullings on the Sounds of
the Criterion Collection**

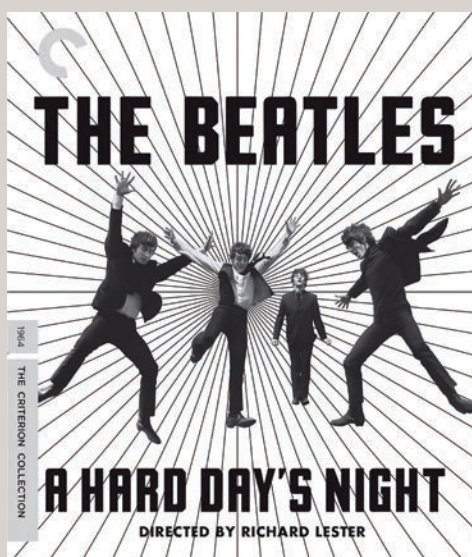
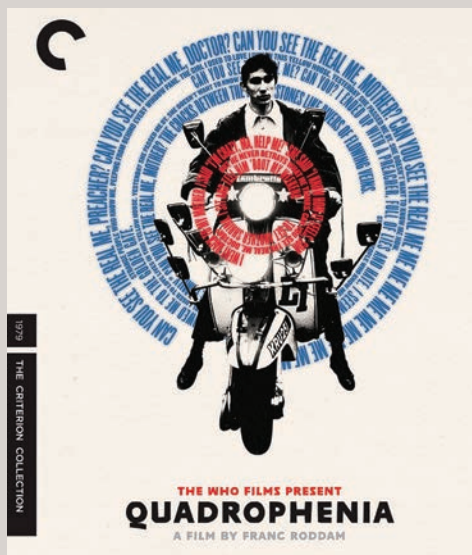
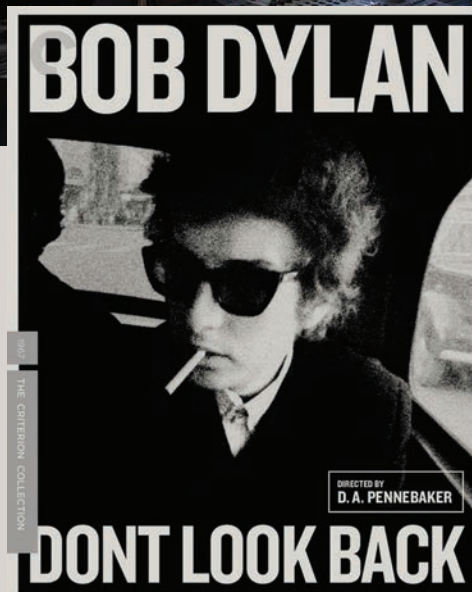
A passion for fidelity and years of experience in audio postproduction for film, television, and music led RYAN HULLINGS to the Criterion Collection, where he began as an audio restoration engineer in 2007 and is now supervisor of the audio department.

His work involves not just conducting digital film audio restoration but also keeping pace with cutting-edge restoration technology and evaluating the sound quality of various film elements, all with the mission of upholding the company's lofty technical standards for film sound and allowing viewers to faithfully experience soundtracks as their makers intended them to be heard.

In 2019, Ryan spearheaded the restorations of such landmark films as Alfred Hitchcock's *Notorious*, Elaine May's *Mikey and Nicky*, John Waters' *Polyester*, Pier Paolo Pasolini's *Teorema*, and Jim Jarmusch's *Stranger Than Paradise*. Currently, he's proud to be busy restoring a selection of Bruce Lee films.

The Fargo Film Festival is excited to welcome Ryan Hullings, who will discuss his work on several landmark rock films: Richard Lester's *A Hard Day's Night*, starring John, Paul, George, and Ringo, the most influential quartet in 20th century popular recording; D. A. Pennebaker's *Dont Look Back*, the electrifying portrait of music icon Bob Dylan; Franc Roddam's *Quadrophenia*, the 1979 British drama based on the Who's potent rock opera; and David Byrne's *True Stories*, the cult classic "celebration of specialness" featuring the unforgettable sounds of the Talking Heads.

Hullings takes audience members inside the Criterion Collection's fascinating audio restoration process, addressing in an engaging and accessible manner the work that goes into preparing movies for release or re-release on big screen and small.



THE CRITERION COLLECTION

Scream, Queen! My Nightmare on Elm Street

AN EVENING WITH MARK PATTON

March 20th

Friday Night

Evening Hosts: Brittney Goodman, *Doc Feature Chair* and
Sean Volk, *Animation Chair*

7:00 p.m. **Scream, Queen! My Nightmare on Elm Street**
with special guest Mark Patton

FRI 20TH
7:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1

At the time of release, *The Advocate* dubbed 1985's *A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge* the gayest horror film ever made. For the film's closeted young star, Mark Patton, such a tag was a stark reminder about the homophobia rampant in Hollywood at the time – and the painful experience he had making the high-profile film and living through the polarizing critical aftermath.

This new documentary highlights Patton's time in the horror spotlight, and Patton – who co-produced the film with Roman Chimienti, a NYC-based sound engineer – sets the record straight about the controversial sequel, which ended his acting career just as it was about to begin.

Scream, Queen! My Nightmare on Elm Street follows Patton as he travels to horror conventions across the U.S. Each new city unwraps a chapter from his life that is met with equal parts joyful and bittersweet detail, as he attempts to make peace with his past and embrace his legacy as cinema's first male "scream queen."

Scream, Queen! also finds Patton confronting the *Freddy's Revenge* cast and crew for the first time, including co-stars Robert Rusler, Kim Myers and Clu Gulager, as well as Freddy Krueger himself, Robert Englund. The film also discusses *Freddy's Revenge's* status as an LGBTQ cult classic, and illustrates how the career turbulence experienced by Patton – whose résumé includes stints on Broadway and a regarded role in the 1982 film *Come Back to the 5 & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* – wasn't out of the ordinary for the time.



Scream, Queen! My Nightmare on Elm Street



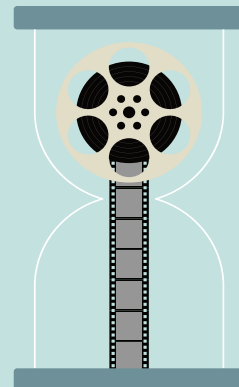
1985's *A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge*

2-Minute Movie Contest

FRIDAY 9:30 p.m.

PRODUCED BY GREG CARLSON

Tiny run times, ginormous personalities. This dynamic program of pint-sized pictures spans all genres and includes work from filmmakers close to home and around the globe. From kids capturing images on cell phones to the shortest movie ever nominated for an Oscar, the 2-Minute Movie Contest has delighted curious Fargo Film Festival audiences for years. See what a group of ingenious artists can do when given but a single rule: Tell us a story in 120 seconds or less.



Tom Brandau

RECIPIENT OF THE 2020
TED M. LARSON AWARD

Tom Brandau is a graduate of the American Film Institute (Directing Fellow) and holds an MFA in theatre from Towson University in Baltimore. He has won numerous awards as an independent filmmaker, including a Regional Student Academy Award for his documentary *Whales, Ltd.*

Tom has more than 25 years of experience as a commercial writer, producer, director, and professor in Baltimore. His dramatic short *Sonny and Cornblatt* won several awards, including the Retirement Research National Media Award, the Barry Levinson Arts Award, the Rosebud Award, and a national Telly Award.

In 2003, Tom wrote, produced, and directed the award-winning *Cold Harbor*, a dramatic feature film about four brothers coming to terms with the suicide of their estranged father.

Since moving to Moorhead, Minnesota, films by Brandau that have enjoyed heavy festival distribution include *Heavenly Sight*, a short drama that deals with a young boy's first experience with death; the documentary short *Mr. Brown*, which took top honors in the Minnesota Historical Society's 2008 Moving Pictures competition; *The Cleaning Lady*, a short drama which deals with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King; and *Home Delivery*, a short drama focusing on the relationship between two paper boys working in the same newly integrated Baltimore neighborhood.

His latest project, *Sadie Breaks the Silents*, explores a woman's attempt to rise in the ranks of the silent film industry, and is currently in post-production.

Brandau has served as a member of the Fargo Theatre Board of Directors. He also served as a committee member of the Fargo Film Festival for nine years, including festival co-chair for three years. In 2013, Brandau received the Margie Bailly Volunteer Spirit Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the FFF.

