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
Hello Film Fans!

It’s appropriate that, for our first-ever spring Milwaukee Film Festival, the significance of the season is stronger than it’s ever been.

Our world is opening up, and our thoughts are once again wandering beyond the confines of anxiety and isolation that have defined the past 14 months. Though we’re not yet to the point of safely welcoming crowds to a packed house at the Oriental Theatre, we can envision a time in the not-too-distant future when that will be happening again.

In the meantime, we are incredibly pleased to bring you the 13th annual Milwaukee Film Festival, presented by Associated Bank.

Though we’re still virtual, the stories shared through this year’s films have real impact. There’s something for everyone – compelling documentaries, soaring features, quirky shorts, stories from distant shores, and local treasures.

When you look at our films, it’s amazing to see how the film industry – and Milwaukee Film itself – have endured through a year when nearly everything we took to be normal was suddenly out of reach. Both filmmaking and film viewing are community endeavors that compel us to gather in a pandemic. But that hasn’t been the case at all, and it’s a testament to the unstoppable nature of the creative spirit.

On the cover, our bright and beautiful Festival artwork shines like the light at the end of a tunnel. We wanted to lean into our hopes and aspirations this year, so we asked Wisconsin artist Monique Machut to help our audience feel like they could “see the world” through our films. The optimism we hold for the coming months radiates off the page and makes us want to immediately pack our bags.

Before you dust off your passport, let’s take 15 days to settle into the comfiest seat in the house and watch for a location where we want to go next. We can’t wait for you to dive into this year’s films and events, and we really, really can’t wait to see you all again in person … soon.

Thank you for your continued support of Milwaukee, of film, and of Milwaukee Film. Our Festival wouldn’t be here without your generosity.

Jonathan Jackson
CEO

Ken Krei
Board Chair

Board of Directors

Board Chair
Ken Krei
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John P. Bania
Alexander P. Fraser
Patti Keating Kahn
Tracey L. Klein
Members
Chris Abele
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Marianne Lubar
Kristina Bell
Elizabeth Brenner
Susan Mikulay
Lori Brissette
Kenneth W. Muth
Kathryn Murphy Burke
Joseph A. Rock
Héctor Colón
Kimberly Walker
Karen Ellenbecker
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Susan Haise
Katie Heil
Kathleen M. Johnson
Karine M. Koss Jr.
Emilia Layden
Alexander Lasry
Steve Laughlin
Michael R. Lovell
Joan Lubar
Steve Mech
Mark Mone
Heidi Moore
John Ridley
Lacey Sadoff
Dave Stamm
James E. Stoll
Julia Taylor
John Utz
Emeritus Members
Tom Barrett
Jacqueline Strayer

Annual Fund
Milwaukee Film began in 2009 as primarily 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, and community.

We are committed to enriching, educating, and entertaining our community through film presentations, signature events, and year-round education programs for all ages. Our incredibly generous Annual Fund supporters provide us the visionary support we need to fulfill our mission and continue to thrive.

Luminary / $100K+
Bader Philanthropies, Inc
Donald and Doña Baumgartner
Herzfeld Foundation
Marianne and Sheldon Lubar
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Argo Foundation
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Innovator / $20K+
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John Axford
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Johnson Controls Foundation
Kelben Foundation, Inc
Nicholas Family Foundation
Lacey Sadoff Foundation
Ken and Kate Muth
Cynthia and Jim Stoll
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Werner Family Foundation

Annual Fund
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.

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.”
SPONSORED BY: Wisconsin Public Radio

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, Chicana, 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.
SPONSORED BY: Telemundo Wisconsin

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.
PRESENTED BY: Heil Family Foundation
SPONSORED BY: Milwaukee Magazine

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.
PRESENTED BY: Johnson Controls Foundation

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

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.
SPONSORED BY: Milwaukee Record

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 3–12 years.

“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.
PRESENTED BY: Lacey Sadoff Foundation
SPONSORED BY: WMSE 91.7 FM

Teen Screen
The act of becoming is a challenging and complex one that all of us have to go through. Hand-picked by our Teen Screen Selection Committee, this array of fiction, documentary, feature, and short films deeply investigates, while lifting up, the stories of young people who have vastly different lives but are all working towards one common goal: becoming the truest and most genuine versions of themselves.
– Blair Martin, Teen Screen Selection Committee

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.
PRESENTED BY: Marianne and Sheldon Lubar

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.
PRESENTED BY: John Arford
SPONSORED BY: Urban Milwaukee, WUWM 89.7 FM – Milwaukee’s NPR

Cream City Cinema
Show some hometown pride and local support at our annual showcase of the best new work from Milwaukee-area filmmakers.
PRESENTED BY: John Arford
SPONSORED BY: Urban Milwaukee, WUWM 89.7 FM – Milwaukee’s NPR

Television
Wisconsin Public Television and Listen WPT are sponsors of your local Milwaukee Film Festival. For more information visit: WPT.org/MFF2021

All photos courtesy of Sylvestre Photography
How to Fest

Your 2021 calendar is going to look a little different this year. This spring, see the world and discover something amazing at our virtual 13th annual Milwaukee Film Festival.

Who Can Watch?

Whether you have a pass or you’re planning to select one film at a time, you’re a part of MFF2021.

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 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.

When to Watch?

Most films will be available throughout the Festival.

If you have a ticket, you can view your film up to 48 hours from the time you start watching. Passholders can view at their leisure, dependent on availability. A couple of titles have special restrictions; those films are clearly marked in the film descriptions.

The Milwaukee Film Festival turns back into a pumpkin at 11:59 p.m. CT on Thursday, May 20, 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.

How to Watch?

Watching our films is easy! You can watch any film on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Or download our app and watch on your TV through:

- Amazon Fire TV
- Roku
- Android TV

If you don’t have any of those platforms for your TV, but you do have a laptop and an HDMI cable, that’s a reliable way to get our films on your TV.

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 instructions via email on how to set up your login details. Once you’ve downloaded the app of your choice, you can pair the app with your pass, and log in directly through the app. If you’re not using an app, go to watch.mkefilm.org and log in there.

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!

TICKETS

Tickets to single films are available starting at 12 p.m. CT on Thursday, May 6 through mkefilm.org/mff.

1. Click on “FILMS” to view the full listings.
2. Click “view more” on the film you want to see, then click the “purchase ticket” button.
3. After you check out, click the “watch online” link from your receipt or use your voucher code to watch through one of our apps or at watch.mkefilm.org, after clicking “watch online” you have 48 hours to complete the film.

EVENTS

Our events will be streamed through CineSend, as well as to the Milwaukee Film YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter pages.

- youtube.com/mkefilm
- @mkefilm

Events will take place throughout the Festival; full listings are at mkefilm.org/mff/events.

More Questions?

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

Join us nightly at 8 p.m. CT on CineSend, Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter for The Nightcap, a talk-show style live Q&A series, presented by The Yabuki Family Foundation.
Feature Films

25 Weeks: A Wisconsin Pizza Harvest
USA / 2021 / 56 min / English
Watch as farmer, filmmaker, and general Renaissance man Charlie Tennessen takes archival wheat seeds from planting to harvest with the help of his trusty barncats and three lovely donkeys. This meditative journey across 25 weeks (winter to autumn 2020) of weather, hard work, and persistence will make you appreciate food on a whole new level. Come for the pizza, but stay for the bucolic slice of life lived at a deliberate pace.

DIR Charlie Tennessen
SCR Charlie Tennessen

Anatomy of Wings
USA / 2020 / 84 min / English
This documentary chronicles the 12-year journey of a program in Baltimore who meet regularly for a video production class. An opportunity for the girls in the community to use media technology to document their lives and surroundings ultimately leads to learning the lessons of collaboration and unity to address issues of racial justice, gender identity, educational access, and socioeconomic inequality.

DIR Nikki Redmond, Kirsten D’Andrea Hollander
PROD Jane Cottis
SCR Maryam Touzani

Best Summer Ever
USA / 2020 / 72 min / English
We have the shot in the arm you’ve been waiting for and it’s not even a vaccine! Best Summer Ever is part Grease, part Glee, and 100% unadulterated fun. Featuring eight infectious original songs and a fully integrated cast and crew of people with and without disabilities, Best Summer Ever is the perfect way to shake off quarantine doldrums. AUDIO DESCRIPTION VERSION AVAILABLE

DIR Michael Parks Randa, Lauren Smitelli
PROD Terra Mackintosh, Andrew Pikington, Leah Romond, Jesse Sharless, Katie White
SCR Will Halby, Terra Mackintosh, Michael Parks Randa, Andrew Pikington, Lauren Smitelli

Baby
Spain / 2021 / 103 min / No Dialogue
Baby is a dark fairy tale about an addict mother who, in desperation, sells her newborn to traffickers. She quickly regrets the decision and ventures into an eerie forest to get him back. Inspired by Guillermo del Toro and the Brothers Grimm, Basque filmmaker Juanna Bajo Ulloa constructs a world that is equal parts grotesque and beautiful. This macabre tale is told entirely without dialogue and stars Rosie Day (Outlander), Harriet Sansom Harris (Desperate Housewives), and Natalia Tena (Game Of Thrones, Harry Potter).

