

FARGO FILM FESTIVAL 2021



MARCH 18-28



FILM FESTIVAL

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More **Red-Carpet** Moments!

(Even if they're virtual!)

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Julie Peterson Klein
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In Search of Something New

Hello, my name is Emily and I am a cinephile. 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.

Recently, I have noticed a complaint rising from the ranks of the 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.

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 21 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, these independent artists bring their dreams to life on screen.

If you are a fellow movie fan, I believe you will delight in the adventure ahead. Film festivals offer troves of fresh perspectives, new ideas, and innovative craftsmanship. Although we cannot gather at the Fargo Theatre this year to experience these treasures on the big screen, we are still on the journey together. 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.



Emily Beck
FARGO THEATRE
Executive Director

Thank you for coming to the 2021 Fargo Film Festival. **ENJOY THE SHOW!**

Emily



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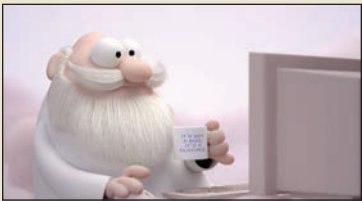
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Animation Shorts

Purchase Ticket \$12 Block >



Tales from the Multiverse

Tales from the Multiverse

Directed by Magnus Igland Møller, Mette Tange, and Peter Smith | Denmark | 7 mins
God is a single parent and amateur computer programmer. He is working on project ‘Earth,’ but never seems to get a break from the kids.



Wet and Sippy

Wet and Sippy

Directed by Cliona Noonan | Ireland | 4 mins
A man is tormented by the weather and forced to use the local laundromat each evening.



Gon, The Little Fox

Gon, The Little Fox
Honorable Mention

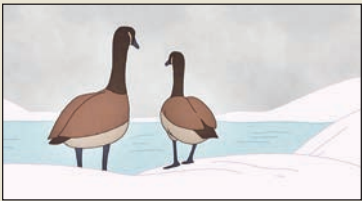
Directed by Takeshi Yashiro | Japan | 28 mins
An orphaned fox strives to make amends for the hardships his mischief has caused a young man.



Sad Beauty

Sad Beauty

Directed by Arjan Brentjes | Netherlands | 10 mins
In a heavily polluted world, a young woman falls ill due to a bacterial infection and nature appears to send her a message.



Hudson Geese

Hudson Geese

Directed by Bernardo Britto | USA | 6 mins
A goose remembers his last migration.



Kapaemahu

Kapaemahu

Directed by Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer, and Joe Wilson | USA | 8 mins
This film reveals the healing power of four mysterious stones on Waikiki Beach, and the legendary dual male and female spirits within them.



Waste Away

Waste Away

Directed by Elly Stern | Canada | 5 mins
In a trash-filled city, a homeless woman’s encounter with a fish takes an unexpected turn.



Grab My Hand:
A Letter to My Dad

Grab My Hand: A Letter to My Dad
Honorable Mention

Directed by Camrus Johnson and Pedro Piccinini | USA | 5 mins
This personal story of grief reflects on the people we look up to and how seemingly insignificant interactions may one day play a huge part in our lives.



The Winter

The Winter
Winner: Best Animated Film

Directed by Xin Li | Australia | 5 mins
While walking in a snowy forest, a peasant sees an unusual deer and feels compelled to follow it.



CLICK TO VIEW OTHER CATEGORIES

Documentary Shorts – Block 1

Documentary Shorts – Block 2

Documentary Shorts – Block 3

Experimental Shorts Block

Narrative Shorts – Block 1

Narrative Shorts – Block 2

Narrative Shorts – Block 3

Student Shorts Block

Documentary Features

Narrative Features



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Documentary Shorts – Block 1

Purchase Ticket \$12 Block >



Road to Roxham

Road to Roxham

Directed by Cristian Gomes | Canada | 18 mins

In Plattsburgh, New York, an underground taxi industry tries to meet the demand of refugees and asylum seekers attempting to escape to Canada.



