




MILWAUKEE
FILM

 AssociatedBank PRESENTS

2020 Milwaukee Film Festival

Oct. 15-29

Hello Film Fans!

It's finally here – our favorite time of year, when the anticipation and excitement for the Milwaukee Film Festival start to spread throughout town. We can hardly wait for you to experience what we have planned for our 12th annual Festival!



There's never been a stranger time for us to be bringing you the Milwaukee Film Festival. None of what's happened this year has failed to touch our community – or Milwaukee Film. And through the pandemic, the racial unrest, the economic somersaults, the political turmoil, and the personal tragedies, there have been so many times when all we've wanted to do for a couple of hours is sit in the Oriental Theatre and watch a movie.

What is a better time than this to celebrate the power of film? Our nonprofit is built on the elegantly simple idea that shared cinema experiences bridge distance and divisions. Cinema is connection, and we've discovered that is true whether or not you're sitting in the same room as your neighbor. Our virtual platform will help push those connections beyond your own experience – and beyond your own couch – to draw you closer to that feeling of community.

This year's Milwaukee Film Festival film lineup is as powerful as ever, featuring filmmakers from down the street and around the globe. Our guests are incredible, and they'll offer amazing insight on their stories and their craft. And if there's one benefit to a virtual festival, it's this: Our event is more accessible than ever, giving people from every part of our city and even all over the country the chance to engage with this Festival.

Taking inspiration from the lush artwork created for us by Milwaukee artist Jade Watring, our campaign theme is "Adapted for Your Screen." The artwork, which richly showcases the adaptations and transformations that take place in nature every day, resonates perfectly this year. What's still mind-blowing to us is that our campaign concept was selected in 2019, and the initial drafts of this artwork were already in place this February – a time before 2020's major events were unknown.

Through the hard work of our industry, filmmakers, sponsors, partners, and especially our staff, we've adapted. We think you'll agree that this year's Festival will inspire and provoke just as strongly as past Festivals have.

Thank you for adapting with us. It's never been more important that we have your support, and we're deeply grateful that you'll be part of the 2020 Milwaukee Film Festival.

Now get your popcorn, curl up in your favorite chair, and let's enjoy the movies!

Jonathan Jackson
CEO

Patti Keating Kahn
Board Chair

Board of Directors

Board Chair

Patti Keating Kahn

Executive Committee

Elizabeth Brenner

Alexander P. Fraser

Immediate Past Board Chair

Michael G. Klein
Secretary

Tracey L. Klein
Past Board Chair

Ken Krei
Board Chair Elect

Marianne Lubar

Kenneth W. Muth

Joseph A. Rock
Treasurer

John Utz

Members

Chris Abele

Past Board Chair

John P. Bania

Donna Baumgartner

Lori Brissette

Kathryn Murphy Burke

Héctor Colón

Karen Ellenbecker

Jeff Fitzsimmons

Carmen Haberman

Susan Haise

Katie Heil

Jasmine M. Johnson

Michael J. Koss Jr.

Alexander Lasry

Steve Laughlin
Past Board Chair

Emilia Layden

Michael R. Lovell

Joan Lubar

Steve Mech

Susan Mikulay

Mark Mone

Heidi Moore

John Ridley

Lacey Sadoff

Dave Stamm

James E. Stoll

Julia Taylor

Kimberly Walker

Emeritus Members

Tom Barrett

Jacqueline Strayer

Annual Funders

Milwaukee Film began in 2009 as a film festival that occurred for 11 days. Today, we operate 365 days a year as one of the nation's leading nonprofit institutions dedicated to film culture.

We are committed to enriching our community through diverse film presentations, signature events, and year-round education programs for all ages. Our Annual Fund provides a platform for us to acknowledge the individuals and foundations whose incredible support empowers us to grow.

Visionary | \$50K+

Argosy Foundation
The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
Brico Fund
Heil Family Foundation
Judith McGregor and Richard Gallun
Ken and Kate Muth
National Endowment for the Arts
Christine Symchych and Jim McNulty
David and Julie Uihlein
The Yabuki Family Foundation

Luminary | \$100K+

Bader Philanthropies
Donald and Donna Baumgartner
Herzfeld Foundation
Herb Kohl Philanthropies
Marianne and Sheldon Lubar
Allan H. (Bud) and Suzanne L. Selig

Innovator | \$20K+

Anonymous
John Axford
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Johnson Controls Foundation
Kelben Foundation, Inc.
Nicholas Family Foundation
Lacey Sadoff Foundation
Werner Family Foundation

Sponsors

Presenting



Associated Bank

BANK OF



MILWAUKEE
FILM

Premier | \$100K+

OnMilwaukee

Luminary | \$100K+

Donald and Donna
Baumgartner

Herzfeld
Foundation



MARIANNE AND
SHELDON LUBAR

Allan H. (Bud) and
Suzanne L. Selig

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Joan and Fred Brengel Family Foundation

Dorothy Inbusch Foundation

Thomas and Debora Jansen Fund -
Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Peck Foundation, Milwaukee LTD

Clare M. Peters Charitable Trust

Visionary | \$50K+



BRICO FUND



HEIL FAMILY
FOUNDATION

Judith McGregor
and Richard Gallun

Ken &
Kate Muth



Christine
Symchych
and
Jim McNulty

David and
Julie Uihlein



Leading | \$50K+



OFFICIAL LAW FIRM



ZIZZO GROUP
ENGAGEMENT MARKETING

Supporting | \$20K+



NEW LAND
ENTERPRISES



TELEMUNDO
WISCONSIN



Innovator | \$20K+

Anonymous

John
AxfordGMF Greater Milwaukee
FOUNDATION
greater together

Mary L. Nohl Fund

Johnson
ControlsKelben
FOUNDATIONNICHOLAS
FAMILY FOUNDATION

LACEY SADOFF FOUNDATION

WERNER FAMILY
FOUNDATION

Providing | \$10K+



Contributing | \$5K+

Greater Milwaukee Foundation's
Richard M. Kaul
LGBT Arts Endowment FundFilm Guide Proudly Printed By
DELZERFilm Guide Proudly Designed By
CI DESIGN, INC.

Film Programs



AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

This showcase of modern American independent cinema presents fiction exploring all corners of the United States – works in which the “where” is just as important as the “who” and “what.”

SPONSOR: Wisconsin Public Radio



ART & ARTISTS

Go into the studio, around the work, and deep into the visionary mind with these films featuring iconic artists, artistic media, and everyday creative explorations.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: Heil Family Foundation



BLACK LENS

With a singular focus on spotlighting fiction and documentary films by emerging and established Black storytellers, the Black Lens program explores stories and topics rooted in the Black community and relevant to all in order to inspire conversation, celebration, and community.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: Johnson Controls Foundation

SPONSORS: WNOV 860am/106.5 FM “The Voice,” The Milwaukee Times Weekly Newspaper Printing & Publishing Co.



CINE SIN FRONTERAS

El objetivo de Cine Sin Fronteras es de mostrar las historias no contadas de la vibrante diáspora Latinx en todo el mundo, que incluye las comunidades Latinx, Chicanx, Latinoamericana, Indígena, y Afro-Latinx.

Cine Sin Fronteras aims to showcase the untold stories of the rich and vibrant Latinx diaspora around the world, including Latinx, Chicanx, Latin American, Indigenous, and Afro-Latinx communities.

SPONSORS: Telemundo Wisconsin, Radio Caliente 97.9 FM



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

For the grownups who never grew up, the weirdos who never needed normal, and the unicorns who just want to have fun. Welcome to Cinema Hooligante, your home for screenings and events you’ll never forget.

SPONSOR: Milwaukee Record



CREAM CITY CINEMA

Show some hometown pride and local support at our annual showcase of the best new work from Milwaukee-area filmmakers.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: John Axford

SPONSORS: Urban Milwaukee, WUWM 89.7 FM - Milwaukee’s NPR





DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

These stories seem too strange, sad, funny, and incredible to be true. But they are. Explore some of the best documentaries from the current festival circuit.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: Christine Symchych and Jim McNulty



GENREQUEER

Spotlighting the best in documentary and fiction filmmaking that explores LGBTQ+ voices and experiences, GenreQueer celebrates the past, present, and future of cinema's rich queer tradition.

SPONSOR: Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Richard M. Kaul LGBT Arts Endowment Fund



RATED K: FOR KIDS

Kids (and kids at heart) will be charmed and delighted with programming chosen with them in mind. Our family-friendly program offers a selection of award-winning features and shorts from around the world for ages 3 and up.



SHORTER IS BETTER

You'll be amazed by what happens when filmmakers present all the emotion and visual delight of a feature film in a fraction of the time. We took our favorite short films from around the world and put them into neat little packages for your viewing pleasure.



SOUND VISION

Musician Tom Waits said it best: "I always thought songs are movies for the ears and films are like songs for the eyes." The Sound Vision series showcases highly entertaining films about musical personalities, movements, history, and performances.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: Lacey Sadoff Foundation

SPONSOR: WMSE 91.7 FM



WORLDVIEWS

Strong characters and compelling narratives dominate this category. Showcasing favorites from the global festival circuit, these films let you travel the world without leaving your sofa.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: Marianne and Sheldon Lubar

How to Fest

We can't gather in person this year, but we've adapted. We're grateful that you've adapted right along with us to experience our **VIRTUAL MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL.**



WHO CAN WATCH

Whether you're getting a pass or you're planning to select one film at a time, you're a part of MFF2020.

Please note that all films are available only to viewers within the U.S., and due to regulations from film distributors, a few titles will be restricted to viewers in Wisconsin. Those films are clearly marked in the film descriptions.

Tickets and passes can be shared with members of the same household, but not beyond that.

Most films will be available on demand throughout the Festival.

A couple of titles have special restrictions and will only be available for a short time. Those films are clearly marked in the film descriptions. Otherwise, passholders are free to watch films on demand throughout the Festival. If you have a ticket and start watching your movie, you'll have 48 hours to complete it.

The Milwaukee Film Festival turns back into a pumpkin at 11:59 p.m. CT on Thursday, Oct. 29, so no matter when you start your film, it won't be available at midnight.

Please note: Even though we're virtual, films can still sell out! Film distributors may put restrictions on how many people can stream their film. If you have a title you don't want to miss, your best bet is to watch it early in the Festival.