Tom is Professor Emeritus of Film Production at Minnesota State University Moorhead where he taught for fifteen years. While there he not only educated but engaged students in many initiatives, such as filming the Moorhead Public Access TV show *Underexposures*, which featured student productions; hosting Alumni Summits; encouraging study abroad to the Lincoln University School of Media in England and the Eurospring program, which he led; creating service-learning coursework; advising the Cinethusiasts student organization; and hiring students as crew and cast members on his productions. He continues to actively support and connect with his former students who work in the industry and create art around the world.

Tom lives in Moorhead with his wife and creative partner Janet, their non-ironically-named cats Noir and Orson, and his perfect stepchildren Kate and Daniel Aarness.



THE FARGO FILM FESTIVAL
HONORS THE LIFE AND WORK OF

Ted M. Larson

TED LARSON (1940-2000) was 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 longtime 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 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.



March 21st

Saturday Afternoon

1:30 p.m. **Presentation of the 2020 Ted M. Larson Award to Tom Brandau**

1:50 p.m. **Florence** **Winner: Rusty Casselton Award and Student Honorable Mention**



Directed by Emanuele Daga | USA | 16 mins
Florence goes through her days without letting anyone get close. When someone slips a love letter into her pocket, she decides to branch out, remembering what it means to feel hopeful.

2:05 p.m. **Change**

Directed by Alec Holland | USA | 6 mins – Harold makes an offering.

2:20 p.m. **Made Public**

Directed by Foster Wilson | USA | 14 mins
The night before he says 'I do,' Dave commits a cardinal sin. His doubts about tying the knot go viral.

2:35 p.m. **Peggy**

Directed by Justin O'Neal Miller | USA | 12 mins
Peggy's faultless social graces are put to the test when she is surrounded by covetous parents at her eight-year-old son's birthday party.

3:00 p.m. **The Planters**

Winner: Narrative Feature Honorable Mention



Directed by Alexandra Kotcheff and Hannah Leder | USA | 78 mins
This is a radical experiment in feature filmmaking. Two women, starring in, and making a film with no on-set crew. *The Planters* is a dark comedy about Martha Plant, a reclusive telemarketer grieving the loss of her parents, who finds unlikely friendship in Sadie Mayflower, a Jesus-loving vagrant with multiple personalities. Martha takes Sadie into her home, gives her a stake in her secret side business, and helps her work through her mental illness. In exchange, Sadie helps Martha keep her job, find love, and discover her true voice. But when their buddy-romance takes a turn, Martha learns that opening herself up can come with unexpected consequences.



Florence

SAT 21ST
1:50 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Change

TUE 17TH
3:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1

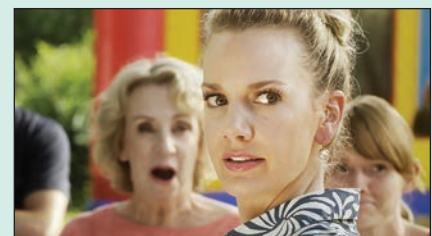
SAT 21ST
2:05 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Made Public

TUE 17TH
4:35 p.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21ST
2:20 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Peggy

TUE 17TH
4:50 p.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21ST
2:35 p.m.
SCREEN 1



The Planters

SAT 21ST
3:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1

Jenny Jensen and Peg O'Neill

BFF... *Best Friends Forever*

The acronym BFF has evolved into a noun that refers to a close friend.

A-Once-in-a-Lifetime Best Friends Forever describes the friendship of Peg O'Neill and Jenny Jensen.

Peg and Jenny both worked on the MSUM campus together from 1990 to 2017, and they both retired in 2017. They shared their day-to-day lives together. They went to Straw Hat plays, volunteered for the Fargo Film Festival, canned tomatoes, celebrated birthdays, walked two miles every day during their lunch hours, shared their families' lives, and they always knew what was going on with the other one. When you saw one of them, you saw the other one, too! They are truly Best Friends Forever!!!



Jenny Jensen and Peg O'Neill

Peg and Jenny started going to the Fargo Film Festival in 2008, and attended the festival together in 2008, 2009, and 2010. In 2010, they became jurors and have been involved since that year! Ten years as volunteers!! They served on the Narrative Short jury for three years, Doc Short for two years, Student for two years, Animation for two years and this year on Experimental. They both looked forward to the FFF in March every year, as it was their winter getaway!! Attending the Sundance Film Festival was on their bucket list. They always promoted the FFF to people that had not attended before. FFF is a hidden treasure right here in Fargo, ND where you can view great independent films on the big screen!!! They both recruited family and friends to volunteer at the FFF. Peg recruited Tom's brother, Michael Burton, and they both recruited fellow juror Cori Edgerton to join. This year Jenny has also recruited her sister, Liz Burhans, and her daughter, Jessica Hoeper, to become jurors!! Attending the Fargo Film Festival is a destination vacation!!!

Jenny Jensen has been married to Rick Jensen for 40 years and they live in West Fargo. They have two grown children and six grandchildren, with the seventh due in June! Jenny enjoys spending time with family and friends. Jenny stays busy ushering at the Fargo Theatre, FMCT and Theatre B, and she works part-time at the FargoDome.



Peg O'Neill was married to Tom Burton. Peg and Tom were killed in a tragic car accident in July, 2019. Peg retired from MSUM in 2017 and they moved to their home on Tamarac Lake. Peg enjoyed tending to her flowers and her vegetable garden. Peg was an excellent cook and always wore a smile on her face. Peg and Tom's deaths are such a huge loss to so many. This is a message from Peg's friend, Jody Bendel: *"This new adventure Peg and Tom are on together, wherever it may take them, I hope they take the long way, get to know the locals, enjoy the scenery and each other's company, just like their adventure in this life."*

"A sincere thank you to our entire FFF family for honoring the friendship that Peg and I shared. This award honors our friendship. We were a team and we both enjoyed volunteering for the FFF! I'm guessing Peg is smiling down on all of us! Thank You!"

– JENNY JENSEN

Saturday Evening • March 21st

Best in Fest Celebration

Evening Hosts: Emily Beck, *Festival Director* and
Sean Volk, *Animation Jury Chair*

7:00 p.m. **Presentation of the 2020
Margie Bailly Volunteer Spirit
Award to Jenny Jensen
and Peg O'Neill**

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

7:15 p.m. ***International Falls*
with special guest
director Amber McGinnis**



Narrative Feature Honorable Mention

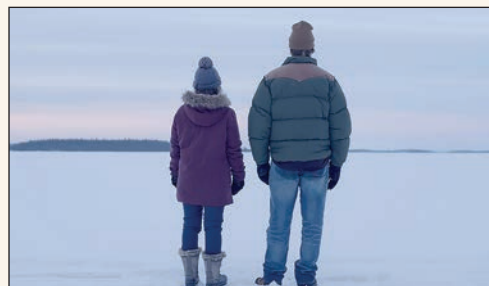
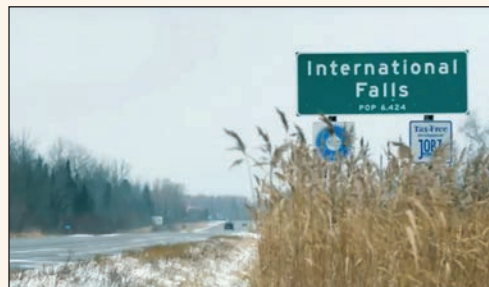
Dee is a middle-aged wife and mother stuck in a boring job and a broken marriage in what feels like the frozen edge of the world: International Falls, Minnesota. A self-proclaimed comedy nerd with a secret dream of getting on stage, her only escape comes in the form of no-name touring comics performing weekly in the hotel bar where she works as a front desk clerk. This particular weekend brings Tim, a burned out headliner who is all too aware of his status as a low-level nobody telling the same hack jokes to small town slobbering drunks year after year.

When Dee invites herself to Tim's room after his first night's show, her walls begin to crumble as she's forced to face the realities of a life that she's become so adept at ignoring and a dream she's never had the guts to pursue. The line between comedy and tragedy is blurred as Dee is forced to ask the inevitable, unavoidable question that all must face: Now what?

