



FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 17-21 **2026**



Bell Bank

Family and Employee Owned



Paul & Gisele CRAFT



Austin FOSS & Ryan RAGUSE



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.



A Century of Cinema

This old girl sure is a beauty. I adore the Fargo Theatre's signature neon lighting and elegant stepped ceiling. The main stage's gold curtain is the pinnacle of classic Hollywood glamour. The Theatre's art deco design transports me to a time when once-silent movies were finding their voice and Fargo the city was finding itself.

There are many things to love about this space, but one of my favorite parts of the Theatre might surprise some. Each door that leads to the historic auditorium has a small, circular window. If you peep through these windows, only a portion of our movie screen is visible. What you *can* see clearly is the audience. You can stand at one of those little portholes and watch a group of strangers be united by a shared experience. The backs of their heads are shiny — bathed in a radiant light from the screen and the holy glow of storytelling. You can watch waves of laughter or horror ripple through a crowd. You can hear collective gasps when a plot twists and an ocean of sniffles when a heart breaks. And you can feel the triumphant relief of that sweet, sweet collective catharsis.

I'm quite certain I love those moments as much as I love movies themselves. This space — this sanctified sanctuary for the arts — has given life to millions of those experiences through the years. As the Fargo Film Festival marks its 26th year, our Fargo Theatre home celebrates its centennial. We are truly grateful that you chose to join us for a festival that honors moviemakers and the cinematic experience. And if you see some brunette bangs and a pair of green eyes peeping through the porthole windows, you'll know it is just me — soaking it all in.

Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!

Emily Beck
FARGO THEATRE
Executive Director



Emily Beck
FARGO THEATRE
Executive Director



Action!

From film reviews to culture news and more, we've got it covered.

Stay informed & entertained.

inforum.com



The Forum
OF FARGO-MOORHEAD



FARGO THEATRE / FESTIVAL STAFF

Emily Beck, *Executive Director, Programmer*
Nicole Larson, *Operations Manager*
Emelia Harriger, *Development and Engagement Manager, Programmer*
Adam Roder, *Technical Director*
Betsy Dreessen, *Finance Manager*
Lynette Triebwasser, *Graphic Designer*
Reagan Mueller, *Festival Intern*

PROJECTIONISTS

Lee Wrona, *Head Projectionist*
Noah Eddy
Arthur Kaese

CONCESSION

Austin Aanerud
Ash De Luney
Cole Hamlow
Emily Swenson

COVER ARTIST
Grady Carlson

EVENING PRELUDE MUSIC
The Red River Theatre Organ Society

FARGO THEATRE BOARD

Danielle Erdmann, *President*
Kendra O'Brien, *Vice President*
Janet Brandau, *Secretary*
Steve Wood, *Treasurer*
Jay Borland
Greg Carlson
Lisa Edison Smith
Austin Foss
Christine Hoper
Trevor Mathew
Christine McClellan
Veronica Michael
Cody Schuler
Austan Wellman

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

Tony Adah
Abiola Adebayo
Ann Hall Anderson
Krista Arendes
Kari Arntson, *Animation Chair*
Aaron Baker
Blaise Balas
Ben Balas
Mary Balstad, *Doc. Feature Chair*
Lisa Faiman, *Northern Plains Voices Chair*
John Beaudine
Kellan Benson
Janet Brandau, *Experimental Chair*
Mike Burton
Greg Carlson, *Special Projects Producer*
Jeremy Carney
Jennifer Carney
Jo Cavins, *Student Chair*
Derek Dahlsad
Tracie Demianiuk
Nancy DiTunnariello
JoAnn Eberhard
Cori Edgerton
Danielle Erdmann
Dominic Erickson, *Narrative Short Chair*
Lisa Faiman, *Northern Plains Voices Chair*
Josh Fenner
Rachel Fenner
Rhonda Ficek
Dinah Goldenberg
Jay Goldenberg
Scott Halmrast
Aaron Hill
Linda Hinrichs

Jess Hoepfer
Rachel Hoffman
Christine Hoper
Kyle Iverson, *Doc. Short Chair*
Rebecca Iverson
Jenny Jensen
Kim Jore
Diane Kaiser
Grant Klevgaard
Evan Kraft
Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson, *Narrative Feature Chair*
Thomas Krumel
Elisabetta Liverani
Jennifer Luther Olson
Trevor Mathew
Jane Mathew
Chris Meissner

Kendra O'Brien
Matt Olien
Karen Olson
Craig Roath, *Festival Co-Chair*
Tristan Ross
Diane Rustad
Kristofer Schlieper
Trina Spaeth
Tom Speer
Mike Stromenger
Drew Swenson
Tony Tilton
Matt Voltz, *Festival Co-Chair*
Jeff Walkowski
Leslie Wegner
Bev Welder
Lee Wrona

Tuesday, March 17 | 7:00 p.m. EVENING HOSTS: Danielle Erdmann and Kendra O'Brien



Tiny Movements Jenn Green



Serena Dykman



Laura Sweeney

Short Stories

We celebrate the opening night of the 2026 Fargo Film Festival with a diverse collection of short films, including heart-warming comedies, inspirational documentaries, and a fantasy adventure set against the backdrop of Cambodia's misty jungles.

Join us in welcoming filmmakers **Serena Dykman** and **Laura Sweeney** along with dancer/documentary subject **Jenn Green** as they participate in conversations following their films.

Wednesday, March 18 | 7:00 p.m.

EVENING HOST: Julie Peterson Klein, Bell Bank

Preschool with Josh Duhamel

The Fargo Film Festival and presenting sponsor Bell Bank are proud to share the theatrical premiere of the feature film *Preschool*, directed by and starring **North Dakota's own Josh Duhamel**.

In this hilarious new comedy, two dads (**Josh Duhamel** and **Michael Socha**) set their sights on the last open spot at an ultra-posh London preschool. What begins as a simple application snowballs into a wildly escalating rivalry packed with big-hearted laughs, outrageous one-upmanship, and surprising consequences.

As schemes spiral and families get pulled into the madness, both fathers discover what they're really willing to do for their kids — and what it means to be a parent.

After the movie, Josh Duhamel will appear live onstage for a conversation about his remarkable career.



Award Info

To celebrate his artistic achievements, Duhamel will receive the Fargo Film Festival's most distinguished honor, the **Ted M. Larson Award**.

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

EVENING HOSTS: Mary Balstad and Janet Brandau

The Librarians

Winner: The Bill Synder Award for Best Documentary Feature

As an unprecedented wave of book banning sweeps across the United States at a staggering rate, librarians under siege join forces to defend intellectual freedom and democracy. Despite facing harassment, threats, and laws aimed at criminalizing their work, the librarians' rallying cry is a chilling cautionary tale.