Events will take place throughout the Festival; full listings are at mkefilm.org/mff/events. Our nightly talk show-style stream, The Nightcap, will start every night of the Festival at 8 p.m. CT on the Milwaukee Film YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter pages.

WHEN TO WATCH

WHERE TO WATCH

All festival films and events will take place *virtually* this year, so pick the comfiest seat you can, and settle in to enjoy!

Watching our films is easy!

You can watch any film on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. To watch on your TV, download one of our TV apps:



Please note: All of these apps are for TV viewing only.

If you don't have any of those platforms for your TV, you can connect your laptop to your TV with an HDMI cord. Detailed instructions are available on mkefilm.org/help.

Please note that our streaming platform, CineSend, may have restrictions on screen mirroring to protect our filmmakers' intellectual property. If you're planning to watch on a projector or similar device, you may run into those restrictions.

PASSES

If you have a pass, you will get an email from our streaming platform, CineSend, with instructions on how to set up your login details.

If you're watching on your computer, tablet, phone, or on your TV with a laptop and HDMI cord, you'll then log into watch.mkefilm.org to access all the films.

If you are using one of the Milwaukee Film apps for your TV, search for "Milwaukee Film" and download our app. Once you've installed the app of your choice, you can log in directly through our app. **Please note: All of these apps are for TV viewing only.**

TICKETS

Tickets to single films are available starting at 4 p.m. CT on Thursday, Oct. 15, through mkefilm.org/mff. Click on "FILMS" to view the full listings. Click "view more" on the film you want to see, then click the "purchase ticket" button.

After you check out, you can click the "watch online" link from your receipt to start watching immediately. If you want to watch it on another device, hang on to the confirmation email!

To watch on a computer, tablet, phone, or on your TV with a laptop and HDMI cord, go to watch.mkefilm.org and enter your ticket code to start watching your film.

To watch through one of our TV apps, search for "Milwaukee Film" and download the app. Once you've installed the app of your choice, click through from your confirmation email to watch. When you get to the film page, click "watch on a TV app" to get your ticket code. Open your TV app and enter your ticket code to start watching your film. **Please note: All of these apps are for TV viewing only.**

EVENTS

Our events will be available live through our streaming platform CineSend, as well as through the Milwaukee Film YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter pages.



[youtube.com/mkefilm](https://www.youtube.com/mkefilm)



[@milwaukeefilm](https://www.facebook.com/milwaukeefilm)



[@mkefilm](https://twitter.com/mkefilm)

HOW TO WATCH

MORE QUESTIONS? Visit mkefilm.org/help for much, much more detailed instructions – or ways you can connect to help from our wonderful staff.



Feature Films



WORLDVIEWS

About Endlessness (Om det oändliga)

Sweden, Germany, Norway / 2019 / 76 min / Swedish with English subtitles

Swedish filmmaker Roy Andersson (*A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence*) returns in peak form. *About Endlessness* follows a series of vignettes in which an unseen narrator observes the absurdity and humor of everyday life. But of course, this is Roy Andersson, so it is the driest, darkest humor money can buy. Some scenes drift into fantasy, while others are mundane and quotidian, but as a whole you get a stunning portrait of the human experience.

DIR Roy Andersson

PROD Johan Carlsson, Pernilla Sandström, Philippe Bober

SCR Roy Andersson



ART & ARTISTS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Aggie

USA / 2020 / 92 min / English

Emmy-nominated director Catherine Gund turns the lens on her own mother, art collector and philanthropist Agnes "Aggie" Gund. Through her dogged support of emerging artists - especially women and people of color - Aggie demonstrates the potential for collectors and benefactors to seek social justice, while also advocating vociferously for everyone to have access to the arts regardless of background. Inspiring and intimate, this portrait of a vanguard figure is not to be missed.

DIR Catherine Gund

PROD Catherine Gund, Tanya Selvaratnam



GENREQUEER DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Ahead of the Curve

USA / 2020 / 95 min / English

This entertaining and informative documentary tells the history of Curve, the best-selling lesbian lifestyle magazine ever published. Following the pioneering exploits of its founder, Franco Stevens, *Ahead of the Curve* charts the groundbreaking cultural impact that Curve had on lesbian politics and visibility. Curve broke new ground in centering the diversity of the lesbian experience, drawing attention to problems that persist to this day. Featuring appearances by lesbian royalty Melissa Etheridge and Lea DeLaria.

DIR Jen Rainin

PROD Rivkah Beth Medow



GENREQUEER WORLDVIEWS

Alice Júnior

Brazil / 2019 / 87 min / Portuguese with English subtitles

An effervescent teen comedy from Brazil about a transgender high schooler looking for her first kiss. Alice's world is turned upside down when she relocates from the big city to a small town for her father's work. Trapped in a conservative school that rejects her identity, Alice must find a new community of queers and allies hiding in plain sight. *Alice Júnior* explodes with the style of TikToks and YouTube videos and celebrates the power of community. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Gil Baroni



ART & ARTISTS

Alice Street

USA / 2020 / 67 min / English and Cantonese with English subtitles

At the intersection of Alice and 14th Streets in the heart of downtown Oakland, California, tension is brewing between real estate developers and artists around the best present and future uses of a coveted historic space. Following the proposal, creation, and final result of a mural, this documentary shows how art can work as a tool for grassroots activism and underscores the power of coalition-building to disrupt the displacing forces of privilege.

DIR Spencer Wilkinson

SCR Eric Arnold



CREAM CITY CINEMA

America's Socialist Experiment

USA / 2020 / 57 min / English

Narrated and produced by Mike Gousha, local documentarian Steve Boettcher explores how Milwaukee, of all places, elected so many socialist leaders throughout its history - and how their strong commitments to environmental responsibility, public health, and ending political corruption have endured. Through archival materials and interviews with local historians (John Gurda? check), family members of these leaders, and more, this documentary weaves a compelling history of Milwaukee's unique political fabric.

DIR Steve Boettcher

SCR Mike Trinkle, Lynn Sprangers, Michael Gousha



SOUND VISION

Billie

United Kingdom / 2020 / 96 min / English

The unforgettable singer of "God Bless the Child" and "Strange Fruit," Billie Holiday remains one of the most iconic voices in jazz. In the 1970s, journalist Linda Lipnack Kuehl began work on the definitive biography of Holiday, recording over 200 hours of interviews on cassette before Kuehl's untimely death in 1978. Featuring never-before-heard interviews from figures in Holiday's life, this documentary presents a new portrait of one of the most complex artists in music history. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR James Erskine

PROD Victoria Gregory, Barry Clark-Ewers



K RATED K: FOR KIDS

Binti

Belgium / 2020 / 90 min / Dutch with English subtitles

Our titular 12 year-old (Bebel Tshiani Baloji), a Congolese expat with eyes on vlogging superstardom, strives for normalcy as she and her father (played by Bebel's actual father, hip-hop artist Baloji) navigate life as undocumented immigrants in Belgium. When their communal flat becomes the target of a police raid, Binti and her father race headlong into a whirlwind of excitement, meeting a mother-and-son duo every bit their match. An exuberant and stylish heartwarmer made for this moment. AGES 9+

DIR Frederike Migom

PROD Katleen Goossens

SCR Frederike Migom



AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

Black Bear

USA / 2020 / 104 min / English

A filmmaker (the fantastic Aubrey Plaza) embarks on a rural retreat to recharge her creative batteries. In no time, she's pulled into the host couple's internecine drama. Things reach their boiling point, when suddenly everything we as the audience understand to be true is shaken up and tossed aside. Filled with hairpin twists and turns reminiscent of *Mulholland Dr.*, *Black Bear* is the type of movie you'll want to begin again the moment it ends.

DIR Lawrence Michael Levine

PROD Lawrence Michael Levine, Julie Christeas, Jonathan Blitstein, Richard J Bosner, Aubrey Plaza, Sophia Takal, Jai Khanna, Marina Grasic

SCR Lawrence Michael Levine



AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS **GENREQUEER**

Breaking Fast

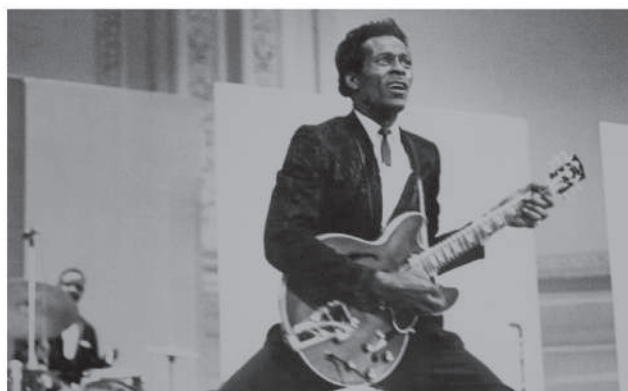
USA / 2020 / 92 min / English, Arabic with English subtitles

Mo has what seems like the perfect life. But he's left reeling after his boyfriend breaks up with him on the first night of Ramadan. He then meets Kal, who seems like the perfect guy, but could it be too good to be true? A colorful cast of characters help Mo navigate life and love in what results in both a charming rom-com and a deft dissection of navigating life as a gay Muslim American.

DIR Mike Mosallam

PROD Bay Dariz, Sarah Bazzi, Seth Hauer, Alex Lampson

SCR Mike Mosallam



SOUND VISION

Chuck Berry

United Kingdom / 2018 / 103 min / English

We all know Chuck Berry's music and his status as one of the pioneers of rock n' roll. With new and archival testimonials from Bruce Springsteen, Mick Jagger, Alice Cooper, Steven Van Zandt, and many more, this artful documentary sheds light on Berry the icon, but also unpacks his challenges with racism, policing, and legal and financial troubles. But his tender identity as a father and husband shines above it all.