DIR Juanna Bajo Ulloa
PROD Juanna Bajo Ulloa
SCR Juanna Bajo Ulloa, Elisa Marinas

Beans
Canada / 2020 / 92 min / English
Based on true events, Beans chronicles the 78-day standoff between two Mohawk communities and government forces in 1990 Quebec through the eyes of a 12-year-old girl played by up-and-coming actress Kiawentlo. Director Tracey Deer uses the coming of age genre to bring this little known piece of Canadian history to the foreground in a time when it is still all too relevant.

AGES 14+ WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Tracey Deer
PROD Anne-Marie Gélinas
SCR Tracey Deer, Meredith Vuchrich
**Bleeding Audio**

USA / 2020 / 93 min / English

Bleeding Audio follows the Bay Area punk band The Matches from high school garage origins to their national breakout (touring with the Plain White Ts and signing to Epitaph), through their painful break up, and culminates in their inspiring reunion all through the shifts of the music industry in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Propelled by the intense love of their fans throughout, this documentary reveals that “success” in the music industry might not be as obvious as one thinks.

**WISCONSIN ONLY**

*DIR* Chelsea Christler  
*PROD* Erin Persley, Chelsea Christler, Jannette Bivona

![Image](image-url)

**Call Me Human**

Canadas / 2020 / 78 min / French, Innu-aumun with English subtitles

In Josephine Bacon’s language, Innu means “human,” and there is no word for “poet.” But Bacon has traversed and redefined these paradoxical identifiers exquisitely throughout her life, which we get to follow intimately in Kim O’Bomsawin’s Call Me Human. In this enchanting portrait of the legendary septuagenarian author, songwriter, and documentary filmmaker, Bacon tours the tremendous landscapes that have shaped her people’s language, culture, and traditions, whose preservation has been her life’s work. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

*DIR* Kim O’Bomsawin  
*PROD* Andrée-Anne Frénette  
*SCR* Kim O’Bomsawin

![Image](image-url)

**Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters**

USA / 2020 / 90 min / English

Filmmakers Rosalynd LeBlanc and Tom Hurwitz illustrate the way in which dance addresses the toll of the AIDS epidemic, particularly on the LGBTQ community. Featuring legendary choreographer Bill T. Jones, original performers of the production, and LeBlanc’s dance class at Loyola Marymount University, this film offers an intricate immersion into the history and legacy of this production honoring the memories of dancers Arnie Zane and Demian Acquavella. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

*DIR* Chelsea Christler  
*PROD* Erin Persley, Chelsea Christler, Jannette Bivona

![Image](image-url)

**Cocoon**

Germany / 2020 / 95 min / German with English subtitles

Teenager Nora experiences first love and self-acceptance during a scorching Berlin summer. Forced to play third wheel to her boy-crazy older sister and her best friend, Nora’s life is transformed when the unconventional Romy shows up. As Nora begins to find herself and assert her own identity, she is pressured to choose between her sister and the enigmatic Romy. Gorgeously photographed, Cocoon stands among the very best queer coming of age films. **AGES 14+**

*DIR* Leonie Krippendorf  
*PROD* Josef Heinig  
*SCR* Leonie Krippendorf

![Image](image-url)

**Days (Rizi)**

Taiwan / 2020 / 127 min / No Dialogue

Master of slow cinema, Tsai Ming-liang returns to form with this almost wordless meditation on loneliness and intimacy through the quotidian routines of Kang and Non. Enduring the pain of illness and treatment, Kang finds himself adrift, meeting Non in a foreign land. Their quiet connection provides a moment of bliss before they must part ways and resume their daily lives. Days is a must-see for cinephiles. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

*DIR* Tsai Ming-Liang  
*PROD* Claude Wang

![Image](image-url)

**Death of Nintendo**

Philippines, USA / 2020 / 99 min / Tagalog with English subtitles

In 1990s Manila, Paolo and his small crew of friends come of age as Mount Pinatubo gets ready to erupt. When frequent blackouts interrupt their Nintendo games, they set off on new adventures. Seen through the singular lens of Raya Martin, who was named one of the 50 most important filmmakers under 50 by Cinema Scope, Death of Nintendo is a charming tribute to puberty a-la Stand By Me… but with circumsicion. **AGES 13+**

*DIR* Raya Martin  
*PROD* Kiril G. Geaman, Marjorie Lachica, Valerie Castillo Martinez, Marzel Samson-Martinez  
*SCR* Valerie Castillo Martinez

![Image](image-url)

**Cowboys**

USA / 2020 / 83 min / English

Cowboys stars the always great Steve Zahn as a troubled dad who goes on the lam with his trans son Joe after they realize their rural Montana hometown will never let Joe live as his authentic self. Filled with musings on identity, responsibility, and gorgeous Montana landscapes, Cowboys will leave audiences with lots to think about after the credits roll.

*DIR* Anna Kerrigan  
*PROD* Chris Parker, Dylan Sellers, Anna Kerrigan, Gigi Graft  
*SCR* Anna Kerrigan

![Image](image-url)

**Coming Home in the Dark**

New Zealand / 2021 / 93 min / English

Hoaggie and his family are having a delightful trip in the stunning New Zealand wilderness when they’re approached by two mysterious strangers. It quickly becomes apparent this duo has malicious intent. While Hoaggie claims to have no idea why, he has a sneaking suspicion that his unsavory past has come back to haunt him. The brutality and terror that unfolds will have you second guessing that summer road trip you have planned. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

*DIR* James Ashcroft  
*PROD* Desray Armstrong, Catherine Fitzgerald, Mike Minogue  
*SCR* James Ashcroft, EJ Kent, Owen Marshall

![Image](image-url)

**Cinema Hooligante**

*DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES*

**ART /ampersand.cap ARTISTS**

Rosalynd LeBlanc, Tom Hurwitz

*ART /ampersand.cap ARTISTS**

Duana Butler, Rosalynd LeBlanc

*ART /ampersand.cap ARTISTS**

Erin Persley, Chelsea Christer, Jannette Bivona

*ART /ampersand.cap ARTISTS**

James Ashcroft, Desray Armstrong, Catherine Fitzgerald, Mike Minogue

*ART /ampersand.cap ARTISTS**

Anna Kerrigan, Chris Parker, Dylan Sellers, Anna Kerrigan, Gigi Graft

*ART /ampersand.cap ARTISTS**

Chelsea Christer, James Ashcroft, EJ Kent, Owen Marshall

*Raya Martin*

*CINEMA HOOLIGANTE**

Desray Armstrong, Catherine Fitzgerald, Mike Minogue

*SCR* Anna Kerrigan

*WORLDVIEWS**

Kriz G. Gazmen, Marjorie Lachica, Valerie Castillo Martinez, Marzel Samson-Martinez

*SCR* Valerie Castillo Martinez

*WORLDVIEWS**

Anna Kerrigan, Chris Parker, Dylan Sellers, Anna Kerrigan, Gigi Graft

*SCR* Anna Kerrigan

*WORLDVIEWS**

James Ashcroft, Desray Armstrong, Catherine Fitzgerald, Mike Minogue

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*SCR* Anna Kerrigan

*WORLDVIEWS**

Chelsea Christer, James Ashcroft, EJ Kent, Owen Marshall

*SCR* Anna Kerrigan

*WORLDVIEWS**

Kriz G. Gazmen, Marjorie Lachica, Valerie Castillo Martinez, Marzel Samson-Martinez

*SCR* Valerie Castillo Martinez
Downstream to Kinshasa
Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Belgium / 2020 / 90 min / Swahili, Lingala with English subtitles
An unflinching yet empathetic portrait of a group of disabled survivors of the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s Six Day War as they travel to Kinshasa seeking reparations that have been delayed over 20 years. Through the journey, we bear witness to the unwavering tenacity of spirit to persist in speaking truth to power no matter what it takes. With this film Dieudo Hamadi cements his firm placement amongst the most important documentarians working today.

DIR Dieudo Hamadi
PROD Quentin Laurent, Frédérique Féraud, Dieudo Hamadi, Aurélien Bodinaux
SCR Emily Cohen Ibañez, Ashley Solis

Freeland
USA / 2020 / 80 min / English
Krisha Fairchild returns to MMA as Devi, an aging flower child who gets pulled down to earth after her under-the-table California weed farm is caught without a legal permit. Time is against her as she races to salvage her harvest before her business and way of life becomes a thing of the past. This refreshing character study plays as a companion piece to Nomadland, through both spirit and dreamy cinematography.

DIR Kate MicLearn, Mario Furtoni
PROD Laura Heberton
SCR Mario Furtoni, Kate MicLearn

Hijo de Monarcas (Son of Monarchs)
Mexico, USA / 2021 / 97 min / Spanish, English with English subtitles
Having grown up in Michoacán, Mexico enchanted by the monarch butterfly, Mendel is now a biologist living in New York, studying the insects. Returning to Mexico after the death of his grandmother he confronts his past and reflects on his new identity. Like the butterfly, he undergoes his own metamorphosis. Hijo De Monarcas blends science, nature, and folk religion into a narrative that manages to be both grand and personal at the same time.

DIR Alexis Gambis
PROD Abraham Dayan, Maria Altamirano
SCR Alexis Gambis

Fruits of Labor
USA / 2021 / 85 min / English
Fifteen-year-old Ashley rises early to work the fields, while also working the night shift at the processing plant. During the day she attends high school and dreams of being the first in her family to graduate, all while torn between familial responsibilities and personal fulfillment. AGES 14+

DIR Emily Cohen Ibañez
PROD Emily Cohen Ibañez
SCR Emily Cohen Ibañez, Ashley Solis

Gunda
Norway, USA / 2020 / 93 min / No Dialogue
Executive produced by Joaquin Phoenix, Gunda follows the daily life of animals on a Norwegian farm. Gunda the pig raises her piglets alongside two cows and a one-legged chicken. As the film progresses, you can see why Paul Thomas Anderson calls it “pure cinema... jaw-dropping images and sound put together with the best ensemble cast and you have something more like a potion than a movie.”

