



21st Annual Film Festival

Independent Films from around the World

Awards Ceremony
& Winning Film Screenings

Saturday, November 12
11:00am-7:00pm

Hoogland Center for the Arts
Springfield, IL

\$25 VIP and \$10 General Admission
(217) 523-2787 or www.hcfta.org/tickets

popcorn • celebrity guests • filmmaker exhibits • door prizes

View all selected films online
November 4-14, 2022
via www.filmfestivalflix.com
10 sessions at \$10 per session
or \$50 for the entire festival





Welcome to the Route 66 Film Festival

Lana Wildman, Festival Director



Welcome to the 21st Route 66 Film Festival! Each year we select independent films that provoke thought, elicit laughter and tears, bring different points of view to global issues, and simply entertain. This is our third online festival, with an in-person awards ceremony on November 12.

Though new to the Director position, I have enjoyed being part of the festival since 2010. A sincere ‘thank you’ to Siobhan Johnson and Thea Chesley, two long-time board members who stepped down after the 20th festival, for their dedication and years of hard work. In addition to myself, our Board members are Crissie Trigger, Christine Samoore, Laura Richter, and new members Matt Eaton, Ben Harl, and Ash Hamilton. The entire Board remains committed to bringing independent films from around the world to Springfield. Enjoy the journey!



*This year's special
award category:
Social Justice*

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**The Central Illinois Film Commission
is a membership-supported
non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
dedicated to promoting central Illinois
as a historical and film-friendly region,
attracting projects to our area,
and supporting local projects and talent.**

**Members meet on the first Thursday
of every month at 7pm at the
Dublin Pub, Springfield IL.**

www.centralillinoisfilmcommission.com

Awards Ceremony Schedule

10:00am **Doors Open**

11:00am **Session 1**

Bonus Films
Best Social Justice Award & Film
Hugh Moore Best of Fest Award & Film

1:30pm **Lunch Break / Exhibit Room Open**

2:30pm **Session 2 – Family Films (kid friendly)**

Best Animation Award & Film
Best Claymation Award & Film
Best Debut Award & Film
Best Drama Award & Film
Best Experimental Award & Film
Best Made in Illinois Award & Film
Best Student Award & Film

4:30pm **Break / Exhibit Room Open**

5:00pm **Session 3**

Bonus Films
Best Comedy Award & Film
Best Foreign Language Award & Film
Audience Favorite Award & Film

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The 21st Annual
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Online Film Festival Schedule

Select these program groups on FilmFestivalFlix.com. Release and availability dates are indicated for each feature or group of short films. See the page number after the film title for a film synopsis and director biography.

Feature Film 1 – November 4-6, 11-14

Tipping Point, pg. 40, USA, 88 minutes

Short Films 1 – November 4-6, 11-14 (subtitled or no dialogue)

The Statue, pg. 39, Iran, 10 minutes

Women on FEBA (Forward Edge of Battle Area), pg 41, Iran, 22 minutes

Ice Cream.Sladoled, pg. 21, USA/Illinois, 13 minutes

Cracked, pg. 14, Turkey, 5 minutes

Almost a Masterpiece, pg. 10, USA, 9 minutes

Artistic Character, pg. 10, Netherlands, 15 minutes

World Cup, pg, 42, Iran, 18 minutes

Feature Film 2 – November 5-7, 11-14

The Marshmallow Mystery Tour, pg. 36, USA, 84 minutes

Short Films 2 – November 5-7, 11-14

Rain, pg. 30, Iran, 7 minutes

Launch, pg. 22, USA, 20 minutes

Once I Passed, pg. 24, Germany, 10 minutes

Family, pg. 21, USA, 4 minutes

The Small Hours, pg. 39, USA, 12 minutes

Liberty, pg. 22, Iran, 14 minutes

The Savior, pg. 37, Iran, 15 minutes

With the Dawn, pg. 40, USA/Illinois, 4 minutes

Feature Film 3 – November 6-8, 11-14 (subtitled)

Magoado, pg. 23, Spain, 76 minutes

Short Films 3 – November 6-8, 11-14

Pick, pg. 28, Iran, 4 minutes

The Last Photo, pg. 34, Turkey, 20 minutes,

Cold Start, pg. 14, USA, 16 minutes

1st Memory, pg. 9, USA, 5 minutes

Check the Locks, pg. 11, USA, 15 minutes

Middle Eastern Stories: Father, pg. 23, Iran, 18 minutes

Silence Again, pg. 33, Iran, 13 minutes

Feature Film 4 – November 7-9, 11-14

Ordinary Creatures, pg. 24, Austria, 75 minutes

Short Films 4 – November 7-9, 11-14

Daily Bread, pg. 17, Spain, 8 minutes

A Winner, pg. 9, Iran, 20 minutes

Eureka, pg. 18, USA, 15 minutes

Swole Ghost, pg. 34, USA/Illinois, 8 minutes

The Single Horn (Unicorn), pg. 37, Iran, 13 minutes

Bird Lady, pg. 11, USA, 17 minutes

Don't Breathe, pg. 17, Iran, 15 minutes

Feature Film 5 – November 8-10, 11-14

Provo, pg. 28, USA, 85 minutes

Short Films 5 – November 8-10, 11-14

Closing Time, pg. 13, USA, 5 minutes

Cloudy Man, pg. 13, Iran, 21 minutes

Split Ends, pg. 33, Iran, 14 minutes

Out of Order, pg. 27, USA, 5 minutes

Psycho, pg. 30, Iran, 15 minutes

Painter, pg. 27, Iran, 16 minutes

Duplicitous Minds, pg. 18, USA, 18 minutes

Film sessions will be available from November 4-14, 2022 at www.filmfestivalflix.com. Click on Route 66 Film Festival in the listings.