DIR Jon Brewer

PROD Jon Brewer

SCR Laura Brewer, Laura Royko



GENREQUEER AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

Cicada

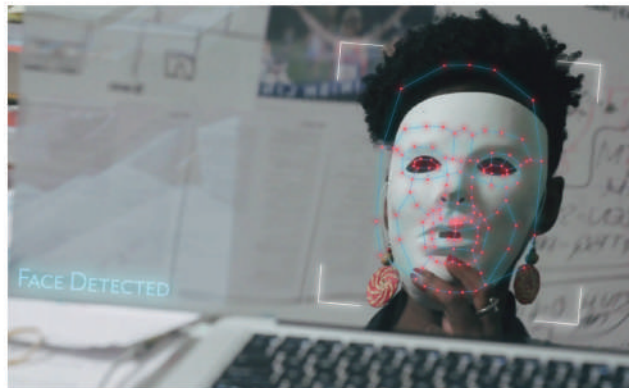
USA / 2020 / 93 min / English

After a string of failed relationships, Ben, a young bisexual, enters into an interracial relationship with Sam. Set against the backdrop of the Jerry Sandusky trial, Ben and Sam's relationship becomes a tender and tense exploration of past traumas. A stylistic tour de force that features its director and writer in the lead roles, *Cicada* blurs the line between fiction and autobiography. IndieWire calls *Cicada* "a sexy and searing act of gay self-analysis."

DIR Matthew Fifer, Kieran Mulcare

PROD Jeremy Truong, Ramsis Myrthil

SCR Matthew Fifer



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Coded Bias

USA, United Kingdom, China, South Africa / 2020 / 83 min / English

Meet Joy Buolamwini, your new favorite superhero. Shalini Kantayya's sobering and gripping documentary plays like an episode of "Black Mirror" as we meet Buolamwini, an irrepressible "poet of code" who, while working at MIT, discovers deep inaccuracies in facial recognition technology when it encounters dark-skinned or female faces. She then sets out to do something about it, forming the "Algorithmic Justice League" to combat inequities in both who codes and how technology ought to be regulated.

DIR Shalini Kantayya

PROD Shalini Kantayya, Michael Beddoes

SCR Shalini Kantayya



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Coming Clean

USA / 2020 / 110 min / English

CENTERPIECE FILM! *Coming Clean*, the latest from virtuoso documentarian Ondi Timoner, examines the opioid crisis from the inside, exploring the painful experiences of those in recovery and of policymakers working to undo the systems and industries that perpetuate - and even thrive off of - addiction. This timely documentary offers innovative solutions, while also exposing the uphill battle against the forces of corporate greed and deeply-held stigmas.

DIR Ondi Timoner

PROD Ondi Timoner, Zach Bidner, Victoria Lenas, Alexandra Parker

SCR Ondi Timoner



SOUND VISION

Crestone

USA / 2020 / 73 min / English

We are immersed in the world of internet-based SoundCloud rappers in this unique documentary about Crestone, Colorado, where a community of young Gen Z rappers grows weed, plays video games, and makes music for each other. An enigmatic group portrait of a music subculture creatively dealing with the despair of looming apocalypse, *Crestone* is a celebration of creative energy in the face of social and ecological disaster and a timely document of our current moment.

DIR Marnie Ellen Hertzler

PROD Riel Roch-Decter, Sebastian Pardo

SCR Marnie Ellen Hertzler, Corey Hughes



BLACK LENS **SOUND VISION**

Dark City: Beneath The Beat

USA / 2020 / 65 min / English

A favorite on the festival circuit, *Dark City: Beneath the Beat* presents an immersive experience into the choreography and club music that reverberate from the streets of Baltimore all the way into your living room. Far more than just a feature-length music video, director TT The Artist presents stories through dance and beats that provide a greater insight into a city often associated with "The Wire."

DIR TT The Artist

PROD Issa Rae, Deniese Davis, Astrid Rosero



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

Dinner in America

USA / 2020 / 106 min / English

If you ever wondered what it would be like if Gregg Araki directed *Napoleon Dynamite*, you're in luck! Simon (Kyle Gallner) is a punk rocker who is in and out of jail for pretty much ... everything. Patty (Emily Skeggs) is a spacey pet shop employee in arrested development, still living with her parents. Patty helps Simon evade the cops, and this odd couple becomes the most iconic pair on the run since Bonnie and Clyde.

DIR Adam Rehmeier

PROD Ross Putman, John Covert, David Hunter, Sam Slater, Ben Stiller, Nicholas Weinstock

SCR Adam Rehmeier



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Down a Dark Stairwell

USA / 2020 / 83 min / English, Cantonese, Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles

Documentarian Ursula Liang takes a new angle on police brutality, unpacking the murder of Akai Gurley, an unarmed Black man shot in a New York City public housing stairwell by police officer Peter Liang (no relation). The shooting and subsequent trial set in motion a bitter clash between two minoritized communities, with Chinese American and Black protestors each demanding equity in the eyes of the law and on the streets of the city. **WISCONSIN ONLY; AVAILABLE THROUGH 10/18**

DIR Ursula Liang

PROD Rajal Pitroda, Channele Aponte-Pearson



GENREQUEER

Dramarama

USA / 2020 / 91 min / English

At the end of summer 1994, five high school drama club friends are about to part ways for college - all except for Gene, a closeted gay kid stuck in their hometown. Before they go, the group throws a Victorian-literature-themed murder mystery party as a final send-off. But instead of revelry, they end up exposing their secrets, resentments, and fears. Filled with wit, charm, and heart, *Dramarama* is part *Breakfast Club*, part *Clue*.

WISCONSIN AND ILLINOIS ONLY

DIR Jonathan Wysocki

SCR Jonathan Wysocki



 WORLDVIEWS

Ema

Chile / 2019 / 102 min / Spanish with English subtitles

Ema is reeling as her relationship falls apart in the aftermath of an adoption gone awry. Her loss is never far from her mind as her partner (Gael García Bernal) is also the choreographer of her reggaeton dance troupe. Ema deals with her grief through a series of seemingly self-destructive decisions until it's revealed that there is a method to her madness. Ema marks Chilean director Pablo Larraín's (*Jackie*, *Neruda*) triumphant return home.

DIR Pablo Larraín

PROD Juan De Dios Larraín

SCR Pablo Larraín, Guillermo Calderón, Alejandro Moreno



 DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Epicentro

Cuba / 2020 / 108 min / English, Spanish with English subtitles

Winner of the Sundance World Cinema Documentary Grand Jury Prize, *Epicentro* is an immersive and thought-provoking documentary about Cuba through an affectionate cinephile lens. Over its history, Cuba has been influenced time and again by imperialist forces. Director Hubert Sauper posits that the very act of filmmaking can be an imperialist act and interrogates these influences with "remarkable fluidity and gracefulness that's consistently engaging and surprising." (The Hollywood Reporter)

DIR Hubert Sauper

PROD Martin Marquet, Daniel Marquet, Gabriele Kranzelbinder, Paolo Calamita

SCR Hubert Sauper



 BLACK LENS

Farewell Amor

USA / 2020 / 103 min / English, Portuguese with English subtitles

After 17 years apart, Walter, an Angolan immigrant, is joined in the U.S. by his wife and teen daughter. Now absolute strangers sharing a one-bedroom apartment, they discover that a shared love of dance may help overcome the emotional distance between them. Director Ekwa Msangi cements herself as an exciting new filmmaking talent with this deeply personal take on the immigrant story filled with music, humanity, and heart.

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Ekwa Msangi

PROD Huriyyah Muhammad, Josh Penn, Bobby Allen, Sam Bisbee, Ekwa Msangi, Joe Plummer

SCR Ekwa Msangi



 DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Finding Yingying

USA, China / 2020 / 98 min / English, Chinese with English subtitles

Chinese botany grad student Zhang Yingying arrived at the University of Illinois in April 2017. By June, she had disappeared. One part true crime and one part elegy, Yingying's former classmate Jiayan "Jenny" Shi reconstructs Yingying's homesick, tentative days in Illinois in this feature debut. Using her diary as a guide, Shi hopes not only to find some semblance of justice for a truly horrific crime, but also to capture the spirit lost.

DIR Jiayan "Jenny" Shi

PROD Jenny Shi, Brent E. Huffman, Diane Moy Quon



AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

Golden Arm

USA / 2020 / 90 min / English

Welcome to the world of the National Ladies Arm Wrestling Championship! When tough lady-trucker Danny injures her wrist in a match, she turns to her unassuming friend Melanie to take her spot in the tournament. Melanie is a natural and climbs through the ranks, but her competitors play dirty. Does Melanie have what it takes to win it all? Director Maureen Bharrocha makes her feature debut with a film that could be a lovechild between *Bridesmaids* and "GLOW."

DIR Maureen Bharrocha

PROD Geeta Bajaj

SCR Ann Marie Allison, Jenna Milly



CREAM CITY CINEMA

BLACK LENS

Growing Up Milwaukee

USA / 2020 / 115 min / English

Tyshun Wardlaw's feature documentary debut follows three young Black people growing up in the heart of our city as they grapple with daily experiences of racism and segregation, while fighting to avoid becoming a statistic. Stark yet hopeful, Wardlaw's film is essential viewing for all of Milwaukee, to see through the eyes of these young folks and build empathy around their singular, yet all too familiar, experiences.

DIR Tyshun Wardlaw



K RATED K: FOR KIDS

H is for Happiness

Australia / 2019 / 96 min / English

This instant family classic boasts a buoyant, indefatigable freckled heroine in a gloriously realized off-kilter universe. Picture Annie in "a cross between John Hughes and Wes Anderson with a soupçon of Pedro Almodóvar" (*Variety*). A few years after the death of her younger sister, 12-year-old Candice Phee enlists the precocious new kid in class and her estranged uncle to pull her family from the depths of heartbreak. Based on Barry Jonsberg's award-winning book, *My Life as an Alphabet*. AGES 10+

DIR John Sheedy

PROD Julie Ryan, Tenille Kennedy, Lisa Hoppe

SCR Lisa Hoppe



ART & ARTISTS

Helmut Newton: The Bad and the Beautiful

Germany / 2020 / 93 min / English, French, German with English subtitles

Known as the "35mm Marquis de Sade," Helmut Newton's reputation as a fashion photographer balances on the edge between exploitation and beauty. Newton's eye transformed the industry, but this documentary focuses more on how those in front of his camera felt, revealing a deeper, nuanced critique of fashion and the male gaze of the camera. Featuring interviews with Grace Jones, Anna Wintour, Isabella Rossellini and more, this is a fresh take on an artistic legend.