AMBER MCGINNIS directs both film and theatre professionally. After completing her MFA in Directing at Baylor University, Amber began working with new media production company *WILL Interactive*, where she has directed and written over one dozen feature-length interactive films. She was an Associate Producer for the Emmy Award-winning Kennedy Center Honors, where she produced biography films for Tom Hanks and Lily Tomlin. She has also produced and directed several short films, including *The Gift*, *Missy* and *9 Days Later*. She has been called the "rising star" of the DC theatre directors and her stage work has been hailed by the Washington Post as "intense and visually striking" as well as "polished and perceptive."



International Falls



Amber McGinnis

SAT 21ST
7:15 p.m.
SCREEN 1

20 Wonderful Years of the Fargo Film Festival

BY KAREN OLSON

March 1, 2001. The house lights dim.
The chattering audience grows quiet and holds its collective breath....

Some of the founders can tell us what it was like to be there, that night, and on the nearly 100 magical FFF days and nights since.

The Birth of the Fargo Film Festival

MARGIE BAILLY, former executive director of the Fargo Theatre, describes how the festival was a logical progression following the renovation of the building. Almost immediately after restoring this beautiful art deco theatre to its glory days, it showcased the 2000 Library of Congress Film Preservation Tour. And the following year, the Fargo Film Festival was born!

"I really felt we had something special here," Bailly said. The Fargo Theatre was built in 1926 as a cinema and vaudeville house. "We felt we should go into the 21st Century by honoring emerging film, just as the Fargo Theatre had ushered us into the world of talking film long ago."

Was it madness? Perhaps. "It was so much fun. I felt totally out of my depth," Bailly admitted. "It was a HUGE learning curve."

"We were all just neophytes," she continued. "We wanted to develop our brand. Our slogan was, 'Why go to Cannes when you CAN go to Fargo?'"

And just look what she and the other founders built!

The Movies

It's about movies – short movies, long movies, funny movies, sad movies, movies that shock, offend and provoke, movies that give us hope.

One of the founders who has helped select festival films for all 20 years is MARTY JONASON. As past board chair, he helped shepherd the restoration of the Fargo Theatre and then moved right into his role with the festival. He also hosted the second screen location in the very first year.

Marty received the first Margie Bailly Volunteer Spirit Award, established in 2011 to honor volunteers who have made significant contributions to the success of the Fargo Film Festival. "It has been my pleasure to help establish such an exciting festival in Fargo. I am truly honored to receive this award," he said.

The Volunteers

Beginning with a only handful of dedicated movie lovers, the volunteer committee has grown every year. The Fargo Film Festival claims about 80 volunteers annually who work nearly year-round to bring you the week of magical movies every March.

Over the past 20 years, hundreds of volunteers have spent thousands of hours screening thousands of movies. We couldn't afford these people. Fortunately, they work for love. They are the backbone and spirit of the Fargo Film Festival.

The Visionaries

The Ted M. Larson Award celebrates the contributions and memory of our friend and FFF co-founder. GREG CARLSON, a former student of Larson who has worked on all 20 festivals, remembers:

"Ted Larson died while the inaugural FFF was being planned. The shock was enormous, the disruption massive, the loss insurmountable. But Margie Bailly, who has a real talent for locating strength when faced with adversity, consulted with Rusty Casselton and created the Ted M. Larson Award — the festival's highest honor.

"First recipient Leonard Maltin could not attend, but he recorded a video greeting in Los Angeles. Maltin mailed a tape, but instead of a preselected clip, it contained unedited studio footage of several different takes. Rusty asked me to choose and prepare the best one, and I will never forget how it felt to be trusted by him. I miss Ted and Rusty every day," said Greg, who himself received the award in 2017.

Fargo Theatre director EMILY BECK said, "Greg Carlson is the heart of the Fargo Film Festival. His vision and unparalleled dedication have been driving forces behind our growth, achievements, and unique creative endeavors. Greg cherishes what the festival is while championing what it can become."

Other FFF founders who received the Ted M. Larson Award were TONY McCRAE, retired movie critic and film professor, in 2010, and ART PHILLIPS, director of Video Arts Studios, in 2014.

Making It Fargo's Own

During the summer of 2000, a group of people met to discuss the possibility of creating a film festival unique to Fargo. ART PHILLIPS was there.

"I always thought the theatre was a magical place for hosting events. When we got together to discuss the idea, it seemed logical. I loved it! The theatre has been an iconic figure for our city over the years. Having filmmakers attend would let the audience interact with directors, writers, and producers.

"It doesn't seem like 20 years since the premiere. I vividly recall walking up Broadway to the Fargo Theatre and seeing the words, Fargo Film Festival, on that beautiful marquee," said Phillips.



Margie Bailly



Marty Jonason



Greg Carlson

...There is a flicker on the screen at the front of this regal theatre named after the city that loves it. Suddenly an image fills the screen. Sound echoes from wall to wall. And the Fargo Film Festival is born.

The Evolution of the Second Screen

Festival founders knew from the start that they wanted to have more than one screen on which to showcase programming. Bailly explained that providing an outlet for filmmakers to show their work was part of the original core mission "to celebrate the art form and the people who make the films." Filmmakers pour their hearts into creating a film that might be shown at only a handful of venues. "Let them see their work in this great art deco theatre." And beyond, in a community that would appreciate their efforts.

The "first second" screen was at the Fargo Cinema Grill, and there was also a showing at the Plains Art Museum. Later locations included the Moose Lodge on Broadway, the "Palais Broadway" in the former Straus Building, and the one-time Ivers Funeral home, where lunches were held in the former embalming room.

In 2009, the intimate Theatre 2, part of the Fargo Theatre and our permanent second screen, finally arrived. Home at last.

The Filmmakers

"My early memories of the Fargo Film Festival are how short the festival was. It was only three days in the beginning, and it was kind of a struggle to get enough films to fill up screening times. But in the next few years Margie Bailly, myself, and other dedicated jurors expanded our reach to get top-flight movies from around the world," said MATT OLIEN.

"I also recall the joy I got out of spending time with the visiting filmmakers, actors, and actresses. Whether it was hanging out with actress Tanna Frederick in 2008, director Mike Flanagan on two occasions, or other guests who came to Fargo, these interactions gave me a different perspective on their lives and the film industry. These early interactions also led to our signature brand – showing our guests a good time and taking care of them. We have had countless comments through the years from guests about how welcome they felt."

Technology

For 20 years, co-founder TONY TILTON has been willing to help out anywhere he's needed. Nowhere has his expertise been more important than in the area of technology.

"For the first decade and more, all films were submitted on videotape and then DVD. We would have viewing parties at my house for the jury to watch the films as a group, which was fun but it turns into a marathon. I had the advantage of being able to play films from all over the world in every conceivable format so it worked well. Then when we switched to DVDs, I made multiple copies of each film for individual jurors to 'check out' so I'd burn hundreds of discs every season. Now we fortunately have on-line screening, but we all miss the days of watching a marathon of films in my home theatre," said Tilton.

Operations: It All Comes Together

In the months leading up to the festival, none work harder than the indispensable Fargo Theatre staff. Their countless hours include programming, fundraising, marketing, preparing films for exhibition, and coordinating guest artists, festival events, and parties. These dedicated employees also run the day-to-day operations in the box office, concession stand, and projection booth. For everything they do, we say THANK YOU.

An important face behind the scenes is graphic designer LYNETTE TRIEBWASSER, who has been with the festival since day one. As a part of her innumerable contributions, Lynette designs merchandise, marketing materials, and items like this program guide. Her work brings the festival's mission of celebrating filmmakers to audiences.

"Lynette's unique artistry, extraordinary work ethic, and inexhaustible optimism have contributed immensely to the festival's identity and success. Collaborating with her is a joy and a privilege," said Beck.

"I am grateful to be a small part of this amazing festival! Every single person involved – filmmakers, volunteers, staff, our audiences – plays an important role. The growth and success I've witnessed over the 20 years would not be possible without each and every individual," said Triebwasser.

MARCH 17 • 2020

And so, 20 full rotations of this planet around the sun, we arrive on the doorstep of the 20th Annual Fargo Film Festival. Lights down. Curtains up. Settle into your seat, have some popcorn, and join us once again for a trip around this world via the magic of independent films.



