



2024



# FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 19-23, 2024





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.

Gather 'round. It's story time.

My mom was my *first* favorite storyteller. On long car rides, my sister and I would stretch out in the back of our Delta 88 as our mother would regale us with stories from her childhood, world history, or local folklore. We'd stay awake long past bedtime, savoring every delectable word until the bittersweet sight of our driveway called us back to the real world.

Along the way, I collected other favorite storytellers. Walt Disney was next. Then came Miyazaki and Spielberg. And eventually, Hitchcock, Scorsese, and Jackson. Like so many of you, I grew up huddled around the campfire of a glowing cinema screen, watching masters of the craft spin fantastic tales. While no one bested my mom, they all touched my heart and set my imagination soaring.

This festival is about storytellers — we gather to celebrate their artistry. Together in a cinema, we seek new tales that make sense of the world and our place in it. We chuckle, we weep, we jump out of our seats. And the storytellers make magic.

Thank you for coming to the 2024 Fargo Film Festival. ENJOY THE SHOW!

Emily



Emily Beck  
FARGO THEATRE  
Executive Director



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Rachel Fenner  
Arthur Kaese  
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Tony Tilton  
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Jeff Walkowski  
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Lee Wrona



Tuesday, March 19 | 7:00 p.m.

EVENING HOSTS: Janet Brandau and Matt Voltz



### Show Her the Money

Winner: Ruth Landfield Award

Directed by Ky Dickens | USA | 86 mins

Money is power, but women receive less than two percent of venture capital funding. In this engaging and empowering documentary, four female entrepreneurs work to turn their ideas into reality and grow their businesses with the support of women investors.

Producers Catherine Gray, Wendy Ryan, Azin Radsan Van Alebeek, and Julie Peterson Klein will appear live on stage after the screening to talk about the film.



Thursday, March 21 | 7:00 p.m.

EVENING HOST: Brent Brandt

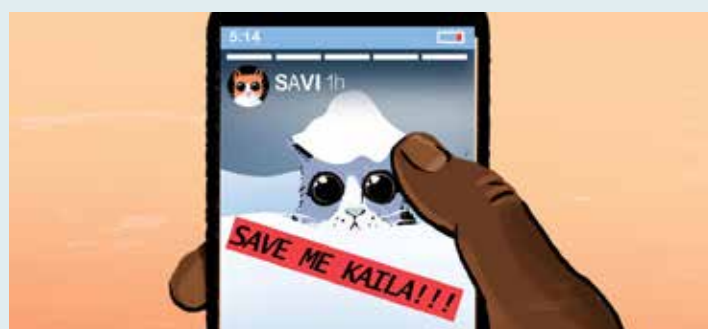
### Short Stories

With inspired brevity, these short films give us snapshots of life, love, and the ties that bind. This eclectic program includes an animated comedy about a fledgling rap artist, a documentary depicting the path of destruction wrought by a single pet cat, and an Oscar-nominated portrait of two unforgettable grandmothers.



Nãi Nai & Wai Pó

Join us in celebrating the work of director Zachary Howett as we screen his movie *The Site of Unsure*, winner of Best Experimental Film, and learn more about his creative process during a live Q&A.



Savi the Cat



### 2 - Minute Movie Contest

Tiny run times, ginormous personalities.

THURSDAY 9:15 p.m.

PRODUCED BY GREG CARLSON

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.

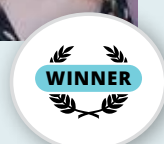


### Scrap

Winner: Best Narrative Feature

After getting laid off, a young single mom finds herself living in her car and struggling to hide her situation from her estranged brother. Starring Vivian Kerr, Anthony Rapp (*Rent*), and Lana Parrilla (*Once Upon A Time*).

Actor/director/writer Vivian Kerr will join us to discuss bringing the project from script to screen.



Friday, March 22 | 7:00 p.m.

EVENING HOST: Kendra O'Brien

### Immaculate with special guest Will Greenfield

In this gripping new film, Sydney Sweeney (*Anyone But You*, *Euphoria*, *The White Lotus*) stars as Cecilia, an American nun of devout faith who embarks on a journey to a remote convent in the picturesque Italian countryside. Cecilia's warm welcome quickly devolves into a nightmare as it becomes clear her new home harbors a sinister secret and unspeakable horrors.

After the film, Executive Producer Will Greenfield will appear live onstage for a conversation about *Immaculate* and the journey of his career. To celebrate his artistic achievements, Greenfield will receive the Fargo Film Festival's most distinguished honor, the Ted M. Larson Award.

Originally hailing from Kentucky, Greenfield's career in the film industry has taken him all over the world. He steadily climbed the ranks from production assistant to production manager to producer/executive producer. Greenfield has worked with some of the industry's top talent, including Quentin Tarantino, Jeff Nichols, Yorgos Lanthimos, Sam Levinson, Lena Dunham, Jon Favreau, Spike Lee, and Frank Darabont. Greenfield served as executive producer for season two of HBO's smash hit series *Euphoria*, which garnered 16 Emmy nominations. He is currently working as executive producer on an upcoming film from director Ryan Coogler.



THE 2024 FARGO FILM FESTIVAL  
MARGIE BAILLY VOLUNTEER SPIRIT AWARD

Kendra O'Brien

**KENDRA O'BRIEN** is a North Dakota native who came to Fargo to attend NDSU and promptly fell in love with the Fargo Theatre at a screening of the movie *Shine*. She completed her undergraduate and Master of Arts degree programs and was married (at the Fargo Theatre!) in 2004. Together with her husband, Kendra parents the two most awesome sons in the world.