Academy Award-nominated director **Kim A. Snyder** will appear to discuss the journey from filming on the front lines to sharing this timely story with audiences.



Kim A. Snyder



Friday, March 20 | 7:00 p.m. | EVENING HOST: Matt Olien



Brooklyn, Minnesota

When the grandfather she never knew dies, headstrong 14-year-old Maisie and her single dad Kurt leave their Brooklyn bubble to go back to his childhood home. In Minnesota, channeling the *Riot Grrrl* spirit of her late mom, Maisie upends family patterns, falls in love, and forces her family to confront each other and themselves.

Married filmmaking duo Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen direct Oscar-nominee Amy Madigan and their real-life daughter Sadie Jensen-Blank in her first leading role.

Erik Jensen will join us for a conversation after the film.



2 - Minute Movie Contest

Tiny run times, ginormous personalities.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 9:30 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.

BEST IN FEST

From worlds real and imagined, this collection of short films has one unifying theme: excellence. We close the 2026 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.

Directors James Pellerito (*I Wanted to Hear Your Voice*) and Shane Chung (*Check Please*) will join us for conversations following their films.



The Gnawer of Rocks

7:00 p.m. **Presentation of the Margie Bailly Volunteer Spirit Award to Janet Brandau**

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

7:17 p.m. **The Gnawer of Rocks**

Winner: Best Animation

Directed by Louise Flaherty | Canada | 14 mins
While out on a walk, two young women follow a trail of beautiful, colored stones that leads them to an unexpected encounter.



No Skate!

7:30 p.m. **No Skate!**

Winner: Tom Brandau Award for Best Narrative Short

Directed by Guil Sela | France | 24 mins
Paris, 2024 Olympic Games. Isaac is a sandwich-board man. Cléo is a sandwich-board woman. One day, Isaac sees Cléo throw a skateboard into the water.



Award Info



I Wanted to Hear Your Voice

8:00 p.m. **I Wanted to Hear Your Voice**

Winner: Documentary Short Honorable Mention

Directed by James Pellerito | USA | 12 mins
After eight years of caring for his mother with dementia, a son struggles through their daily routine.



Check Please

8:30 p.m. **Check Please**

Winner: Narrative Short Honorable Mention

Directed by Shane Chung | USA | 10 mins
When two headstrong Korean men can't agree on who is paying for dinner, their casual outing spirals into a martial arts death match.



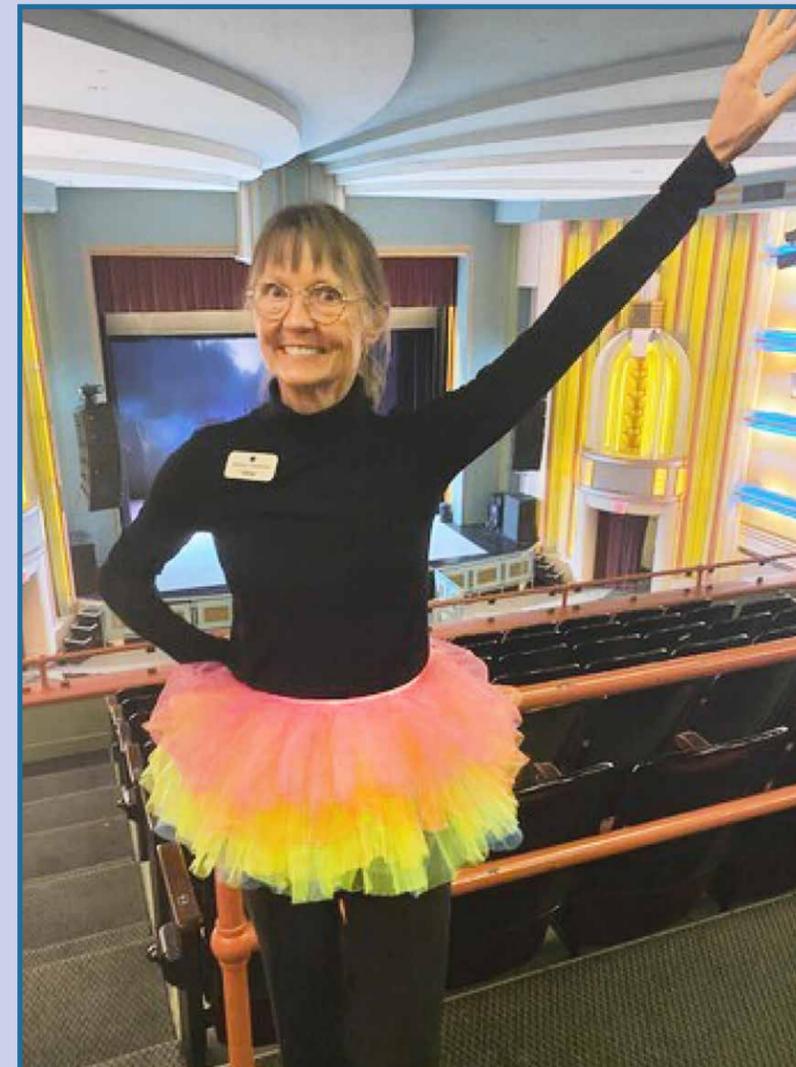
JANET BRANDAU is a writer, director, producer, and actor in stage and film venues. She's been performing since dancing along when Lawrence Welk graced the TV screen. Film love also came early, waiting for annual *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Birds* screenings on TV, and walking with her entire elementary class to their small-town movie palace to be enthralled by *The Sound of Music*, *Oliver*, and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Janet has been a Fargo Film Festival volunteer for over 15 years, serving on Animation and Narrative Short juries, chairing Experimental and Student juries, and serving as co-chair. She's also a Fargo Film Festival alum, screening short narrative and documentary films she produced with her late husband/creative partner/film fest volunteer Tom Brandau, as well as her own work.



Past Recipients

Janet hails from Holloway, MN. She taught theatre and film classes at Northland College, directing 16 shows there, including two that she wrote. At MSUM, she was Director of Study Abroad, co-leading student groups and visiting programming sites in 23 countries. She serves on the Fargo Theatre Board of Directors. Janet is planning future film projects and lives in Moorhead with her daughter Kate.



Our Friend Jane

Jane Marie Mathew was one of the best humans. Not merely one of the best volunteers on the Fargo Film Festival team (where she participated with passion). Not simply one of the best directors on the Fargo Theatre's board (where she led with wisdom). And not only one of the best people in the FM community (where she served nonprofits, her church, her friends, and her family with love). Jane's self - her substance, her soul - was made of the very best stuff. She was good and true. She was silly. She was steadfast. She balanced wit with kindness and was always the first to lend a hand. She was an irreplaceable part of our family. We miss our friend and celebrate the gift of her life.