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2022-2023

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Virtuosic Voices

Rei Hotoda, Conductor | Itamar Zorman, Violin
Friday, October 14, 2022 | 7:30 PM
UIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER | SPRINGFIELD, IL
Kendall *The Spark Catchers* –
Shostakovich *Violin Concerto No. 1* –
Strauss *Rosenkavalier Suite* – Strauss Jr. *Voices of Spring*

Breathtaking Beauty

Vince Lee, Conductor | Zee Zee, Piano
Friday, November 18, 2022 | 7:30 PM
UIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER | SPRINGFIELD, IL
Ibert *Hommage à Mozart* –
Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 4* –
Brahms *Symphony No. 1*

Magically Mozart

Rei Hotoda, Conductor | Brian Goodwin, Horn
Friday, December 2, 2022 | 7:30 PM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | SPRINGFIELD, IL
Bacewicz *Concerto for String Orchestra* –
Mozart *Horn Concerto No. 4* – Mozart *Symphony No. 29*

Holiday Pops in the Heartland

Jacobsen Woollen, Conductor
Friday, December 16, 2022 | 7:30 PM
UIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER | SPRINGFIELD, IL

Scintillating Shakespeare

Jacobsen Woollen, Conductor | MIOpera Collaboration
Madison King, Soprano | Carl Rosenthal, Tenor
Friday, February 10, 2023 | 7:30 PM
UIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER | SPRINGFIELD, IL

Korngold *Much Ado About Nothing Suite* –
Gounod Selections from *Romeo & Juliette* –
Bernstein Selections from *West Side Story* –
Verdi Selections from *Macbeth, Otello, Falstaff* –
Tchaikovsky *Romeo & Juliet Fantasy-Overture*

Star Wars & Beyond, The Best of John Williams

Vince Lee, Conductor
Friday, March 10, 2023 | 7:30 PM
UIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER | SPRINGFIELD, IL

Inspiring Influences

Joon Andrew Choi, Conductor
Kimberly McCoul Risinger, Flute
Friday, April 14, 2023 | 7:30 PM
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | SPRINGFIELD, IL
Yoshimatsu *Atom Hearts Club Suite No. 2* –
Jolivet *Flute Concerto* –
Beethoven/Mahler *String Quartet No. 11, "Serioso"*

Epic Ending

Joon Andrew Choi, Conductor | Jamal Aliyev, Cello
Friday, May 5, 2023 | 7:30 PM
UIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER | SPRINGFIELD, IL
Torke *Javelin* – Dvořák *Cello Concerto* –
Bartok *Concerto for Orchestra*



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[Program and Dates Subject to Change]

Film Descriptions & Filmmaker Biographies

1st MEMORY (G) - Short Films 3

Chip Hackler, Filmmaker (USA) 5 min



1st Memory



Memory's a funny thing.

1st Memory is a collaboration between film professional and film students, featuring actor Nicholas Pryor (Tom Cruise's father in Risky Business).

Chip Hackler has an MFA in screenwriting and has worked on camera crews for movies including Iron Man 3, Interview with the Vampire, and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. He teaches film at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.



A WINNER (PG) - Short Films 4

Mehdi Mahaei, Filmmaker (IRAN) 20 min

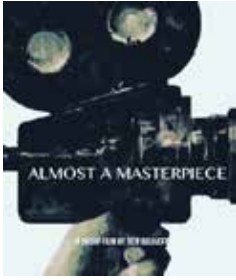


This film is about the story of a female filmmaker who lives and works in her mother's greenhouse. After her film gets selected in a reputable film festival abroad, she is faced with problems to leave the country.

Mehdi Mahaei directed THE DOLLS GAME (2021) and A WINNER (2022). In 2020, he joined the First Screen Film Distribution Company as a head manager and distributed and sold several movies in many film festivals. He plans to direct his first feature film in 2023.



ALMOST A MASTERPIECE (G) - Short Films 1 **Robert Belinoff, Filmmaker (USA) 9 min**



An older film maker swings for the fences with an over-the-top follow-up film.

Robert Belinoff has been making award winning documentaries for 25 years. When he closed up shop in Los Angeles he moved back home to Corrales, New Mexico and started making short experimental and documentary films. 2021's "The Pandemic Artist" won Best Experimental Film, Art's Alive festival. His fantasy "Georgia Okeeffe and Me" won Best Comedy of the year from New Mexico Film Production Office in 2017, and a dozen other festival awards, including 7 other "Bests". He was, for 11 years, the chief documentary film maker for the California Department of Public Health.



ARTISTIC CHARACTER (PG) - Short Films 1 **Vasily Chuprina, Filmmaker (NETHERLANDS) 15 min**



When a quiet artist spends his time daydreaming of his muse, he inadvertently sets in motion a series of actions that he has no control of. A quiet life suddenly upturned with each event and with consequences.

Vasily Chuprina is an award-winning filmmaker. After a successful career in science, having a Ph.D. in physics and biology, Vasily pursued his passion for filmmaking. He produced/co-wrote/directed five short films which were officially selected at many top film festivals and received many awards. Now Vasily works on his feature projects.



BIRD LADY (G) - Short Films 4

Carter Rostron, Filmmaker (USA) 17 min



In this short documentary, Kansas City filmmaker Carter Rostron explores the mystery surrounding a statue that has become known as the “Bird Lady.” For years, an assortment of small ceramic birds and other figures have appeared around the base of the statue. The documentary explores what’s been happening, what it means, and how it has become a beloved part of neighborhood

folklore.

Carter Rostron has been making short films since second grade, including documentaries, comedies, and stop-motion animation. He is 17 years old and he is a senior at Pembroke Hill School.