Art Phillips



Matt Olien



Tony McRae



Tony Tilton



Lynette Triebwasser



TUES 17TH
7:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Mind My Mind

TUE 17TH
2:25 p.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21ST
10:25 a.m.
SCREEN 1



The Girl in the Hallway

TUE 17TH
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21ST
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 1



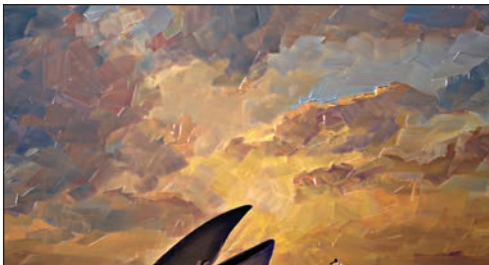
The Kite

THU 19TH
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 1



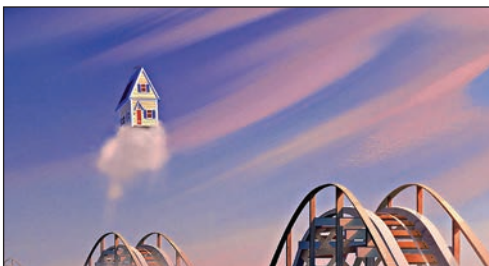
Big Wolf & Little Wolf

SAT 21ST
10:50 a.m.
SCREEN 1



The Bird & the Whale

SAT 21ST
11:20 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Coaster

ANIMATION WINNERS

Mind My Mind

Winner: Best Animated Film

Directed by Floor Adams | Netherlands | 30 mins

When you need to rely on scripted responses to survive social interactions, it is not easy to go off-script (especially if you are obsessed with German dive bombers and just want to date a girl).



The Girl in the Hallway

Honorable Mention

Directed by Valerie Barnhart | Canada | 10 mins

Why does *Little Red Riding Hood* give Jamie nightmares? Fifteen years have passed, but the girl in the hallway haunts him still. Not all children make it out of the forest.



The Kite

Honorable Mention

Directed by Martin Smatana | Czech Republic | 13 mins

No one can live forever, but for a boy and his grandpa, death doesn't mean the end of the journey.



ANIMATION OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Big Wolf & Little Wolf

Directed by Rémi Durin | France | 14 mins

Big Wolf lives contentedly alone under his tree, enjoying the quiet and solitude. One day Little Wolf approaches, determined to keep him company.

The Bird & the Whale

Directed by Carol Freeman | Ireland | 7 mins

After straying from his family to explore, a young whale discovers a shipwreck's sole survivor: a caged songbird. Together they struggle to survive lost at sea.

Coaster

Directed by Amos Sussigan | USA | 8 mins

A recent graduate experiences the literal ups and downs of adulthood after he moves into his first house, which happens to be built atop a roller coaster in sync with his emotions.

Daughter

Directed by Daria Kashcheeva | Czech Republic | 15 mins
The bond between a father and daughter is imperiled by matters that go unspoken and wounds that are slow to heal.

Don't Feed These Animals

Directed by Guilherme Afonso and Miguel Madaíl de Freitas
Portugal | 10 mins – A lobotomized bunny living in a research laboratory accidentally brings a carrot to life.

Flower Found!

Directed by Jorn Leeuwerink | Netherlands | 7 mins
When Mouse's beloved red flower goes missing, he and his forest friends embark on a search. Things quickly get out of hand.

Flowing Through Wonder

Directed by Joanna Lurie | France | 14 mins
Villagers take to the seas for a funeral procession. They cross a vast and dangerous expanse to escort their loved ones to their final destination where the sea and sky meet.

The Fox and the Bird

Directed by Fred Guillaume and Sam Guillaume
Switzerland | 12 mins – A solitary fox finds itself improvising fatherhood for a freshly hatched baby bird.

Hors Piste

Directed by Léo Brunel, Loris Cavalier, Camille Jalabert, and Oscar Malet | France | 6 mins
The two best rescue workers in the region are ready for their new mission. Despite their professionalism and determination, things will not go as planned.

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.



Daughter

WED 18TH
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Don't Feed These Animals

TUE 17TH
3:15 p.m.
SCREEN 1



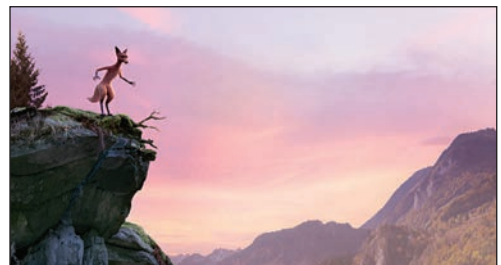
Flower Found!

SAT 21ST
11:10 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Flowing Through Wonder

SAT 21ST
10:35 a.m.
SCREEN 1



The Fox and the Bird

WED 18TH
3:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21ST
11:00 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Hors Piste

TUE 17TH
3:10 p.m.
SCREEN 1

TUESDAY 17



MARCH 17-21

F I L M F E S T I V A L

Although we make every effort to stay on schedule, times are approximate and may vary by a few minutes.

NR NOT RATED
The contents of these films have not been evaluated.

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.

WEDNESDAY 18

- 10:00 am *Daughter* p. 14
10:15 am *Bird of Paradise* p. 27
10:30 am *The Pollinators* p. 19

- 10:00 am *Racing the Sunset* p. 17
10:05 am *Butterfly* p. 23
10:30 am *The Inuring* p. 25
10:40 am *The Minors* p. 25
10:50 am *Let Mercy Come* p. 25
11:10 am *Moonwalk with Me* p. 28
11:25 am *Jack and Anna* p. 28
11:40 am *Dead Animals* p. 24
11:50 am *Everything You Wanted to Know About Sudden Birth* (*but were afraid to ask)* p. 19

12 NOON
LUNCHEONS AT:

DEMPSEYS
PUBLIC HOUSE

226 BROADWAY
DOWNTOWN FARGO

THURSDAY 19

MORNING SESSIONS • SCREEN 1

- 10:00 am *Big Wolf and Little Wolf* p. 13
10:15 am *Unleashed* p. 26
10:25 am *Book Week* p. 21

MORNING SESSIONS • SCREEN 2

- 10:00 am *25 Texans in the Land of Lincoln* p. 19
10:30 am *Prey* p. 18

THURSDAY
LUNCHEON:

**Cinema in
the Age of
Streaming:**
Present, and Future of
Movie-Going and
Film Exhibition

FRIDAY 20

- 10:00 am *A Sidewalk Becomes a Street* p. 28
10:15 am *Saint Frances* p. 22

- 10:00 am *Undue Burdens* p. 20
10:30 am *Changing the Game* p. 18

FRIDAY
LUNCHEON:

CELEBRATING
**20 Years
of the
Fargo Film
Festival**

SATURDAY 21

- 10:00 am *The Kite* p. 13
10:15 am *Sister* p. 17
10:25 am *The Girl in the Hallway* p. 13
10:35 am *Flowing Through Wonder* p. 14
10:50 am *The Bird and the Whale* p. 13
11:00 am *The Fox and the Bird* p. 14
11:10 am *Flower Found!* p. 14
11:20 am *Coaster* p. 13 – With a very special presentation by Dan Lund and Amos Sussigan

- 10:00 am *Aziza* p. 23
10:15 am *The Christmas Gift* p. 24
10:40 am *Occupied* p. 26
11:15 am *Brotherhood* p. 23
11:40 am *The Neighbors' Window* p. 3,23

SATURDAY
LUNCHEON:

**Guests of the
Fest Tell All:**
A Freewheeling
Discussion of
Independent
Filmmaking

LUNCHEON PANEL DISCUSSIONS

SCREEN 1 • AFTERNOON SESSIONS

1:30 pm	<i>The Kite</i> p. 13	3:15 pm	<i>Don't Feed These Animals</i> p. 14
1:45 pm	<i>Blueberry</i> p. 27	3:30 pm	<i>Change</i> p. 8, 23
2:00 pm	<i>Extra Innings</i> p. 24	3:35 pm	<i>Dead Animals</i> p. 24
2:10 pm	<i>A Sidewalk Becomes a Street</i> p. 28	3:45 pm	<i>Traffic Separating Device</i> p. 20
2:25 pm	<i>The Girl in the Hallway</i> p. 13	4:00 pm	<i>Norm</i> p. 26
2:35 pm	<i>Brotherhood</i> p. 23	4:25 pm	<i>Wild Love</i> p. 17
3:00 pm	[BREAK]	4:35 pm	<i>Made Public</i> p. 8, 25
3:10 pm	<i>Hors Piste</i> p. 14	4:50 pm	<i>Peggy</i> p. 26