DIR Victor Kirosakovskiy
PROD Susan Rockefeller, Maria Altamirano
SCR Victor Kirosakovskiy, Anara Vera

How It Feels To Be Free
Canada, USA / 2020 / 113 min / English
Yoruba Richen’s latest documentary showcases six Black women entertainers (Lena Home, Abbey Lincoln, Nina Simone, Diahann Carroll, Cicely Tyson, Pam Grier) whose talent and activism propel them into transformative figures in popular culture. Based on the book by Ruth Feldstein, the film chronicles the defiant way in which each woman challenged an entertainment industry that sought to reduce them to marginalized personalities, these artists have the difficult challenge of bringing the impossible to light.

DIR Yoruba Richen
SCR Elizabeth Trojan

Holy Frit
USA / 2020 / 84 min / English
A Kansas megachurch commissions the world’s largest stained-glass window. An L.A. based artist wows them with his complex design, elevating the small family-owned stained-glass studio he works for. The only problem is he has no idea how to actually complete the work. Enter world-famous, Italian glass maestro Narcissus Quagliata. Juggling the church’s timeline, a tight budget, and loud personalities, these artists have the difficult challenge of bringing the impossible to light.

DIR Justin Monroe
PROD Justin Monroe, Chris Saito
SCR Justin Monroe, Ryan Fritzsche
I Was a Simple Man
USA / 2020 / 105 min / English

A haunting meditation on death, *I Was A Simple Man* follows the final days of Masao as he reflects on the phases of his life. He is cared for by his estranged grandchildren and comforted by the specter of his dearly departed wife, played with care by the always wonderful Constance Wu. Hawaiian filmmaker Christopher Makoto Yogi cements himself as a sympathetic and sustained exploration of the humanity behind the science.

**DIR** Christopher Makoto Yogi  
**PROD** Sarah S. Kim, Christopher Makoto Yogi, Matthew Petock, Yamato Ohkubo  
**SCR** Christopher Makoto Yogi

Jacinta
USA / 2020 / 105 min / English

A sympathetic and sustained exploration of the hereditary nature of trauma, *Jacinta* follows the lives of three generations of women struggling to find stability amid years of dependency. Jessica Earnshaw’s debut reveals heartbreak and hope at every turn, considering the complexities of addiction and recidivism among women and the impacts of the carceral cycle on generations of mothers and daughters. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

**DIR** Jessica Earnshaw  
**PROD** Jessica Earnshaw, Holly Mebel, Nimita Mukerji

Las Siamesas (The Siamese Bond)
Argentina / 2021 / 80 min / Spanish with English subtitles

Stella (Valeria Lois, Los Sonámbulos) takes care of her ailing mother Clota (Rita Cortese, *Wild Tales*) when she learns that she’s inherited two seaside apartments at a nearby resort from her father. She sees this as her last hope for independence while Clota sees it as an end to their relationship. The two embark on a bus trip to visit the properties, a trip that may break their all-too-close bond. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

**DIR** Paula Hernández  
**PROD** Juan Pablo Miller  
**SCR** Leonel D’Agostino, Paula Hernández

In Silico
USA / 2020 / 83 min / English

Attracted by a neuroscientist’s bold claim of building a computer simulation of the entire human brain in just 10 years, Noah Hutton (Lapsis, MFF2020) decides to document the process, checking in every year as the global excitement surrounding the project grows along with its funding. But a chorus of scientists express their skepticism as the project becomes increasingly influenced by ego and ambition. A fascinating documentary that shows the humanity behind the science.

**DIR** Noah Hutton  
**PROD** Kellen Quinn, Taylor Hex, Jesse Miller  
**SCR** Noah Hutton

Los Sonámbulos (The Sleepwalkers)
Argentina, Uruguay / 2019 / 107 min / Spanish with English subtitles

Family tensions come to a boil during a summer vacation in this Oscar submission from Argentine filmmaker Paula Hernández. Luisa’s (Erica Rivas, *Wild Tales*) teenage daughter Ana has inexplicably begun sleepwalking at night adding strain to her disconnected marriage to domineering Emilio. Beautifully photographed featuring subtly contained performances the film slowly builds to an explosive and cathartic climax. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

**DIR** Paula Hernández  
**PROD** Paula Hernández, Juan Pablo Miller  
**SCR** Paula Hernández

Love Like Winter
USA / 2020 / 70 min / English

Dr. Artel Great’s debut film is a romantic drama set in Chicago that focuses on two former lovers who cross paths and reconnect for the first time in a decade. Over the course of a magical winter afternoon, they relive old memories that open the path to rediscover the chemistry they once shared. This is the first installment in The Love Cycle series, a contemporary take on romance and what it really means to fall in love.

**DIR** Artel Great  
**PROD** Artel Great  
**SCR** Artel Great

Luchadoras
Germany, Mexico / 2021 / 93 min / Spanish with English subtitles

Ciudad Juárez is home to some of the highest rates of femicide in the world. Against this backdrop we meet three courageous women, luchadoras (female wrestlers) who fight both in and out of the ring. They fight against the drug violence and misogyny to redefine what it means to be a woman in Mexico. Filmmakers Paola Calvo and Patrick Jasim give us a portrait that is raw, defiant and unflinching, just like the women who make up its heart.

**DIR** Paola Calvo, Patrick Jasim  
**PROD** Phillip Kaminiak  
**SCR** Paola Calvo, Patrick Jasim, Phillip Kaminiak  
**Preceded by** Blackfeet Boxing: Not Invisible (Drs. Kristen Lappas, Tom Brulid)

Dokumentarfilm Favoriten

Jacinta
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Los Sonámbulos (The Sleepwalkers)
Argentina, Uruguay / 2019 / 107 min / Spanish with English subtitles

Family tensions come to a boil during a summer vacation in this Oscar submission from Argentine filmmaker Paula Hernández. Luisa’s (Erica Rivas, *Wild Tales*) teenage daughter Ana has inexplicably begun sleepwalking at night adding strain to her disconnected marriage to domineering Emilio. Beautifully photographed featuring subtly contained performances the film slowly builds to an explosive and cathartic climax. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

**DIR** Paula Hernández  
**PROD** Paula Hernández, Juan Pablo Miller  
**SCR** Paula Hernández

In Silico
USA / 2020 / 83 min / English

Attracted by a neuroscientist’s bold claim of building a computer simulation of the entire human brain in just 10 years, Noah Hutton (Lapsis, MFF2020) decides to document the process, checking in every year as the global excitement surrounding the project grows along with its funding. But a chorus of scientists express their skepticism as the project becomes increasingly influenced by ego and ambition. A fascinating documentary that shows the humanity behind the science.

**DIR** Noah Hutton  
**PROD** Kellen Quinn, Taylor Hex, Jesse Miller  
**SCR** Noah Hutton

I Was a Simple Man
USA / 2020 / 105 min / English

A haunting meditation on death, *I Was A Simple Man* follows the final days of Masao as he reflects on the phases of his life. He is cared for by his estranged grandchildren and comforted by the specter of his dearly departed wife, played with care by the always wonderful Constance Wu. Hawaiian filmmaker Christopher Makoto Yogi cements himself as a sympathetic and sustained exploration of the humanity behind the science.

**DIR** Christopher Makoto Yogi  
**PROD** Sarah S. Kim, Christopher Makoto Yogi, Matthew Petock, Yamato Ohkubo  
**SCR** Christopher Makoto Yogi

Preceded by Blackfeet Boxing: Not Invisible (Drs. Kristen Lappas, Tom Brulid)
Ludi
USA / 2021 / 80 min / English
With an understated performance by Shein Monpremier, Ludi is about a woman pushed to her physical and emotional limits as she chases the American Dream in Miami’s Little Haiti neighborhood. Working as a nurse, she receives regular updates (and requests for money) from her family while battling coworkers for extra overtime. Writer/director Edison Jean draws from his mother’s immigration experience to tell a tale that is personal, amusing, and inspiring.

DIR Edison Jean
PROD Marius Pulaski, Fabiola Rodriguez
SCR Edison Jean, Jishua Jean-Baptiste

M.C. Escher: Journey To Infinity
Netherlands / 2019 / 81 min / Dutch, English, Italian, German with English subtitles
Featuring the Dutch graphic artist’s own words (narrated by Stephen Fry), this illuminating documentary explores his well-known works through a less-well-known lens. Using animation to help us see this piece of art in a new way, audiences are asked to consider anew the celebrity of Escher, layered here with the philosophical power and profundity of his scientific thinking and biographical details that inform his worldview.

DIR Robin Lutz
PROD Robin Lutz
SCR Robin Lutz, Marjirke de Jong

Luzzu
Malta / 2021 / 94 min / Maltese with English subtitles
Jesmark is proud to follow in his father’s footsteps as a fisherman on the Mediterranean, but his dream job becomes untenable when his newborn son requires special medical treatments. The tension between heritage and consumerism could not be more apparent as he chooses between working on his heirloom luzzu boat or a polluting, gas-guzzling ship. A rare window into the Maltese way of life, Luzzu is a sun-soaked, neo-realist story about tradition versus progress.