Quiet No More

Quiet No More

Directed by Eléonore Hamelin | USA | 27 mins

After her mother is killed in the shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, Reverend Sharon Risher turns to social activism to heal.



Viewfinder

Viewfinder

Directed by Melody Gilbert | USA | 5 mins

Every day for the past 23 years, Michael has taken a single photo with a film camera. As he begins to lose his memory, the images take on new meaning.



Huntsville Station

Huntsville Station

Directed by Jamie Meltzer and Chris Filippone | USA | 14 mins

Every weekday, inmates are released from Huntsville State Penitentiary and they experience their first moments of freedom at the local Greyhound station.



The Game

The Game

Winner: Best in Show Award for Best Cinematography, Best Documentary Short

Directed by Roman Hodel | Switzerland | 17 mins

Experience an exhilarating FIFA soccer game from the perspectives of the referee, players, spectators, commentators, and stadium staff.



CLICK TO VIEW OTHER CATEGORIES

Animations Shorts Block

Documentary Shorts – Block 2

Documentary Shorts – Block 3

Experimental Shorts Block

Narrative Shorts – Block 1

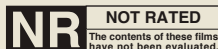
Narrative Shorts – Block 2

Narrative Shorts – Block 3

Student Shorts Block

Documentary Features

Narrative Features



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Documentary Shorts – Block 2

Purchase Ticket \$12 Block >



The City Behind Us: The Story of the Elmora Troopers

The City Behind Us: The Story of the Elmora Troopers

Directed by Iwonka Swenson and Bob Burnett | USA | 21 mins

The city of Elizabeth, New Jersey rallies to support the Elmora Troopers as the team competes in the Little League World Series.



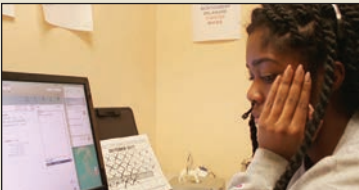
Garden Shark

Garden Shark

Documentary Short Honorable Mention

Directed by Anna Cooley | Canada | 27 mins

An improv group uses their craft to connect with adults living with dementia.



Abortion Helpline, This Is Lisa

Abortion Helpline, This Is Lisa

Directed by Barbara Attie, Janet Goldwater, and Mike Attie | USA | 13 mins

At an abortion fund in Philadelphia, counselors arrive each morning to the nonstop ring of calls from women and teens seeking financial support to end a pregnancy.



Colette

Colette

Winner: Best in Show Award for Best Director, Documentary Short Honorable Mention

Directed by Anthony Giacchino | USA | 25 mins

As a young girl, Colette fought against the Nazis as a member of the French Resistance. Now, at 90, she travels to Germany to confront the past.



CLICK TO VIEW OTHER CATEGORIES

Animations Shorts Block

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Experimental Shorts Block

Narrative Shorts – Block 1

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Narrative Shorts – Block 3

Student Shorts Block

Documentary Features

Narrative Features



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Documentary Shorts – Block 3

[Purchase Ticket](#) \$12 Block [>](#)



Crossing Market

Crossing Market

Directed by Brandon Krajewski and Michelle Opitz | USA | 29 mins

Former drug dealer and pimp Del Seymour strives to uplift his community by managing a job readiness program for individuals experiencing homelessness.



Dying in Your Mother's Arms

Dying in Your Mother's Arms

Directed by John Beder | USA | 23 mins

A pediatric palliative care physician provides quality end-of-life care for children, and works to make death less medical and more human.



The Red River Runs Through It

The Red River Runs Through It

Directed by Micah Dahl | USA | 19 mins

Artists and musicians reflect on the music scene in Fargo, North Dakota from the late 1980s to the early 2000s.



Sing Me a Lullaby

Sing Me a Lullaby

Directed by Tiffany Hsiung | Canada | 29 mins

To better understand her mother, a filmmaker travels to Taipei to meet her estranged grandmother for the first time.