With love, we dedicate the 2026
Fargo Film Festival in memory of
Jane Mathew

SAT 21
7:20 p.m.
SCREEN 1



The Gnaver of Rocks

SAT 21
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 1



The Night Boots

SAT 21
11:20 a.m.
SCREEN 2



9 Million Colors

TUE 17
2:55 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Autokar

WED 18
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Denmark

SAT 21
4:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1



The Finger Wife

WED 18
10:05 a.m.
SCREEN 1



The Gun

TUE 17
2:25 p.m.
SCREEN 1



I Died in Irpin

ANIMATION WINNERS

The Gnaver of Rocks

Winner: Best Animation

Directed by Louise Flaherty | Canada | 14 mins
While out on a walk, two young women follow a trail of beautiful, colored stones that leads them to an unexpected encounter.



The Night Boots

Honorable Mention

Directed by Pierre-Luc Granjon | France | 12 mins
The forest can be full of scary creatures, Eliot's parents caution, but the mystery might be too tempting for a kid who does not want to go to bed.



ANIMATION OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

9 Million Colors

Directed by Bára Anna | Czech Republic | 15 mins
The ocean is a paradise for Fran the shrimp. For the blind fish Milva, it's a daily fight to survive. Fran sees Milva as beautiful and wants her to see the ocean the same way.

Autokar

Directed by Sylwia Szkiładź | Belgium | 17 mins
In the 1990s, 8-year-old Agata leaves Poland for Belgium. Her perspective transforms reality into an initiatory experience.

Denmark

Directed by Robert Petrie | USA | 3 mins
In downtown LA, worlds collide when an epic heist goes wrong.

The Finger Wife

Directed by Dan Lund and Taryn Stickrath-Hutt | USA | 8 mins
When feisty, martini-drinking Betty magically steps out of a 1950s cookbook, she challenges a woman to face her desires and ambitions.

The Gun

Directed by Randall Christopher | USA | 11 mins
On a distant planet all life has been annihilated through war. When a team of scientists arrives, they discover a terrifying weapon that still functions.

I Died in Irpin

Directed by Anastasiia Falileieva | Slovakia, Ukraine | 11 mins
A survivor of the Irpin blockade reconstructs her harrowing escape and the haunting feeling of leaving something behind.



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.

The Little Ancestor

Directed by Alexa Tremblay-Francoeur | Canada | 11 mins
On a windswept hill, an ancestral house builds itself. The passage of time transforms the house and its surroundings through the unstoppable frenzy of urban growth.

Murmuration

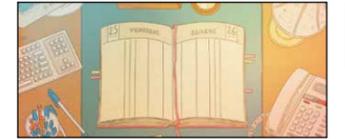
Directed by Tim Frijsinger and Janneke Swinkels | Netherlands | 13 mins
An elderly man realizes he is suddenly turning into a bird.

A Night at the Rest Area

Directed by Saki Muramoto | Japan | 12 mins
At a highway rest area, weary travelers quietly relax their minds.

SnowBugs

Directed by Jenny Schuermann | USA | 3 mins
Three girls find themselves in a tricky situation after one of them accidentally goes too far during a snowball fight.



The Little Ancestor



Murmuration



A Night at the Rest Area



SnowBugs



The Librarians



Arrest the Midwife

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE WINNERS

The Librarians

Winner: Bill Snyder Award for Best Documentary Feature

Directed by Kim A. Snyder | USA | 92 mins
As an unprecedented wave of book banning is sparked in Texas, Florida, and beyond, librarians under siege join forces as unlikely defenders fighting for intellectual freedom.



Award Info



Arrest the Midwife

Honorable Mention

Directed by Elaine Epstein | USA | 78 mins
When trusted midwives are arrested in a tight-knit Amish and Mennonite enclave, a quiet community is thrust into turmoil.



Where Pioneers Come to Stay, Play, & Create

JASPER HOTEL

Rosewild

Dine at Rosewild Inside Jasper Hotel

Follow @jasper.fargo & @rosewildfargo on Instagram and Facebook

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

TUE 17
3:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Ali Eats America

Ali Eats America

Directed by Greg Morris and Roush Niaghi | USA | 90 mins
Tired of hospital food, Ali and his mom are inspired by Anthony Bourdain to plot a map of restaurants across the United States to visit when Ali is medically cleared.

WED 18
10:35 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Between Goodbyes

Between Goodbyes

Directed by Jota Mun | USA | 96 mins
When a queer Korean adoptee reunites with her birth mother in Seoul, misunderstandings and regrets surface as the family navigates the heart-wrenching legacy of international adoption.

FRI 20
1:45 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Kim Novak's Vertigo

Kim Novak's Vertigo

Directed by Alexandre O. Phillippe | USA | 90 mins
An intimate portrait of a Hollywood star who left it all behind to live life on her own terms, revealing a journey of art, identity, and authenticity in the shadow of one of cinema's most iconic roles.

WED 18
4:05 p.m.
SCREEN 2



The Edge of Existence

The Edge of Existence

Directed by Aaron Wheeler | United Kingdom | 85 mins
Cam Cameron — electronics teacher, devoted father and husband — attempts to survive 60 days on Rockall, the UK's most remote and dangerous island.

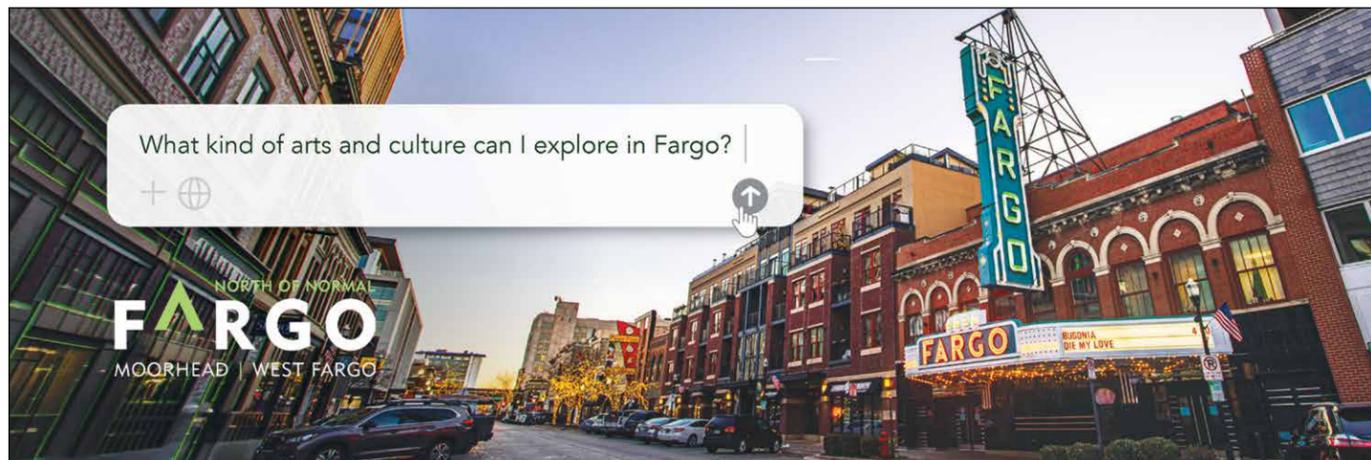
FRI 20
3:25 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong

Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong

Directed by Alex Wolf Lewis and Kaitlyn Schwalje | USA | 73 mins
As America's aging wastewater systems begin to fail, plant manager Dustin Price and his motley crew of unlikely heroes do all they can to prevent disaster from striking.