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Alex Camilleri
PROD Alex Camilleri, Rebecca Anastasi, Ramon Balvani, Oliver Mailia
SCR Alex Camilleri

Ma Belle, My Beauty
USA, France / 2021 / 93 min / English, French, French with English subtitles
Musicians Bertie and Fred are settling into their new life in provincial France when a blast from their past arrives to shake things up: their former polyamorous partner, Patrick the scene-stealing donkey.

USA / 2021 / 90 min / French with English subtitles
School teacher Antoinette is thrown for a loop when she finds out her vacation plans with her secret lover Vladimir have been foiled by his wife surprising him with a trip to Cévennes National Park. In a harebrained scheme, Antoinette books the same trip to the Cévennes for herself and embarks on an expedition filled with misadventures, scenic vistas, and her trusty hiking partner, Patrick the scene-stealing donkey.

DIR Caroline Vignal
PROD Leticia Galizia, Aurélie Trouvé-Rouvière
SCR Caroline Vignal

Mama Gloria
USA / 2020 / 76 min / English
Luchina Fisher’s documentary is an empathic and engaging portrait of Gloria Allen. Once a mainstay in the drag ball culture on Chicago’s South Side in the 1960s, Gloria would persevere through traumatic violence to emerge as a leader and matriarch in her community that gives unconditional love. Her creation of a charm school for young transgender people would inspire a hit play, Charm, chronicling her journey as a Black, septuagenarian, trans icon and elder.

USA / 2020 / 90 min / English
Tacing the rivers and trails (and, now, roads) of the valley of Payahuunadü, “the land of flowing water,” nestled between the Sierras, Manzanar, Diverted weaves together the human and geographic histories of these landscapes. Director Ann Kaneko uplifts the voices of an intergenerational group of women representing Indigenous, environmentalist, and Japanese-American WWII incarcerees who form an unexpected alliance to defend these lands and waters against the looming metropolis of Los Angeles and industrial creep.

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Luchina Fisher
PROD Luchina Fisher, Yvonne Welbon, Zainab Ali, Luma Grisby
SCR Luchina Fisher

Misha and the Wolves
Belgium, United Kingdom / 2021 / 90 min / English, French with English subtitles
Misha Defonseca’s story sounds too good to be true – an orphan escaping the Holocaust by hiding in the woods and living amongst wolves – but Misha inspires all she encounters. When her memoir’s publisher starts to peel back one corner of this narrative, however, it turns into a detective story with twists and turns you’ll never see coming. Hobkinson’s film ultimately asks us to examine truth, belief, and trauma in the most tangled of stories.

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Sam Hobkinson
PROD Jurgen Buedts, Poppy Dixon, Al Monroe, Matt Wells, Gregory Zalcman
SCR Sam Hobkinson

Manzanar, Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust
USA / 2020 / 90 min / English
Tracing the rivers and trails (and, now, roads) of the valley of Payahuunadü, “the land of flowing water,” nestled between the Sierras, Manzanar, Diverted weaves together the human and geographic histories of these landscapes. Director Ann Kaneko uplifts the voices of an intergenerational group of women representing Indigenous, environmentalist, and Japanese-American WWII incarcerees who form an unexpected alliance to defend these lands and waters against the looming metropolis of Los Angeles and industrial creep.

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Ann Kaneko
PROD Ann Kaneko, Jin Yoo-Kim
SCR Ann Kaneko, Jin Yoo-Kim
My Heart Goes Boom! (Explota, explota!)  
Spain / 2020 / 110 min / Spanish with English subtitles  
Mamma Mál fans rejoice! Maria is a young dancer who wants to bring color and joy to the drab, oppressive world of 70’s Spain. She dreams of becoming a TV star but her sensual, provocative dancing is too much for the rigid, prudish censors. Inspired by Mamma Mál and Hairspray, director Nacho Álvarez crafts a musical comedy of forbidden love that features gorgeous production design and the hit songs of Italian singer Raffaella Carrà.

My Name is Baghdad  
Baghdad isn’t like other girls; she wears her hair short and pants high while skateboarding through the working-class favelas of São Paulo. She lives in a house populated with equally strong-willed and free-spirited women and her world is torn asunder when she runs into a group of female skaters. Caru Alves de Souza’s film won Berlin’s Crystal Bear for its story of strength, sisterhood and love that doesn’t shy away from violence, sexism and discrimination.

No Ordinary Man  
Canada / 2020 / 84 min / English  
Billy Tipton (1914-1989) was one of the great jazz bandleaders and since his death has become a trans icon. This unconventional documentary follows a group of young trans artists as they reconstruct Billy’s life and work. Through music, performance, and interviews, Tipton’s legacy is reclaimed as one of the great trans icons of the 20th century. No Ordinary Man is one of the must-see documentaries of the year.

Once Upon a Time in Venezuela  
Venezuela, United Kingdom, Brazil, Austria / 2020 / 99 min / Spanish with English subtitles  
At the edge of Venezuela’s Lake Maracaibo is the small floating village of Congo Mirador. Now sinking into sediment, this once-prosperous fishing community is unraveling after years of ecological and economic neglect. Focusing on two powerful women representing diverse views amidst this story, Anabel Rodríguez Ríos’s sensitive and bold Oscar submission immerses us in the human realities of this battle to safeguard cultural heritage and retain political relevancy.

Not Going Quietly  
USA / 2021 / 96 min / English  
When grassroots lawyer and activist Ady Barkan is diagnosed with ALS just as he’s welcomed his first child, he initially turns inward. But a chance encounter with Sen. Jeff Flake on a plane helps him find his voice anew, and this inspiring tear-jerking documentary follows his literal and figurative journey to become a staunch advocate for health care access for all.

Operation Wolf Patrol  
USA / 2021 / 83 min / English  
Meet Rod Coronado. Once jailed for ecoterrorism, he has since dedicated his life to Wolf Patrol – legal observation and documentation of hunters to reduce the use of problematic practices (bear baiting, unsupervised dogs) which exacerbate conflicts between wolves, humans and dogs. Set primarily in Northern Wisconsin, this film goes beyond Coronado as celebrity and asks us to consider the complex tensions of Indigenous and governmental land use, and wildlife management.

La Maca is a prison in Côte d’Ivoire run by its prisoners. When a newcomer arrives on the night of the red moon rising, he is entered into a storytelling ritual to become the new king of the prison, known as the “Roman.” Rolling Stone calls it “a film steeped in myth and ritual, besotted with secrets, history, and imagination – with a clear eye on the Ivory Coast’s politics.”

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Anabel Rodríguez Ríos’s film won Berlin’s Crystal Bear for its story of strength, sisterhood and love that doesn’t shy away from violence, sexism and discrimination.

The annual patron saint festival in a small Mexican village serves as the backdrop for three intertwined stories. Maria comes home to bury her father and rekindles an old flame. Esteban returns only to find that his wife has moved on. Tofa relives her own trauma when confronted with her daughter’s abuse. Writer/director Ángeles Cruz weaves a powerful drama of three Indigenous women dealing with upheavals caused by homecomings.

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Playing With Sharks: The Valerie Taylor Story

Sally Aitken's adventure-rich documentary uses incredible underwater photography to tell the story of Valerie Taylor, a living legend and icon. From a glamorous career as a diver and hunter in the 1950s to a no less glamorous role as a shark conservationist (landing her on the set of Jaws), Valerie's story will leave you with a better understanding of how sharks matter to our oceanic ecosystems and how you can help preserve them.

**Details:**
- **Company:** Bettina Dalton
- **Director:** Sally Aitken
- **304x243-541x388**

Potato Dreams of America

This autobiographical tale from writer-director Wes Hurley follows a single mother and her young gay son living in the Soviet Union. Their obsession with pirated Hollywood movies leads them to emigrate to the US through a mail-order bride service, but when they arrive things do not go as expected. Featuring a vividly artificial style, *Potato Dreams of America* is a hilarious coming out film unlike anything you've seen.

**Details:**
- **Company:** Misko Jakupčak
- **Director:** Wes Hurley

Rebel Dykes

**Details:**
- **Country:** United Kingdom
- **Length:** 90 min
- **Language:** English

US Premiere! A punk mash-up of archival footage, animation, and interviews, this documentary chronicles the outlaw dyke culture of the UK in the 1980s. A collective of artists, activists, sex workers, and outcasts, Rebel Dykes retells the pioneering struggles of sex-positive, BDSM leather dykes as they not only fought against a conservative government and religious oppression, but other lesbians who became transphobic “sex police.” This is an unapologetic history about the dykes who paved the way for our rights today.

**Details:**
- **Company:** Sibylan Fahey
- **Director:** Janelle Landers, Aidan O'Bryan
- **889x243-1126x389**

Quo Vadis, Aida?

Aida is a translator for the United Nations in the small town of Srebrenica. When the Serbian army takes over the town, her family is among the thousands of citizens looking for shelter in the United Nations camp. She is faced with the tension between the responsibilities of her profession and her duty to protect her family. This taut thriller will have you on the edge of your seat from start to finish.