CHECK THE LOCKS (PG) - Short Films 3

Eric Larson, Filmmaker (USA) 15 min



Following a nervous breakdown, a woman retreats to a friend’s cabin in the woods -- only to discover that her coping mechanisms are mysteriously turning against her.

Eric Larson is a writer and filmmaker based in Brooklyn, NY. Originally from Wis-

consin, he graduated college with a degree in journalism and spent the first few years of his career working as a reporter in New York City.

He now works as a creative director, where he’s written and art directed commercials and digital projects. His creative work has garnered accolades from Awwards, FWA, and D&AD, among others. “Check the Locks” is his first short film.



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CLOSING TIME (PG) - Short Films 5 Student Filmmakers (USA) 5 min



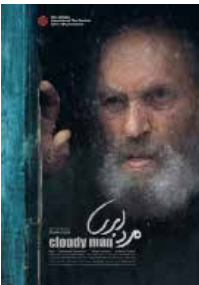
Closing Time is a 2D animated comedy/horror short film about a revenge fantasy against bad customers. When an obnoxious truck driver makes a late-night stop at a middle of nowhere gas station and stays past the store's closing time, he quickly learns that choosing which snack to buy is the least of his worries.

This project is the thesis film of 10 BFA students at San Jose State University's esteemed Animation/Illustration program.



CLOUDY MAN (PG) - Short Films 5 Shahin Jalali, Filmmaker (IRAN) 21 min

A man with a shaky hand faces unexpected events.



Shahin Jalali is an independent filmmaker from Iran. He has been attracted to cinema since a child, He directed his first film before college and went on to achieve a B.A and M.A. in cinema. After graduation he has worked on projects as director, editor and writer. He

has also hosted many workshops in the field of cinema, screenwriting and film direction.



COLD START (G) - Short Films 3

Richard Townsley, Filmmaker (USA) 16 min



A teen wants to drive his father’s abandoned car but he is emotionally paralyzed by the fatal car crash that his father encountered while on the racing track.

Richard Townsley has been following his passion as a Video Editor since the 5th grade. After graduating high school, Richard completed an internship with 32Ten Studios before moving to Los Angeles to continue pursuing filmmaking by attending the New York Film Academy. An accomplished video editor and sound editor, Richard is also a strong team leader, collaborator, and stress-free director.



CRACKED (G) - Short Films 1

Mahmut Tas, Filmmaker (TURKEY) 5 min



A little girl lives in a village with her mother where water sources are dwindling by day. Drought effects her imagination, even her doodles and drawings. Not only people but nature struggles with the unrelenting aridness. This little girl though, never loses hope. She tries to do as best she can, sacrificing for her beloved nature.

From an early age Mahmut Tas’s passion for cinema led him to write scripts and shoot films. In June 2018 he shot his first short film, “Pain” and in 2021, he filmed “Cracked” and “The Return” At the end of 2021, he released his movie called E-HAPPINESS.

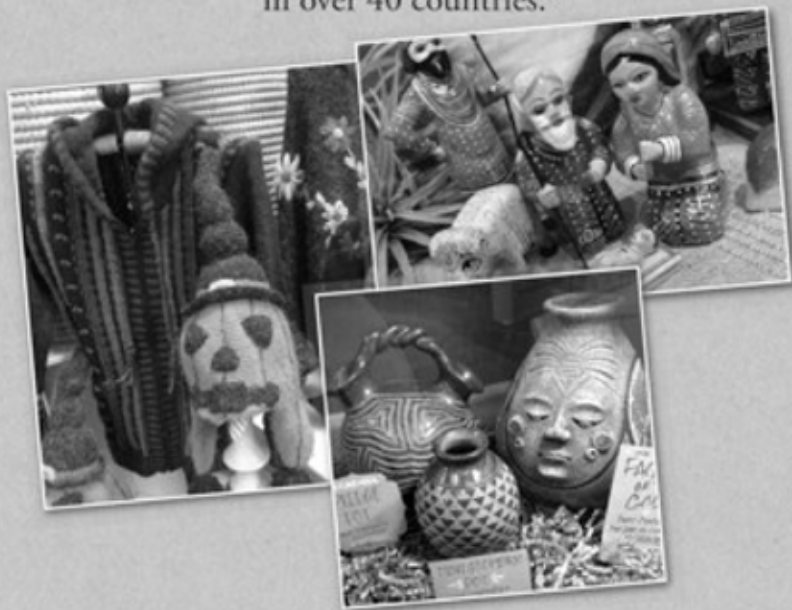


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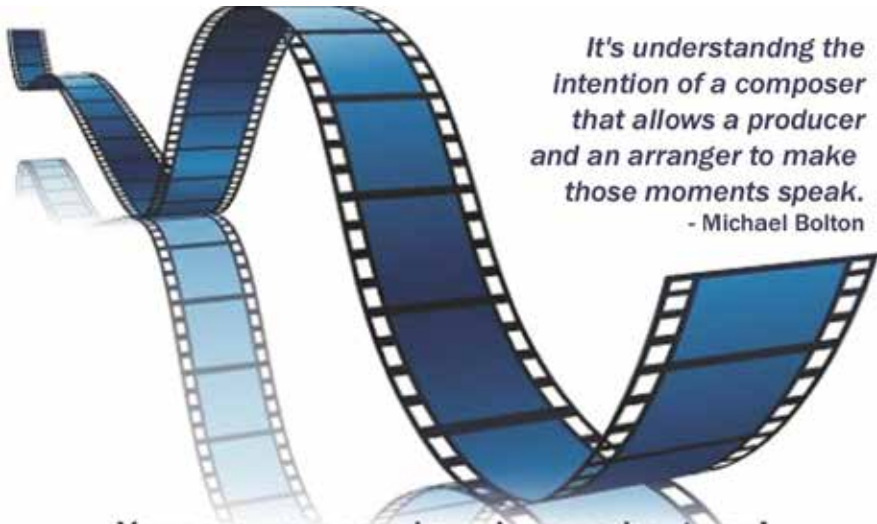
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DAILY BREAD (G) - Short Films 4

Manuel Sirgo, Filmmaker (SPAIN) 8 min



An exchange student living in Madrid sets out to buy a loaf of bread, but finds herself lost in translation, making unexpected connections on her journey.