1:30 pm	<i>Ghazaal</i> p. 28
1:45 pm	<i>Reverb</i> p. 28
2:05 pm	<i>Tuesday</i> p. 28
2:20 pm	<i>In My Eyes</i> p. 28
2:45 pm	[BREAK]
2:55 pm	<i>Two</i> p. 17
3:00 pm	<i>The Fox and the Bird</i> p. 14
3:10 pm	<i>Sometimes, I Think About Dying</i> p. 26
3:25 pm	<i>Extra Innings</i> p. 24
3:35 pm	<i>The Christmas Gift</i> p. 24
4:00 pm	<i>Green</i> p. 24
4:10 pm	<i>Kanari</i> p. 25
4:25 pm	<i>Unkept</i> p. 26
4:40 pm	<i>The Field</i> p. 24

1:30 pm	<i>Red Rover</i> p. 22
3:10 pm	[BREAK]
3:20 pm	<i>The Iron Grandmother</i> p. 19
3:30 pm	<i>The Litas</i> p. 20
3:40 pm	<i>Decoding the Driftless</i> p. 18

1:30 pm	20th Annual Fargo Film Festival Retrospective
3:00 pm	[BREAK]
3:15 pm	<i>The Garden Left Behind</i> p. 21

1:30 pm	The presentation of the Ted M. Larson Award to Tom Brandau
1:50 pm	<i>Florence</i> p. 8, 27
2:05 pm	<i>Change</i> p. 8, 23
2:20 pm	<i>Made Public</i> p. 8, 25
2:35 pm	<i>Peggy</i> p. 8, 26
2:45 pm	[BREAK]
3:00 pm	<i>The Planters</i> p. 8, 21

SCREEN 2 • AFTERNOON SESSIONS

1:30 pm	<i>False Confessions</i> p. 18
3:05 pm	[BREAK]
3:15 pm	<i>Alice</i> p. 21

1:30 pm	<i>Prey</i> p. 18
2:55 pm	[BREAK]
3:05 pm	<i>Progeny</i> p. 27
3:35 pm	<i>The Wretched</i> p. 22

1:30 pm	<i>The Lonely Orbit</i> p. 17
1:40 pm	<i>King Wah (I Think I Love You)</i> p. 25
1:50 pm	<i>Patron</i> p. 20
2:00 pm	<i>Anna Karenina</i> p. 23
2:15 pm	<i>Spring II</i> p. 20
2:25 pm	<i>Blooming</i> p. 20
2:40 pm	<i>Chairs</i> p. 20
2:50 pm	<i>Symbiosis</i> p. 17
3:05 pm	<i>Distinguished Feelings</i> p. 24
3:15 pm	[BREAK]
3:25 pm	<i>Floating</i> p. 24
3:35 pm	<i>Lost Bayou</i> p. 22

1:30 pm	<i>Hearts and Bones</i> p. 21
3:20 pm	[BREAK]
3:30 pm	<i>R.A.W. Tuba</i> p. 3, 19
4:00 pm	<i>25 Texans in the Land of Lincoln</i> p. 19
4:40 pm	<i>Fraser Syndrome & Me</i> p. 27

1:30 pm	<i>The Pollinators</i> p. 19
3:00 pm	[BREAK]
3:10 pm	<i>Lost Bayou</i> p. 22

SCREEN 1 • EVENING SESSIONS

6:40 pm	At the console of the Mighty WurliTzer – Ryan Hardy
7:00 pm	<i>Mind My Mind</i> p. 3, 13
7:30 pm	<i>The Neighbors' Window</i> p. 3, 23
7:50 pm	<i>R.A.W. Tuba</i> p. 3, 19 with special guest Richard Antoine White

6:40 pm	At the console of the Mighty WurliTzer – Lance Johnson
7:00 pm	<i>Balkowitsch</i> p. 4, 18 with special guests Chelsy Ciavarella, Gregory DeSaye, and Shane Balkowitsch

6:40 pm	At the console of the Mighty WurliTzer – Lance Johnson
7:00 pm	Sounds of the Criterion Collection with Ryan Hullings p. 5

6:40 pm	At the console of the Mighty WurliTzer – Lance Johnson
7:00 pm	<i>Scream, Queen! My Nightmare on Elm Street</i> p. 6, 19 with special guest Mark Patton
9:30 pm	2-Minute Movie Contest p. 6

6:40 pm	At the console of the Mighty WurliTzer – Ryan Hardy
7:00 pm	Presentation of the Margie Bailly Volunteer Spirit Award
7:10 pm	2-Minute Movie Contest Winner
7:15 pm	<i>International Falls</i> p. 10, 21 with special guest Amber McGinnis

THU 19TH
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2



The Lonely Orbit

WED 18TH
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Racing the Sunset

SAT 21ST
10:15 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Sister

THU 19TH
2:50 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Symbiosis

WED 18TH
2:55 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Two

TUE 17TH
4:25 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Wild Love

ANIMATION OFFICIAL SELECTIONS CONTINUED

The Lonely Orbit

Directed by Benjamin Morard and Frederic Siegel

Switzerland | 9 mins – A satellite technician's inability to cope with his solitude causes a chain reaction in space and in his own mind.

Racing the Sunset

Directed by Nikolas Smith | USA | 4 mins

Realizing that he has a date in a matter of minutes, a young traceur makes a desperate parkour rush through the city to make his rendezvous on time.

Sister

Directed by Siqi Song | USA | 8 mins

A man recalls childhood memories of growing up with an annoying little sister in 1990s China. What would his life have been like if things had gone differently?

Symbiosis

Directed by Nadja Andrasev | France | 13 mins

As a wife investigates her husband's mistress, her jealousy is gradually replaced by curiosity.

Two

Directed by Emre Okten | USA | 6 mins

Two companions on an unmanned research ship discover the value of their friendship as their decades-long mission towards the sun comes to an end.

Wild Love

Directed by Paul Autric, Quentin Camus, Léa Georges, Maryka Laudet, Zoé Sottiaux, Corentin Yvergniaux | France | 7 mins

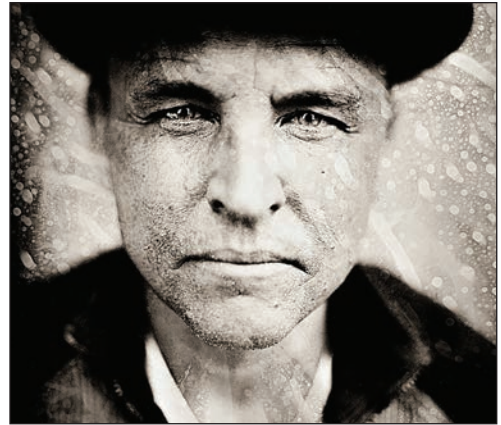
While on a romantic getaway, Alan and Beverly cause a fatal accident. The crime will not go unpunished.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE WINNER

Balkowitsch Winner: **Prairie Spirit Award** and **Honorable Mention**



Directed by Chelsy Ciavarella and Gregory DeSaye | USA | 58 mins
Fueled by purpose and passion, Shane Balkowitsch is a preservationist, archivist, and artist through the lost art of wet plate photography. With a single 10-second exposure pressed with silver on glass, he captures his enduring vision.



WED 18TH
7:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1

Balkowitsch

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Changing the Game

Directed by Michael Barnett | USA | 88 mins
Transgender high school athletes from across the country compete at the top of their fields while challenging the boundaries and perceptions of fairness and discrimination.



FRI 20TH
10:30 a.m.
SCREEN 2

Changing the Game

Decoding the Driftless

Directed by Jonas Stenstrom | USA | 61 mins
This wild adventure through the air, across rugged landscapes, under the water, and across time itself explores ancient clues of archaeology, paleontology, geology, and biology of the Driftless Region.

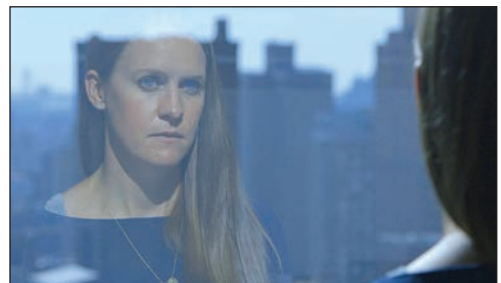


THU 19TH
3:40 p.m.
SCREEN 1

Decoding the Driftless

False Confessions

Directed by Katrine Philp | Denmark | 93 mins
Every year innumerable American suspects confess to crimes they did not commit. Defense attorney Jane Fisher-Byrialsen is determined to put an end to interrogation techniques that all too often pressure innocent people into false confessions.