CLICK TO VIEW OTHER CATEGORIES

[Animations Shorts Block](#)

[Documentary Shorts – Block 1](#)

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[Experimental Shorts Block](#)

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[Documentary Features](#)

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Experimental Shorts Block

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Wild Heart 1981/2020

Wild Heart 1981/2020

Directed by Zach Dorn | USA | 7 mins
While browsing YouTube at the start of the 2020 COVID pandemic, a narrator grabs a camcorder and shares their thoughts about the video platform. The narrator lingers on a video of Stevie Nicks singing “Wild Heart” in 1981.



Fluorescent

Fluorescent

Directed by Avner Pinchover | Israel | 2 mins
A fluorescent bulb is shot from a cannon at high speed against a wall. At 3,000 frames per second and in its last moment, it can finally shed its inner light.



Ex Nihilo Nihil Fit

Ex Nihilo Nihil Fit

Directed by Eric Butler | USA | 14 mins
Built from the ground up with public domain material, this film explores newness in the 21st century.



Haiku

Haiku

Honorable Mention

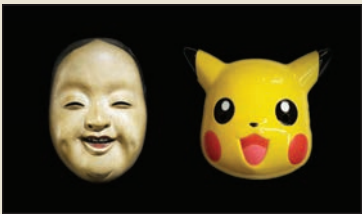
Directed by Martin Gerigk | Germany | 17 mins
Two Japanese performers, percussion groups, soundscapes, and rhythmicized video sequences create a symphonic audiovisual tribute to the art of haiku poetry.



Two

Two

Directed by Vasilios Papaioannu | USA | 8 mins
A conversation begins as a duet between a video diary and a field recording and ends as an archive of the possibilities hibernating in each moment.



Beyond Noh

Beyond Noh

Winner: Best Experimental Film

Directed by Patrick Smith | USA | 3 mins
This rhythmic animation features 3,475 individual masks from around the world, beginning with the distinctive masks of the Japanese Noh theater.



CLICK TO VIEW OTHER CATEGORIES

Animations Shorts Block

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Documentary Shorts – Block 3

Narrative Shorts – Block 1

Narrative Shorts – Block 2

Narrative Shorts – Block 3

Student Shorts Block

Documentary Features

Narrative Features



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Narrative Shorts – Block 1

Purchase Ticket

\$12 Block

>



Coffee Shop Names

Coffee Shop Names

Winner: Pat Hansen Award for Best Screenplay



Directed by Deepak Sethi | USA | 8 mins

Three Indian people imagine their personas as their “coffee shop names,” the names they give baristas because their real names are hard to pronounce.



Under the Lights

Under the Lights

Directed by Miles Levin | USA | 10 mins

Sam, a teenager with epilepsy, is so desperate to feel like a normal kid, he goes to prom knowing that the lights will make him have a seizure.

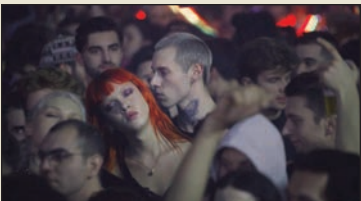


Breton

Breton

Directed by Christophe Switzer | France | 20 mins

A vintner must decide if he will allow his son to leave the family farm and enroll in a prestigious school.



Dustin

Dustin

Directed by Naila Guiguet | France | 20 mins

After a wild night at a warehouse party, a group of friends are faced with the melancholy realities of morning.



My Hero

My Hero

Directed by Logan Jackson | USA | 13 mins

As last-minute plans for a babysitter fall apart, eight-year-old Brandon is left alone to oversee his younger brother Mason.



Feeling Through

Feeling Through

Winner: Best Narrative Short



Directed by Doug Roland | USA | 18 mins

A teenager searching for a place to sleep meets a deaf-blind man late at night and tries to help him get home.

CLICK TO VIEW OTHER CATEGORIES

Animations Shorts Block

Documentary Shorts – Block 1

Documentary Shorts – Block 2

Documentary Shorts – Block 3

Experimental Shorts Block

Narrative Shorts – Block 2

Narrative Shorts – Block 3

Student Shorts Block

Documentary Features

Narrative Features



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2 - Minute Movie Contest

Purchase Ticket

\$5 Block

>

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.