Manuel Sirgo is a director, producer, and animation artist, as well as an instructor at universities and audiovisual institutions. He is a member of the Spanish National Film Academy. In 1997, he founded production company 12 Pingüinos Animation Studio and has won a multitude of film awards. He has collaborated with Hanna Barbera, Walt Disney, Warner Bros, TVE, and Cromosoma. His team at 12 Pingüinos is made up of more than 30 film industry professionals.



DON'T BREATHE (PG) - Short Films 4

Milad Nasim Sobhan, Filmmaker (IRAN) 15 min



To exert more tyranny and suppression, the ruling power has done something to its dissenters so that they exhale smoke when they breathe, and the agents must take into custody such people wherever they find them. Unaware of the law, a man meets one of the dissenters and it changes the course of his life,.

Milad Nasim Sobhan has a Masters in Graphic Design from The University of Art Tehran and in 2012 studied scriptwriting and movie making at Hilaj Independent Cinematic Academy. His films include “Mobile,” “Swapped,” “She Similar To Me,” and “Don’t Breathe.” His work has been featured at both national and international film festivals.

DUPLICITOUS MINDS (PG) - Short Films 5 **Robert Rippberger, Filmmaker (USA) 18 min**



This film is a crime thriller/drama about the mysterious world of magic, a journey of hypnotism, heists, illusions and fun with many thrilling twists and turns. The entire film is structured like a long form magic trick with hidden clues, symbols and meanings. The movie's theme is the choice between love (The Queen of Hearts) and power (The Ace).

Robert Rippberger is a filmmaker with an array of creative and executive experience. He most recently directed and produced 'Strive' with Danny Glover, released theatrically and through AMC's Urban Movie Channel, as well as the war on drugs documentary, 'Public Enemy Number One' from Executive Producer Ice-T.



EUREKA (R) - Short Films 4 **Miida Chu, Filmmaker (USA) 15 min**



A young indentured Chinese prostitute must overcome her toxic dependency on the brothel madam on the eve of the 1885 anti-Chinese riot in Eureka, California.

Miida Chu is a writer-director whose short film "Eureka" won the prestigious Golden Reel

Award at the Los Angeles Asian

Pacific Film Festival, qualifying the film for Academy Award consideration. As a screenwriter, she specializes in high concept queer romantic fantasy. Miida holds a BA in Philosophy from New York University and an MFA in film directing from the American Film Institute.





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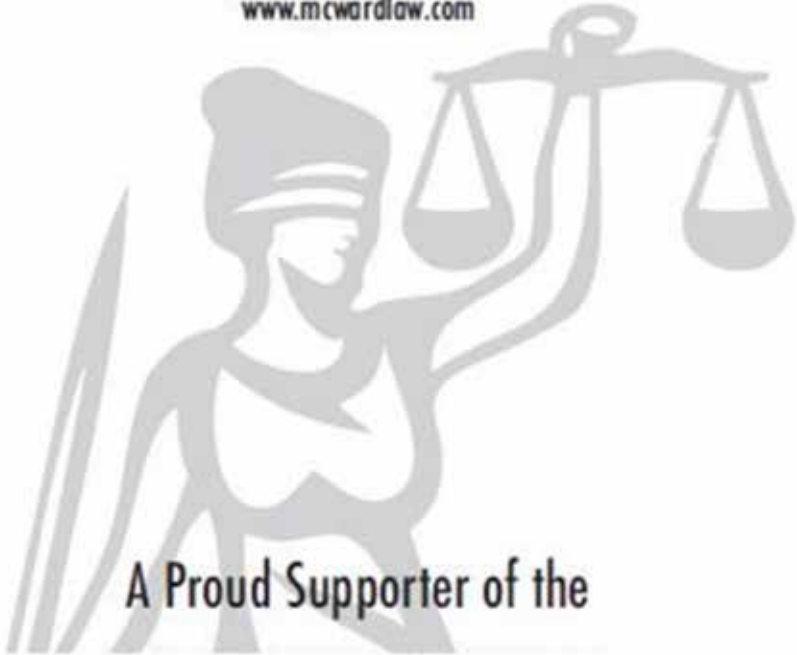
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Independent Films From Around The World

FAMILY (PG) - Short Films 2

David L Bradburn, Filmmaker (USA/Illinois) 4 min



What appears to be a random act of helping is really a familial one.

David L Bradburn is a writer, director and producer of independent films. He started Fork the Man Productions to create films and connect independent filmmakers in Chicago. Bradburn's films include "Superhero Me," a finalist in the 2012 Beverly Hills Film Fest Writing Competition, and the soon to be finished "The Coming of Age" which was written by Northwestern University's Film Department Chair, Dave Tolchinsky. Bradburn's successful launch into Chicago's independent film community most recently landed him assignments with Kenmore and FOX.



ICE CREAM.SLADOLED (PG) - Short Films 1

Steve Spremo, Filmmaker (USA/Illinois) 13 min



A Day in the Life of a recent immigrant, where no one understands anyone else, and a trip to buy ice cream triggers a series of absurd misadventures.

Steve Spremo was born in Chicago and is a second-generation immigrant. He studied film for two years and received a business degree. Steve's interest in storytelling started with writing. Past writing projects include collaborative and solo written short and feature length screenplays that have placed in various screenwriting competitions. "Ice Cream. Sladoled" is his first film and follows a new immigrant on a rough day.