TUE 17TH
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2

False Confessions

Prey

Directed by Matt Gallagher | Canada | 85 mins
Most civil, clergy sex abuse cases are settled quietly, out-of-court and far from public view. *Prey* follows survivor Rod Macleod as he and his attorney pursue justice through a public trial in hopes of bringing a dark and hidden story into the light.



WED 18TH
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2

THU 19TH
10:30 a.m.
SCREEN 2

Prey

WED 18TH
10:30 a.m.
SCREEN 1



The Pollinators

SAT 21ST
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2

FRI 20TH
7:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Scream, Queen! My Nightmare on Elm Street

TUES 17TH
7:50 p.m.
SCREEN 1

FRI 20TH
3:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2



R.A.W. Tuba

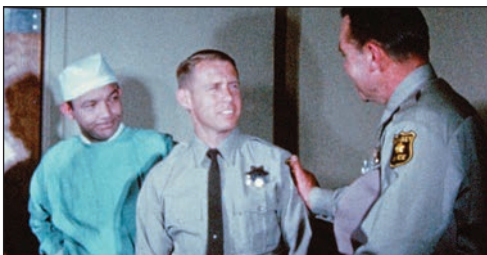
THU 19TH
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 1

FRI 20TH
4:00 p.m.
SCREEN 2



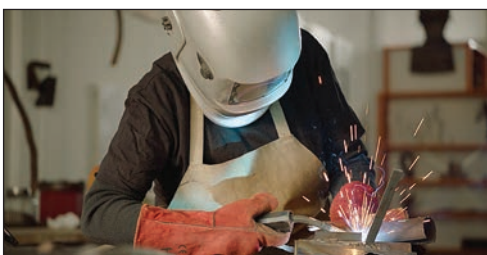
25 Texans in the Land of Lincoln

WED 18TH
11:50 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Everything You Wanted to Know About Sudden Birth (*but were afraid to ask)*

THU 19TH
3:20 p.m.
SCREEN 1



The Iron Grandmother

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

CONTINUED

The Pollinators

Directed by Peter Nelson | USA | 92 mins

This cinematic journey around the United States follows migratory beekeepers and their truckloads of honey bees as they pollinate the flowers that become the fruits, nuts, and vegetables we all eat.

Scream, Queen! My Nightmare on Elm Street

Directed by Roman Chimienti and Tyler Jensen | USA | 99 mins

Thirty-five years ago, controversial sequel *A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge* ended Mark Patton's acting career just as it was about to begin. Now as Patton travels to horror conventions across the U.S., he attempts to make peace with his past and embrace his legacy as cinema's first male "scream queen."

DOCUMENTARY SHORT WINNERS

R.A.W. Tuba

Winner: Best Documentary Short



Directed by Darren Durlach and David Larson | USA | 29 mins
As a child, Richard Antoine White (R.A.W.) experienced poverty and homelessness. Despite these enormous challenges, he followed his passion for music to become principal tubist of the New Mexico Philharmonic.

25 Texans in the Land of Lincoln

Honorable Mention



Directed by Ellen Brodsky | USA | 34 mins
In this quirky quest, Texan history students travel to Springfield, IL, where General Santa Ana's prosthetic leg is on display. They meet with museum curators to ask for repatriation of the leg to Mexico.

DOCUMENTARY SHORT OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Everything You Wanted to Know

About Sudden Birth* (*but were afraid to ask)

Directed by Scott Calonico | USA | 11 mins

The Berkeley police department, the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands, and Mr. Spock are all connected by *Sudden Birth*, one of the most unintentionally hilarious and disturbing educational films ever created.

The Iron Grandmother

Directed by Emily L. Sheskin | USA | 9 mins

Orna Ben-Ami is a 65-year-old welder and grandmother who dreams of making the world a better place with her art.

The Litas

Directed by William Desena | USA | 7 mins

Gevin Fax is the oldest member of the female motorcycle collective The Litas. An outsider in her youth, she now shares her love for the road with thousands of women all over the world.

The Traffic Separating Device

Directed by Johan Palmgren | Sweden | 15 mins

A device meant to separate buses and cars is placed in central Stockholm. In the weeks following, tragic and humorous situations unfold as hundreds of cars get destroyed.

Undue Burdens

Directed by Andrea Raby | USA | 32 mins

This documentary follows Midwest Access Coalition, an organization that provides funding for travel, hotel stays, childcare, and other things necessary for women to access abortion services.

EXPERIMENTAL FILM WINNERS

Blooming

Winner: Best Experimental Film

Directed by Lingyun Zheng | China | 13 mins

In this meditation on love and sickness, an artist wants to draw spring flowers, but their pinkness causes allergic reactions.

Chairs

Honorable Mention

Directed by Avner Pinchover | Israel | 12 mins

A man hurls chairs at a wall for 12 minutes in what seems to be a holy-rage attack. This expressive performance for camera fluctuates between satisfaction and futility while creating compositions of destructive beauty.

EXPERIMENTAL FILM OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Patron

Directed by Emily Haigh and Alon Young

United Kingdom | 12 mins – During an interview for a prestigious job, Vickie faces a predatory atmosphere. If her spirit is to survive, she must undergo an abstract and radical transformation.

Spring II

Directed by Ed Carter | USA | 10 mins

Two women encounter one another across dimensions, each perceiving the other as if a ghost. As they make contact, a possible transcendence presents itself.



THU 19TH
3:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1

The Litas



TUE 17TH
3:45 p.m.
SCREEN 1

The Traffic Separating Device



FRI 20TH
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 2

Undue Burdens



THU 19TH
2:25 p.m.
SCREEN 2

Blooming



THU 19TH
2:40 p.m.
SCREEN 2

Chairs



THU 19TH
1:50 p.m.
SCREEN 2

Patron



THU 19TH
2:15 p.m.
SCREEN 2

Spring II

FRI 20TH
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Hearts and Bones

SAT 21ST
7:15 p.m.
SCREEN 1



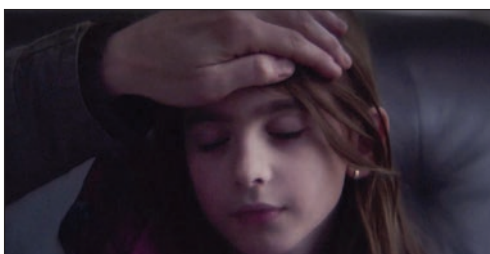
International Falls

SAT 21ST
3:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1



The Planters

TUE 17TH
3:15 p.m.
SCREEN 2



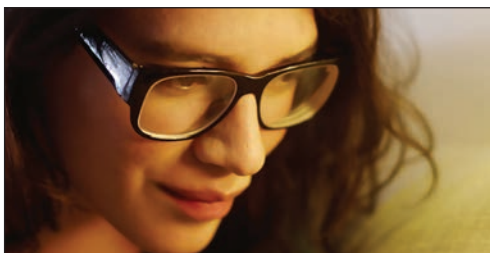
Alice

THU 19TH
10:25 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Book Week

FRI 20TH
3:15 p.m.
SCREEN 1



The Garden Left Behind

NARRATIVE FEATURE WINNERS

Hearts and Bones

Winner: Best Narrative Feature,

Directed by Ben Lawrence | Australia | 111 mins

A war photographer and a refugee discover a photograph that threatens to destroy them both.



International Falls

Honorable Mention

Directed by Amber McGinnis | USA | 93 mins

A woman stuck in a small, snowbound Minnesota town has dreams of doing comedy when she meets a washed up, burned-out comedian with dreams of doing anything else.



The Planters

Honorable Mention

Directed by Alexandra Kotcheff and Hannah Leder | USA | 78 mins

In this dark comedy, a reclusive telemarketer befriends a homeless woman with multiple personalities.



NARRATIVE FEATURE OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Alice

Directed by Josephine Mackerras | France | 103 mins

After discovering that her husband's addiction to escorts has left their family penniless, Alice finds herself drawn into the world of high-end prostitution as a means of caring for herself and her child.

Book Week

Directed by Heath Davis | USA | 96 mins

A narcissistic high school English teacher is forced to re-evaluate his life choices when it seems like his book will finally be published.

The Garden Left Behind

Winner: The Ruth Landfield Award

Directed by Flavio Alves | USA | 88 mins

A young Mexican trans woman and her grandmother navigate life as undocumented immigrants in New York City.