DOCUMENTARY SHORT WINNERS

Planetwalker

Winner: Best Documentary Short

Directed by Dominic Gill and Nadia Gill | USA | 31 mins
After witnessing a devastating oil spill, legendary environmentalist Dr. John Francis renounced motorized transport and took a vow of silence that lasted 17 years. Now, at 78, John and his fellow travelers share his remarkable story for the first time.



Planetwalker

SAT 21
4:35 p.m.
SCREEN 1

I Wanted to Hear Your Voice

Winner: Documentary Short Honorable Mention

Directed by James Pellerito | USA | 12 mins
After eight years of caring for his mother with dementia, a son struggles through their daily care routine.



I Wanted to Hear Your Voice

SAT 21
8:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1

Tiger

Honorable Mention

Directed by Loren Waters | USA | 13 mins
Indigenous artist Dana Tiger shares her decades-long journey of resilience as she and her family transform grief into the revival of their iconic Tiger t-shirt company.



Tiger

SAT 21
4:20 p.m.
SCREEN 1

DOCUMENTARY SHORT OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

At See

Directed by Serena Dykman | USA | 15 mins
As the first documentary to feature Open Audio Description as part of its storytelling, this inclusive film follows a group of blind travelers as they navigate a commercial cruise ship with their guide dogs.



At See

WED 18
4:25 p.m.
SCREEN 1

A Great Love

Directed by Aisha Schliessler | United Kingdom | 10 mins
Acclaimed equine sculptor Charlie Langton delves into his lifelong fascination — a muse that has captivated him for decades with its power and grace.



A Great Love

THU 19
4:25 p.m.
SCREEN 2

Ha Ha Ha

Directed by Josh Harding and Matt Klug | USA | 13 mins
Dive into the raw, unfiltered world of stand-up comedy through the eyes of six comedians, each on their own unique path.



Ha Ha Ha

TUE 17
3:15 p.m.
SCREEN 2

The Invisible Enemy

Directed by Douglas Brian Miller and Mark Shapiro | USA | 14 mins
After repeated exposure to lethal radiation during top secret tours of duty, veterans mobilize to prove their service and secure basic healthcare.



The Invisible Enemy

THU 19
3:40 p.m.
SCREEN 2



FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 17-21 2026

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

10:00 a.m. **Denmark** p. 7
 10:05 a.m. **The Gun** p. 7
 10:15 a.m. **Dustscaewung** p. 17
 10:35 a.m. **Skin on Skin** p. 18
 11:05 a.m. **Randy as Himself** p. 18
 11:20 a.m. **Negative Space** p. 21

10:00 a.m. **Bittersweet** p. 20
 10:05 a.m. **To Write the Ending** p. 20
 10:20 a.m. **Rainbow Girls** p. 21
 10:35 a.m. **Between Goodbyes** p. 9

10:00 a.m. **SnowBugs** p. 8
 10:05 a.m. **Murmuration** p. 8
 10:15 a.m. **Winkie** p. 19
 10:40 a.m. **Advent** p. 16
 11:30 a.m. **Who Are You, Nanu?** p. 19

10:00 a.m. **Deluge** p. 14
 10:15 a.m. **City in Observation** p. 14
 10:25 a.m. **Toil and Spin** p. 14
 10:30 a.m. **Geography of Memory** p. 14
 10:40 a.m. **Vox Humana** p. 18
 11:00 a.m. — BREAK —
 11:10 a.m. **Jones Street** p. 14
 11:20 a.m. **God Is Delighted When We Are in Motion** p. 14
 11:35 a.m. **Purgatorio** p. 14
 11:40 a.m. **Monument** p. 14

10:00 a.m. **Shanti Rides Shotgun** p. 13
 10:10 a.m. **Fargo Theatre: The First 100 Years** p. 21
 11:00 a.m. **Middle Grounds** p. 13

10:00 a.m. **The Heart of Texas** p. 17
 10:15 a.m. **Mad Bills to Pay** p. 15

10:00 a.m. **The Night Boots** p. 7
 10:15 a.m. **Silent Rebellion** p. 15

10:00 a.m. **Pipestone Carver** p. 19
 10:45 a.m. **Birds of a Feather** p. 20
 11:05 a.m. **Mother Pearl** p. 21
 11:20 a.m. **9 Million Colors** p. 7
 11:35 a.m. **Typo** p. 20

1:30 p.m. **Grit & Grace** p. 21
 2:25 p.m. **I Died in Irpin** p. 7
 2:35 p.m. **One Day I Will Hug You** p. 13
 2:55 p.m. **Autokar** p. 7
 3:10 p.m. — BREAK —
 3:25 p.m. **Poreless** p. 18
 3:40 p.m. **The Floaters** p. 15

1:30 p.m. **Medora: Empress of the Badlands** p. 19
 3:45 p.m. — BREAK —
 3:55 p.m. **Dead End** p. 20
 4:25 p.m. **At See** p. 10

1:30 p.m. **Scrap Works** p. 13
 2:00 p.m. **Becoming Ruby** p. 19
 2:10 p.m. **Fan** p. 17
 2:20 p.m. **Brief Somebodies** p. 16
 2:35 p.m. — BREAK —
 2:45 p.m. **Words of War** p. 15

1:30 p.m. **The Only Way Out Is Through** p. 15
 3:15 p.m. — BREAK —
 3:25 p.m. **Whale Math** p. 18
 3:50 p.m. **Like Father** p. 13
 4:10 p.m. **Zastava Brothers** p. 13
 4:45 p.m. **Hide** p. 17

1:30 p.m. **Bigfoot Woods** p. 15
 3:20 p.m. — BREAK —
 3:30 p.m. **Bound for the Last Continent** p. 19
 4:00 p.m. **The Finger Wife** p. 7
 4:20 p.m. **Tiger** p. 10
 4:35 p.m. **Planetwalker** p. 10

1:30 p.m. **Chasing Tables** p. 19
 2:30 p.m. **Unraveling the Ribbon** p. 19
 3:05 p.m. — BREAK —
 3:15 p.m. **Ha Ha Ha** p. 10
 3:30 p.m. **Ali Eats America** p. 9