PRODUCED BY GREG CARLSON



Narrative Shorts – Block 2Purchase Ticket\$12 Block>



Photo Op

Photo Op

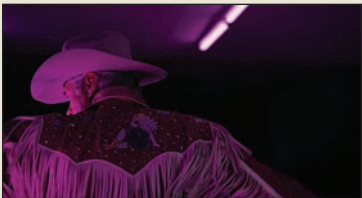
Directed by Dava Whisenant | USA | 3 mins
Shot entirely on an iPhone, this humorous cautionary tale explores the perils of trusting a stranger to take your photograph.



Blocks

Blocks

Directed by Bridget Moloney | USA | 11 mins
A mother of two young children develops a mysterious ailment causing her to spontaneously vomit toy blocks.



Rhinestone Blue

Rhinestone Blue

Directed by Aisha Schliessler | USA | 7 mins
An aging cowboy sets out to compete for the grand prize in a small-town talent show.



You Need Help

You Need Help

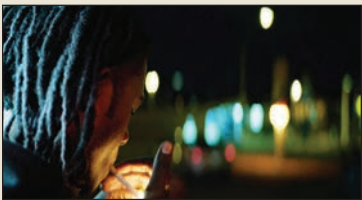
Directed by Barbara Elbinger | UK | 17 mins
Fred, a depressed retiree, embraces his inner child on a quest to bring the magic, and music, back into his life and strained marriage.



Transfer

Transfer

Directed by Sage Mears and Aaron Pagniano | USA | 11 mins
Max has the most important, and unconventional, interview of his life.



Zoo

Zoo

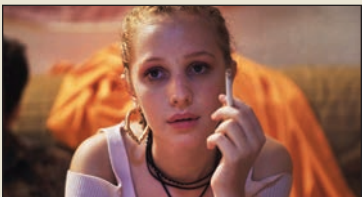
Directed by Will Niava | Canada | 12 mins
A misunderstanding between three juveniles and a troubled man escalates to a point of no return.



Split Second

Split Second

Directed by Julianne Donelle | USA | 13 mins
A woman tries to understand why her life was spared when she is saved from a bombing by the man committing the attack.



Matriochkas

Matriochkas

Directed by Bérangère Mc Neese | Belgium | 24 mins
The relationship between Rebecca and her teenage daughter, Anna, is forever changed when Anna learns that she is pregnant.

CLICK TO VIEW OTHER CATEGORIES

Animations Shorts Block

Documentary Shorts – Block 1

Documentary Shorts – Block 2

Documentary Shorts – Block 3

Experimental Shorts Block

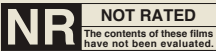
Narrative Shorts – Block 1

Narrative Shorts – Block 3

Student Shorts Block

Documentary Features

Narrative Features



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Narrative Shorts – Block 3Purchase Ticket\$12 Block>



The Devil's Harmony

The Devil's Harmony

Directed by Dylan Holmes Williams | UK | 14 mins
A bullied teenage girl leads an a cappella club on a trail of destruction against her high school enemies.



So What If the Goats Die

So What If the Goats Die

Directed by Sofia Alaoui | France | 24 mins
Abdellah, a young shepherd living in the mountains, encounters a supernatural phenomenon when he travels to town to purchase supplies.



In the Mirrors

In the Mirrors

Directed by Merlin Camozzi | USA | 8 mins
Clara has much bigger problems than a nerve-wracking job interview when she discovers her Airbnb is haunted by invisible creatures.



Where Is the Wolf?

Where Is the Wolf?

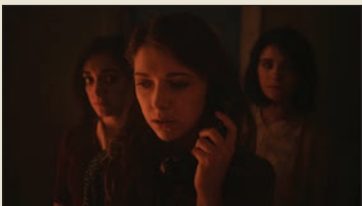
Directed by Jonathan Norberg | Sweden | 26 mins
After Maj causes a devastating accident, she is forced to grapple with a new, nightmarish reality.