Kendra works at FBS, a local real estate software company, and serves on the company's Board of Directors. As a volunteer, she has participated in local art grant processes and NDSU department and college advisory boards, and she is honored to serve as a board member for the Fargo Theatre.

Kendra started attending the Fargo Film Festival in 2002 and has not let classes, jobs, or living out of state block her from attending any year since. In 2011, inspired by her sister Lisa, Kendra began volunteering for the Fargo Film Festival. In the years following, she has served as a highly opinionated juror, jury chair, and festival co-chair.

Kendra is a passionate advocate for documentary films. She notes, "A well-made documentary gives the viewer a chance to see the world through someone else's eyes. I've learned so much from the hundreds of documentary features I've watched for the Festival, and I'm better for it."

Kendra loves microphones, a well-balanced coffee, the Oxford comma, her amazing family and friends, and the volunteers of the Fargo Film festival.





Best in Fest

Saturday, March 23 | 7:00 p.m. | EVENING HOST: Sean Volk

From worlds real and imagined, this collection of short films has one unifying theme: excellence. We close the 2024 festival with a program of award-winning short films that represent cinema’s unparalleled ability to move hearts and open minds. Through tears and laughter, we celebrate the silver screen and the artists that tell our stories.



Starling



Blue Hour



The Day Of



Closing Dynasty



Death to the Bikini!

7:00 p.m. **2-Minute Movie Contest Winner**

7:05 p.m. **Starling**  
**Winner: Best Animated Film**  
Directed by Mitra Shahidi | USA | 9 mins  
The spirit of a little girl shoots down from the heavens to spend her birthday with her family.

7:15 p.m. **Blue Hour**  
**Winner: Pat Hansen Award for Best Screenplay**  
Directed by J.D. Shields | USA | 16 mins  
The lives of two women intersect when a struggling young photographer is hired for a last minute portrait gig.

7:45 p.m. **The Day Of**  
**Winner: Best in Show Best Actress**  
Directed by Umar Malik | USA | 18 mins  
A mother’s worst nightmare comes to life when she receives a devastating call from her daughter.

8:15 p.m. **Closing Dynasty**  
**Winner: Best in Show Best Picture and the Tom Brandau Award for Best Narrative Short**  
Directed by Lloyd Lee Choi | USA | 17 mins  
On a school day, 7-year-old Queenie hustles for money on the streets of New York City.

8:30 p.m. **Death to the Bikini!**  
**Narrative Short Honorable Mention**  
Directed by Justine Gauthier | Canada | 17 mins  
Young Lili rebels when her parents force her to start wearing a bikini top after a lifetime of swimming topless.



THE FARGO FILM FESTIVAL HONORS THE LIFE AND WORK OF Tom Brandau

As a filmmaker, actor, writer, festival volunteer, and educator, Tom Brandau’s contributions to the cinematic arts will be treasured for generations. Tom received his MFA from Towson University, where he also began his career in film education. In 2003 he moved to Moorhead to join the faculty of the MSUM film department. Over the next 15 years, Tom would instruct and inspire hundreds of young filmmakers while continuing to produce acclaimed work of his own. He served on the Fargo Theatre’s Board of Directors and in several leadership roles for the Fargo Film Festival. Tom passed away in 2021 after a valiant battle with cancer. His memory will be cherished by his fellow festival volunteers, his students, his wife and creative partner Janet, and his stepchildren Kate and Daniel.



ANIMATION WINNERS

**Starling**  
**Winner: Best Animated Film**  
Directed by Mitra Shahidi | USA | 9 mins  
The spirit of a little girl shoots down from the heavens to spend her birthday with her family.

**27**  
**Honorable Mention**  
Directed by Flóra Anna Buda | France | 11 mins  
At the age of 27, Alice is living with her parents and frequently daydreams to escape her dreary daily grind. Will a drunken bicycle accident give her the courage to make a change?

**Letter to a Pig**  
**Honorable Mention**  
Directed by Tal Kantor | France | 17 mins  
A Holocaust survivor reads a letter he wrote to the pig who saved his life.

ANIMATION OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

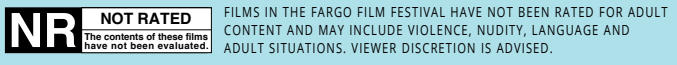
**Armat**  
Directed by Elodie Dermange | Switzerland | 12 mins  
As Elodie interviews her family in an effort to learn more about her Armenian heritage, she discovers a harsh and painful history.

**Aube**  
Directed by Vincent Bibaud | France | 4 mins  
When Alice and Liam meet, an evening becomes a journey where everything seems possible.

**Electra**  
Directed by Daria Kashcheeva | Czech Republic | 27 mins  
Electra rethinks her 10th birthday, mixing memories with dreams and hidden fantasies.

**Finding Home**  
Directed by Maria Stanisheva | Bulgaria | 7 mins  
Climate change forces a new mother to move from her home village to the big city in search of care for her baby who is struggling with microcephaly.

**Money and Happiness**  
Ana Nedeljković and Nikoa Majdak, Jr | Serbia | 10 mins  
Hamsterland is a perfect state with a perfect economy, where all hamsters have full employment and declare themselves to be happy.