LAUNCH (G) - Short Films 2

Vince Williams, Filmmaker (USA) 20 min



Based on a true story, Apollo astronaut John S. Bull is determined to be the first man on the moon. He and his wife Nancy are an unstoppable force, about to come into contact with the immovable object of the NASA training gauntlet during the pinnacle days of the space race.

Vince Williams has been a full-time film professor since he was 25 years old. For over a decade he has simultaneously taught film and worked on over a hundred films and documentaries in various crew positions. Launch is crewed entirely by his students in an effort to show the power of education and how he has developed creatively over the years.



LIBERTY (PG) - Short Films 2

Sara Khosroabadi, Filmmaker (IRAN) 14 min



A woman decides to terminate her life in her own way but something goes wrong.

Sara Khosroabadi is a female filmmaker from Iran. In her 30s, she is director of narrative shorts and documentaries.



MAGOADO (PG) - Feature Film 3

Rubén Sainz, Filmmaker (SPAIN) 76 min



Peio lives hiding in Brazil, something is tormenting him. The unexpected appearance of his adolescent son whom he did not know, makes him rethink his life. Quite a challenge for him, who neither knows nor wants to act as a father.

Rubén Sainz is a screenwriter, director, producer and editor. In recent years he has written, produced and directed his own short films, with which he has participated in festivals all over the world. Magoado, whose international premiere was at the Goa International Film Festival (India), is his first foray into feature films and is currently in the distribution phase.



MIDDLE EASTERN STORIES: FATHER (R) -

Short Films 3

Reza Daghagh, Filmmaker (IRAN) 18 min



A father intends to take his infant child away from his war-stricken country. He attempts by hiding in a container to flee and cross the border but with the addition of other refugees, it becomes hard for him to pursue his goal, to the point that unexpected events happen to him and the other refugees.

Reza Daghagh started his film career in 2006 and edited many shorts, features, and documentaries such as “Elephant Bird,” “The Dolls Game,” and “Requinto.” He has also directed music videos and TV commercials. In 2016 he directed his first short film “Death Time.” “Middle Eastern Stories: Father” is his second short film as a director, producer, and writer.



ONCE I PASSED (R) - Short Films 2

Martin Gerigk, Filmmaker (GERMANY) 10 min



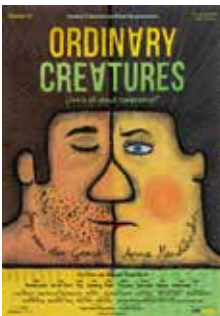
In 1860 Walt Whitman published his poem “Once I Passed Through a Populous City,” about a romantic relationship with an unknown woman. In 1925, the original handwritten copy of the poem was discovered, in which Whitman writes, not about a woman, but about an affair with a man in an anonymous city. Whitman did not dare publish that version. “Once I Passed” is dedicated to the powerful story of two lovers.

Martin Gerigk is a composer of contemporary music. His repertoire includes compositions for orchestra and chamber music, as well as several solo concertos. He is known for his remarkable audiovisual art and experimental films which focus on inherent synesthetic connections of sound and visual perceptions.



ORDINARY CREATURES (PG) - Feature Film 4

Thomas Marshcall, Filmmaker (AUSTRIA) 75



Martha and Alex are on the road, driving an antique red car through Lower Austria and the Czech Republic. Their relationship oscillates between carnal moments in nature and petty quarrels while driving. They don't seem to have a destination. A minor roadkill provides suspense as Martha and Alex are being followed. Beneath the surface, there is a bug's life. Beetles and caterpillars seem to take no notice of the hippie rituals Martha and Alex try with a young girl they pick up on the road. The levels of “ordinariness” are highly mysterious in this very strange comedy.

Thomas Marschall studied Social and Visual Anthropology at the University of Vienna; from 2002-2009 advanced studies in Cinematography, Screenplay Writing and Movie Directing at the Wiener Filmakademie – University for Music and Performing Arts. Since 2008, he has shot and directed several documentary, experimental, and short fictional movie projects “Ordinary Creatures” is Thomas Marschall’s first feature film.



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OUT OF ORDER (G) - Short Films 5
Mason Gillard, Filmmaker (USA) 5 min



A starving survivor in an apocalyptic wasteland struggles to stay alive and must gather enough currency to use a vending machine.

Mason Gillard was born and raised in Georgia and has worked in the film industry since 2018. He is an editor and VFX enthusiast currently working at a VFX house in Atlanta.



PAINTER (PG) - Short Films 5
Mohsen Afshar, Filmmaker (IRAN) 16 min



When you are at the end of life, you have no choice but to face the truth.

Three people are trapped in a broken elevator and are looking for a way out, unaware that they have reached their final destination. Adaptation of the elevator play written by Gérard Levoyer.

Mohsen Afshar has been working in cinema since 2009. He has a Bachelor of Cinema Directing and is a Director/Producer/Editor and episodefilm CEO.



PICK (G) - Short Films 3

Shahoo Ahmadi, Filmmaker (IRAN) 4 min



The gardener notices on the day of picking the fruits while he is resting that they are stealing the fruits.

Shahoo Ahmadi is a student who chose the path of filmmaking to discover the small moments of life and the simple and every-day human connection with the environment,

which is full of deep human concepts. Storytelling on these topics is magical to Shahoo, and he enjoys adding a personal perspective to his films.



PROVO (R) - Feature Film 5

Emma Thatcher, Filmmaker (USA) 85 min



A self-destructive ex-Mormon finds out her abusive father is on his deathbed and road trips to Utah to reckon with her past.

Emma Thatcher is a Chicago based filmmaker, actor, and photographer. After studying acting at NYU, she began producing, writing, directing, and

editing her own work. She has made dozens of short films, including “Soomin,” which won the Audience Award at the San Francisco Independent Film Festival.