Lost Bayou

Directed by Brian C. Miller Richard | USA | 87 mins

A struggling addict ventures into the Louisiana swamps to reconnect with her faith healer father, only to discover he is hiding a troubling secret aboard his houseboat.



Lost Bayou

THU 19TH
3:35 p.m.
SCREEN 2

SAT 21ST
3:10 p.m.
SCREEN 2

Red Rover

Directed by Shane Belcourt | Canada | 100 mins

Feeling he has nothing left to live for on Earth, a lonely geologist tries to qualify for a one-way mission to Mars. He is helped by an offbeat musician who is just as lost as he is.



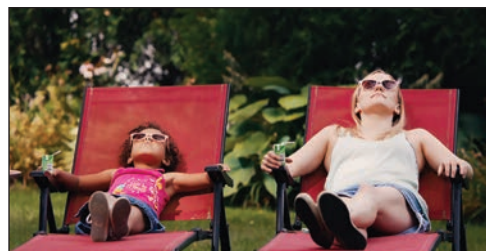
Red Rover

THU 19TH
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1

Saint Frances

Directed by Alex Thompson | USA | 106 mins

After an accidental pregnancy and abortion, a deadbeat nanny finds an unlikely friendship with the six-year-old she is charged with protecting.



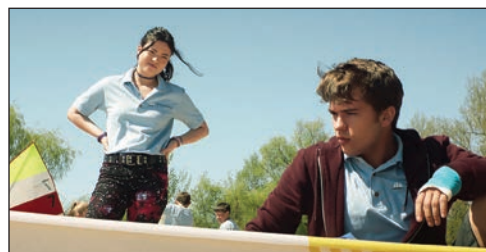
Saint Frances

FRI 20TH
10:15 a.m.
SCREEN 1

The Wretched

Directed by Brett Pierce and Drew T. Pierce | USA | 95 mins

A defiant teenage boy faces off with a thousand-year-old witch who is posing as the woman next door.



The Wretched

WED 18TH
3:35 p.m.
SCREEN 2

The Ruth Landfield Award

HONORING FILMS CELEBRATING WOMEN OF
COURAGE, CONVICTION, AND COMPASSION



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

TUES 17TH
7:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21ST
11:40 a.m.
SCREEN 2



OSCAR WINNER



The Neighbors' Window

TUE 17TH
2:35 p.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21ST
11:15 a.m.
SCREEN 2



OSCAR NOMINEE



Brotherhood

THU 19TH
2:00 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Anna Karenina

SAT 21ST
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Aziza

WED 18TH
10:05 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Butterfly

TUE 17TH
3:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21ST
2:05 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Change

NARRATIVE SHORT WINNERS

The Neighbors' Window

Best Narrative Short

Directed by Marshall Curry | USA | 20 mins

The lives of a middle-aged couple with small children are shaken up when two free-spirited twenty-somethings move in across the street.



Brotherhood

Honorable Mention

Directed by Meryam Joobeur | Canada | 25 mins

Mohamed is a shepherd living in rural Tunisia with his family. When his oldest son returns home with a mysterious new wife, their lives are turned upside down.



NARRATIVE SHORT OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Anna Karenina

Directed by Yana Sar | USA | 15 mins

When Mr. White receives a gift that triggers displaced memories, he travels to the house where he grew up in search of his true past.

Aziza

Directed by Soudade Kaadan | Lebanon | 13 mins

Ayman is a Syrian refugee in Lebanon with only one material thing left from his country — his car. When he begins teaching his wife to drive, the lesson takes a turn into madness and nostalgia.

Butterfly

Directed by Bonnie Foster | USA | 24 mins

A fashion model leaves her life for the desert and meets a mysterious stranger who finally brings the change she's been seeking.

Change

Directed by Alec Holland | USA | 6 mins

Harold makes an offering.

The Christmas Gift

Directed by Bogdan Muresanu | Romania | 23 mins

A boy's letter to Santa turns his father's evening into a thriller he did not ask for.



WED 18TH
3:35 p.m.
SCREEN 1

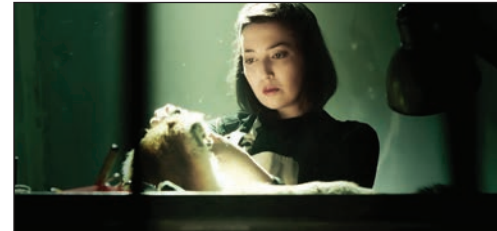
SAT 21ST
10:15 a.m.
SCREEN 2

The Christmas Gift

Dead Animals

Directed by David Oesch and Remo Rickenbacher

Switzerland | 10 mins – After the death of his cat, a man receives a business card from a mysterious taxidermist. The end might only be the beginning.



TUE 17TH
3:35 p.m.
SCREEN 1

WED 18TH
11:40 a.m.
SCREEN 2

Dead Animals

Distinguished Feelings

Directed by Keren Marciano | France | 11 mins

After receiving a text message that sows seeds of doubt about her romantic relationship, Elena hatches a series of plots.



THU 19TH
3:05 p.m.
SCREEN 2

Distinguished Feelings

Extra Innings

Directed by John Gray | USA | 9 mins

A reporter interviews the manager of the Boston Red Sox in an attempt to uncover secrets from his past.



TUE 17TH
2:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1

WED 18TH
3:25 p.m.
SCREEN 1

Extra Innings

The Field

Directed by Sandhya Suri | France | 19 mins

A poor agricultural laborer leads a double life in the village's last remaining cornfield, but the harvest is approaching.



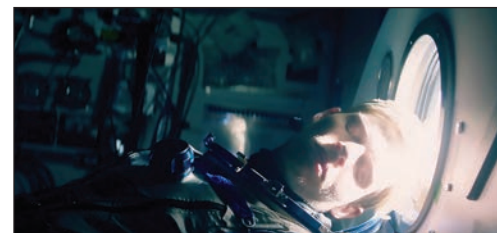
WED 18TH
4:40 p.m.
SCREEN 1

The Field

Floating

Directed by Frankie De Leonardis | Spain | 8 mins

A Russian astronaut awakes on an ISS module after an accident and hears knocking outside. Has someone come to welcome him or is it only his imagination?



THU 19TH
3:25 p.m.
SCREEN 2

Floating

Green

Directed by Suzanne Andrews Correa | USA | 12 mins

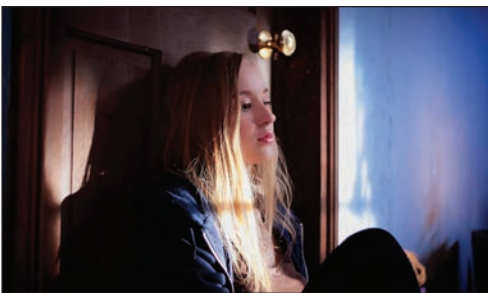
Green, an undocumented Turkish pedicab driver, unwittingly draws police attention which endangers his brother, his community, and himself.



WED 18TH
4:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1

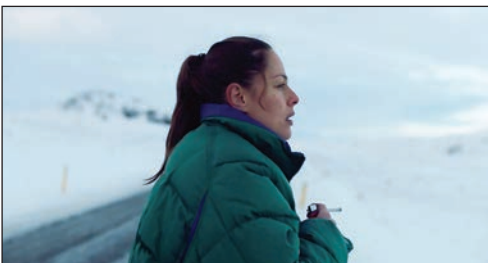
Green

WED 18TH
10:30 a.m.
SCREEN 2



The Inuring

WED 18TH
4:10 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Kanari

THU 19TH
1:40 p.m.
SCREEN 2



King Wah (I Think I Love You)

WED 18TH
10:50 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Let Mercy Come

TUE 17TH
4:35 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Made Public

SAT 21ST
2:20 p.m.
SCREEN 1

WED 18TH
10:40 a.m.
SCREEN 2



The Minors

NARRATIVE SHORT OFFICIAL SELECTIONS CONTINUED

The Inuring

Directed by James Hughes | United Kingdom | 10 mins

A bullied teenage girl finally confronts her sister and drags their fractured past into the light.

Kanari

Directed by Erlendur Sveinsson | Iceland | 14 mins

Vala and Benni are on the road and struggle to find a mutual purpose in their new destination.