SAT 23  
7:05 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



FRI 22  
11:05 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



THU 21  
8:05 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

SAT 23  
2:05 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



THU 21  
3:45 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

FRI 22  
10:10 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



WED 20  
2:20 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



WED 20  
2:25 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

FRI 22  
11:30 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



FRI 22  
10:40 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



FRI 22  
10:55 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



FRI 22  
10:45 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



Oneluv

TUES 19  
1:50 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Shackle

FRI 22  
10:25 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



Witchfairy

SAT 23  
10:25 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



Greener Pastures

SAT 23  
3:25 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



40 Below

### Oneluv

Directed by Varvara Yakovleva | France | 11 mins  
A young couple receive uninvited guests who push them to their limits and threaten to destroy the order and harmony in their home.

### Shackle

Directed by Ainslie Henderson | United Kingdom | 10 mins  
Three woodland spirits explore the conflicting human drives of creativity, possessiveness, and desire for status.

### Witchfairy

Directed by Cedric Igodt and David Van de Weyer | Belgium | 15 mins  
Young fairy Rosemary is bored with her life in the castle. She would rather be a witch so she can scream, fly on a broom, and get really messy.

## DOCUMENTARY FEATURE WINNERS

### Greener Pastures

**Winner: the Bill Snyder Award for Best Documentary Feature and the Prairie Spirit Award**

Directed by Samuel-Ali Mirpoorian | USA | 85 mins  
For American farmers, a dangerous combination of economic uncertainty, isolation, and climate change have led to a crisis. These challenges threaten not only the lives and livelihoods of farmers, but also our nation's food supply. This moving and deeply personal film profiles four family farms as they work to survive in unprecedented times.



### 40 Below: The Toughest Race in the World Honorable Mention

Directed by Marius Anderson | USA | 100 mins  
Embark on an epic journey as racers attempt to complete the Arrowhead 135, an extreme endurance race held each year in northern Minnesota during winter. Participants have 60 hours to run, bike, or ski the arduous path, considered by many to be the most extreme outdoor contest in existence.



### With Peter Bradley Honorable Mention

Directed by Alex Rappoport | USA | 86 mins  
79 years old and overlooked since the 1970s, abstract painter Peter Bradley invites viewers into his artistic process while sharing stories about his life. Through a series of intimate and provocative conversations, Bradley reflects on his successes and his struggles as a Black artist.

## DOCUMENTARY FEATURE OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

### Camp RicStar

Directed by Sam McConnell | USA | 87 mins  
Born with cerebral palsy, Eric Winter formed a deep connection with music and dreamed of becoming a rock star. Inspired by Eric's passion, his family founded Camp RicStar, an inclusive music therapy program for people with disabilities.

### Dusty & Stones

Directed by Jesse Rudoy | USA | 83 mins  
Musicians Dusty and Stones travel from their home in Swaziland to the United States to perform in a country music festival. The duo face unexpected obstacles and joyful surprises over the course of their momentous ten-day road trip through the American South.

### Nathan-ism

Directed by Elan Golod | USA | 79 mins  
At the end of World War II, Nathan Hilu received a life-changing assignment from the U.S. Army: to guard Nazi war criminals at the Nuremberg trials. This experience fuels a lifetime of artistic inspiration for Nathan, who spent the next 70 years creating a visual narrative from his memories.

### Show Her the Money Winner: Ruth Landfield Award

Directed by Ky Dickens | USA | 86 mins  
Money is power, but women receive less than two percent of venture capital funding. In this engaging and empowering documentary, four female entrepreneurs work to turn their ideas into reality and grow their businesses with the support of women investors.



With Peter Bradley

THU 21  
1:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



Camp RicStar

TUES 19  
3:55 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



Dusty & Stones

TUES 19  
1:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

FRI 22  
10:35 a.m.  
SCREEN 2



Nathan-ism

WED 20  
1:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Show Her the Money

TUES 19  
7:15 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

## 2024 Prairie Spirit Award

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Samuel-Ali Mirpoorian, Director  
*Greener Pastures*

## 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.



WED 20  
10:50 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



What Happened  
to Jackson Avenue?

WED 20  
10:05 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



Hakki Rising

SAT 23  
2:25 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Chasin' Butterflies

THU 21  
4:15 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Liturgy of Anti-Tank Obstacles

TUES 19  
1:35 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Ball People

THU 21  
10:00 a.m.  
SCREEN 2



Dynasty and Destiny

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE [ CONTINUED ]

What Happened to Jackson Avenue?

Directed by Hakima Alem and Rudi Gohl | USA | 63 mins  
An urban renewal program in Nyack, NY removed 125 families from their homes, and the community, in the 1950s and 1960s. Of those families, nearly eighty percent were Black. This documentary examines the impact of this program through the personal stories of the individuals who experienced it firsthand.

DOCUMENTARY SHORT WINNERS

Hakki Rising

**Winner: Best Documentary Short**  
Directed by David Larson | USA | 30 mins  
An immigrant from Turkey comes to America seeking a better life. After many struggles, he finds success in the world of acrobatic pizza tossing.



Chasin' Butterflies

**Honorable Mention**  
Directed by Adam Dobbs, Joshua Harding, and Matt Klug | USA | 19 mins  
Butch Anthony is a lot like his art: eccentric, playful, authentic, and layered. While he is impossible to categorize, Butch is always one thing: an original.



Liturgy of Anti-Tank Obstacles

**Honorable Mention**  
Directed by Dmytro Sukholytkyy-Sobchuk  
Ukraine | 12 mins  
In war-torn Ukraine, sculptors and metalworkers use their skills to create anti-tank obstacles.