**Details:**
- **Country:** Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, Netherlands, Austria, Romania, France, Germany, Poland, Turkey
- **Length:** 100 min
- **Language:** English, Dutch, Serbian

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, Netherlands, Austria, Romania, France, Germany, Poland, Turkey

**Director:** Jasmila Žbanić

**317x231-581x388**

Preparations to Be Together For an Unknown Period of Time

Márta meets the love of her life while attending a neurosurgery residency in America. They make a pact to reunite in Budapest in one year to start their lives together, but when Márta arrives, her would-be soulmate claims he doesn’t know her. Drawing from the story of an experiment designed to inform NASA’s path toward human exploration of Mars. Asking what the limits of human isolation might be, this documentary offers an unprecedented look into The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who, in the 1960s, bravely stood up to the Catholic Church, challenging the unequal status of women in the church. Ultimately breaking off to create an intentional community with a dedication to education, art, and justice of all kinds, these women will inspire you with their bravery and unrelenting faith.

**Details:**
- **Country:** USA
- **Length:** 99 min
- **Language:** English

USA / 2021

**Director:** Pedro Kos

**312x593-658x739**

Red Heaven

This is the true story of six people, picked to live in a dome on a lava field in Hawai’i...Red Heaven tells the true story of an experiment designed to inform NASA’s path toward human exploration of Mars. Asking what the limits of human isolation might be, these experiences of a year in isolation will ring familiar to us in 2021, but also help us envision the lives of astronauts in fascinating ways.

**Details:**
- **Country:** USA
- **Length:** 84 min
- **Language:** English, German, French

USA / 2020

**Director:** Lauren DeFilippo, Katherine Gorringe

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Rez Metal
USA / 2021 / 74 min / English
I Don't Konform is a heavy metal band from the Navajo Nation in Arizona that uses their music to uplift a community devastated by suicide. They catch the ear of acclaimed Metallica producer Flemming Rasmussen, who joins the band in their hoofghan to begin recording their next album. Rez Metal is a stripped-down celebration of the heavy metal spirit, and a compelling portrayal of a community channeling their raw emotions, ethics, and hope through music.

DIR Ashkan Soltani Stone
PROD Ashkan Soltani Stone
SCR Ashkan Soltani Stone, Natale Zappia

Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go For It
USA / 2021 / 90 min / English
She got the E.G.O.T.! Rita Moreno grew up in poverty on a Puerto Rican farm, immigrated to New York where her mother worked as a seamstress, studied dance, made her way to Broadway then the silver screen all the while blazing a trail for Latinx representation that goes unrivaled. She also managed to win every major award along the way (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony) and at almost 90 she's not slowing down!

DIR Mariem Pérez Riera
PROD Mariem Pérez Riera
SCR Mariem Pérez Riera

Sisters With Transistors
United Kingdom / 2020 / 86 min / English
Narrated by Laurie Anderson, Sisters With Transistors is a masterful archival documentary that restores the centrality of women to the origins of electronic music. Featuring Clara Rockmore, Delia Derbyshire, Suzanne Clani and more, this story of how we hear demonstrates how new devices opened music to the entire field of sound and how changing the modes of production also transformed the very terms of musical thought.

DIR Lisa Rovner
PROD Anna Lena Varney
SCR Lisa Rovner

Some Kind of Heaven
USA / 2020 / 83 min / English
The Villages, located in central Florida, is the world's largest retirement community, home to more than 130,000. Following four residents who struggle to find their place in the extreme homogenized culture, this character study delves into the whimsy, banality, and bizarre of life when you have nothing to do and all day to do it. With gorgeous cinematography, Oppenheim plays up both the serene and surreal images found in this "Disneyworld for retirees".

DIR Lance Oppenheim
PROD Darren Aronofsky, Kathleen Lingo, Jeffrey Soris, Simon Horsman, Melissa Oppenheim, Pablo Veloz, Lance Oppenheim

Since I Been Down
USA / 2020 / 105 min / English
Gilda Sheppard's documentary looks at Tacoma, WA in the early 1990s, where elected officials responded to the increase of gang activity, escalating crime, and increasing poverty by passing a three-strikes law. The incarceration of residents from Tacoma's economically deprived neighborhoods reflects the outcome when states like Washington (and Wisconsin) abolish discretionary parole. Those who have been imprisoned use their education work to achieve healing, forgiveness, and dignity.

DIR Gilda Sheppard
PROD Gilda Sheppard, June Nho Ivers, Saman Maydani
SCR Kristen Uno, Mari Walker

Spring Valley
USA / 2021 / 108 min / English
Starting with a viral video of a white school security officer throwing a Black teenager from her desk at Spring Valley High School in Columbia, SC, this film follows the unstoppable Vivian Anderson, who moved from Brooklyn to Columbia in the wake of this incident, focused on improving Black girls' futures and ending over-policing in our schools. Featuring powerful interviews with people on all sides of this incident, the film shows a system that is no longer working for anyone within it.

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Garret Zavaglia
PROD Ariana Garfinkel, Jeff Consiglio, Chico Colvard
SCR Kristen Uno, Mari Walker

See You Then
USA / 2021 / 74 min / English
A decade after their breakup, transgender woman Kris meets up with her cisgender ex Naomi to catch-up. What begins as a casual conversation about their lives quickly becomes an unraveling of past hang-ups, unresolved issues, and personal discovery. A rare drama that examines the messiness of trans experiences from the perspective of a trans filmmaker, See You Then explores how transitioning is a life-saving miracle, but doesn't magically resolve all of your problems.

USA / 2021 / 75 min / English
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DIR Lance Oppenheim
PROD Darren Aronofsky, Kathleen Lingo, Jeffrey Soris, Simon Horsman, Melissa Oppenheim, Pablo Veloz, Lance Oppenheim

Stop Making Sense
USA / 1984 / 88 min / English
Still our favorite tradition, this year we encourage you to build-your-own virtual, outdoor and safe, or household dance party using the biggest, loudest screen you've got. Don't miss your chance to dance it out to the greatest concert film ever made, Jonathan Demme's Stop Making Sense featuring the Talking Heads. And next year, we look forward to hopefully making a conga line once again.

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

The Talking Heads. And next year, we look forward to hopefully making a conga line once again.

DIR Jonathan Demme
PROD Gary Goetzman, Gary Kurfirst
SCR Jonathan Demme, Talking Heads
Stray
USA / 2020 / 72 min / Turkish with English subtitles
Like fest fave Kedi (MFF2016), Elizabeth Lo’s meditative documentary takes us to the streets of Istanbul, this time with an eye to its canine residents rather than the feline. With a dog’s-eye view of the city and interspersed quotations from the Greek philosopher Diogenes, Stray asks us to consider the dog not just as the trusty companion of lore but as a cypher of humanity, especially as we increasingly encounter displaced humans on these streets.

DIR Elizabeth Lo
PROD Elizabeth Lo, Shane Boris

The Djinn
USA / 2021 / 82 min / English, American Sign with English subtitles
Dylan and his dad have just moved to start a new life after the tragic loss of his mother. Dylan finds a mysterious book in a closet and reads about the Djinn, a magical beast that can grant wishes. Dylan is mute, so he wishes for a voice, but he fails to realize that he has to survive the night at the mercy of the monster.

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR David Charbonier, Justin Powell
PROD Carter Armstrong, Ryan Scarringe, Meghan Weinstein
SCR David Charbonier, Justin Powell

The Dry
Australia, USA / 2021 / 117 min / English
Based on the best-selling novel of the same name, The Dry follows Aaron Falk (Eric Bana) as he returns home for the funeral of a friend. The small town is reeling from another mysterious death from his youth, Aaron has for the funeral of a friend. The small town is reeling from another mysterious death from his youth, Aaron has

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Robert Connolly, Harry Cripps
PROD Bruna Papandrea, Steve Hutensky, Jodi Matterson, Robert Connolly, Eric Bana
SCR Robert Connolly, Harry Cripps

The End of Us
USA / 2021 / 92 min / English
Nick and Leah have just broken up. Leah feels good about the decision until she pulls into her deserted work parking lot and finds out that everyone is working from home indefinitely. Why? Because it’s March 2020 and they broke up the day before quarantine. The End of Us is a time capsule filled with humor and pathos, that’s sure to make audiences feel validated about whatever 2020 may have thrown at them.

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Henry Loewner, Steven Kanter
PROD Steven Kanter, Henry Loewner, Lovell Holder, Claudia Restrepo
SCR Steven Kanter, Henry Loewner

The Inheritance
USA / 2020 / 100 min / English
Filmmaker Ephraim Asili references his own experiences in a Black liberation collective to offer this story about a community of young Black artists and activists in a West Philadelphia house. He combines fiction and documentary conventions in the tradition of Jean-Luc Godard’s La Chinoise to show how the history of the MOVE organization and the poetry of Sonia Sanchez and Ursula Rucker inform what they seek to accomplish in this space.

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Ephraim Asili
PROD Vic Brooks, Ephraim Asili
SCR Ephraim Asili

The Last Matinée (Al morir la matinée)
Argentina, Uruguay / 2020 / 88 min / Spanish with English subtitles
Giallo is alive and well in Uruguay. A murderer is stalking the audience of a rundown movie theatre in Montevideo. As the viewers are savagely picked off one by one, the heroic projectionist decides to save the day and face this deranged killer. A movie made for movie lovers, you’ll have a blast finding references to filmmakers like Dario Argento and Bigas Luna. Bathed in blood and neon, The Last Matinée never pulls a punch.

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Maximiliano Contenti
PROD Maximiliano Contenti, Lucía Gavilglio Salkind, Alma Kaplan
SCR Maximiliano Contenti, Manuel Pazar

The Pink Cloud
Brazil / 2021 / 105 min / English, Portuguese with English subtitles
A mysterious and toxic pink cloud has enveloped the Earth and everyone is forced to hide indoors. Giovana ends up hunkering down with a one-night-stand, but little does she know that he will be her companion for years to come. Taking the quarantine storyline to the extreme, you’ll laugh and cry at all-too familiar situations. This dystopian drama hits so close to home, you won’t believe it was filmed in 2019.