King Wah (I Think I Love You)

Directed by Horatio Baltz | USA | 8 mins

A disgruntled delivery man, a woman with chronic déjà vu, and Pat Sajak all lead to a slow dance in a Chinese takeout restaurant.

Let Mercy Come

Directed by Andrew Serban | USA | 22 mins

A disaffected young woman finds the courage to take a stand against a group of white supremacists who threaten to commit a hate crime.

Made Public

Directed by Foster Wilson | USA | 14 mins

The night before he says 'I do,' Dave commits a cardinal sin. His doubts about tying the knot go viral.

The Minors

Directed by Robert Machoian | USA | 10 mins

This slice of life film is about a grandpa and his grandsons, the future and the past.

Norm

Directed by Amanda Kaye | Australia | 24 mins

Office worker Norm's typical drive home is sent veering wildly off course when a bull-headed woman wakes up in the trunk of his car.



Norm

TUE 17TH
4:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1

Peggy

Directed by Justin O'Neal Miller | USA | 12 mins

Peggy's faultless social graces are put to the test when she is surrounded by covetous parents at her eight-year-old son's birthday party.



Peggy

TUE 17TH
4:50 p.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21ST
2:35 p.m.
SCREEN 1

Sometimes, I Think About Dying

Directed by Stefanie Abel Horowitz | USA | 12 mins

Fran is thinking about dying, but a man in the office might want to date her.



Sometimes, I Think About Dying

WED 18TH
3:10 p.m.
SCREEN 1

Unkept

Directed by Michael P. Vidler | Canada | 16 mins

A young boy makes a life-changing decision despite his mother's expectations.



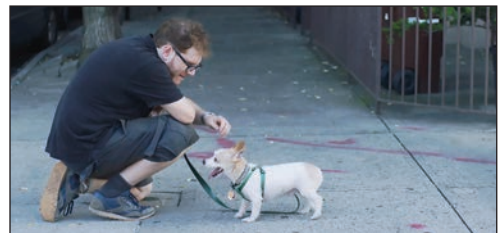
Unkept

WED 18TH
4:25 p.m.
SCREEN 1

Unleashed

Directed by Jonathan Levy | USA | 10 mins

Nate is an awkward, struggling actor who walks dogs while trying to stay clear of a tormenting bully. One fateful day at a dog park, he is forced to confront all of his fears at once.



Unleashed

THU 19TH
10:15 a.m.
SCREEN 1

INVITED FILM

Occupied

Directed by Jon Plant | United Kingdom | 24 mins

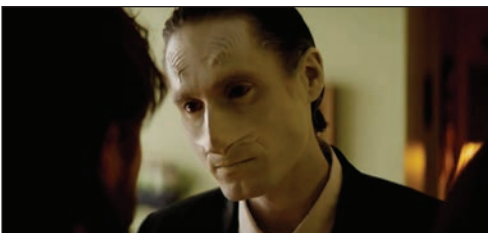
Living on the streets of London can be perilous, and Michael's luck has not been on his side. Attempts to get his life back on track aren't without obstacles, but will meeting others in a similar position help or hinder him?



Occupied

SAT 21ST
10:40 a.m.
SCREEN 2

WED 18TH
3:05 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Progeny

SAT 21ST
1:50 p.m.
SCREEN 1



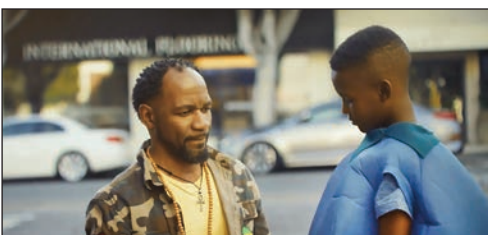
Florence

WED 18TH
10:15 a.m.
SCREEN 1



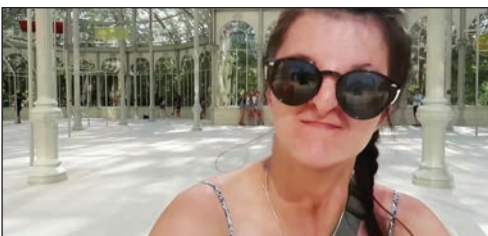
Bird of Paradise

TUE 17TH
1:45 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Blueberry

FRI 20TH
4:40 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Fraser Syndrome & Me

STUDENT FILM WINNERS

Progeny Winner: Best Student Film

Directed by Justin Daering | USA | 29 mins

In another world a lot like our own, the wealthy elites are aliens who reproduce by implanting their offspring in a human host.



Florence Winner: Rusty Casselton Award and Honorable Mention

Directed by Emanuele Daga | USA | 16 mins

Florence goes through her days without letting anyone get close. When someone slips a love letter into her pocket, she decides to branch out, remembering what it means to feel hopeful.



STUDENT FILM OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Bird of Paradise

Directed by Alexander Zorn | USA | 13 mins

A queer geriatric nurse learns one of life's hardest lessons when he falls in love with one of his elderly patients.

Blueberry

Directed by Martina Lee | USA | 16 mins

Podcast host Lyric Hayes is on a quest to find his idol and best-selling author Harambe Cornell. Unfortunately, he is forced to bring along his six-year-old son Jacob, dressed in a blueberry costume.

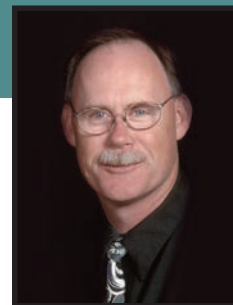
Fraser Syndrome & Me

Directed by Kyle Anne Grendys | USA | 20 mins

Filmmaker Kyle Anne Grendys is only the 75th person to be born with the rare, recessive gene disorder called Fraser Syndrome. Having always felt alone in the world, she sets out on a journey to find her community and finally meets others just like her.

THE FARGO FILM FESTIVAL
HONORS THE LIFE AND WORK OF

Rusty Casselton



HAROLD "RUSTY" CASSELTON was known around the world for his contributions to 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.

Ghazaal

Directed by Ragini Bhasin | USA | 15 mins

A 13-year-old Afghan refugee hustles around a refugee camp, trying to survive the harsh circumstances.



Ghazaal

WED 18TH
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1

In My Eyes

Directed by Vincent Dorazio | USA | 15 mins

A film student grapples with criticism from her peers and with her own desire for creative fulfillment.



In My Eyes

WED 18TH
2:20 p.m.
SCREEN 1

Jack and Anna

Directed by Ksenia Ivanova | USA | 15 mins

Based on a true story, *Jack and Anna* follows a young couple whose happy lives are shattered when Jack's past is revealed.



Jack and Anna

WED 18TH
11:25 a.m.
SCREEN 2

Moonwalk with Me

Directed by So Young Shelly Yo | USA | 14 mins

Juno is haunted by her father's disappearances. When he returns, she must decide between keeping him grounded or letting him go.



Moonwalk with Me

WED 18TH
11:10 a.m.
SCREEN 2

Reverb

Directed by Aarsal Asal | USA | 19 mins

A mother mourning the loss of her son in a school shooting meets a teenage graffiti artist who is dealing with a loss of her own.



Reverb

WED 18TH
1:45 p.m.
SCREEN 1

A Sidewalk Becomes a Street

Directed by Chris Lee | USA | 14 mins

After a fight with his mother, a Korean-American teenager struggles to understand his role in the family and sets out on the streets of Los Angeles with his little sister.



A Sidewalk Becomes a Street

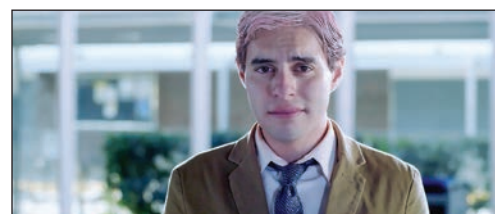
TUE 17TH
2:10 p.m.
SCREEN 1

FRI 20TH
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 1

Tuesday

Directed by Margo E. Sawaya | USA | 15 mins

Ruby and Gus are high school students who belong to very different social circles. On a fateful Tuesday, their lives intersect and they begin to see beyond teenage stereotypes.



Tuesday

WED 18TH
2:05 p.m.
SCREEN 1



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We believe that vibrant communities champion their arts, uphold their legacy and through philanthropic endeavors, support their community's needs. We are committed to the Fargo Film Festival - a showcase of outstanding filmmaking and filmmakers.

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Thank you for making our
community a great
place to be!



Julie Peterson Klein
EVP/CHIEF CULTURE OFFICER
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