DIR Gero von Boehm

PROD Felix von Boehm

SCR Gero von Boehm



ART & ARTISTS

House of Cardin

France, USA / 2019 / 97 min / French, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, English with English subtitles

This fabulous documentary celebrates the iconic fashion designer Pierre Cardin. Using incredible archival footage of fashion shows and advertisements, *House of Cardin* explores the tireless work ethic of a visionary designer whose work spans from classic cinema to dressing The Beatles. Featuring interviews with Naomi Campbell, Dionne Warwick, and Alice Cooper, *House of Cardin* is a must-see for fans of fashion and pop culture history.

DIR P. David Ebersole, Todd Hughes

PROD P. David Ebersole, Todd Hughes, Cori Coppola

SCR Pablo Larraín, Guillermo Calderón, Alejandro Moreno



AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

I Used to Go Here

USA / 2020 / 80 min / English

OPENING NIGHT! Thirty-something Kate (Gillian Jacobs) has just published her first book. She should feel proud, but with all of her friends getting married and having kids, she feels like she's missing out. Things look up when she gets invited to her alma mater by her favorite professor (Jemaine Clement) to talk about her success as a writer. But her trip isn't quite the victory lap she imagines and hilarious hijinks ensue in this heartfelt crowd-pleaser from Kris Rey (*Unexpected*).

DIR Kris Rey

PROD Jordan Beckerman, Jonathan Duffy, Jordan Yale Levine, Kelly Williams

SCR Kris Rey



CINE SIN FRONTERAS WORLDVIEWS

Sin Señas Particulares (Identifying Features)

Mexico / 2020 / 94 min / Spanish with English subtitles

Magdalena's son set off on a journey across the Mexican wilderness to cross the border into the U.S. to find work. When she doesn't hear from him in many weeks, she embarks to find him herself. Her quest is a treacherous one, but Magdalena is motivated by a mother's love. Director Fernanda Valadez employs stunning, dreamlike cinematography to shape this gripping, slow-burn thriller that puts a fresh twist on an all-too-familiar border crossing narrative.

DIR Fernanda Valadez

PROD Jack Zagha Kababie, Astrid Rondero, Fernanda Valadez, Yossy Zagha

SCR Astrid Rondero, Fernanda Valadez



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

Jumbo

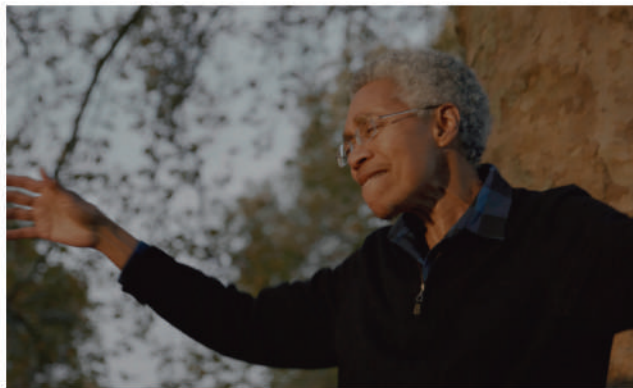
Belgium, Luxembourg / 2020 / 93 min / French with English subtitles

Jumbo is the perfect man. He's a great listener, not too chatty, and he knows how to keep things fun. Jumbo also happens to be a tilt-a-whirl. But Jeanne (Noémie Merlant, fresh off her incendiary role in *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*) is ready to take their relationship to the next level. Featuring one of the more unorthodox sex scenes ever brought to the screen, *Jumbo* is a heartfelt tale in a league of its own. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Zoé Wittock

PROD Anaïs Bertrand, Annabella Nezri, Gilles Chaniel

SCR Zoé Wittock



GENREQUEER SOUND VISION

Keyboard Fantasies: The Beverly Glenn-Copeland Story

United Kingdom / 2019 / 63 min / English

Keyboard Fantasies brings to light the obscure history of one of the greatest composers you've never heard of: Glenn Copeland. This documentary tells the story of his self-released 1986 cassette tape *Keyboard Fantasies*, how it was rediscovered generations later by Japanese record collectors, and how it inspired contemporary musicians like Four Tet and Caribou. A look into the genius of homemade music, *Keyboard Fantasies* is also a celebration of an unsung Black trans artist.

DIR Posy Dixon

PROD Liv Proctor



WORLDVIEWS

Kuessipan

Canada / 2019 / 117 min / French, Innu-aimun with English subtitles

On a Quebec Innu reservation, Shaniss and Mikuan are best friends who couldn't be more different. Shaniss has a large, loving family and wants to attend college for writing. Mikuan has lived on her own for years, raising a baby with her ne'er-do-well boyfriend. The two drift apart when Shaniss starts dating a white boy from her writing class. Adapted from Naomi Fontaine's acclaimed novel, *Kuessipan* displays the tension between chasing your dreams and staying true to where you're from. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Myriam Verreault

PROD Félize Frappier, Sylvie Lacoste, Réginald Volland

SCR Myriam Verreault, Naomi Fontaine



CINE SIN FRONTERAS

La Mami

Spain, Mexico / 2019 / 82 min / Spanish with English subtitles

This intimate documentary follows the goings-on in a single room of the legendary Barba Azul Cabaret in Mexico City. Mami, the bathroom attendant, cares for the cabaret dancers by providing comfort, heart-to-heart talks, and words of wisdom about the clientele. Also following the newest dancer, Priscilla, *La Mami* documents the safe haven of Mami's bathrooms where these dancers put on their makeup and take solace from the harsher world outside.

DIR Laura Herrero Garvin

PROD Laura Imperiale, Patricia Franquesa, Laia Zanon, Laura Herrero Garvin



CINE SIN FRONTERAS

DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Landfall

USA / 2020 / 91 min / English, Spanish with English subtitles

A conversation between a filmmaker and an activist sets the stage for a deeper exploration into the challenges Puerto Rico has faced, from the landfall of Hurricane Maria to the efforts to oust Gov. Ricardo Rosselló. This captivating documentary weaves intersecting storylines that chronicle how the hurricane's aftermath has affected the country's residents in rural and urban spaces, as well as those who seek to capitalize off of the island's tragedy.

DIR Cecilia Aldarondo

PROD Ines Hofmann Kanna, Cecilia Aldarondo



 CINEMA HOOLIGANTE  AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

Lapsis

USA / 2020 / 104 min / English

A sci-fi critique of the gig economy, *Lapsis* takes place in the not-so-distant future. Ray is a low-tech delivery man in a high-tech world. When his brother gets sick with a mysterious disease, he decides to get with the times and work as a cabler for the booming quantum computer industry. But this great opportunity turns into a vast conspiracy filled with exploitation, robots, and a grassroots rebellion that is about to take off.

DIR Noah Hutton

PROD Jesse Miller, Taylor Hess, Joseph Varca

SCR Noah Hutton



 RATED K: FOR KIDS

Marona's Fantastic Tale (L'extraordinaire voyage de marona)

France, Romania / 2019 / 92 min / French with English subtitles

The epic saga of a pup's last thoughts, sensitively told with exquisite animation on the afternoon of an accident. As she mentally revisits the owners and homes she has graced, often by chance, mixed-breed Marona's memory conjures restless and swirling landscapes of roaring color to reflect her kaleidoscope of life-changing experiences and profound emotions. *Marona's Fantastic Tale* evokes classic literary and cinematic storytelling. AGES 10+

DIR Anca Damian

PROD Anca Damian, Ron Dyens, Thomas Leyers

SCR Anghel Damian



 WORLDVIEWS

Made in Bangladesh

France, Bangladesh, Denmark, Portugal / 2019 / 95 min / English, Bengali with English subtitles

The Bengali *Norma Rae*, *Made in Bangladesh* follows Shimu and her fellow textile factory employees as they fight for their rights. After one of her co-workers dies in a factory fire, Shimu begins to learn more about the benefits of unionizing. She decides to lead the charge in union development, contrary to the wishes of her more conservative husband. But nothing can stop these women from empowering themselves against the forces of capitalism and patriarchy.

DIR Rubaiyat Hossain

PROD François D'Artemare, Ashique Mostafa, Aadnan Imtiaz Ahmed, Peter Hyldahl, Pedro Borges

SCR Rubaiyat Hossain, Philippe Barriere



 WORLDVIEWS

Martin Eden

Italy, France / 2019 / 127 min / Italian, French with English subtitles

Adapted from the 1909 novel by Jack London yet set in an unspecified moment in Italy's history, *Martin Eden* follows a proletarian man thrust into bourgeois society. Martin ingratiates himself to a wealthy family and becomes romantically involved with their daughter, Elena. She attempts to assimilate Martin into high-class culture (no easy feat). Martin finally gains recognition from the literary elite, but as he gains more influence, he realizes the bourgeoisie isn't all it's cracked up to be.

DIR Pietro Marcello

PROD Pietro Marcello

SCR Maurizio Braucci, Pietro Marcello



 DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

małni – towards the ocean, towards the shore

USA / 2019 / 82 min / English, chinuk wawa with English, chinuk wawa subtitles

At once otherworldly and familiar, this film follows Sweetwater Sahme and Jordan Mercier's wanderings as they contemplate the afterlife, rebirth, and the place in between. Spoken mostly in chinuk wawa, their stories depart from the Chinookan origin of death myth, with its distant beginning and circular shape. MFF alum Sky Hopinka returns with this feature debut, allowing the viewer to also wonder and wander as we question humanity's place alongside and within the natural world.

DIR Sky Hopinka
PROD Sky Hopinka
SCR Sky Hopinka



 DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Oliver Sacks: His Own Life

USA / 2019 / 114 min / English

Legendary neurologist and storyteller Oliver Sacks redefined our understanding of the human brain, exploring previously unknown facets of the mind. This documentary explores the life and work of Sacks, documenting his struggles with drug addiction, homophobia, and the prejudiced medical establishment that ignored his work for years. *Oliver Sacks: His Own Life* is an intimate portrait of one of the most enigmatic scientific figures of our time. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Ric Burns
PROD Leigh Howell, Bonnie Lafave, Kathryn Clinard



 SOUND VISION

Never Too Late: The Doc Severinsen Story

USA / 2020 / 85 min / English

Former pops conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Doc Severinsen is best known as the bandleader for Johnny Carson's "The Tonight Show." But even after Carson tearfully stepped off the stage in 1992, Severinsen did not stop ... and still does not stop, as the most energetic nonagenarian trumpet player you'll ever encounter. This dynamic documentary portrait will leave you breathless to keep up with Doc, even if you don't ever pick up a horn. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Kevin S. Bright, Jeff Consiglio
PROD Jeff Consiglio, Ariana Garfinkel



 DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Personhood

USA / 2019 / 80 min / English

Jo Ardinger's moving documentary explores the national impact of personhood legislation, which establishes rights for unborn fetuses often over those of the woman carrying the child. Centered in this film is the emotional legal saga of Medford, Wisconsin, resident Tammy Loertscher, whose attempts to improve her mental and physical health upon discovering her pregnancy land her in protective custody. Her fetus is given a lawyer, but she is not granted one.