DOCUMENTARY SHORT OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Ball People

Directed by Scott Lazer | USA | 13 mins  
Every year, hundreds of people apply to join the Ball Crew at the US Open tennis tournament. Through a surprisingly rigorous tryout process, only a few dozen candidates are ultimately selected.

Dynasty and Destiny

Directed by Travis Lee Ratcliff | USA | 7 mins  
A mother and daughter are bound together by their passion for rodeo and the weight of their family's legacy in the sport.

Heart of an Astronaut

Directed by Jennifer Rainsford | Sweden | 15 mins  
Follow an astronaut's story from Earth to space as told by flight surgeon Brigitte Godard.

Kambana

Directed by Samuel Pastor | Spain | 15 mins  
In the Mananjary region of Madagascar, a pervasive belief that twins carry misfortune results in many abandoned children or socially rejected families.

Len and His Spitfire

Directed by Noelle Duddridge | Canada | 11 mins  
As a child, Len sustained serious injuries from a dynamite blast cap explosion. Despite his disabilities, he enlisted to fight (and fly) in World War II.

Malignasquelluki: To Live in Harmony

Directed by Colin Russell and Ilegvak | USA | 13 mins  
Discover the life and work of Ilegvak, a Yupik fur hunter and artist.

Middle America

Directed by Dana Larson | USA | 28 mins  
Three North Dakota towns vie to claim the title of geographic center of North America.

Năi Nai & Wàì Pó

**Winner: Best in Show Best Director**  
Directed by Sean Wang | USA | 17 mins  
Together, Năi Nai and Wàì Pó are a grandma super team that dance, stretch, and fart their sorrows away.



Nina & Irena

Directed by Daniel Lombroso | USA | 20 mins  
On the verge of her 90th birthday, a grandmother reveals the painful story of her sister's disappearance during the Holocaust.

Please Ask For It

Directed by Allison Waid | USA | 20 mins  
Down on Blues Alley in Holly Springs, Mississippi, beloved record store owner David "Fox" Caldwell keeps the dream and his business alive against all odds.

Sanctuary

Directed by John Haley and Julia Szromba | USA | 16 mins  
In the first city to ban abortion in Ohio, a lifelong resident grapples with the transformation of her hometown.

FRI 22  
3:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



Heart of an Astronaut

FRI 22  
3:45 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



Kambana

FRI 22  
2:40 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Len and His Spitfire

TUES 19  
3:10 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



Malignasquelluki

SAT 23  
10:00 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



Middle America

THU 21  
8:20 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Năi Nai & Wàì Pó

TUES 19  
2:35 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Nina & Irena

THU 21  
3:55 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Please Ask For It

THU 21  
10:10 a.m.  
SCREEN 2



Sanctuary

TUES 19  
3:40 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

THU 21  
4:45 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



FILM FESTIVAL 2024

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

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1:30 p.m. **Wabanaki Modern** p. 13  
1:55 p.m. **The Flower Darkens** p. 20  
2:10 p.m. **A Good Day Will Come** p. 17  
2:40 p.m. **Len and His Spitfire** p. 10  
3:05 p.m. — Break —  
3:15 p.m. **Daughter of the Sun** p. 15

1:30 p.m. **Chasin' Butterflies** p. 9  
2:05 p.m. **Letter to a Pig** p. 6  
2:25 p.m. **Hakki Rising** p. 9  
2:55 p.m. — Break —  
3:05 p.m. **Cowboy Kevin** p. 20  
3:15 p.m. **Mystic Tiger** p. 18  
3:30 p.m. **AJ Goes to the Dog Park** p. 19

1:30 p.m. **Dusty and Stones** p. 8  
2:55 p.m. — Break —  
3:05 p.m. **The Road to Victory** p. 21  
3:10 p.m. **Malignasquelluki: To Live in Harmony** p. 10  
3:25 p.m. **Soundscape** p. 13  
3:40 p.m. **Sanctuary** p. 10  
3:55 p.m. **Camp RicStar** p. 8

1:30 p.m. **Broken Mirror** p. 14  
1:45 p.m. **White** p. 14  
1:50 p.m. **What Humans Do** p. 14  
1:55 p.m. **Skin** p. 14  
2:00 p.m. **Balaena** p. 14  
2:10 p.m. **Not Us** p. 14  
2:20 p.m. **Aube** p. 6  
2:25 p.m. **Electra** p. 6  
2:55 p.m. — Break —  
3:05 p.m. **Body of Work** p. 16  
3:20 p.m. **Coming of Age** p. 20  
3:40 p.m. **The Business of Pleasure** p. 15

1:30 p.m. **With Peter Bradley** p. 8  
3:00 p.m. — Break —  
3:10 p.m. **Chairs** p. 16  
3:30 p.m. **Nur and Abir** p. 18  
3:45 p.m. **Armat** p. 6  
3:55 p.m. **Coyote** p. 15

3:10 p.m. **The Vanishing Point: Tracing Shadows in Prussian Blue** p. 13  
3:30 p.m. **Heart of an Astronaut** p. 10  
3:45 p.m. **Kambana** p. 10  
4:00 p.m. **Rabies** p. 18  
4:15 p.m. **Ivania** p. 17  
4:30 p.m. **The Pencil** p. 18  
4:40 p.m. **Nian** p. 18  
4:45 p.m. **The Florist** p. 20  
4:50 p.m. **The Countryman** p. 17