1:30 p.m. **The Little Ancestor** p. 8
 1:45 p.m. **Brief Somebodies** p. 16
 2:00 p.m. **Purgatorio** p. 14
 2:10 p.m. **Blossom Needs a Ride Home** p. 16
 2:20 p.m. **Under** p. 18
 2:30 p.m. **Choice** p. 17
 2:50 p.m. **Two Sisters** p. 18
 3:10 p.m. — BREAK —
 3:20 p.m. **Vital** p. 18
 3:35 p.m. **Luca and Johnny** p. 21
 3:45 p.m. **Generation Well** p. 20
 4:05 p.m. **The Edge of Existence** p. 9

1:30 p.m. **What We Dreamed of Then** p. 15
 3:15 p.m. — BREAK —
 3:25 p.m. **Extinguished Lives** p. 17
 3:40 p.m. **Invisible Enemy** p. 10
 3:55 p.m. **Razeh-del** p. 21
 4:25 p.m. **A Great Love** p. 10
 4:35 p.m. **Salt Cured Life** p. 13

1:30 p.m. **We Were the Scenery** p. 13
 1:45 p.m. **Kim Novak's Vertigo** p. 9
 3:15 p.m. — BREAK —
 3:25 p.m. **Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong** p. 9

1:30 p.m. **Nani** p. 17
 1:40 p.m. **Call Gloria!** p. 16
 2:00 p.m. **Gallina** p. 17
 2:15 p.m. **Crazy for You** p. 17
 2:35 p.m. **There Will Come Soft Rains** p. 18
 2:50 p.m. **Becoming Ruby** p. 19
 3:00 p.m. **A Night at the Rest Area** p. 8
 3:15 p.m. — BREAK —
 3:30 p.m. **Arrest the Midwife** p. 8

7:00 p.m. **We Were the Scenery** p. 13
 7:15 p.m. **Tiny Movements** p. 13
 7:55 p.m. **Shanti Rides Shotgun** p. 13
 8:05 p.m. **Babka** p. 16
 8:35 p.m. **The Sentry** p. 16

7:00 p.m. **Preschool** p. 3, 21

7:00 p.m. **The Librarians** p. 4, 8

7:00 p.m. **Brooklyn, Minnesota** p. 4, 15

9:30 p.m. **2-Minute Movie Contest** p. 3

7:00 p.m. **Presentation of the Margie Bailly Volunteer Spirit Award to Janet Brandau** p. 5
 7:15 p.m. **2-Minute Movie Contest Winner** p. 3
 7:20 p.m. **The Gnawer of Rocks** p. 5, 7
 7:35 p.m. **No Skate!** p. 5, 16
 8:00 p.m. **I Wanted to Hear Your Voice** p. 5, 10
 8:30 p.m. **Check Please** p. 5, 16

FRI 20
3:50 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Like Father

FRI 20
11:00 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Middle Grounds

TUE 17
2:35 p.m.
SCREEN 1



One Day I Will Hug You

THU 19
4:35 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Salt Cured Life

THU 19
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Scrap Works

TUE 17
7:55 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Shanti Rides Shotgun

FRI 20
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Tiny Movements

TUE 17
7:15 p.m.
SCREEN 1



We Were the Scenery

FRI 20
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Zastava Brothers

FRI 20
4:10 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Zastava Brothers

DOCUMENTARY SHORT [CONTINUED]

Like Father

Directed by Jared Callahan | USA | 7 mins
This poignant portrait of renowned children's authors Richard and Huck Scarry captures the bonds of legacy, memory, and fatherhood.

Middle Grounds

Directed by Christopher Boone and Kevin Smokler | USA | 27 mins
In a time of deep division, Bison Coffeehouse in Portland is a hub for coffee, community, and conversation.

One Day I Will Hug You

Directed by Mohammed Fares Al Majdalawi | Sweden | 18 mins
When Palestinian father Abou Yousef leaves for Gaza after a decade of living in Norway, his daughter Mai begins to confront the emotional distance shaped by his 20 years of imprisonment.

Salt Cured Life

Directed by Cassidy Rast and Odin Wadleigh | USA | 25 mins
Take a journey to the heart of quirky Key West and learn what it means to treat every day like it's a hurricane.

Scrap Works

Directed by Maksym Putintsev | Canada | 12 mins
Ryan Leis is a traditional master blacksmith who has forsaken power tools to pursue a higher calling.

Shanti Rides Shotgun

Directed by Charles Frank | USA | 8 mins
On Manhattan's jam-packed streets, NYC's most iconic driving instructor prepares students for the road ahead.

Tiny Movements

Winner: Ruth Landfield Award
Directed by Laura Sweeney | USA | 25 mins
Jenn Green is a professional modern dancer, mother, and sexual assault survivor. As part of her healing journey, Jen created "Tiny Kitchen Dances," a series of intimate performances posted every day for three years.

We Were the Scenery

Directed by Christopher Radcliff | Canada | 15 mins
After fleeing the Vietnam War, Hoa Thi Le and Hue Nguyen Che were utilized as background extras in the filming of *Apocalypse Now*.

Zastava Brothers

Directed by Pep Stojanovic | USA | 22 mins
Connected by a shared passion, a group of immigrants transcend their different backgrounds and create a brotherhood.

EXPERIMENTAL FILM WINNERS

Purgatorio

Winner: Best Experimental Film
Directed by Auden Lincoln-Vogel, Stephanie Miracle, Philip Rabalais | USA | 6 mins
Through collaborative processes, this experimental dance film resists traditional classifications by fusing choreography, cinematography, and sound.

Deluge

Honorable Mention
Directed by Meejin Hong | USA | 12 mins
An ever-evolving landscape where images of memories are formed, reshaped, and obliterated while relentlessly competing for space.

Toil and Spin

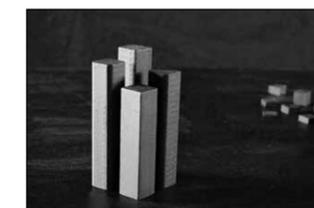
Honorable Mention
Directed by Maureen Zent | USA | 5 mins
Minimalist visuals and stop-motion animation evoke the drifting sensations of sleep and the turbulence of sleeplessness.



Purgatorio



Deluge



Toil and Spin

WED 18
2:00 p.m.
SCREEN 2

THU 19
11:35 a.m.
SCREEN 2

THU 19
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 2

THU 19
10:25 a.m.
SCREEN 2

EXPERIMENTAL OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

City in Observation

Directed by Audrey Whiteford-Woods | France | 8 mins
A young researcher explores the ways a city watches its people and how she views the city through a lens of disconnection.

Geography of Memory

Directed by Mary Trunk | USA | 8 mins
Archival recordings and experimental dance footage work together to explore the connection between memory and motion.