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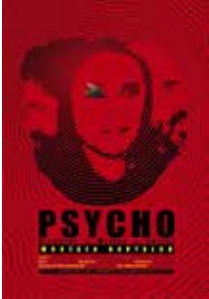


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PSYCHO (PG) - Short Films 5

Mostafa Davtalab, Filmmaker (IRAN) 15 min



A couple, a young woman and her mentally-ill husband, take a cab to a Psychiatric hospital.

Mostafa Davtalab is the writer, director and producer of Psycho.



RAIN (G) - Short Films 2

Mahdi Barqzadegan, Filmmaker (IRAN) 7 min



Some people feel the rain.

Others just get wet.

Rain is a story about the forgotten place of humans in nature. Sudden rain in a modern city tries to remind people of this, but they all prefer to be in umbrella cages. A little girl discovers a new world created by rain and finds that she is the king of this new world.

Mahdi Barqzadegan graduated with a master's degree in architecture and is a freelance animation maker. His experience includes Supervisor at Yas Animation Studio; worked in the animation department of Hamadan Television Organization; Director of the animation part of Seram Advertising Studio; Director and producer of more than 20 short animations; Founder and CEO of Photon Animation home studio; and Director and producer of "Tongeleh" animation series for TV.



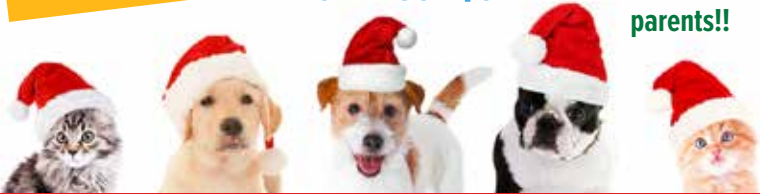
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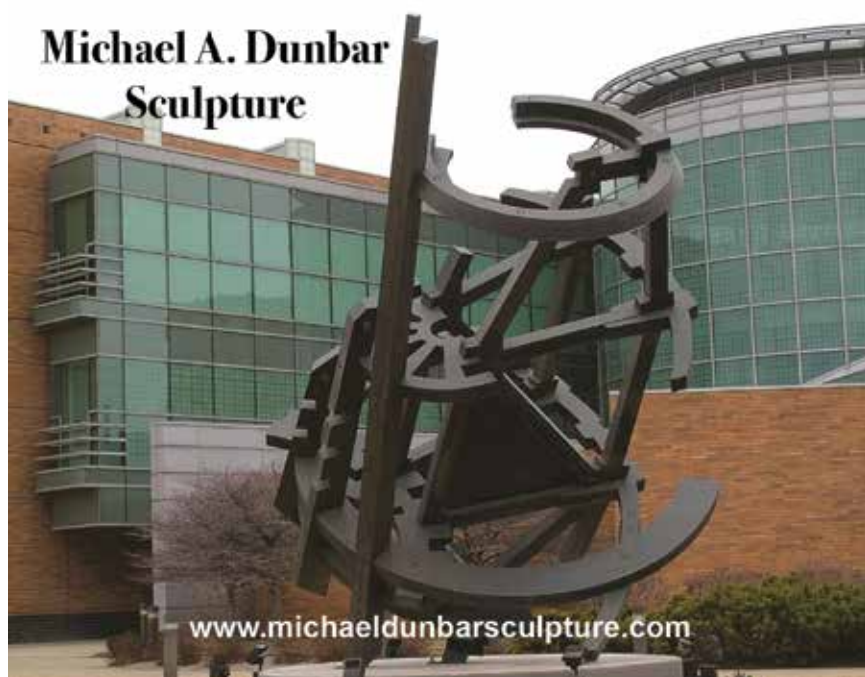
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SILENCE AGAIN (PG) - Short Films 3

Mohamad kamal Alavi, Filmmaker (IRAN) 13 min



A young woman lives on a hill far from the city, alone and in silence. She farms and takes her produce to the city on an old motorbike. When a scarecrow catches her eye, she is no longer alone. When we are alone there is nothing to hide, it is our true self that lives, walks, and falls in love.

Mohamad kamal Alavi has an extensive background in film as a director, actor, and production manager. He has worked on theater, film and television productions.



SPLIT ENDS (PG) - Short Films 5

Alireza Kazemipour, Filmmaker (IRAN) 14 min



A bald girl and a young boy with long hair whose car has been confiscated due to lack of proper hijab are trying to solve their problem with the Tehran Morality Police without having to pay a fine. Police surveillance cameras have mistaken the boy for a woman because of his long hair, and the young girl, despite her shaved head, has to pay the fine simply because she's

a woman and that the hijab law only applies to females. The two of them are hence resisting the police. Being humiliated by a police officer, they decide to punish the officer in their own way.

Alireza Kazemipour is a multi-awarded Iranian-Canadian screenwriter, director, and producer. Social justice, women's rights, and immigrant issues are his concerns. His film "The Blue Bed" received 15 awards and 14 nominations around the world.



SWOLE GHOST (PG) - Short Films 4

Tim Troemner, Filmmaker (USA/Illinois) 8 min



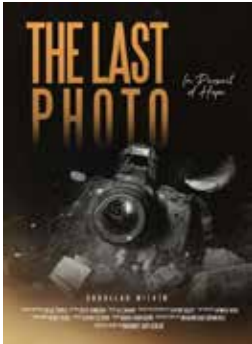
Vicky and Jake believe there might be a ghost in the house. Maybe. Whatever it is, it's too weak to communicate. But maybe all this presence needs is a bit of fitness; maybe it just needs to get...swole.

Written and directed by Tim Troemner.