DIR Iuli Gerbase
SCR Iuli Gerbase, Vicente Moreno

The Meaning of Hitler
USA / 2020 / 92 min / English, German with English subtitles
Taking inspiration from Sebastian Haffner’s titular book, in The Meaning of Hitler Petra Eppler in and Michael Tucker set out to explore what Hitler means in the current waves of white nationalism and antisemitism. Featuring interviews with historians and scholars like Martin Amis and Saul Friedlander coupled with time spent with Nazi hunters, microphone technologists, and the curator of the US Army’s confiscated art collection, this Herzogian documentary offers an unexpected, refreshing yet sobering journey to help us know why this history remains urgent.

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Petra Eppler, Michael Tucker
PROD Petra Eppler, Michael Tucker, Mike Lerner, Donna O’Keefe
SCR Michael Tucker
The Woman Who Ran (Domangchin yeoja)
South Korea / 2020 / 117 min / Korean with English subtitles
Gamhee goes to visit some friends while her husband is on a business trip. At first it seems like she’s dropping by while passing through town, before long, a shared history bubbles to the surface. With characteristic humor and grace, Hong Sangsoo takes a simple premise and spins a web of interconnecting philosophies and coincidences. The Woman Who Ran is a subtle, powerful look at dramas small and large faced by women everywhere. WISCONSIN ONLY
DIR: Hong Sangsoo
PROD: Hong Sangsoo
SCR: Hong Sangsoo

This Is Not a Burial, It’s a Resurrection
Lesotho, South Africa, Italy / 2015 / 117 min / Southern Sotho with English subtitles
Mary Twala is captivating as Mantoa, an elder in a Lesotho village set to be resettled to make way for a reservoir construction project. Mantoa refuses to stand aside while her home and history are bulldozed away and it’s clear why. The breathtaking Lesotho countryside is expertly captured by the impeccable camerawork, with such painstaking attention to mise-en-scène, each shot seems more like a painting than a film.
DIR: Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese
PROD: Call Pansegonyane, Elias Ribine
SCR: Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese

True Mothers (Asa Ga Kuru)
Japan / 2020 / 92 min / Japanese with English subtitles
After a long and unsuccessful struggle to get pregnant, Satoko and her husband decide to adopt a child. As they raise little Asato, they experience the standard highs and lows of parenthood, but feel so lucky to be able to have a son, nonetheless. One day, they are contacted by Hikari, who claims to be Asato’s biological mother, and she wants him back. True Mothers is a tender film exploring motherhood in all forms.
DIR: Naomi Kawase
PROD: Yumiko Takahashi
SCR: Naomi Kawase, Isumi Takehashi, Mizuki Tsuburaya

Undine
Germany, France / 2020 / 90 min / German with English subtitles
Christian Petzold (director of MFF2018 favorite Transit) returns to our screens with the mysterious fable, Undine. Christoph is smitten when he meets the enchanting Undine at her history lecture. Their relationship blossoms into a romance, but Christoph gets the feeling that Undine is keeping secrets from him. He feels ridiculous even thinking it, but could Undine be the vengeful mermaid of lore? WISCONSIN ONLY
DIR: Christian Petzold
PROD: Florian Kuemper von Gustorf, Michael Weber
SCR: Christian Petzold

When Claude Got Shot
USA / 2020 / 97 min / English
When Claude Motley is shot during a visit to Milwaukee for his high school reunion, he realizes there’s no escaping gun violence and the ripples of trauma it causes. When he discovers his assailant was shot only two nights later by another attempted victim and is now paralyzed, it complicates thinking of any such crime as singular. Tracing this case through the criminal justice system, this documentary asks how and if these cycles can be broken.
DIR: Brad Lichtenstein
PROD: Steven Cantor, Brad Lichtenstein, Jamie Schutz

Underplayed
Canada / 2020 / 87 min / English
Underplayed uses a whirlwind summer festival season to illuminate the ways that women are underrepresented in the electronic music industry. Focusing on relative celebrities (Tygapaw, Sherelle), this documentary explores the music industry creating and perpetuating gender (and other) inequities. Missing a sweaty late night at the Marcus Amphitheatre? This film will fill that void and challenge you to consume more equitably all at once.
DIR: Stacy Lee
PROD: William Crouse
SCR: Neil Blewett, Georgia Dodson, Stacy Lee

Try Harder
USA / 2021 / 85 min / English
While being Asian American is the norm at San Francisco’s Lowell High School, the perceptions and pressures of the “model minority” myth intensify for a group of students undergoing the high-stakes process of applying for their dream college. Debbie Lum’s timely film reveals an American school system fraught with drained students in an ever-surmounting cycle of competition for capital-a “Achievement.” Fresh, direct, and eye-opening, Try Harder is a must-watch for teens, families, and educators alike. AGES 13+
DIR: Debbie Lum
PROD: Nico Oppen, Debbie Lum, Yoko Nakasako

Tom Petty, Somewhere You Feel Free
USA / 2021 / 89 min / English
OPENING NIGHT! Combining never-before-seen 16mm archival footage and new interviews with colleagues, director Mary Wharton assemblies a deep study of Tom Petty, the vengeful mermaid of lore? He feels ridiculous even thinking it, but could Undine be the vengeful mermaid of lore? WISCONSIN ONLY
DIR: Mary Wharton
PROD: Peter Afterman

True Mothers (Asa Ga Kuru)
Japan / 2020 / 92 min / Japanese with English subtitles
While being Asian American is the norm at San Francisco’s Lowell High School, the perceptions and pressures of the “model minority” myth intensify for a group of students undergoing the high-stakes process of applying for their dream college. Debbie Lum’s timely film reveals an American school system fraught with drained students in an ever-surmounting cycle of competition for capital-a “Achievement.” Fresh, direct, and eye-opening, Try Harder is a must-watch for teens, families, and educators alike. AGES 13+
DIR: Debbie Lum
PROD: Nico Oppen, Debbie Lum, Yoko Nakasako

When Claude Got Shot
USA / 2020 / 97 min / English
When Claude Motley is shot during a visit to Milwaukee for his high school reunion, he realizes there’s no escaping gun violence and the ripples of trauma it causes. When he discovers his assailant was shot only two nights later by another attempted victim and is now paralyzed, it complicates thinking of any such crime as singular. Tracing this case through the criminal justice system, this documentary asks how and if these cycles can be broken.
DIR: Brad Lichtenstein
PROD: Steven Cantor, Brad Lichtenstein, Jamie Schutz

Undine
Germany, France / 2020 / 90 min / German with English subtitles
Christian Petzold (director of MFF2018 favorite Transit) returns to our screens with the mysterious fable, Undine. Christoph is smitten when he meets the enchanting Undine at her history lecture. Their relationship blossoms into a romance, but Christoph gets the feeling that Undine is keeping secrets from him. He feels ridiculous even thinking it, but could Undine be the vengeful mermaid of lore? WISCONSIN ONLY
DIR: Christian Petzold
PROD: Florian Kuemper von Gustorf, Michael Weber
SCR: Christian Petzold

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DIR: Christian Petzold
PROD: Florian Kuemper von Gustorf, Michael Weber
SCR: Christian Petzold
**Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America**  
United States / 2021 / 84 min / English  
In this fiery documentary portrait, director Chris McKim blends Wojnarowicz’s paintings, photos, music, films, answering machine messages and recollections from his community (including the incomparable Fran Lebowitz) to trace the legacy of his apocalyptic way of seeing a world in which the personal and the political are inextricably tangled.  
**WISCONSIN ONLY**  
**DIR** Chris McKim  
**PROD** Chris McKim, Andrea Chung, Fenton Bailey, Randy Barbato, Linda Tirado, Art Alarist, Jeffery Robinson, Emily Kunstler, Sarah Kunstler

**Writing with Fire**  
India / 2021 / 83 min / Hindi with English subtitles  
Reminiscent of the work of multi-MFF alum Ramona Diaz (A Thousand Cuts, Motherland), this uplifting documentary introduces the audience to the fearless journalists behind Khabar Lahariya, India’s only newspaper run by Dalit (“untouchable”) women. In these women’s stories, directors Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh demonstrate the power of the press and of speaking truth to power, no matter where, by whom or how it is done.  
**WISCONSIN ONLY**  
**DIR** Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh  
**PROD** Sushmit Ghosh, Rintu Thomas

**Workhorse Queen**  
USA / 2020 / 88 min / English  
Ed Popil is a 47-year old telemarketer living in suburban Buffalo who performs as the drag queen superstar Mrs. Kashia Davis. This intimate documentary follows them from RuPaul’s Drag Race through the fiercely competitive world of drag, where older queens are overlooked for younger stars and where fame doesn’t always live up to the hype. Workhorse Queen is a sobering portrait of Popil’s struggles with addiction and shows the work behind the glam.  
**DIR** Angela Washko  
**PROD** Angela Washko  
**SCR** Angela Washko