God Is Delighted When We Are in Motion

Directed by Sophia Alloggiamento | USA | 14 mins
The adolescence of eighteen choir boys is explored through a series of five vignettes, a prologue, an intermission, and an epilogue.

Jones Street

Directed by Silvia Turchin | USA | 11 mins
Using experimental analogue techniques, the film conjures magical terrains hidden in everyday occurrences.

Monument

Directed by Jeremy Drummond | USA | 17 mins
To explore the tension of protest and reclamation, Super 8 film is mixed with video footage captured during the COVID-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter protests of 2020.



City in Observation



Geography of Memory



God Is Delighted When We Are in Motion



Jones Street



Monument

THU 19
10:15 a.m.
SCREEN 2

THU 19
10:30 a.m.
SCREEN 2

THU 19
11:20 a.m.
SCREEN 2

THU 19
11:10 a.m.
SCREEN 2

THU 19
11:40 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Award Info

SAT 21
10:15 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Silent Rebellion

FRI 20
10:15 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Mad Bills to Pay

SAT 21
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Bigfoot Woods

FRI 20
7:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Brooklyn, Minnesota

TUE 17
3:40 p.m.
SCREEN 1



The Floaters

FRI 20
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1



The Only Way Out Is Through

THU 19
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2



What We Dreamed of Then

THU 19
2:45 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Words of War

NARRATIVE FEATURE WINNERS

Silent Rebellion

Winner: Best Narrative Feature

Directed by Marie-Elsa Sgualdo | Switzerland | 98 mins
After a personal trauma upends 15 year-old Emma's life, she must find the courage to forge her own path while confronting the moral hypocrisy of her village and the specter of World War II.

Mad Bills to Pay

Honorable Mention

Directed by Joel Alfonso Vargas | USA | 100 mins
Rico's carefree life comes spiraling down when Destiny, his teenage girlfriend, crashes at his place with his family.



NARRATIVE FEATURE OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Bigfoot Woods

Winner: Prairie Spirit Award

Directed by Elizabeth Chatelain | USA | 80 mins
When a teenager struggling with their gender identity accidentally captures video evidence of Bigfoot, they are thrust into the spotlight.

Brooklyn, Minnesota

Directed by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen | USA | 98 mins
After the grandfather she never knew dies, a headstrong teenager and her artist dad travel from Brooklyn to Minnesota to attend the funeral.

The Floaters

Directed by Rachel Israel | USA | 102 mins
A struggling musician takes a last-resort job from her best friend: supervising misfits at their Jewish summer camp.

The Only Way Out Is Through

Directed by Kieran Thompson | USA | 89 mins
When one friend vanishes during a camping trip, the search becomes a test of friendship, trust, and what it truly means to be there for one another.

What We Dreamed of Then

Directed by Taylor Olson | Canada | 105 mins
A passionate swim coach and dedicated father navigates the turbulent reality of invisible homelessness.

Words of War

Directed by James Strong | United Kingdom | 117 mins
Journalist Anna Politkovskaya's brave crusade to be the independent voice of truth for the Russian people puts her life in jeopardy.



NARRATIVE SHORT WINNERS

No Skate!

Winner: Tom Brandau Award for Best Narrative Short

Directed by Guil Sela | France | 24 mins
Paris, 2024 Olympic Games. Isaac is a sandwich-board man. Cléo is a sandwich-board woman. One day, Isaac sees Cléo throw a skateboard into the water.

Check Please

Honorable Mention

Directed by Shane Chung | USA | 10 mins
When two headstrong Korean men can't agree on who is paying for dinner, their casual outing spirals into a martial arts death match.

The Sentry

Honorable Mention

Directed by Jake Wachtel | Cambodia | 18 mins
A suave Western agent's mission goes off the rails when a Cambodian security guard refuses to become just another casualty.

NARRATIVE SHORT OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Advent

Directed by Rachel Bass | USA | 34 mins
When a man is visited by the spirit of death, he must alter his fate before Christmas arrives.

Babka

Directed by Serena Dykman | USA | 17 mins
In the heart of Hasidic Williamsburg, a newly blind Jewish Orthodox baker embarks on a journey to overcome personal and cultural barriers in his quest to reopen his beloved bakery.

Blossom Needs a Ride Home

Directed by Tim Schwagel | USA | 9 mins
After defeating a bloodthirsty maniac, Blossom needs a ride home. What a hassle.

Brief Somebodies

Directed by Andy Reid | Canada | 15 mins
While rehearsing a sexual assault scene, two actors form a connection they'll be forced to reconfigure once filming begins.

Call Gloria!

Directed by Malena Filmus | Argentina | 19 mins
Bernarda calls a suicide hotline and meets Gloria, an eccentric volunteer who goes to extreme lengths to impact the lives of those she serves.



No Skate!



Check Please



The Sentry



Advent



Babka



Blossom Needs a Ride Home



Brief Somebodies



Call Gloria!

SAT 21
7:35 p.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21
8:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1

TUE 17
8:35 p.m.
SCREEN 1

THU 19
10:40 a.m.
SCREEN 1

TUE 17
8:05 p.m.
SCREEN 1

WED 18
2:10 p.m.
SCREEN 2

WED 18
1:45 p.m.
SCREEN 2

THU 19
2:20 p.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21
1:40 p.m.
SCREEN 2

WED 18
2:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Choice

SAT 21
2:15 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Crazy For You

WED 18
10:15 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Dustsceawung

THU 19
3:25 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Extinguished Lives

THU 19
2:10 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Fan

SAT 21
2:00 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Gallina

FRI 20
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 2



The Heart of Texas

FRI 20
4:45 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Hide

SAT 21
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Nani

NARRATIVE SHORT [CONTINUED]

Choice

Directed by Marko Crnogorski | North Macedonia | 17 mins
A young woman faces a devastating reality when a new law bans her scheduled abortion.

Crazy For You

Directed by Greta Diaz Moreau | Spain | 19 mins
Overlooked by everyone, 16-year-old Alma finds an unexpected connection in a strange, staring cow that guides her towards something beyond the attention she craves.

Dustsceawung

Directed by Mateus Lana | Brazil | 20 mins
When an aspiring poet's book is shredded and reassembled by his robot vacuum, a new literary genius is revealed.

Extinguished Lives

Directed by Roberta Grossman | USA | 16 mins
A young bride and her husband escape the Nazi onslaught by fleeing to her childhood home in Lithuania. There they discover that the most chilling threat may come from those they once called neighbors.

Fan

Directed by Philippe Berthelet | Canada | 9 mins
Camille decides to replace Victor, her loyal and long-serving fan, with an air conditioner. Victor will try to surmount this act of treason.

Gallina

Directed by Fernando Reinaldos | Spain | 16 mins
Pablo loves spending time at his granny's countryside home, but everything changes when his best friend pressures him to betray her trust.