THE LAST PHOTO (PG) - Short Films 3

Mehmet Akif Guler, Filmmaker (TURKEY) 20 min



Photographer, Abdullah Milhim, is trying, through his photographs, to bring the war in Syria to the world. Once, he goes to photograph a just bombed region, he sees an aged man inside the ruins. He is influenced deeply by the situation of the aged man who is just standing and crying while people are escaping and wounded are carried in the chaos, and so he takes the man's photo. At the very mo-

ment, aircraft noise is heard and a bomb is dropped near them. After that day, Abdullah starts looking for his last photo, a new arm and his future.

Mehmet Akif Guler graduated from Hoca Ahmet Yesevi University Computer Engineering. He studied animation at Toonz Studio and worked on many animation projects. He studied photography and finished the Dream Curtain Cinema Workshop and studied cinema in Tursak. Mehmet has worked in short and feature film crews and has directed commercials. He continues his documentary, cinema, short film and advertisement works.



Did You Know?

Coffee is the second beverage after water

Coffee is consumed in just about every corner of the world. Did you know that the world's second highest demand for coffee is in the United States? It's not just because of the taste, but it's also because of the health benefits.

Coffee dates back to 800 A.D.

Legend has it that 9th-century Arab traders noticed the effect of coffee when they passed, who passed it to "Sudan" after visiting the land of the Coffee plant. A local man there made a drink with the produce and found that it kept him awake longer than the original use of coffee beans.

There are two types of coffee

Arabica coffee was originally cultivated in the Arabian Peninsula, hence the name. Although less popular, Robusta beans are slightly more bitter, but contain double the amount of caffeine.

The word "coffee" comes from the Arabic word "qawa"

The earliest form for the drink of coffee was the Arabic word "qawa", which is related to a type of wine. The Ottoman Turkish word for the drink "kahve", which was followed by the Dutch word "koffie", from which the English name was derived in 1582.

Espresso means "forced out" in Italian

The word espresso comes from Italian and means "expressed" or "forced out". Espresso is made by forcing very hot water under high pressure through finely ground, compressed coffee.

Women may divorce due to a "terrible coffee"

In recent days, coffee, especially if it's a bad one, has become a major cause of divorce. In fact, a study by the University of Michigan found that a bad cup of coffee is one of the top reasons for divorce.

Coffee drinkers live longer

Research has found that coffee drinkers live longer. In fact, a study by the University of Michigan found that coffee drinkers live longer than those who don't drink coffee.

A coffee bean can't actually sleep

There are many myths about coffee beans, including the idea that they can sleep. In fact, coffee beans are just seeds and they can't sleep.

The most expensive coffee is made from cat poop

"Black Lotus" is the most expensive coffee in the world. It comes from Ethiopia and is made from beans digested by the Asian Palm Civet, a cat-like creature that eats fruit, including coffee berries. In other words, it's coffee from cat poop. It can sell for up to \$500 per pound.

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Congratulations to the Route 66 Film Festival on its 21st Anniversary

Erik N. Welch



THE MARSHMALLOW MYSTERY TOUR (PG) - Feature Film 2 Matthew & Jeff Beals (USA) 84 min



After landing a gig at a marshmallow theme park, a cameraman uncovers the shocking truth about America's candyland and his own sugarcoated childhood. The Marshmallow Mystery Tour was written, shot and directed by two brothers who went undercover at candy landmarks across America. It breaks down the boundary between feature film and documentary to offer the first ever docu-fairy-tale. Blessed by Willy Wonka himself, Gene Wilder, who caught a glimpse of the project as it began, this is a new kind of comedy for a new era.

The Beals Brothers grew up in New York snorting Fun Dip and building titanic Oreo sandwiches and have never stopped. Matthew is an award-winning director of photography whose work has appeared in Steven Spielberg's *The Rising* and in his own documentary *The Power of the Peep*. Jeff is a teacher and activist who was featured on *This American Life* as a congressional candidate and decorated for his service as a US diplomat in Iraq. Today they write and shoot film together while plying their trades across the continent.



THE SAVIOR (G) - Short Films 2

Soheila Pourmohammadi, Filmmaker (IRAN) 15 min



The Savior tells the story of a young girl who recently witnessed the death of her mother and lives with her father in a village. After losing her mom, she tries to save the fishes instead.

Soheila Pourmohammadi is an Iranian female director & writer who lives in Rasht, Iran. She graduated with a bachelor's in culture

management. The Savior is Soheila's debut short film, accepted in many film festivals where it has received a number of awards and recognition.



THE SINGLE HORN (UNICORN) (PG) - Short Films 4

Mohamad Kamal Alavi, Filmmaker (IRAN) 13 min



A little girl goes to the amusement park to play with her friends without her family's permission. Everything has changed when she returns home. She decides to make a big choice ...

Mohammad Kamal Alavi is known for Nim/Half (2021), Silence Again (2022) and Tak Shakh (2022).

He studied Performing Arts at the School of Art and Architecture – Tehran Center). He received a Certificate of Advanced Direction from Young Cinematography.





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THE SMALL HOURS (PG) - Short Films 2 **Melissa Pinsly, Filmmaker (USA) 12 min**



After struggling to conceive, a newly pregnant woman takes on cravings, cribs, & crying in the middle of the night.

Through the exhilarating highs and unspoken fears that come with pregnancy, Lilah struggles to find herself during “The Small Hours.” The film explores the isolating experience of being pregnant in the middle of the night when no one else is awake. Starring Sigi Ravet, who was 8 months pregnant when the film was shot.

Melissa Pinsly is an inclusive creator with a passion for writing & directing. She is a Tony & Drama Desk nominated Broadway producer, has produced on two critically acclaimed features (Ira Sachs’ “Love is Strange” & “Little Men”), and is the co-founder of Frankmel Films. “The Small Hours” marks Melissa’s debut as a composer and third short film as a director.