1:30 p.m. **My Motherland** p. 15  
3:00 p.m. — Break —  
3:10 p.m. **Soundscape** p. 13  
3:25 p.m. **40 Below: The Toughest Race in the World** p. 7

7:00 p.m. Presentation of the Margie Bailly Volunteer Spirit Award to Kendra O'Brien

7:15 p.m. **Show Her the Money** p. 3, 8

7:00 p.m. **Scrap** p. 3, 15

7:00 p.m. **Mum's Spaghetti** p. 21  
7:10 p.m. **Savi the Cat** p. 13  
7:30 p.m. **The Site of Unsure** p. 3, 14  
7:45 p.m. **Classmates** p. 17  
8:05 p.m. **Letter to a Pig** p. 6  
8:20 p.m. **Năi Nai and Wàì Pó** p. 10  
9:15 p.m. **2-Minute Movie Contest** p. 3

7:00 p.m. **Immaculate** with special guest Will Greenfield p. 4, 19

7:00 p.m. **2-Minute Movie Contest Winner** p. 3  
7:05 p.m. **Starling** p. 5, 6  
7:15 p.m. **Blue Hour** p. 5, 20  
7:45 p.m. **The Day Of** p. 5, 17  
8:15 p.m. **Closing Dynasty** p. 5, 16  
8:30 p.m. **Death to the Bikini!** p. 5, 16



THU 21  
7:10 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



*Savi the Cat*

TUES 19  
3:25 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



*Soundscape*

SAT 23  
3:10 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



*The Vanishing Point: Tracing Shadows in Prussian Blue*

FRI 22  
3:10 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

WED 20  
10:35 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



*The Vanishing Strings*

FRI 22  
1:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



*Wabanaki Modern*

THU 21  
10:45 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



*Will You Look At Me*

## DOCUMENTARY SHORT [ CONTINUED ]

### *Savi the Cat*

Directed by Netsanet Tjirongo and Bryan Tucker | USA | 18 mins  
A newlywed couple is unprepared for the damage that an adorable kitten will wreak on their home, their way of life, and ultimately their marriage.

### *Soundscape*

Directed by Timmy O'Neill | USA | 15 mins  
Using adaptive climbing techniques, blind global adventure athlete Erik Weihenmayer ascends a massive alpine rock face deep in the Sierra Nevada.

### *The Vanishing Point: Tracing Shadows in Prussian Blue*

Directed by Marek Ryszard Dojs | USA | 21 mins  
Through the lens of four photographs, the filmmaker unravels the hidden narratives in the haunting shadows of Auschwitz.

### *The Vanishing Strings of the Andes*

Directed by Sam Watkins | Spain | 13 mins  
High in the Andes mountains, an age-old generational craft is on the verge of extinction. This is the story of Ecuador's forgotten guitar road.

### *Wabanaki Modern*

Directed by Clem McIntosh | Canada | 21 mins  
This film explores and celebrates the Micmac Indian Craftsmen studio, an influential art collective founded in 1960s New Brunswick.

### *Will You Look At Me*

Directed by Shuli Huang | China | 20 mins  
As a young Chinese filmmaker returns to his hometown in search of himself, a long overdue conversation with his mother sends the two of them on a quest for acceptance and love.

## EXPERIMENTAL FILM WINNER

### *The Site of Unsure*

#### Winner: Best Experimental Film

Directed by Zachary Howatt | USA | 3 mins  
The filmmaker offers a colorful and expressive film/animation hybrid in memory of his late mother.



## EXPERIMENTAL OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

### *Balaena*

Directed by Alessia Ceccet | Italy | 8 mins  
A whale lies stranded on the beach as human interlopers observe, collect, dissect, and take selfies.

### *Broken Mirror*

Directed by Sina Maali | Canada | 12 mins  
With a screen split in four parts, we experience the story of Sarah, a woman who senses someone in her house.

### *Not Us*

Directed by James Kautz | USA | 11 mins  
Inside a mysterious group audition, pressure mounts for approval from a godlike director.

### *Skin*

Directed by Leo Behrens | USA | 7 mins  
Using visual symbolism, this poetic exploration of self-discovery follows a person as they shed their old skin and embrace their true identity.

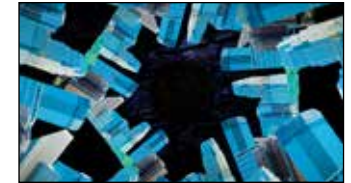
### *What Humans Do*

Directed by Miranda Javid | USA | 7 mins  
By interlacing the extractive qualities of our species with embodied sensory experiences, this film favors a mindful awareness of what humans do to their habitats and planet Earth.

### *White*

Directed by Keum-Taek Jung | USA | 2 mins  
Using a digital microscope and computer-generated sound, this animation explores geometric figures through the texture and color of transformation.