The Heart of Texas

Directed by Gregory J.M. Kasunich | USA | 15 mins
The worlds of an aspiring country singer and an undocumented worker collide as they each desperately pursue their own version of the American Dream.

Hide

Directed by Brenden Hubbard | USA | 16 mins
Still reeling from an incredible loss, a father and daughter cling to a bedtime routine to keep them safe in a town where an unfathomable horror visits night after night.

Nani

Directed by Mainak Dhar | USA | 10 mins
As Ramadan draws to a close, a young woman returns home, stirring up buried tensions and deep longings.

Poreless

Directed by Harris Doran | USA | 13 mins
A fabulous, queer, Muslim beauty entrepreneur competes in a Shark Tank-like contest after suffering an untimely allergic reaction.

Randy as Himself

Directed by Margaret Miller | USA | 11 mins
A Hollywood production crew comes to West Texas to recreate the grisly murder of a local woman.

Skin on Skin

Directed Simon Schneckenburger | Germany | 30 mins
Two men displaced in the hell of the German meat processing industry find a connection that allows them to dream again.

There Will Come Soft Rains

Directed by Elham Ehsas | United Kingdom | 15 mins
Haunted by rising sea levels, a daughter takes desperate measures to move her father's body to higher ground.

Two Sisters

Directed by Antonio De Palo | Italy | 19 mins
On a cold winter day, Sara escapes from a residential juvenile facility to save her little sister.

Under

Directed by Nick Benjamin | USA | 10 mins
An innocent game of hide-and-seek takes a terrifying turn when two brothers encounter a dark entity lurking under the bed.

Vital

Directed by Amir Zargara | Canada | 14 mins
A mother in Iran and a father in America face the heartbreaking ethical dilemmas of the organ trade.

Vox Humana

Directed by Don Josephus Raphael Eblahan | Philippines | 22 mins
In the aftermath of several natural disasters, a zoologist, a sound recorder, and a news team seek answers from a mysterious man who may have caused it all.

Whale Math

Directed by D. Andrew Hartfield | USA | 9 mins
When an adopted daughter shares a fun fact about whales with her father, they come to realize that some math problems just can't be solved.



Poreless



Randy as Himself



Skin on Skin



There Will Come Soft Rains



Two Sisters



Under



Vital



Vox Humana



Whale Math

TUE 17
3:25 p.m.
SCREEN 1

WED 18
11:05 a.m.
SCREEN 1

WED 18
10:35 a.m.
SCREEN 1

SAT 21
2:35 p.m.
SCREEN 2

WED 18
2:50 p.m.
SCREEN 2

WED 18
2:20 p.m.
SCREEN 2

WED 18
3:20 p.m.
SCREEN 2

THU 19
10:40 a.m.
SCREEN 2

FRI 20
3:25 p.m.
SCREEN 1

THU 19
11:30 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Who Are You, Nanu?

THU 19
10:15 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Winkie

SAT 21
3:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Bound for the Last Continent

THU 19
2:00 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Becoming Ruby

SAT 21
2:50 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Pipestone Carver

SAT 21
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 2

TUE 17
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Chasing Tables

WED 18
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Medora: Empress of the Badlands

TUE 17
2:30 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Unraveling the Ribbon

NARRATIVE SHORT [CONTINUED]

Who Are You, Nanu?

Directed by Anjini Taneja Azhar | USA | 15 mins
After her grandfather's ceremonial cremation brings her to the holy Ganges River in India, nine year-old Isha befriends the phantom of his child self.

Winkie

Directed by Daniel Duranleau | Canada | 24 mins
After discovering an orphaned girl in the woods, a caring monster raises the child and protects her by any means necessary.

NORTHERN PLAINS VOICES WINNERS

Bound for the Last Continent

Winner: Best Northern Plains Voices Film
Directed by Joshua Carlon | USA | 14 mins
Two expedition guides share their love for Antarctica with visitors, hoping to inspire understanding, connection, and protection.



Becoming Ruby Honorable Mention

Directed by Quan Luong | Canada | 10 mins
Ruby Chopstix, Canada's first drag artist-in-residence, creates a capstone project to celebrate the art form and connect with their Vietnamese heritage.



Pipestone Carver Honorable Mention

Directed by Dana Conroy | USA | 27 mins
A Native American carver and quarrier continues a family tradition as he harvests and shapes stone in Minnesota's Pipestone National Monument.



NORTHERN PLAINS VOICES OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Chasing Tables

Directed by Justin Bergh | USA | 44 mins
After training under two James Beard Award-winning chefs, Jordan Taylor returns to his hometown of Sioux Falls, South Dakota to start a culinary revolution.

Medora: Empress of the Badlands

Directed by Daniel Bielinski | USA | 118 mins
The Marquis de Mores and his beautiful new bride Medora step off the train into 1883 Dakota Territory with dreams of building a new home, a new town, and a meat-packing empire the likes of which had never been seen before.

Unraveling the Ribbon

Directed by Gwen Briesemeister | USA | 21 mins
Worn with pride, each Native American ribbon skirt tells a personal and collective story of resilience, identity, and ancestral connection.

STUDENT FILM WINNERS

Typo

Winner: Burton-O'Neill Award for Best Student Film
Directed by Alinta Burton | Australia | 13 mins
Despite her talent for typography design, Astrid has been struggling to find a job that fits with her Asperger's characteristics. A chance encounter offers an opportunity for a new chapter.



Birds of a Feather Honorable Mention

Directed by Katie Cobos | USA | 5 mins
A talkative parrot attempts to befriend a boy with Tourette's syndrome.



To Write the Ending Honorable Mention

Directed by Shaler Keenum | USA | 16 mins
When a street poet finds a magical typewriter that allows him to write the future, he attempts to use it to find love.



STUDENT FILM OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

Bittersweet

Directed by Jared Rosenthal | USA | 3 mins
A grumpy ice cream shop owner must change his ways before his business melts faster than a sundae on a hot summer day.

Dead End

Directed by Claire Cohen | USA | 13 mins
A spirited teen and her older sister embark on a deceptively simple outing that is steeped in lingering family trauma.

Generation Well

Directed by Jack Serra | USA | 18 mins
After a serious run-in with the law, a young woman becomes obsessed with an officer who bears a striking resemblance to her deceased father.



Typo

SAT 21
11:35 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Birds of a Feather

SAT 21
10:45 a.m.
SCREEN 2



To Write the Ending

WED 18
10:05 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Bittersweet

WED 18
10:00 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Dead End

WED 18
3:55 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Generation Well

WED 18
3:45 p.m.
SCREEN 2

The Burton-O'Neill Award for Best Student Film

THE FARGO FILM FESTIVAL HONORS THE LIVES AND
WORK OF TOM BURTON AND PEGGY O'NEILL.