DIR Jo Ardinger
PROD Jo Ardinger, Rosalie Miller



CREAM CITY CINEMA SOUND VISION

Real Soul: A Gospel Music Story

USA / 2020 / 89 min / English

Celebrating the uniquely American musical form of gospel, local director Dan Andera and co-producer Kenny Somerville take us into some of the smallest churches in our city to meet some of the biggest voices and most talented, passionate artists you could find. Vibrantly capturing the emotional core of gospel, this film carries you into the power of music to lift and mend the spirit.

DIR Daniel Andera

SCR Daniel Andera



CREAM CITY CINEMA

Ringolevio

USA / 2020 / 80 min / English

Ada is nervous: She is headed up north to meet her free-spirited girlfriend's family. As she settles in, her feeling of being out of place rises as she encounters one tradition and inside joke after another, including the game that provides the film's title. Milwaukee filmmaker Kristin Peterson's feature debut is a warm dramedy that takes this familiar feeling and turns it over to ask how humans ever really connect with one another.

DIR Kristin Peterson

SCR Kristin Peterson, Martin Kaszubowski



BLACK LENS SOUND VISION

River City Drumbeat

USA / 2019 / 95 min / English

Filmmakers Marlon Johnson and Anne Flatté follow the youth of River City Drum Corps, led by Ed "Nardie" White, throughout the city of Louisville. We learn of White's dedication to uplifting and empowering African American youth for three decades through the Drum Corps, the triumphs and tragedies he has faced, and his transitioning of the program to his successor and former student Albert.

DIR Anne Flatté, Marlon Johnson

PROD Anne Flatté, Marlon Johnson, Owsley Brown



CREAM CITY CINEMA

Scotch Tension

USA / 2020 / 97 min / English

Scotch Tension unwinds over two years in the lives of Em, who creates artisan woolens and whose spinning wheel breaks as she's about to leave her hometown for the big city, and Noah, a handyman who might be able to help. Showcasing the quiet beauty of rural Wisconsin and the subtle yet nagging hum of the desire to escape, this romantic drama explores the grit and heart of Noah and Em's relationship as the seasons turn.

DIR Grant Brown, Samuel Kasper

SCR Grant Brown, Samuel Kasper



AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS CREAM CITY CINEMA

Small Town Wisconsin

USA / 2020 / 105 min / English

Deadbeat dad Wayne is about to lose custody of his son, Tyler. Rather than sit around and feel sorry for himself, he decides to make the most of their time left together and hit the open road for a visit to the best city in the world, Milwaukee. Their hilarious and heartwarming adventure (and sometimes misadventure) features cameos from The Pfister Hotel, Miller Park, and the most delicious food in the world, Usinger's brats.

DIR Niels Mueller

SCR Jason Naczek



ART & ARTISTS

So Late So Soon

USA / 2020 / 71 min / English

Chicago artists Jackie and Don Seiden have been married for over 50 years. While Don works in more traditional media, Jackie's materials are the world she inhabits through movement and, most recently, the space inside and out of their large and colorful Rogers Park home. One of Jackie's former students, director Daniel Hymanson, lovingly immerses us in their world as they grapple with aging, revealing the same tenuousness of materiality that Jackie's art interrogates.

DIR Daniel Hymanson

PROD Trace Henderson, Josh Penn, Kellen Quinn, Noah Stahl



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Softie

Kenya / 2020 / 96 min / English, Swahili, Gikuyu with English subtitles

Winner of a Special Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival, *Softie* follows brazen and inspiring Kenyan photojournalist-turned-activist Boniface "Softie" Mwangi as he turns to a political run as a way to continue his pursuit of justice for all. Soko's documentary deftly provides a long-term view of hope in the face of corruption, though it also reveals that speaking truth to power is a hard-fought battle with few clear wins along the way.

DIR Sam Soko

PROD Sam Soko, Toni Kamau

SCR Sam Soko



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

Son of the White Mare (Fehérlófia)

Hungary / 1981 / 81 min / Hungarian with English subtitles

The psychedelic animated masterpiece from 1981 finally gets the 4K restoration it deserves. *Son of the White Mare* is based on a Hungarian folk myth about three brothers who embark on a quest to save three princesses from the evil dragons holding them captive. The film is widely regarded as the best animated film of all time and is a visual marvel. Make sure to watch it on the biggest screen in your house.

DIR Marcell Jankovics

SCR László György, Marcell Jankovics



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

STAGE: The Culinary Internship

Canada / 2019 / 78 min / English

Abby Ainsworth follows 30 young chefs, selected from over 1,500 applicants across the globe to intern in the kitchen at Mugaritz, a renowned molecular gastronomy restaurant nestled in the hills of Basque country, under the discerning eye of its founder. Witnessing this experience, known as a “stage” in the culinary world, reveals the pressures and challenges facing the next generation of rockstar chefs as they develop their inspiration, creativity, and technical skills.

DIR Abby Ainsworth**PROD** Abby Ainsworth, Lindsay Kutner**SCR** Abby Ainsworth

SOUND VISION

Stop Making Sense

USA / 1984 / 88 min / English

We weren't going to let some global pandemic keep us from our favorite tradition, so welcome to the virtual dance party. Stream our dance-party event on one screen (mute yourself, pls) and put the film on the biggest, loudest screen you've got. Don't miss this one-night only separate-but-together dance-along to the greatest concert film ever made, Jonathan Demme's *Stop Making Sense*, featuring the Talking Heads. **FILM AVAILABLE 10/24 ONLY; party starts 9 p.m. CT.**

DIR Jonathan Demme**PROD** Gary Goetzman, Gary Kurfirst**SCR** Jonathan Demme, Talking Heads

WORLDVIEWS

Summer White (Blanco de Verano)

Mexico / 2020 / 88 min / Spanish with English subtitles

Thirteen-year-old Rodrigo may not have a ton of friends, but that's OK. He has his best friend, his mother Valeria, and the warm comfort of their home on the outskirts of Mexico City. But when Valeria's new boyfriend moves in, Rodrigo must grapple with changes to this relationship, his sense of home, and his sense of self in director Rodrigo Ruiz Patterson's delicate and promising feature debut.

DIR Rodrigo Ruiz Patterson**PROD** Alejandro Cortés Rubiales**SCR** Rodrigo Ruiz Patterson, Raúl Sebastián Quintanilla

AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

Summertime

USA / 2020 / 95 min / English, Spanish, Korean with English subtitles

Director Carlos López Estrada (*Blindspotting*) returns to the craft with a fanciful and exuberant ode to Los Angeles. The stories of 25 Angelinos from all walks of life intersect in a *Slacker*-esque narrative with dialogue primarily consisting of spoken word poetry written by real-life high school performers. And while these characters could not be more different, their interconnectedness shows that it's a small world after all, even in a city of 4 million people.

DIR Carlos Lopez Estrada**PROD** Kimberly Stuckwisch, Jeffrey Soros, Alisa Tager, Simon Horsman, Diane Luby Lane**SCR** 27 Get Lit Poets, Dave Harris



 **BLACK LENS**

Sundays in July

USA / 2020 / 85 min / English

Through the lyrical poetry of actor and playwright Denise Yolen and smooth compositions from the lens of filmmaker Joseph Austin II, the film follows a young couple through three acts that take the audience through the way they initiate their romance, establish a relationship, and develop a life together. Every stage captures the levels of intimacy, vulnerability, and truth that intensify as they grow closer together.

DIR Joseph Austin II

SCR Denise Yolen



 **GENREQUEER**

Tahara

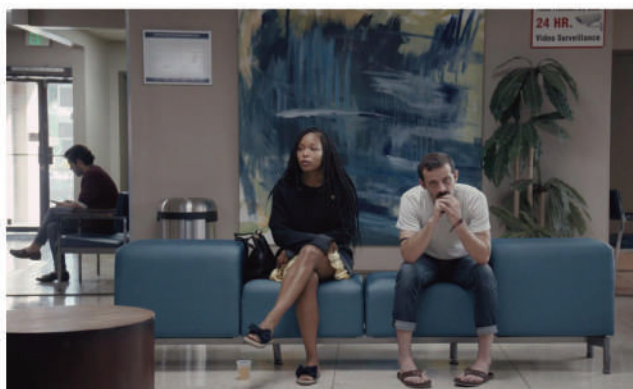
USA / 2020 / 78 min / English

Hebrew school besties Carrie and Hannah find their relationship strained when a fellow classmate commits suicide. Participating in the school's memorial service and ineffectual "teen talkback" session, the friends grapple with the volatile cocktail of emotions dredged up by their grief, navigating a burgeoning queer sexuality, teenage lust, faith, and cliques. Featuring a biting sardonic dark humor and visionary directing style, *Tahara* is an incredible debut feature announcing a new talent in director Olivia Peace.

DIR Olivia Peace

PROD Madison Ginsberg, Dasha Gorin, Mighty Oak, Jess Zeidman

SCR Jess Zeidman



 **AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS**  **BLACK LENS**

Test Pattern

USA / 2020 / 82 min / English

Renesha is having a great day. She wakes up next to her boyfriend Evan, heads to her dream job, and grabs drinks with friends. But things quickly go downhill when a flirtatious stranger drugs and sexually assaults her. The next day Evan and Renesha wade through a bog of bureaucracy to get a hospital rape kit. Reminiscent of *Never Rarely Sometimes Always*, director Shatara Michelle Ford's feature debut is a lyrical indictment of our healthcare system.