**You Will Die at Twenty**  
Sudan, France, Egypt, Germany, Norway, Qatar / 2019 / 103 min / Arabic with English subtitles  
During her son’s naming ceremony, a Sheikh predicts that Sakina’s child, Muzamil, will die at the age of 20. Muzamil is haunted by this prophecy and commits to living a pious life while he can. When he turns 19, he meets a traveler who tells him about the world outside his Sudanese village and sheds skepticism on this prophecy of doom. Slowly, but surely Muzamil begins to question his fate and his faith all while his 20th birthday looms ever closer.  
**Wuhan Wuhan**  
China / 2020 / 74 min / Chinese with English subtitles  
Yung Chang (Up The Yangtze, China Heavyweight, MFF2012) captures the dignity and kindness of five everyday people caught up in the first COVID-19 lockdown in Wuhan, China. With a classic verité perspective, this documentary strips away statistics to reveal the humanity (and sometimes humor) to be found in the quotidian of a time that is anything but. Ultimately hopeful, this film has the power to remind us of our common experiences as a global community without borders.  
**DIR** Yung Chang  
**PROD** Donna Gigliotti, Peter Luo, Diane Quon

**Wojnarowicz**  
USA / 2020 / 105 min / English  
David Wojnarowicz (VOY-na-ROH-vitch) was a key voice in the New York City queer activist art scene swirling around the AIDS crisis. In this fiery documentary portrait, director Chris McKim blends Wojnarowicz’s paintings, photos, music, films, answering machine messages and recollections from his community (including the incomparable Fran Lebowitz) to trace the legacy of his apocalyptic way of seeing a world in which the personal and the political are inextricably tangled.  
**WISCONSIN ONLY**  
**DIR** Chris McKim  
**PROD** Fenton Bailey, Randy Barbato, Chris McKim  
**SCR** Jeffrey Robinson

**Women is Losers**  
USA / 2021 / 84 min / English  
Celine Guerra (Lorenza Izzo) is a good Catholic girl growing up in 60’s San Francisco. She’s bright and full of potential until an unintended pregnancy alters her life and forces her to confront a system that too often leaves minorities and single mothers behind. Named for a Janis Joplin song, Lissette Feliciano’s feature debut is a fresh and timely look at radical feminism through the lens of culture, class, and identity.  
**DIR** Lissette Feliciano  
**PROD** Andrea Chung  
**SCR** Lissette Feliciano

**Wuhan Wuhan**  
United States, Canada / 2021 / 90 min / Chinese with English subtitles  
Yung Chang (Up The Yangtze, China Heavyweight, MFF2012) captures the dignity and kindness of five everyday people caught up in the first COVID-19 lockdown in Wuhan, China. With a classic verité perspective, this documentary strips away statistics to reveal the humanity (and sometimes humor) to be found in the quotidian of a time that is anything but. Ultimately hopeful, this film has the power to remind us of our common experiences as a global community without borders.  
**DIR** Yung Chang  
**PROD** Donna Gigliotti, Peter Luo, Diane Quon

**Young Warriors**  
Brazil / 2020 / 74 min / Portuguese with English subtitles  
Cosme and his wife Maria have long yearned to attend a festival in Barbalha city. When they decide to finally check this off their bucket list, they bring their son Benedito, nephew Matheuzinho, and niece Bruna on a series of adventures in their (somewhat dubious) Jeep. The young travel companions encounter ancient landscapes and histories that now seem new, other, even miraculous. Despite their differences, this trip will bond this trio of friends for life.  
**AGES 9+**  
**DIR** Bárbara Cariry
Black Lens Shorts: Facing Uncertainty
Total running time: 76 min
Each narrative in this shorts program centers on a character who faces great uncertainty in immediate moments, and must prepare themselves to face the outcome of their decisions. The films illustrate how fighting through doubt and anxiety can ultimately lead to clarity.

Drip Like Coffee
Anais Cisco
The Clearing
Chike Johnson
In Sudden Darkness
Taylor Montague
Koko
Amee Apeda
The Pandemic Chronicles
Ya Ra Smith
White Wedding
Melody Roscher

GenreQueer Shorts
Total running time: 100 min
From queer clubs to first dates and trans kids writing their own story, these shorts run the gamut of fun, flirty, and fascinating. Offering a variety of the best queer shorts around, this program celebrates the diversity of LGBTQ perspectives.

Devenir
Géraldine Charpentier-Basille
Drip Like Coffee
Anais Cisco
Dustbin Nelia Guiguet
Flex
Matt Porter
In France Michelle is a Man’s Name
Em Weinstein
The Man Who Wait (Les attendants)
Mini-Quy Truong
The Name of the Son
Martina Matzkin
Self Story
Géraldine Charpentier-Basille

Cine Sin Fronteras Shorts
Total running time: 77 min
Gender identity, class, immigration and more. Both documentary and narrative films are showcased in this year’s Cine Sin Fronteras shorts program. Whether from the US or Ibero-America these films tackle issues as seen through the lens of the Latinx experience. They may be short in length but not in scope and will resonate with viewers long after they end.

At Last
Lorena Gordon
Callejita
Miguel Faus
For Rosa
Kathryn Boyd-Batstone
Since you arrived, my heart stopped belonging to me
(Nedá de Igualaste, mi corazon dejó de pertenecerme)
Eun Sasmine Kilde
When You Clean A Stranger’s Home
Sharon Arteaga

Kids Shorts: Size Medium
Total running time: 64 min
These live-action and animated shorts closely follow young people (and one fantastical being) who demonstrate bravery, curiosity, and joy in the face of inner struggles and outer adversities. In turns triumphant, exhilarating, and pensive, these stories reveal a depth and strength in children too often taken for granted.

Cozca
Victor Chapignon, Camille Brouin, Matthieu Daures, Jean-Géraud Blanc
Devenir
Géraldine Charpentier-Basille
The Last Supper
Michael Bisley
Louis’s Shoes
Marion Philippe, Kayu Leung, Théo Jamin
Matilda and the Spare Head
Iñigo Meliúñas
Ramen
Naïla Guiguet
Taija
Cara Bamford
Umbrellas
José Prato

Kids Shorts: Size Small
Total running time: 61 min
Foster a lifelong cinematic obsession for your youngest with our Size Small program. This vibrant collection of animated short films is filled with adventures. Whether in a forest populated by bluegrass-plucking faeries, in the front seat of the symphony, or in a mysterious village populated by a shape-shifting owl, enchanting travels await.

AGES 3+
The Boy and the Owl
Kiri and Lou – Air
Ice Breakers
Leaf (Listek)
Kiko and the Animals
Mothers Didn't Know (Mor visste ingenting)
Naïla Guiguet
Running Up That Hill
Sandi Risley
The Promise
Terrance Houk, Neko Wang-Houk
Yu’Yeung
Sandi Rankaduwa

AGES 10+
The Men Who Wait (Les attendants)
Cracks in the Pavement
Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson
Matilda and the Spare Head
Iñigo Meliúñas

AGES 6+
The Pandemic Chronicles
Dustbin
Nelia Guiguet
Tulip
Andrea Love, Phoebe Wahl

Kids Shorts: Size Large
Total running time: 76 min
This collection of shorts spotlights protagonists actively shaping their futures. From a mother and daughter coming to terms in a post-apocalyptic landscape, to a girl given an extra head to keep up her grades, to a stunning father-daughter collab, to a woman transformed by a promise to care for a bag of seeds, these shorts highlight the courage it takes to be yourself.

Ice Breakers
Sandi Risley
Joychild
Kepaenumah Hinalieimoana
The Promise
Chi-Tai Tsai
Théo Jamin

White Wedding
Melody Roscher
Ya’Ke Smith
The Pandemic Chronicles
Dustbin
Nelia Guiguet
Flex
Matt Porter

Black Lens Shorts: We Change the Narrative
Total running time: 77 min
This collection of shorts use performance and personal stories to convey efforts to alter dehumanizing narratives of Black people and develop strategies to affirm agency and humanity. While unconventional in structure, these films prove to be nevertheless revelatory, engaging, and fascinating.

The Beckoning
DeMar Walker
Black Bodies
Katly Fythe-Marshall
Don’t Go Tellin’ Your Momma
Topaz Jones, rubberband
Gold
Jade Chang
The Heartland
Marquise Mayes

In Sudden Darkness
Taylor Montague
Koko
Amee Apeda
The Pandemic Chronicles
Ya Ra Smith
White Wedding
Melody Roscher

Directions for Life
Naomi Waithe
A Kind of Garden We Can Grow
Chika Ike
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
The Clearing
Chike Johnson
In Sudden Darkness
Taylor Montague
Koko
Amee Apeda
The Pandemic Chronicles
Ya Ra Smith
White Wedding
Melody Roscher

Do not hallucinate.
Shorts: Let’s Get Animated
Total running time: 49 min
Always an audience favorite, the gorgeous animations in this program come from an array of styles made by filmmakers around the world. You’ll find an existential crisis, a family secret, a future told in dreams, and so much more! Marvel at the worlds created within these diverse shorts!

Beyonk Noh Patrick Smith
Coupl’ d’cled Math Sai Sivaranjan
Hunting (Ghiza) Baghah Vicario
KXUM Kang-mi Kim
Mivesty Love Company Sashia Lee
O Black Hotel Renze Zhan
Opera Erik Oh
Souvenir Souvenir Bastien Dubois

Shorts: Stranger Than Fiction
Total running time: 68 min
These documentary shorts run the gamut: from an intense family drama to a what-if scenario discussed at length, a father and daughter connecting over his past, and a soccer game seen from a brand new perspective. Heartbreak to curiosity, you’ll feel it all as you watch these true slices of life.