NEUL未知ND: The Unknown

NEUL未知ND: The Unknown

Directed by Eddie Shieh | USA | 3 mins
An American-born Chinese waitress meets a mysterious man and is drawn into a dangerous situation.



Alina

Alina

Winner: The Ruth Landfield Award

Directed by Rami Kodeih | USA | 25 mins
As Nazis separate children from their parents in the Warsaw Ghetto, a group of women risk everything to smuggle their friend's three-month-old baby to safety.



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.



My Other Suit is Human

My Other Suit is Human

Winner: Rusty Casselton Award

Directed by Andrew Paul Montague | Ireland | 18 mins

Grieving the loss of her son, a woman finds solace in the form of a homemade robot suit.



Terry

Terry

Honorable Mention

Directed by Alexander Hagani | UK | 11 mins

An elderly man and a young boy form an unlikely bond after crossing paths in a hospital.



Heights

Heights

Directed by Major Dorfman | USA | 12 mins

Over the course of a summer afternoon, two brothers must decide whether or not they will remain silent about a horrible secret.



Bittu

Bittu

Directed by Karishma Dube | USA | 17 mins

The friendship between two girls is tested as a tragic accident unfolds at a rural school.



Mirror

Mirror

Directed by Christina Yoon | USA | 12 mins

Yeona’s facial scarring has created deep-rooted self image issues, so she visits a black market hospital in Queens seeking plastic surgery.



Major Robinson

Major Robinson

Directed by Andrew Klein | USA | 7 mins

A young woman reflects on her childhood dream of becoming a pilot as she embarks on a new journey.

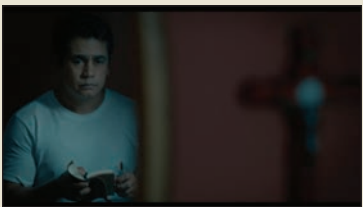


Into the Honeycomb

Into the Honeycomb

Directed by Nick Dugan | USA | 19 mins

After driving home in a drunken stupor, an alcoholic man must navigate the tragic consequences of his actions under the scrutiny of his callous brother.

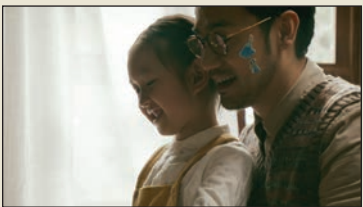


Sweet Potatoes

Sweet Potatoes

Directed by Rommel Villa Barriga | USA | 30 mins

1951, Mexico City. After synthesizing the main component of the contraceptive pill, scientist Luis Miramontes faces religious and personal consequences.



Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Winner: Best Student Film

Directed by Shiyue Xu | USA | 12 mins

The song “Twinkle,Twinkle Little Star” takes on new significance as an accomplished pianist moves through different stages of his life.



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.

CLICK TO VIEW OTHER CATEGORIES

- Animations Shorts Block

Documentary Shorts – Block 1

Documentary Shorts – Block 2

Documentary Shorts – Block 3

Experimental Shorts Block

Narrative Shorts – Block 1

Narrative Shorts – Block 2

Narrative Shorts – Block 3

Documentary Features

Narrative Features

NR

NOT RATED

The contents of these films have not been evaluated.

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Documentary Features

Purchase Ticket \$12 per feature film >



Stalking Chernobyl: Exploration After Apocalypse

Stalking Chernobyl: Exploration After Apocalypse

Winner: Best Documentary Feature



Directed by Iara Lee | USA | 58 mins

Three decades after the world’s most infamous nuclear disaster, illegal hiking adventurers, known as “stalkers,” have begun to explore the mysterious, ghostly landscape of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone.



Missing in Brooks County

Missing in Brooks County

Honorable Mention



Directed by Jeff Bemiss and Lisa Molomot | USA | 81 mins

Brooks County, Texas is the site of an estimated 3,000 deaths since 2008, as migrants try to circumvent the state’s busiest interior immigration checkpoint. In this harrowing documentary, two families search for their loved ones who have gone missing and find a haunted land with more questions than answers.