DIR Shatara Michelle Ford

PROD Shatara Michelle Ford, Pin-Chun Liu, Lee Stobby, Yu-Hao Su

SCR Shatara Michelle Ford



 **ART & ARTISTS**  **DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES**

The Capote Tapes

United Kingdom / 2019 / 98 min / English

Famed socialite author Truman Capote is at the center of this riveting documentary that sheds new light on the final days and works of one of America's towering literary figures. Based on newly discovered interviews conducted by The Paris Review co-founder George Plimpton, *The Capote Tapes* examines Capote's unfinished final novel, which caused a scandal when published excerpts exposed the secrets of a Manhattan social aristocracy that had adopted Capote as its own. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Ebs Burnough

PROD Zara Akester, Holly Whiston, Ebs Burnough, Lawrence Elman

SCR Holly Whiston, Ebs Burnough



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

The Dilemma of Desire

USA / 2020 / 108 min / English

This funny and provocative documentary challenges the double standards of women's sexuality. Women's bodies are used to sell practically everything, but women's actual desires are ignored and demonized. Following four pioneering women in the fight for "cliteracy," *The Dilemma of Desire* features a neuroscientist, an artist, a medical doctor, and an industrial designer of vibrators as they fight against male-dominated medical biases that shortchange the power of the clitoris and its role in sexual pleasure.

DIR Maria Finitzo**PROD** Maria Finitzo, Cynthia Kane, Diane Quon

DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

The Donut King

USA / 2020 / 94 min / English, Chinese, Khmer with English subtitles

Meet the Donut King: Ted Ngoy, a vivacious 77-year-old Cambodian refugee who found the American dream in the center of a doughnut. Alice Gu's remarkable debut is a peppy character study of Ngoy, wrapped in a deeper look at the refugee population's proliferation of doughnut shops in Southern California. This film serves at once as a celebration of the doughnut and a testament to the tenacity of immigrants to remake their lives in America. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Alice Gu**PROD** Farhad Amid, Alice Gu, Tom Moran**SCR** Alice Gu, Carol Martori

DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

The Disrupted

USA / 2020 / 90 min / English

Weaving together three stories about work in the 21st century, *The Disrupted* follows a laid-off union factory worker in Ohio, a rideshare driver in Florida, and a fifth-generation farmer in Kansas, all struggling to cling to the American dream. Filmed in 2017, the film loses no force in 2020, and these characters never lose hope, inspiring the viewer to look for innovative approaches to ending income inequality in our own community.

DIR Sarah Colt, Josh Gleason

DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

The Last Out

USA / 2020 / 84 min / English, Spanish with English subtitles

Because of the U.S. embargo against Cuba, aspiring ballplayers leave their country under dangerous circumstances to establish residency in South American countries. This documentary follows Happy, Carlos, and Victor, three Cuban baseball players who leave their families and risk exile in order to follow their dreams of playing in the major leagues. Hoping to sign multimillion-dollar contracts like José Abreu and Yasiel Puig, the three tenacious players risk everything in their drive for success.

DIR Michael Gassert, Sami Khan**PROD** Michael Gassert, Jonathan Miller, Sami Khan**SCR** Sami Khan



 WORLDVIEWS

The Last Tree

United Kingdom / 2018 / 98 min / English

Femi led a bucolic life in rural Lincolnshire with his foster family until his Nigerian mother shows up to take him home to live in urban London. Frustrated with his mother, Femi takes matters into his own hands to travel to Nigeria and find his long-absent father. A poignant story paired with evocative dream sequences results in a refreshingly nuanced coming-of-age film from MFF alum Shola Amoo ("Dear Mr. Shakespeare").

DIR Shola Amoo

PROD Lee Thomas, Myf Hopkins

SCR Shola Amoo



 CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

The Legend of Baron To'a

New Zealand / 2020 / 103 min / Tonga, English with English subtitles

Fritz is the son of New Zealand's most famous Tongan wrestler, Baron To'a. He's not much of a fighting man himself, so when he returns home to sell his father's house, he tries to stay neutral in the warring cul-de-sac. But when a street gang steals his father's championship belt, Fritz employs his natural-born talents to get it back. Filmed with a predominantly Tongan cast, this movie is an action-packed ode to the martial arts film tradition.

DIR Kiel McNaughton

PROD Owen Black, Kerry Warkia

SCR John Argall, Owen Black



 WORLDVIEWS

The Perfect Candidate

Saudi Arabia, Germany / 2019 / 105 min / Arabic with English subtitles

Wadja director Haifaa al-Mansour returns to her native Saudi Arabia with the inspirational story of Dr. Maryam Alsafan. It's hard enough to be a female doctor in Saudi Arabia, but when the damaged road in front of Maryam's hospital endangers inbound patients, she decides to take matters into her own hands and run for public office. She faces resistance around every corner, but with support from her endearing family and her dogged persistence, Maryam forges ahead.

DIR Haifaa Al Mansour

PROD Roman Paul, Haifaa Al Mansour, Brad Niemann, Gerhard Meixner

SCR Haifaa Al Mansour, Brad Niemann



 DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

The Reason I Jump

United Kingdom / 2020 / 82 min / English

Based on Naoki Higashida's best-selling nonfiction book of the same name, director Jerry Rothwell takes the viewer inside the experience of autism spectrum disorder, using all the cinematic tools available to create a graceful sensory experience of neurodiverse life. Like *Notes on Blindness* (MFF2016), this Sundance audience award-winning film is not to be missed if you seek to gain humane, experiential understanding of those who experience our world through different sensory lenses.

DIR Jerry Rothwell

PROD Jeremy Dear, Stevie Lee

SCR Naoki Higashida



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

The Reunited States

USA / 2020 / 82 min / English

Follow four Americans as they travel the country in an effort to bridge political division. From Susan Bro, reluctantly called to activism after losing daughter Heather Heyer in Charlottesville, to Milwaukeean Steven Olikara, founder of the Millennial Action Project, they all seek to mend division and find the human bond that crosses the aisles of our partisan nation. This film is a balm before Election Day, reminding us that even within division, connection is possible.

DIR Ben Rekhi

PROD Sol Tryon



WORLDVIEWS

The Tobacconist (Der Trafikant)

Germany, Austria / 2018 / 113 min / German with English subtitles

Seventeen-year-old Franz moves to Vienna to work in a tobacco shop and hits the jackpot when he becomes close friends with none other than Sigmund Freud (played by Bruno Ganz in one of his final on-screen roles). Freud helps Franz navigate his new romantic feelings for music-hall dancer Anezka, all while the shadow of Nazi invasion looms over the horizon, in this tender adaptation of the international bestseller by Robert Seethaler.

DIR Nikolaus Leytner

PROD Dieter Pochlatko, Jakob Pochlatko, Ralf Zimmermann

SCR Nikolaus Leytner, Klaus Richter



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

The Twentieth Century

Canada / 2019 / 90 min / English

Turn-of-the-century Canadian history might not sound like your typical Hooligante fare, but Mackenzie King's quest to become prime minister of Canada is hands-down one of the wildest films of the year. Imagine a film with the hyperstylization of Guy Maddin, the hilarious subversion of John Waters, and the whimsy of "Pee-Wee's Playhouse." But you don't have to imagine because you can watch *The Twentieth Century*.

DIR Matthew Rankin

PROD Ménaïc Raoul, Gabrielle Tougas-Frechette

SCR Matthew Rankin



WORLDVIEWS

To the Ends of the Earth

Japan, Uzbekistan, Qatar / 2019 / 120 min / Japanese, Uzbek with English subtitles

Yoko is the sunny host of a Japanese travel variety show, and the newest episode will follow her journey through Uzbekistan. Whether she's hunting for a mythical fish in a man-made lake or riding the slingshot ride at a carnival over and over again, Yoko has to grin and bear it for the public's entertainment. Even though she can't understand anything going on around her, her trip ultimately becomes a journey in self-discovery.

DIR Kiyoshi Kurosawa

PROD Jason Gray, Eiko Mizuno Gray, Toshikazu Nishigaya

SCR Kiyoshi Kurosawa



WORLDVIEWS GENREQUEER

Twilight's Kiss (Suk Suk)

Hong Kong SAR China / 2019 / 92 min / Cantonese with English subtitles

What begins as a casual hook-up quickly becomes a tender romance when Pak, a 70-year-old taxi driver, begins falling in love with Hoi, a 65-year-old retiree. But there's a hitch: Both men have kept their sexuality a secret for the sake of their traditional families. A compassionate examination of aging and post-retirement reckoning with one's own heart, *Twilight's Kiss* is an endearing portrait of the day-to-day lives of two men in love.

DIR Ray Yeung

PROD Michael J. Werner, Teresa Kwong, Sandy Yip, Chowlee Leow

SCR Ray Yeung



WORLDVIEWS GENREQUEER

Two of Us

France, Luxembourg, Belgium / 2019 / 95 min / French with English subtitles

Nina and Madeleine have a sweeping romance that spans decades. In their old age, they live quiet lives with side-by-side units in their lavish apartment building. But their love has remained a secret, and Madeleine's refusal to come out to her daughter complicates matters when a shocking development shakes up their lives. Director Filippo Meneghetti brings this tender drama to the screen to prove that true love conquers all.

DIR Filippo Meneghetti

PROD Elise André, Donato Rotunno, Patrick Quinet, Stéphane Quinet

SCR Filippo Meneghetti, Malysone Boverasmy



BLACK LENS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Unapologetic

USA / 2020 / 83 min / English

Ashley O'Shay's riveting documentary centers on Janae, a doctoral student, and Bella, an aspiring rapper and poet, who are at the forefront of the Movement for Black Lives in Chicago. *Unapologetic* follows them and other young Black women who work tirelessly to confront the police advisory board, the mayor's office, and other institutions as they seek justice for victims of police-involved killings such as Rekia Boyd and Laquan McDonald.

DIR Ashley O'Shay

PROD Ashley O'Shay, Morgan Elise Johnson



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Us Kids

USA / 2020 / 98 min / English

Following the March for Our Lives movement, Kim A. Snyder's documentary explores how tragedy can transform into action and the power of youth voice. Joining Parkland figures like Emma González and David Hogg, Milwaukee's own Bria Smith seeks to expand the gun control platform beyond school shootings to also address community violence and structural racism. A powerful film about the capacity of youth and the potential of organizing to create action and change.