THU 21  
7:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



*The Site of Unsure*

WED 20  
2:00 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



*Balaena*

WED 20  
1:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



*Broken Mirror*

WED 20  
2:10 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



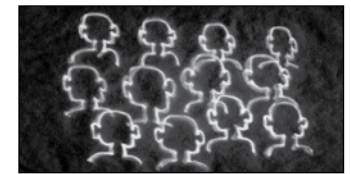
*Not Us*

WED 20  
1:55 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



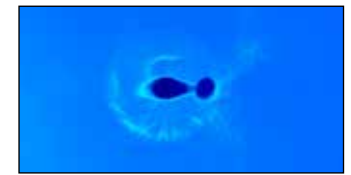
*Skin*

WED 20  
1:50 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



*What Humans Do*

WED 20  
1:45 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



*White*





WED 20  
7:00 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Scrap

TUES 19  
3:50 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Coyote

THU 21  
3:55 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

SAT 23  
1:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



My Motherland

WED 20  
10:40 a.m.  
SCREEN 2



Aligned

WED 20  
3:40 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



The Business of Pleasure

FRI 22  
3:15 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Daughter of the Sun

THU 21  
10:30 a.m.  
SCREEN 2



The Problem of the Hero

SAT 23  
10:30 a.m.  
SCREEN 2



Smoking Tigers

## NARRATIVE FEATURE WINNERS

### Scrap

#### Winner: Best Narrative Feature

Directed by Vivian Kerr | USA | 105 mins  
After getting laid off, a young single mom finds herself living in her car and struggling to hide her situation from her estranged brother.



### Coyote

#### Winner: Best in Show Best Actor and Narrative Feature Honorable Mention

Directed by Katherine Jerkovic | Canada | 89 mins  
The arrival of a grandchild upsets an immigrant's plans for a new beginning.



### My Motherland

#### Honorable Mention

Directed by Benoit Cohen | France | 91 mins  
Based on a true story, Fanny Ardant stars as France, a widow who opens her home to an Afghan refugee against the advice of her friends and family.



## NARRATIVE FEATURE OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

### Aligned

Directed by Apollo Bakopoulos | Greece | 77 mins  
While studying at an elite Greek school of dance, two artists forge a strong bond and discover the transformative power of self-love.

### The Business of Pleasure

Directed by Goce Cvetanovski | Macedonia | 97 mins  
After her best friend becomes a victim of human trafficking, a journalist works obsessively to uncover and dismantle a sex slavery network.

### Daughter of the Sun

Directed by Ryan Ward | Canada | 109 mins  
A 12-year-old girl lives life on the run alongside her father, who has Tourette syndrome and a volatile secret that threatens everything.

### The Problem of the Hero

Directed by Shaun Dozier | USA | 85 mins  
On the eve of a Broadway play's opening night, a difference of opinion over a single page of the script threatens an impasse between two literary giants of the 20th Century.

### Smoking Tigers

Directed by So Young Shelly Yo | USA | 91 mins  
Over one summer spent at an elite academic boot camp, a lonely Korean American teenager hides her true identity to fit in and discovers the bittersweet pains of adulthood.

## NARRATIVE SHORT WINNERS

### Closing Dynasty

#### Winner: Best in Show Best Picture and the Tom Brandau Award for Best Narrative Short

Directed by Lloyd Lee Choi | USA | 17 mins  
On a school day, 7-year-old Queenie hustles for money on the streets of New York City.



### Death to the Bikini!

#### Honorable Mention

Directed by Justine Gauthier | Canada | 17 mins  
Young Lili rebels when her parents force her to start wearing a bikini top after a lifetime of swimming topless.



### The Old Young Crow

#### Honorable Mention

Directed by Liam LoPinto | Japan | 12 mins  
An Iranian boy befriends an old Japanese woman in a Tokyo cemetery.



## NARRATIVE SHORT OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

### 48 Hours

Directed by Azadeh Moussavi | Iran | 20 mins  
After three years in prison, Nader is given a brief furlough. He now has 48 hours to become a father to his young daughter.

### Body of Work

Directed by Andrea Tellez and Sophie Tellez | USA | 16 mins  
Ten years after the murder of their uncle, twins Izzy and Teddy find themselves caught in a web of their own lies when a detective comes knocking.

### Busybody

Directed by Barclay DeVeau | USA | 16 mins  
When local police refuse to take Florence's reports of suspicious activity seriously, she takes the investigation into her own hands.

### Career Day

Directed by Chris Hooper and Jason Robinson | USA | 11 mins  
A once-promising 90s pop star reunites with members of his boy band to perform at his daughter's elementary school career day.

### Chairs

Directed by James Hughes | UK | 20 mins  
A man meets with his new psychiatrist to discuss his peculiar obsession with chairs.

### Children of Light

#### Winner: Best in Show Best Cinematography

Directed by Minkyu Kang | USA | 11 mins  
A 16-year-old Korean boy is kidnapped and placed at a juvenile detention center on a remote island, where he must work with a rival to try to escape.



Closing Dynasty



Death to the Bikini!



The Old Young Crow



48 Hours



Body of Work



Busybody



Career Day



Chairs



Children of Light

SAT 23  
8:15 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

SAT 23  
8:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

TUES 19  
2:25 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

TUES 19  
3:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

WED 20  
3:05 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

THU 21  
2:20 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

TUES 19  
2:00 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

THU 21  
11:40 a.m.  
SCREEN 1

THU 21  
3:10 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

WED 20  
4:25 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



THU 21  
7:45 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Classmates

FRI 22  
4:50 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



The Countryman

SAT 23  
7:45 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



The Day Of

WED 20  
10:25 a.m.  
SCREEN 2



Farther

THU 21  
11:30 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



The Fourth

WED 20  
3:35 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



A Good Day Will Come

WED 20  
10:00 a.m.  
SCREEN 2



Hatirlama

THU 21  
2:50 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Homebody

FRI 22  
4:15 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



Ivania

NARRATIVE SHORTS [ CONTINUED ]

Classmates

Directed by Major Dorfman | USA | 19 mins  
An apathetic teenager is dropped off on the outskirts of town to work on a project with the school outcast. The two boys form an unlikely connection, but not without consequences.