THE STATUE (G) - Short Films 1 **Mohsen Salehi Fard, Filmmaker IRAN 10 min**

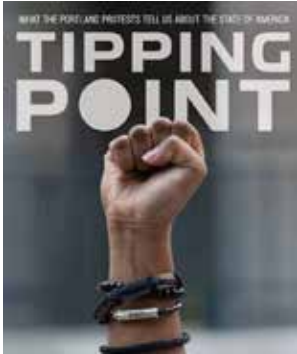


The sculptor struggles every day to create a new sculpture. When the sculptural clay is satisfied with its form, it is the time when it loses its freedom.

Mohsen Salehi Fard is a filmmaker of the Iranian Young Cinema Association. He has directed several short films and animations.



TIPPING POINT (R) - Feature Film 1 **Jon Meyer, Filmmaker (USA) 88 min**



In 2020, amid a global pandemic and political unrest, demonstrations erupted worldwide following the murder of George Floyd. Portland became the focus of media attention for its intense, prolonged demonstrations against systemic racism and police brutality. Through never-before-seen footage and exclusive interviews, Tipping Point humanizes the struggle while allowing Portland's story to serve as a mirror for

all of Americae.

Jon Meyer's artistry as a musician and music-video maker brings a compelling energy to his work. He has his own short-form documentary series featuring musicians and has earned top prizes at local and international film festivals for his directing and editing skills. Jon has been making short films for over a decade. Tipping Point is his first feature.



WITH THE DAWN (PG) - Short Films 2 **Reese Adam Parquette, Filmmaker (USA/Illinois) 4 min**



A female operator who's been caught up in the middle of a murder plot, now contemplates suicide. Meanwhile, an injured man in the murder plot is looking for her. When the phone operator has a flashback, she realizes what her mission is, and calls the police. The man breaks into her building, and draws a gun out as

he begins looking for her. The woman grabs the gun she intended for suicide, and now utilizes it for self defense.

Reese is a Springfield IL based film director/screenwriter. Since the young age of 7, he's been interested in what goes on behind-the-scenes on a film. Now 22 years old, after a couple of worldwide documentaries and some short films, Reese is venturing into making feature films with one goal in mind: To make art.



WOMEN ON FEBA (Forward Edge of Battle Area) (PG) - Short Films 1 Zivar Hojati, Filmmaker (IRAN) 22 min



Her husband's family are very happy because of their bride's pregnancy after 13 years. But the woman who is a volunteer nurse in the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988) has been raped during this war.

Zivar Hojati has a bachelor's degree in Western philosophy from the University of Isfahan and a master's degree in philosophy of religion from the University of Tehran. She defended her university dissertation on the philosophy of Kierkegaard and the cinema of Andrei Tarkovsky and Ingmar Bergman. Zivar has written and directed 4 short films, which were accepted and won awards in multiple international festivals.



WORLD CUP (PG) - Short Films 1

Maryam Khodabakhsh, Filmmaker (IRAN) 18 min



World Cup is a story about the life of a couple who want to immigrate to another country as refugees, and on the day of their emigration, a secret is revealed between them and makes them hesitate to leave. The focus of the film is the dissatisfaction of the Iranian people with the current social situation and the issue of immigration, and in the story of the film, It is about process of losing hope and regaining it.

Maryam Khodabakhsh was born in 1987 in Iran, she is a director, screenwriter, editor. She believes that each of us has a voice and that our mission as human beings in this world is to find our unique voice and deliver it to people to help them. One of these ways is cinema.



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About the Route 66 Film Festival

The festival began as a project of the Reel to Real Film Club at LincolnLand Community College. Inspired by Roger Ebert's film festival in Champaign, the club used a \$10,000 grant from LincolnLand to hold the film festival in 2002 at the old Esquire Theater, and workshops for students at LincolnLand.

The first festival was held on two weekends, in conjunction with the Route 66 Mother Road Festival from which it took its name. Bruce Campbell, star of *Evil Dead* movies and TV's *Burn Notice*, was a special guest, as was Martin Milner and the Corvette from his TV show *Route 66*.

LincolnLand did not continue to sponsor the festival, but founder Linda McElroy (with volunteers) hosted festivals in 2003 and 2004 at the Hilton Hotel, soliciting films from schools across the country. Filmmakers attended from across Illinois, and from New York and California.

Festival entries increased with the advent of internet solicitation and submission. From 2005-2011 the festival was a three-day event at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, with films submitted from all continents except Antarctica. Linda McElroy stepped down as director in 2012 and a 6-member board organized the 2-day festival held at the Legacy Theater. From 2013-18, the Festival was held at the theater adjoining the Capital City Bar & Grill. In 2019, the Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center was both the Festival host and official lodging site. Tom Szyrka was Festival Director from 2012-13, Siobhan Johnson served from 2014-2021, and Lana Wildman stepped into the position this year.

Since the coronavirus in 2020, the Route 66 Film Festival has been held online via the Film Festival Flix platform. This year a live awards ceremony is being held in conjunction with the festival, returning to the Hoogland Center for the Arts.

The Route 66 Film Festival is proud to introduce Springfield audiences to films from throughout the world and to provide an audience to new and veteran filmmakers. Those interested in becoming board members and volunteers may contact route66filmfestival@gmail.com.

We welcome online reviewers/evaluators, festival staffers, sponsors and donors.

Special Thanks

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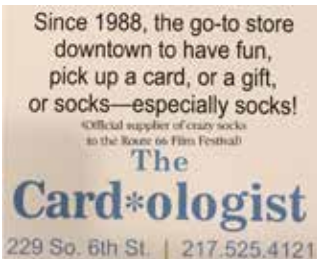
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