DIR Kim A. Snyder

PROD Kim A. Snyder, Maria Cuomo Cole, Lori Cheatle



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

We Don't Deserve Dogs

USA / 2020 / 84 min / Spanish, Luo, Italian, Turkish, Urdu, Finnish, Romanian, Vietnamese, Nepali, English with English subtitles

This heartwarming documentary asks why humans have earned the unconditional love that dogs give us. Filming companionships from around the globe, *We Don't Deserve Dogs* is a portrait of the human connection to canines. This kaleidoscopic film moves from former child soldiers in Uganda, to a small-town pub in Scotland, to a dog walker in Istanbul. *We Don't Deserve Dogs* is a beautifully photographed ode to man's best friend – perfect for your dog's first film festival experience.

DIR Matthew Salleh

PROD Rose Tucker



WORLDVIEWS

GENREQUEER

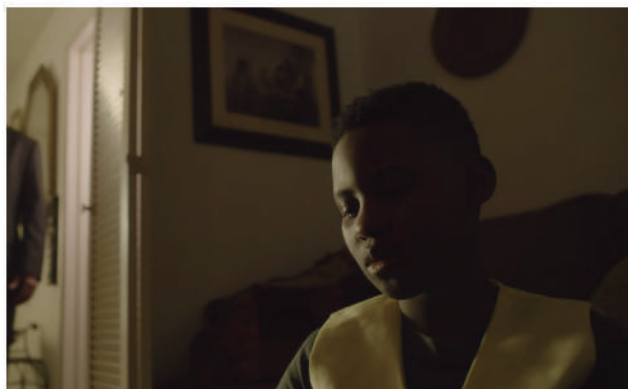
Welcome to the USA

Kazakhstan / 2019 / 95 min / Kazakh, Russian with English subtitles

Aliya is a 30-something lesbian living in Kazakhstan who unexpectedly wins the green card lottery. Now she's faced with the prospect of a new life in America or staying behind for her family. Highlighting the drama of everyday life, *Welcome to the USA* is an intimate look at the choices queer people must make between tradition and the new. This must-see queer film is an incredible debut from newcomer Assel Aushakimova.

DIR Assel Aushakimova

Short Films



BLACK LENS

Black Lens Shorts: Exploration & Introspection

Total running time: 86 min

These powerful stories feature fictional characters and actual people as they discover aspects of their personalities they did not know exist, or learn of people and places that they find to be insightful and inspirational. These become gateways to love, inner peace, and new possibilities.

The Cypher Letia Solomon

A Galaxy Sits in the Cracks Amber Love

The Last Starship Eric Haywood

Tender Felicia Pride

Origin of Hair Carrie Hawks

Queenie Cai Thomas



Black Lens Shorts: Preserving & Combating Memory

Total running time: 117 min

Black Lens Shorts: Preserving & Combating Memory contains narratives that struggle with whether memory is friend or foe. Characters confront memory in the form of abandonment and exploitation, and seek to determine what they should learn from it, how they have been harmed, and what they should cast aside forever.

Black Boy Joy Martina Mossell Lee

Buck Elegance Bratton, Jovan James

Echoes of a Winter Sunshine Oniffe White

Junebug Winter Dunn

Keon E.G. Bailey

-Ship: A Visual Poem Terrance Daye

A Storybook Ending Lanre Olabisi



GenreQueer Shorts: Experimental Visions

Total running time: 70 min

Queer filmmakers have often been pioneers of technique, pushing the boundaries of film to express uniquely queer visions of the world. This collection spotlights eight groundbreaking works that transform simple definitions of identity. Spanning topics of heartbreak, mental health, pleasure, and desire, this shorts program is guaranteed to surprise and inspire.

#GAYBOY2020 Noah Causey

Happy Ahmadreza Mousavi

Healing Me Lauren Neal

-Ship: A Visual Poem Terrance Daye

Solarity Marianne Verrone

Speak Easy, B Becca Park, Jun Shimizu

Umbilical Danski Tang

When Night Falls (Quand La Nuit Tombera) Alexandre Lechasseur-Dubé



GenreQueer Shorts

Total running time: 80 min

From Black queer rappers to aspiring Instagram influencers, this GenreQueer shorts program explores present-day queer triumphs and struggles. Centering the everyday realities of navigating the world as queer, these films highlight the spectrum of the contemporary queer experience.

Buck Elegance Bratton, Jovan James

Content Chris Coats

The Gift (O Presente) Daniel Wierman

La Gloria Mary Evangelista

Where My Girls Mads Engel



Kids Shorts: Size Large

Total running time: 92 min

This triumphant collection of short films appeals to and honors kids' ability to inspire and care deeply. Stories like a boy helping his grandfather in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, an all-girl robotics team competing in a male-dominated field, and a worm working on loving herself in a butterfly world are in turns galvanizing and hopeful. AGES 10+

3feet Giselle Geney

100 Years of Music: Trudy and the LA Phil Jamie Thalman

The Blue Cape (La Capa Azul) Alejandra López

The Butterfly Affect Stephanie Blakey

En Route Marit Weerheijm

It's All Gravy (Avec le Do de la Cuillère) Laurent Wassouf, Clément Crosnier, Edgard Cros, Theoline Chapas, Nolwenn Pétereau, Nedellec Anouk, Lucas Ancel

Mahalia Melts in the Rain Emilie Mannering, Carmine Pierre-Dufour

The Missfits Ellie Wen

The Quintet of the Sunset (日落五重奏 Rìluò wǔ chóngzòu) Jie Weng

Shy & Ketchup Teresa Romo

Selfish PoChien Chen

Wash Day Jaida Salmon



K RATED K: FOR KIDS

Kids Shorts: Size Medium

Total running time: 81 min

This quietly stirring collection of live-action and animated shorts reveals the extraordinary in the everyday. From an expedition for narwhals to one not far from home, from household objects that have a life of their own to children philosophizing, these films carry a sense of wonder, a soft glow you may still remember from your own childhood. AGES 6+

Ailín on the Moon (Ailín en la luna) Claudia Ruiz

And yet we are not super-heroes (On est pas près d'être des super héros) Lia Bertels

Boriya Min Sung Ah

The Magic of Chess Jenny Schweitzer Bell

Northern Lights (Au pays de l'aurore boreale) Caroline Attia

The Size of Things (El Tamaño de las Cosas) Carlos Felipe Montoya

Wild Lea (Lea Salvaje)

María Teresa Salcedo Montero

winter (l'inverno) Gurli Bachmann



K RATED K: FOR KIDS

Kids Shorts: Size Small

Total running time: 61 min

Foster a lifelong cinematic obsession for your youngest. This enchanting collection of animated shorts lends glimpses to unseen worlds and otherworldly beings - a nocturnal orchestra of fauna, a supernatural lynx, indomitable dragons - and, at their most poignant, show stories of loss, longing, and reunion. A sweet celebration of music and color, wonder and love. AGES 3+

Beware the wolf! (Attention Au Loup) Nicolas Bianco-Levrin

Cat Lake City Antje Heyn

Elsa and the Night (Sigrid och natten) Jöns Mellgren

Gunpowder Romane Faure, Nathanael Perron, Léa Detrain, Benoît de Geyer d'Orth, Pei-Hsuan Lin, Anne-Lise Kubiak

The Kite (Šarkan) Martin Smatana

The Little Wide-Mouthed Frog (La Petite Grenouille a grande bouche) Celia Tocco

A Lynx in the Town (Un lynx dans la ville) Nina Bisiarina

Maestro Illogic

ShalaBonBon Yoko Yuki

winter (l'inverno) Gurli Bachmann



SHORTER IS BETTER

Shorts: Date Night

Total running time: 76 min

Strap in for a rollercoaster of emotions! Oh the things we do for love - sometimes we regret it now, sometimes we regret it later. New or tried and true, everyone's just looking for a connection in life.

A Better You Eamonn Murphy

Blocks Bridget Moloney

Marcy Learns Something New Julia Kennelly

A Portrait of Frances, Enclosed Katie Schiller, Jacob Levy

Single Ashley Eakin

We Want Our Money Back Ethan Mermelstein



SHORTER IS BETTER

Shorts: Grab Bag 2020

Total running time: 81 min

This one has it all: family drama, robots making pasta, and who put the hit out on the hitman? For die-hard shorts fans or those that have never attended, this is the perfect way to get your quick fix of outstanding cinema.

Black Goat Tang Yi

Broken Orchestra Charlie Tyrell

The Last Ferry From Grass Island Linhan Zhang

Tapes Dara Katz, Betsy Kenney

TOTO Marco Baldonado

Welcome to a Bright White Limbo Cara Holmes

Zoe and Hanh Kim Tran



SHORTER IS BETTER

Shorts: Let's Get Animated

Total running time: 69 min

No matter what visual form your imagination takes, these animated shorts will bring it to life with their eclectic mix of styles. A feast for the eyes telling heartfelt stories ranging in themes from the personal to the silly, this is a can't-miss program in the fest!

Average Happiness Maja Gehrig

The Coin Siqi Song

The Dream Report Jack O'Shea

Friends Florian Grolig

Hudson Geese Bernardo Britto

Inès Élodie Dermange

Into the Flame Sean McClintock

Jesa Kyungwon Song

Kapaemahu Hinalaimoana

Wong-Kalu Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson

The Shawl Sara Kiener

Something to Remember

(Något att minnas) Niki Lindroth

von Bahr

Umbilical Dansk Tang



SHORTER IS BETTER

Shorts: Stranger Than Fiction

Total running time: 80 min

We've got the best bang for your buck for all you doc fans out there. You get stories about female warriors protecting animals against poachers, the first stop for someone just out of jail, a jazz tribute/celebration of life, and the unexpected friendship between a prisoner and a guard. Documentary paradise!

Akashinga: The Brave Ones Maria Wilhelm

Dieorama Kevin Staake

Huntsville Station Chris Filippone, Jamie Meltzer

My Brother's Keeper Laurence Topham

Space Clouds Tally Abecassis

Sundays at the Triple Nickel Jess Colquhoun



SHORTER IS BETTER

Shorts: Surprise, Surprise!

Total running time: 80 min

Who doesn't like finding a surprise in their shorts? This year's program features a tale of two Hannahs, a monster in your closet, a story of being stranded at sea, an accident that changes everything, a meeting from the past that sends the future spiraling, and that little voice in your head which might not be so little. Surprise!