The Countryman

Directed by Andy Kastelic | USA | 22 mins  
Bitterness threatens to destroy a small farming community until a stranger arrives with a curious proposition.

The Day Of

Winner: Best in Show Best Actress

Directed by Umar Malik | USA | 18 mins  
A mother's worst nightmare comes to life when she receives a devastating call from her daughter.



Farther

Directed by Josh Hundermark | South Africa | 15 mins  
Following the loss of his wife, a grieving man struggles to support and parent his child.

The Fourth

Directed by Johnny Kirk | USA | 12 mins  
Four friends are stopped by the police on the Fourth of July in this tense drama.

A Good Day Will Come

Directed by Amir Zargara | Canada | 30 mins  
A professional wrestler must decide if he will use his platform to take a stand against tyranny.

Hatirlama

Directed by Josh Folan | USA | 9 mins  
An American woman wanders into a Turkish antique store and shares a deep moment of connection with the shopkeeper.

Homebody

Directed by Brian Hoelsing | USA | 6 mins  
A young woman learns that a man has been living inside the walls of her home.

Ivania

Directed by Luigi Abanto | Spain | 12 mins  
While repairing an old camera, a technician discovers that he can use the device to see into another dimension.

Lunchbox

Directed by Anne Hu | USA | 16 mins  
When a Taiwanese American woman prepares lunches from her childhood, she struggles to forgive herself for pushing away her immigrant mother.

Misprint

Directed by Adam Volerich | USA | 20 mins  
A reformed criminal gets caught up in a new scheme concocted by his former partner.

Mountain Dust

Directed by Marlén Ríos-Farjat | Mexico | 19 mins  
A young woman living near the mountains witnesses the personal and political impact of mining in her community.

Mystic Tiger

Directed by Marc Martínez Jordán | Spain | 16 mins  
After suffering a mysterious accident, a man acquires the ability to travel across space and time.

Nian

Directed by Michelle Krusiec | USA | 7 mins  
A Chinese American girl stands up to her racist bully armed with a Chinese demon mask and the Nian, a mythological creature that eats bad kids.

Nur and Abir

Directed by Manu Gómez | Spain | 13 mins  
With summer vacation about to start, two friends living in Gaza plan to go to the beach together. The trip, however, has more significance than either girl realizes.

The No Problem Zone

Directed by Nicholas Sennott | USA | 17 mins  
A young woman travels home with a college friend, but an odd exchange about sausages at a roadside diner sets the tone for the weekend.

The Pencil

Directed by Thomas Schultz | Kazakhstan | 10 mins  
Sara discovers a unique pencil that can solve all her problems, but her dreams soon turn into a nightmare.

Rabies

Directed by Alberto Díaz | Spain | 16 mins  
Young Filomena's life is shaped by multiple tragedies in this haunting coming-of-age story.

Sèt Lam

Directed by Vincent Fontano | France | 20 mins  
Paralyzed by the fear of her loved ones disappearing, a young girl listens to an engrossing story told to her by her grandmother.



Lunchbox



Misprint



Mountain Dust



Mystic Tiger



Nian



Nur and Abir



The No Problem Zone



The Pencil



Rabies



Sèt Lam

THU 21  
4:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

SAT 23  
10:15 a.m.  
SCREEN 2

THU 21  
2:00 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

WED 20  
4:05 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

TUES 19  
2:10 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

SAT 23  
3:15 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

FRI 22  
4:40 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

THU 21  
3:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

WED 20  
3:00 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

FRI 22  
4:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

FRI 22  
4:00 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

WED 20  
4:45 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



THU 21  
11:05 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



Slippers

THU 21  
11:15 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



Trevor Hurt Someone

SAT 23  
3:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



AJ Goes to the Dog Park

THU 21  
3:15 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



The Greater Cumberland County Cooking Show

FRI 22  
7:00 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Immaculate

THU 21  
10:15 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



Truth

TUES 19  
1:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



Code Rose

FRI 22  
10:15 a.m.  
SCREEN 2



Esmeralda

## NARRATIVE SHORTS [ CONTINUED ]

### Slippers

Directed by Mark Ryan Walberg | USA | 13 mins  
Erratic messages from her dad send Jo deep into the California desert, where she discovers hundreds of slippers in the trunk of his car.

### Trevor Hurt Someone

Directed by Sam Pinnelas | USA | 12 mins  
Sean is sexually assaulted by his best friend Trevor and the two meet the next day at the bar where it happened.

## INVITED FILMS

### AJ Goes to the Dog Park

Directed by Toby Jones | USA | 79 mins  
When AJ loses his favorite dog park, he must fight, fish, scrap, scrape, and sap to get it back.

### The Greater Cumberland County Cooking Show

Directed by Janet Brandau | USA | 25 mins  
In 1972, three lifelong friends in remote northern Minnesota work to tape their local cable access TV cooking show while navigating newfound jealousies and competing desires.

### Immaculate

Directed by Michael Mohan | USA | 90 mins  
Sydney Sweeney stars as Cecilia, an American nun of devout faith who joins a convent in the picture-perfect Italian countryside. Cecilia's warm welcome quickly devolves into a nightmare as it becomes clear her new home harbors a sinister secret and unspeakable horrors.