57 days (57 días) Mario Lumberas, Laura Braseno
BABA Sarah Blok, Lisa Konno
The Game (Das Spiel) Roman Hodel
Survival 101: In Case of Complete Disappearance Jinyoung Kim
Tiger and Ox (호랑이와 소) SeungHee Kim

Shorts: Surprise, Surprise!
Total running time: 76 min
Unsurprisingly, you’ll find nothing but great shorts in this program. Quality is the only thing you can count on as much more! Marvel at the worlds created within these diverse shorts. These documentary shorts run the gamut: from an intense family drama to a what-if scenario discussed at length, a father and daughter connecting over his past, and a soccer game seen from a brand new perspective. Heartbreak to curiosity, you’ll feel it all as you watch these true slices of life.

Shorts: The Best Damn F*$#%ing Midnight Program Ever. Sh*t.
Total running time: 70 min
You must have a brave heart, strong stomach, and be this tall to view these shorts. These are the shorts that whisper your own name in your ear as you fall asleep. They’ll stick in your head and rattle around. We warned you. Now go forth and have fun!

Bubble Haesin Wang
Dar-Dar Paul Urkijo Aliqo
Don’t Text Back Kaye Adelade, Mariel Sharp
Each Other Dakar Wamelar
Ghost Dogs Joe Cappa
Run That Shit! Tristan Kim

Teen Screen Shorts: Stranger Than Fiction
Total running time: 68 min
After dark, Teen Screen goes Teen Screen. These live action and animated short films serve midnight movie vibes through sci-fi, fantasy, and horror-leaning genres. Grab your favorite theater candy and dive into these spooky, surreal, and bittersweet stories curated by our Teen Screen Selection Committee.

AGES 13+

The Boy and the Owl
Mario Gajo de Carvalho
Hekademia Gloria Mercier
My Friend Who Shines in the Night Grégoire De Bernouis, Jawed Boudaout, Simon Cadilhac, Hélène Ledevin

Teens Screen Shorts: After Dark
Total running time: 66 min
After dark, Teen Screen goes Teen Screen. These live action and animated short films serve midnight movie vibes through sci-fi, fantasy, and horror-leaning genres. Grab your favorite theater candy and dive into these spooky, surreal, and bittersweet stories curated by our Teen Screen Selection Committee.

AGES 13+

The Promise
Chi Thai
Sine’s Tail (Cue de sirena)
Alva Barti - Serre
Souvenir Souvenir Bastien Dubois
Yandere William Laboury

Teen Screen Shorts: Self/Image
Total running time: 73 min
Reckoning with our identities is part of growing up. These gorgeous and affecting live action and animated shorts presented by our Teen Screen Selection Committee explore diverse stories of selfhood and transformation, family and acceptance, discovery and renewal.

AGES 13+

O Black Hole!
Renee Zhan
O Tiger and Ox (호랑이와 소) SeungHee Kim

Shorts: The Milwaukee Show I
Total running time: 62 min
What would the Milwaukee Film Festival be without The Milwaukee Show? One of our hottest tickets each year, we can’t stop and neither do our local creatives. 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.

Gold Jade Charon
home Diya Mark
A Lark and a Swallow Parker Wintship
Perennial Pilot Joey Bina
Spadez - “Justice Overdue” Sean Kafer, Madeline Schweitzer, Oscar Walton
Trustwormy Kyle Kenowski
The Woman and the Sea Camila Guarda
Zhaushee Xiong NiaojiaXiong

Shorts: The Milwaukee Show II
Total running time: 62 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.

Greenhorn Zach Erdmann
Puzzle - “Scenes Like This” Derek Schmitt
Spontaneous Lori Felker
Wiggle Room Vincent Maslowski

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Total running time: 62 min
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Three Ways of Looking at Milwaukee
Total running time: 74 min
These three shorts look at Milwaukee from different angles and, taken together, present a prismatic perspective on our city. From the fascinating world of auctioneering to the voices of Black youth telling their stories to a symphonic portrait of the buildings and shadows of downtown Milwaukee – all three films are honest and authentic love letters to this city and its people.

Bid Caller
David Van Auken

The Heartland
Marquise Mays

Milwaukee Night and Day
Dick Blau

The Milwaukee Youth Show
Total running time: 68 min
This year’s Milwaukee Youth Show provides a portal into the surreal space bridging the “before times” and now. Enlisting family members, delivery boxes, protest footage, and kitchen items (the semiotics of quarantine), these resilient and imaginative auteurs-in-the-making have captured a changed world in all its sadness, rage, and absurdity through a wide array of approaches.

Crimson & Lilacs
Madeline O’Connell

Dangerous Days
Clayton Allen

distance
Dana Carmel

The Guardian
Kayla VanProoyen

Himig Woman
Anthony Xiong

How I Write Stories
Frances Bresser

If You Need Me
Tommy Young

Impermanence
Nicolas Dittmer Greene

Isolation
Coen Kroshke Mammel

MIM’s Bakery
Giselle Candalaria

Olympic Dolls
Deanna Lapis

Remember
Aral Nen Jr.

Sanctity
Georgia Frisch

The Service
Colin Sandee

Table for Two
Jessica Rodriguez

Visit Milwaukee
Javen Minella-Farley, Joaquin De Ham

A Heartfelt Note
from Milwaukee Film...
The past year has been a difficult one for all of us. At the very least, there was a level of uncertainty with every day that passed.
As a nonprofit cultural institution, of course we were immediately concerned about our future and how we would survive this ongoing crisis. But, the very first thing that signaled to us would make it through the most challenging time for our organization was the response from you, our Members. We received a torrent of messages of support and appreciation for our work. We always believe words of consolation, and promises to stick with us throughout. Not to mention your renewals, upgrades, and amazing donations!
Our existence has and always will depend on our supporters and you sent us a welcome message that we’re not going anywhere!
You’re the wind beneath our wings, the gin in our juice, the Abbott and Costello movies on a Sunday afternoon in the 80s... (that last one may be too specific to our childhood)...
We’ve said it so many times before, but perhaps never in so lovely a font as this....

Super-Secret
Members-Only Screening
Available from 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. ONLY
Yup, this great Festival tradition continues in the virtual realm! 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 detailed access instructions via email on May 19.
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. It’s a surprise!

Wednesday
May 19
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 & Communities (C&C) platform 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 in 2019 (remember when we could do that?) and more than 66,000 moviegoers at last year’s first all-virtual festival. 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 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, we began our next phase of renovations, working to restore much of the theater’s other two houses while also incorporating hearing loops for improved accessibility. We look forward to reopening the theater this year so we can all enjoy amazing films and this gem of a building together again.

Cultures & Communities
Milwaukee Film’s new Cultures & Communities initiative focuses on prioritizing diverse cultural perspectives, lived experiences, and representations of historically marginalized communities through the use of film, conversation, events, and presentations. In 2020, building on the success of the Minority Health Film Festival, we invested deeply in this collaborative effort as a direct response to the global pandemic and social unrest. The efforts, started in 2019, have most recently resulted in the 2021 Black History Month and Women’s History Month programs. C&C is poised now to strengthen the impact of established programs such as Black Lens, Cine Sin Fronteras, GenreQueer, and Women in Film, while simultaneously developing new programs and events out of collaborations with individuals and institutions throughout Milwaukee.

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 local movie lovers. Visit our website for more information on these programs.

Milwaukee Film Staff

Leadership
Geraud Blanks
Chief Innovation Officer
Kristen C. Heller
Chief Operating Officer
Jonathan Jackson
Chief Executive Officer
Jason Roehler
Chief Financial Officer
Cara Ogburn, Ph.D.
Artistic Director

Artistic
Marieille Alischwang
Education Manager
Ian Cessna
High School Filmmaking Instructor
Aster Gilbert
GenreQueer Coordinator
Kerstin Larson
Programming Director
Donte McFadden, Ph.D.
Black Lens Programmer
Ernie Quiroz
Cine Sin Fronteras Programmer
Anna Sampers
Program Director
Molly Yeh
Artist Services Manager

Development
Sebastian Mel
Development Consultant
Dana Reinoc
Grants Coordinator and Executive Assistant
Rachel Vander Weit
Development Manager

Innovation
Kaitlin Erickson
Marketing Assistant
Haven Falk
Creative Services Manager
Tom Fuchs
Digital Media Manager
Gabriella Griffith
Marketing Coordinator
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Information
The Milwaukee Film Festival (MFF) 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 & Communities (C&C) platform 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 in 2019 (remember when we could do that?) and more than 66,000 moviegoers at last year’s first all-virtual festival. 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 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, we began our next phase of renovations, working to restore much of the theater’s other two houses while also incorporating hearing loops for improved accessibility. We look forward to reopening the theater this year so we can all enjoy amazing films and this gem of a building together again.

Cultures & Communities
Milwaukee Film’s new Cultures & Communities initiative focuses on prioritizing diverse cultural perspectives, lived experiences, and representations of historically marginalized communities through the use of film, conversation, events, and presentations. In 2020, building on the success of the Minority Health Film Festival, we invested deeply in this collaborative effort as a direct response to the global pandemic and social unrest. The efforts, started in 2019, have most recently resulted in the 2021 Black History Month and Women’s History Month programs. C&C is poised now to strengthen the impact of established programs such as Black Lens, Cine Sin Fronteras, GenreQueer, and Women in Film, while simultaneously developing new programs and events out of collaborations with individuals and institutions throughout Milwaukee.

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 local movie lovers. Visit our website for more information on these programs.