Tom Burton and Peggy O'Neill were cherished members of the Fargo Film Festival community. Peggy actively served as a festival volunteer for nine years. She enjoyed working alongside her dear friend Jenny Jensen and being a part of the Student Film jury. Tom was a great supporter of Peggy at the festival and embraced opportunities to meet new people during festival social functions. After losing Tom and Peggy in a tragic car accident, the Burton and O'Neill families created a memorial fund through the FM Area Foundation. This fund will annually provide a monetary prize to the winner of Best Student Film in loving memory of Tom and Peggy.



WED 18
3:35 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Luca and Johnny

SAT 21
11:05 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Mother Pearl

WED 18
11:20 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Negative Space

WED 18
10:20 a.m.
SCREEN 2



Rainbow Girls

FRI 20
10:10 a.m.
SCREEN 1



Fargo Theatre:
The First 100 Years

TUE 17
1:30 p.m.
SCREEN 1



Grit & Grace

THU 19
3:55 p.m.
SCREEN 2



Razeh-del

STUDENT FILM [CONTINUED]

Luca and Johnny

Directed by Antonio Martin Ducrot | USA | 11 mins
A young father tries to balance raising his child with chasing his dream of becoming an actor.

Mother Pearl

Winner: Rusty Casselton Award

Directed by Angus Webb Ware | Australia | 13 mins
Jane, a kindergarten teacher leading a double life as the manager of an escort agency, must confront the lines between empowerment, morality, and her own past to protect her employees.

Negative Space

Directed by Aaron Razi | USA | 27 mins
An aspiring journalist and reclusive, retired detective are brought together by a long-forgotten cold case.

Rainbow Girls

Directed by Nana Duffuor | USA | 16 mins
As San Francisco's tech boom gentrifies their city, three young, Black trans women decide to take matters into their own hands by staging an audacious heist.



INVITED FILMS

Fargo Theatre: The First 100 Years

Directed by Mike Scholtz | USA | 33 mins
In celebration of the Theatre's centennial, we take a look back at the first hundred years of movies, pipe organs, concerts, festivals, popcorn, architecture, smoking lounges, and, very briefly, farm animals.

Grit & Grace

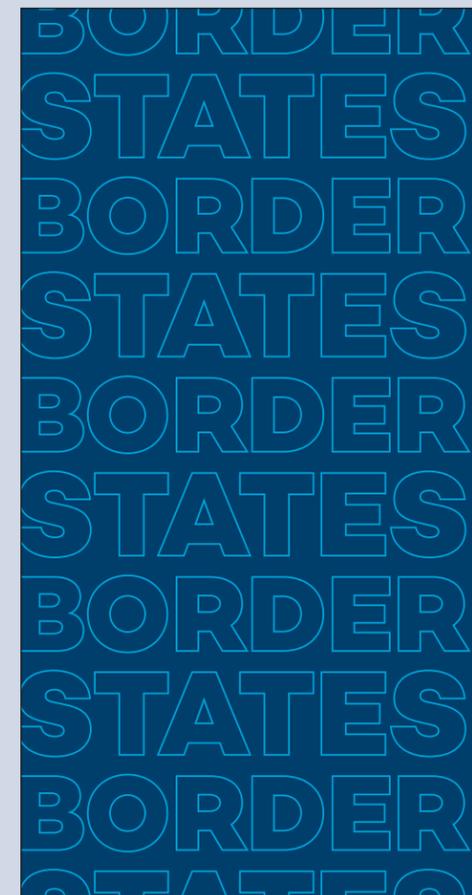
Directed by Derek Fletcher and Ian Harmon | USA | 28 mins
At home, Katie Stensgard is "Mom." In the jiu-jitsu world, she's a world champion. Now, the question is — can she do it again?

Preschool

Directed by Josh Duhamel | USA | 104 mins
Two determined fathers engage in a comical battle to enroll their kids in an elite preschool, escalating into an absurd competition with unexpected results.

Razeh-del

Directed by Maryam Tafakory | Iran | 28 mins
In 1998, two girls sent a letter to the first-ever women's newspaper in Iran. While they waited to get published, they considered making an impossible film.



We Value Our Communities

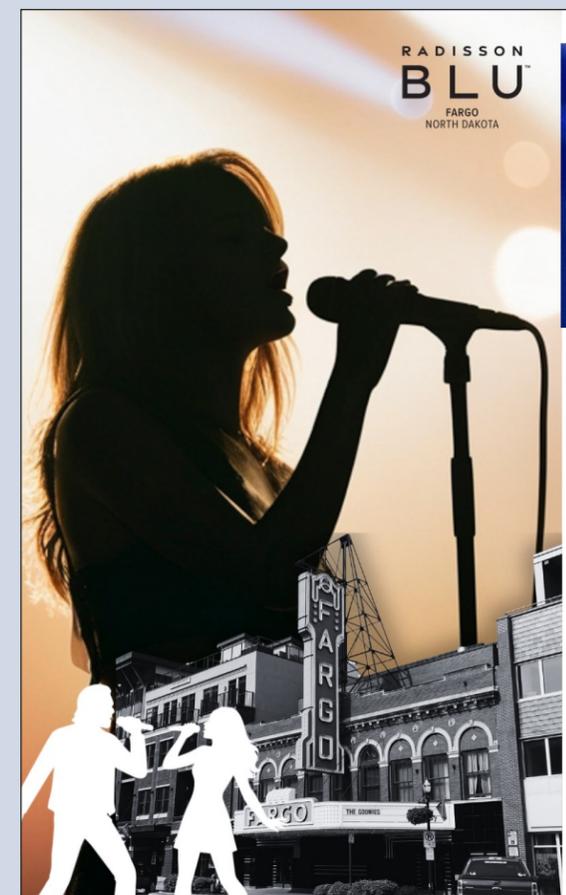
When the world needs more, we're ready to leave an impact and give back to the communities where we live and work.

Enjoy the festival!

borderstates.com



09066



RADISSON
BLU
FARGO
NORTH DAKOTA

2nd Annual BLU BAR x Fargo Film Festival

KARAOKE PARTY

With DJ Chris from GMC Entertainment

BLU • BAR
Located in the Radisson Blu

- Saturday, March 21st
- 3PM - 6PM
- BLU BAR
*2nd Floor of Radisson BLU
- Drink Specials & Door Prizes



Happy Birthday to the Fargo Theatre
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!

Celebrating 26 years of the Fargo Film Festival!

Bell Bank is proud to have been a major sponsor of the Fargo Film Festival, from the very beginning.



Fargo Theatre executive director Emily Beck,
Emmy Award-winning actor and Bell Champion Josh Duhamel,
and Bell Bank chief of staff Julie Peterson Klein.

Bell  **Bank**

Family and Employee Owned



FILM FESTIVAL