Hannahs India Donaldson

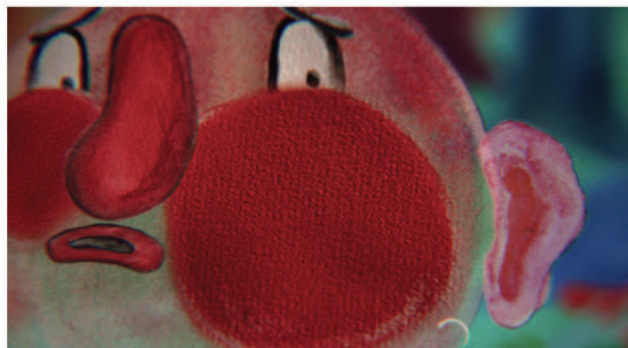
He's the One Jessie Kahnweiler

I'll End Up in Jail (Je finirai en prison) Alexandre Dostie

The Voice in Your Head Graham Parkes

Wally Wenda Diane Russo

Your Monster Caroline Lindy



SHORTER IS BETTER

Shorts: The Best Damn F*#@ing Midnight Program Ever. Sh*t.

Total running time: 85 min

If there's one shorts program to watch in these trying times we call the year 2020, it's this program. Whether you start watching at midnight or not, just close your eyes, click your heels twice and enjoy the depravity these shorts have to offer.

Diabla Ashley George

I Love Your Guts David Janove

Little Miss Fate Joder von Rotz

Lobster Tits Jessica Guerra

The Motorist Ciaran Lyons

Regret Santiago Menghini

Wood Child and Hidden Forest Mother Stephen Irwin



K RATED K: FOR KIDS

Teen Shorts: Juniors

Total running time: 72 min

This shorts program for teens is a visually stunning journey through the space between real and unreal, self and other, and the new worlds the film's subjects bring into being. Shimmering with dreamlike landscapes, captivating stop-motion, and heart-stirring live action, these stories depict teens who - through science, language, food, hair, and family - find courage in vulnerability, traveling afar to embrace what's within. AGES 13+

Accents Robertino Zambrano

The Coin Siqi Song

Esperança (Esperança)

Cécile Rousset, Jeanne Paturle,
Benjamin Serero

**For Stefani, Third Grade, Who
Made Me A Card** Jordan Bruner

Genius Loci Adrien Mérigeau

The Missfits Ellie Wen

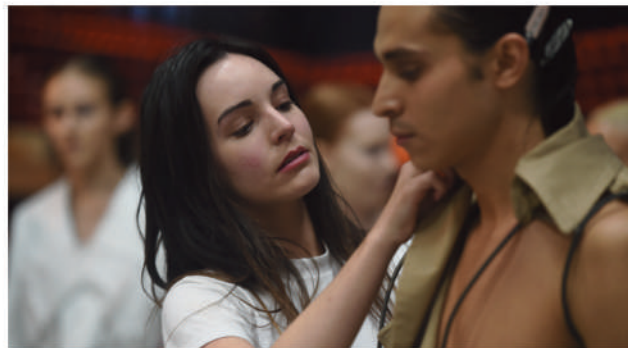
The One You Never Forget

Morgan Jon Fox

Shy & Ketchup Teresa Romo

Wild Woman Vanessa Sweet

Wash Day Jaida Salmon



CREAM CITY CINEMA

The Milwaukee Show

Total running time: 110 min

What would the Milwaukee Film Festival be without *The Milwaukee Show*? Every year one of our hottest tickets, this one had to go virtual. So we've packed two programs full of the best short fiction and documentary films, experimental works, and music videos made by your fellow Milwaukeeans.

Crabs! Benjamin A. Eisner

Fuzzysurf - "Killing Time" Joe Ludwig, Tommy Simms

Homecoming Cynthia Eggert Johnson

I've Been Afraid Cecelia Condit

Lady Cannon - "Back to the Top" Andy Jensen

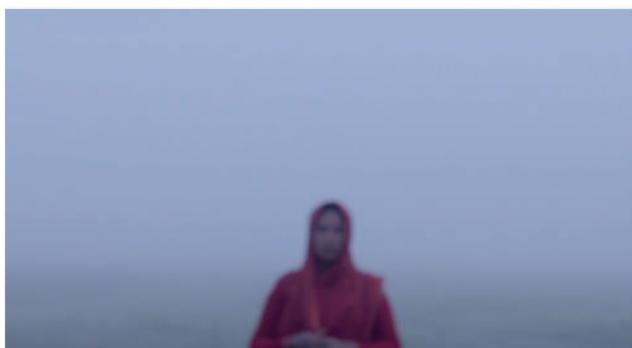
One Week Danny Gold

Ray Nitti Presents "Champion Style: A Jade Charon Dance Film"

Jade "Charon" Robertson

Sold Down the River Karen Erbach Lawlor

What You Left Behind Jayce Kolinski



CREAM CITY CINEMA

The Milwaukee Show II

Total running time: 88 min

The second of our two local shorts programs, *The Milwaukee Show II* packs no less of a punch than the first. Might as well make it a double feature! Settle into your couch and revel in the best work from our own homegrown talent.

Blackbird, Fly Jay Winters

Dad's Apple Emir Cakarov

Lenore Tawney: Mirror of the Universe Valerie Lazalier, Andrew Swant

Lunch Date Jenny Higgins

MIIV - "Suburban" Callan Thomas, Saint A

Mini Meltdowns - "I Wanna Die" Nick Sommer

Nasty Heaven Cecilia Elsbernd

Song of Clouds Ankit Poudel

Stolen Apes - Buanoi Colin Sytsma

TeawhYB - "Cherry on Top" Randy Lorenz, Tyler Baumgart



WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21

Available from 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. ONLY

Yup, this great Festival tradition is going virtual! Like other years, our Members will get an email asking them to RSVP to this film - and we'll have a limited number of seats (or in this case, views) available. The lucky Members who RSVP first will get an access code emailed to them at 4 p.m. on Oct. 21 with detailed instructions on how to watch.

We know there's a global pandemic and the world is all weird and stuff, but NO, you can't find out the title in advance. Call it our October surprise ... except good.

About Milwaukee Film

Milwaukee Film is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to entertaining, educating, and engaging our community through cinematic experiences, with a vision to make Milwaukee a center for film culture.

We operate the magnificent Oriental Theatre, a historic cinema palace committed to high-quality and accessible film and education programming. Since 2009, the annual Milwaukee Film Festival has brought together film fans and filmmakers to celebrate the power of cinema. Our education programs and Cultures and Communities initiative provide avenues toward making our community a more empathetic and equitable place for everyone to live.



Milwaukee Film Festival (MFF)

The cornerstone of Milwaukee Film's programs, our annual Milwaukee Film Festival attracted more than 87,000 attendees into packed cinemas last year. (Remember when we could do that?) Recognized in 2019 by Moviemaker Magazine as one of the Coolest Film Festivals in the World, MFF is also the largest arts event in the city. MFF has served to elevate Milwaukee's film industry, as well as bring world-class films and filmmakers to local audiences. It's a celebration of film, arts, and culture unlike anything else in our community.

Oriental Theatre

Since getting the keys in 2018, Milwaukee Film has worked to revitalize and restore our city's historic cinema palace, the Oriental Theatre. In 2019, we fully restored one of the three houses inside the theater, replaced the lobby concessions stand, and still showed nearly 250 film titles outside of MFF. After the theater closed in March due to the coronavirus pandemic, we began our next phase of renovations, working to restore much of the theater's other two houses. We can't wait for the day when we can all enjoy this gem of a building together again.



Cultures and Communities

Milwaukee Film has established a new Cultures and Communities initiative as we seek to engage our entire community in our mission and programs. This initiative serves to advance programs such as Black Lens, Cine Sin Fronteras, and GenreQueer, as well as create new platforms to elevate diverse voices and experiences. The Minority Health Film Festival, which just completed its second year, showcased 50 films over 15 days, while extending the conversation on health across families, communities, and institutions.



Education

Beyond screening movies, Milwaukee Film's vision is to foster deeper audience engagement with film and to serve our community. Our education programs are critically important elements of this work. Whether it's 8-year-olds or 80-year-olds, film professionals or professional film fans, educators or students, participants in our education programs are part of the lasting impact we seek to have on our community.

Milwaukee Film Staff

Leadership

Jonathan Jackson
Chief Executive Officer

Geraud Blanks
Cultures and
Communities Director

Kristen C. Heller
Chief Operating Officer

Jason Koehler
Chief Financial Officer

Sebastian Mei
Chief Marketing &
Development Officer

Cara Ogburn, Ph.D.
Artistic Director

Cultures and Communities

Aster Gilbert
GenreQueer Coordinator

Jeanette Martín
Cine Sin Fronteras
Co-Programmer

Donte McFadden
Black Lens Programmer

Tyanna McLaurin
Black Lens Community
Relations Coordinator

Maureen Post
Community Engagement,
Partnerships, &
Events Manager

Ranell Washington
Black Lens
Development Coordinator

Development

Dana Reinos
Grants and Special
Projects Coordinator

Rachel Vander Weit
Development Manager

Education

Marielle Allschwang
Education Manager

Molly Veh
MFA Manager

Marketing and Communications

Kaitlin Erickson
Marketing Assistant

Haven Falk
Creative Services Manager

Tom Fuchs
Digital Media Manager

Gabriella Griffith
Marketing Coordinator

Karina Henderson
Marketing Director

Akila Ingvoldstad
Membership Coordinator

Kristopher Pollard
Membership Manager

Operations

Andy Helmkamp
Cinema
Operations Manager

Kelsey Parks
Lead Technician

Ryan Putskey
Cinema Manager

Kevin Rice
Technical Director

Jamie Webb
Operations Coordinator

Programming

Kerstin Larson
Programming Director

Anna Sampers
Programming
Administrative Director

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HEART IS.

We know giving back is an important piece of your financial plan because it's an important part of our business plan, too. Associated Bank colleagues have volunteered more than 73,000 hours, and 1% of all our profits go back to local charities. So whatever your goals are for giving back to the place you love, our wealth management team will help you fulfill them.

[AssociatedBank.com/Wealth-Management](https://www.associatedbank.com/Wealth-Management)