Fighting Over Sioux

Fighting Over Sioux

Directed by Matt Fern | USA | 85 mins

A contentious legal process ensues when the NCAA requires the University of North Dakota to change the name of its athletic teams.



Newtopia

Newtopia

Directed by Audun Amundsen | Norway | 89 mins

Driven by his search for a utopian world, Norwegian backpacker Audun Amundsen travels to Indonesia, where he meets a group of people living without money, electricity, or modern tools.



Red Heaven

Red Heaven

Directed by Katherine Gorringer and Lauren DeFilippo | USA | 77 mins

To help humanity get to Mars, four scientists, an engineer, and an architect agree to embark on the longest space simulation in US history: 366 days in isolation and confinement on an active volcano in Hawai’i.



Sleeze Lake: Vanlife At Its Lowest and Best

Sleeze Lake: Vanlife At Its Lowest and Best

Directed by Andrew J. Morgan and Nick Nummerdor | USA | 59 mins

Set among the foggy memories and ephemera of the world’s largest custom van club, “Sleeze Lake” tells the story of a wild van party thrown in 1977 in the middle of a fictitious resort town and the people who dreamt it up.



The Bill Snyder Award

FOR DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

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

CLICK TO VIEW OTHER CATEGORIES

Animations Shorts Block

Documentary Shorts – Block 1

Documentary Shorts – Block 2

Documentary Shorts – Block 3

Experimental Shorts Block

Narrative Shorts – Block 1

Narrative Shorts – Block 2

Narrative Shorts – Block 3

Student Shorts Block

Narrative Features

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.



Paper Tiger

Paper Tiger
Winner: Best in Show Award for Best Picture, Best Narrative Feature



Directed by Paul Kowalski | USA | 94 mins
An immigrant mother fears her schizophrenic teenaged son is turning into a school shooter.



The Badger

The Badger
Honorable Mention



Directed by Kazem Mollaie | Iran | 93 mins
Soodeh’s 11-year-old son is kidnapped before her second wedding and she is forced to ask her ex-husband for the ransom money.



Freeland

Freeland
Winner: Best in Show Award for Best Actress, Krisha Fairchild



Directed by Mario Furloni and Kate McLean | USA | 80 mins
An aging pot farmer finds her world shattered as she races to bring in what could be her final harvest.

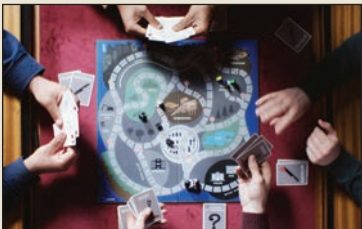


Lorelei

Lorelei
Winner: Best in Show Award for Best Actor, Pablo Schreiber



Directed by Sabrina Doyle | USA | 111 mins
Wayland has been in prison for 15 years for armed robbery. Upon his release, he returns to his blue-collar hometown and inadvertently reconnects with his high school girlfriend Dolores, now a single mother struggling to support her three kids.



Murder Bury Win

Murder Bury Win

Directed by Michael Lovan | USA | 91 mins
Three friends are approached by a mysterious man with an offer to buy and distribute their board game, MURDER BURY WIN. After a freak accident occurs that looks suspiciously like murder, the friends turn to their game for guidance.



The Outside Story

The Outside Story

Directed by Casimir Nozkowski | USA | 85 mins
When Charles, an introverted editor, is locked out of his building, he is forced to confront the issues he has been avoiding as he searches for a way back inside.

CLICK TO VIEW OTHER CATEGORIES

Animations Shorts Block

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Documentary Shorts – Block 2

Documentary Shorts – Block 3

Experimental Shorts Block

Narrative Shorts – Block 1

Narrative Shorts – Block 2

Narrative Shorts – Block 3

Student Shorts Block

Documentary Features



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