## STUDENT FILM WINNERS

### Truth

#### Winner: Best Student Film

Directed by Tamara Denić | Germany | 30 mins  
A photojournalist travels to Germany with her daughter after she is threatened by extremist groups in Serbia.

### Code Rose

#### Honorable Mention

Directed by Taye Cimon, Pierre Coëz, Julie Groux, Sandra Leydier, Manuarii Morel, and Romain Seisson | France | 5 mins  
Chaos ensues when a flamingo lands on an aircraft carrier in the open sea.

### Esmeralda

#### Honorable Mention

Directed by Jennifer Greco | USA | 18 mins  
Esmeralda returns home to confront her mother about a traumatic childhood memory.



## STUDENT FILM OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

### Apex Point

Directed by Jacob Møller | Denmark | 7 mins  
A racer must find personal balance as she obsessively hunts for perfection in her quest to win.

### Blue Hour

#### Winner: Pat Hansen Award for Best Screenplay

Directed by J.D. Shields | USA | 16 mins  
The lives of two women intersect when a struggling young photographer is hired for a last minute portrait gig.



### Boxing Day

Directed by Leigh Schilling | Australia | 16 mins  
A fun-loving eight-year-old boy experiences loss for the first time as he comes to terms with the changes in his family.

### Chocolat Chaud

Directed by Evelyne Peter | France | 5 mins  
While drawing and drinking hot chocolate, three children discuss grief following the death of a grandparent.

### Coming of Age

Directed by Zhao Wu | UK | 18 mins  
Seventeen-year-old Chen is forced to face the consequences after he is involved in a violent incident.

### Cowboy Kevin

Directed by Anna Lund Konnerup | Denmark | 7 mins  
After receiving a love letter, a cowboy and his horse go on a journey to meet the sender.

### Eptá

Directed by Carter Aakhus, Abigale Larson, and Holly Stedman | USA | 15 mins — The relationships we often take for granted are celebrated in this unconventional collection of short stories about love.

### The Florist

Directed by Joachim Perino Pegalajar | France | 5 mins  
An extravagant man tries to bring back some colors and happiness to people in a dark, subterranean world.

### The Flower Darkens

Directed by Philippe Berthelet | Canada | 14 mins  
Before graduation, a high school student receives life-changing news that forces her to rethink her future and her relationships.

### The General's Room

Directed by Georges Marion | Denmark | 8 mins  
The past and present blur as a young boy explores a room in his family's house.



Apex Point



Blue Hour



Boxing Day



Chocolat Chaud



Coming of Age



Cowboy Kevin



Eptá



The Florist



The Flower Darkens



The General's Room

THU 21  
10:10 a.m.  
SCREEN 1

FRI 22  
11:25 a.m.  
SCREEN 1

SAT 23  
7:15 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

WED 20  
10:10 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

WED 20  
10:00 a.m.  
SCREEN 1

WED 20  
3:20 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

THU 21  
10:00 a.m.  
SCREEN 1

SAT 23  
3:05 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

THU 21  
1:30 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

FRI 22  
4:45 p.m.  
SCREEN 2

FRI 22  
1:55 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

TUES 19  
3:20 p.m.  
SCREEN 1

FRI 22  
11:15 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



TUES 19  
3:05 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



*The Grassland Whisper*

SAT 23  
10:00 a.m.  
SCREEN 2



*Kingdom of Songs*

THU 21  
7:00 p.m.  
SCREEN 1



*Mum's Spaghetti*

FRI 22  
10:00 a.m.  
SCREEN 2



*Pivot*

TUES 19  
3:05 p.m.  
SCREEN 2



*The Road to Victory*

FRI 22  
10:00 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



*Savage*

FRI 22  
10:05 a.m.  
SCREEN 1



*The Yellow Triangle*

### ***The Grassland Whisper***

Directed by Jiaqing Lin | China | 13 mins

The bond between a father and son is tested when a horse goes missing and the two men must work together to find the animal.

### ***Kingdom of Songs***

Directed by Anlan Tao | USA | 6 mins

A young boy talks to his father on the phone as he prepares for a special trip, but an unexpected complication arises when it is time to leave.

### ***Mum's Spaghetti***

**Winner: Rusty Casselton Award**

Directed by Lisa Kenney | UK | 11 mins

MC mastermind Poppy and her beatboxing border terrier Snoop are the new kids in town – and they're ready to make their reputation known.

### ***Pivot***

Directed by Aditi Sridhar | US | 9 mins

Anjani questions the future of her relationship with her boyfriend after she receives admission to her dream dance program.

### ***The Road to Victory***

Directed by Clotilde Zimille-Tran | France | 5 mins — Priya develops a rivalry with Rose, the new student training in her taekwondo class.

### ***Savage***

Directed by Alma Henry, Élina Nicolle, Andréa Lebon,

Pauline Orsini, and Shiu-An Lin | France | 6 mins

The peaceful life of two chimpanzees is disturbed by the arrival of an intrusive, otherworldly visitor.

### ***The Yellow Triangle***

Directed by Yoanna Leclerc | France | 5 mins

Desperate to acquire the yellow triangle, a mob boss offers a large reward to whoever can bring it to him.



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.

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# We Value Our Communities

When the world needs more, we're ready to leave an impact and give back to the communities where we live and work.

Enjoy the festival!

[borderstates.com](https://borderstates.com)



09066



84 | ITALIAN STEAKHOUSE

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