
Associated Bank
Presents the
MILWAUKEE
FILM FESTIVAL
2025
April 24
May 8
MILWAUKEE
FILM

UP TO A $600[1] BONUS AND RED-CARPET PERKS? YOU GOT IT.



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on a single or dual Milwaukee Film "Festival Fan" annual membership.[4]

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5 cents from every transaction goes back to the nonprofit Milwaukee Film.[5]

FREE popcorn
with the purchase of any drink– all year round![6]

Visit **AssociatedBank.com/MKEFilm** for details.

Associated Bank
BANK OF MILWAUKEE FILM

1. This offer is limited to a new personal Associated Bank checking account opened and funded through June 30, 2025. Receive up to a $600 bonus with required minimum opening deposit (Associated Access Checking: $25, Associated Balanced or Choice Checking: $100) and recurring direct deposits totaling $500 or more within 90 days of account opening from an employer or government agency. Person-to-person payments and transfers from existing or external accounts do not qualify as the required direct deposit transactions.

Determining your bonus: 90 days (or the previous business day), after opening your checking account, we will calculate the sum of the average daily balance for all your open Associated Bank deposit accounts for days 31-90. Total average daily balances of $1,000-$4,999.99 will earn $300, $5,000-$9,999.99 will earn $400 and $10,000 and over will earn $600.

All personal Associated Bank checking, savings, money market, IRA and/or CD account balances are included in the calculation to determine your total average deposit balance. Accounts must be titled with the same primary account holder to qualify for the bonus. Deposit balances from business, HSA, investment, minor or private banking accounts are ineligible. Associated Choice Checking is an interest-earning account and interest is paid on the daily collected balance. The current Standard Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is 0.05% and the Qualified Platinum Choice APY is 0.10% as of January 21, 2025.

The bonus will be deposited into the new Associated Bank checking account within 120 days of account opening. Account must be open at the time the bonus is paid and must remain open for a minimum of 12 months. If the account is closed within 12 months, Associated Bank reserves the right to deduct the monetary bonus from the account prior to closing.

Offer limited to one per customer and cannot be combined with other offers. New customers opening online are limited to IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, OH and WI. Offer not available for customers who have received a new personal checking account monetary bonus within the last 24 months and have or have had an Associated Bank checking account within the last 12 months. Primary owner on the account must be 18 years or older to qualify. For tax reporting purposes, the bonus may be reported to the IRS on Form 1099. Associated Bank colleagues are not eligible. The offer and APY are subject to change, at Associated Bank's discretion, at any time without notice and other exclusions may apply. (1454)

2. Show your Milwaukee Film Debit Mastercard when making a purchase. Exclusions may apply, please see a sales associate for details. Valid for purchases at Oriental Theatre and Downer Theatre. (1326)

3. To receive the Milwaukee Film Festival digital ticket vouchers customer must have a personal checking account with a Milwaukee Film Debit Mastercard. Digital ticket vouchers will be made available as an online redemption code, valid for regularly priced in-theater film screenings. To be eligible for the digital ticket vouchers, account must be open a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the current year's Milwaukee Film Festival. Primary owner on the account must be 18 years or older to qualify. This benefit is subject to change, at Associated Bank or Milwaukee Film's discretion, at any time without notice. Exclusions may apply. Once the vouchers are in customer's possession, Associated Bank and Milwaukee Film are not responsible if lost or stolen. (1162)

4. Memberships are valid for 12 months. Dual memberships are available only to members who reside at the same address. Discount is available for new membership or at time of renewal. Show your Milwaukee Film Debit Mastercard when making a purchase or call 414-755-1965 x204 for more information. All benefits are subject to change. See mkefilm.org for membership information. (1167)

5. 5¢ from every transaction (less returns) made with a Milwaukee Film Debit Card will be given back to Milwaukee Film, up to $35,000 annually. (1166)

6.Show your Milwaukee Film Debit Mastercard when making a purchase to receive a free small popcorn with purchase of any beverage. Valid for purchases at Oriental Theatre and Downer Theatre. (1325)

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Michael Best®

LIGHTS, CAMERA, MILWAUKEE

From opening credits to the final scene, Michael Best is dedicated to supporting the artists and visionaries who produce Milwaukee's robust arts culture.



Alec Fraser
Michael Best Managing Partner
Milwaukee Office

michaelbest.com

WELCOME

HELLO MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL!



Photo: Brandon Moreale

Susan Kerns here, Milwaukee Film's new Executive Director, with the first of what I hope will be many Milwaukee Film Festival welcome letters. Thank you so much for the warmth you have extended! I feel such gratitude to be working with this beloved organization and within the gorgeous and historied walls of the Oriental Theatre again.

It turns out, I feel at home in the same space the Violent Femmes got their start, and where Bruce Springsteen, Patti Smith, REM, Blondie, and Kristopher Pollard have all performed. Many of you have called my return a homecoming, and that feels apt. Not unlike the migratory birds of this year's Festival art, I've spent the past dozen years traveling north and south, working in two cities yet only half-living in either. I'm excited to be home, to nest.

And what a vibrant nest it is! Our programming team curated over 200 international shorts and features for you this Festival, plus industry panels and numerous networking happy hours. We also are nearing our pre-COVID membership high!

If you are not already a Milwaukee Film Member, now is a great time to join. Membership gives you access to exclusive screenings and discounts throughout the year. Member support also helps us bring in special guests, screen films on 70mm and 35mm, preserve our historic theatres, partner with arts, education, and nonprofit organizations to offer community screenings, and show socially engaged films to improve quality of life in Milwaukee and beyond. Milwaukee Film is film art and film history. It is the silents and the talkies, the comedies and the melodramas, the popcorn and the brewer's yeast.

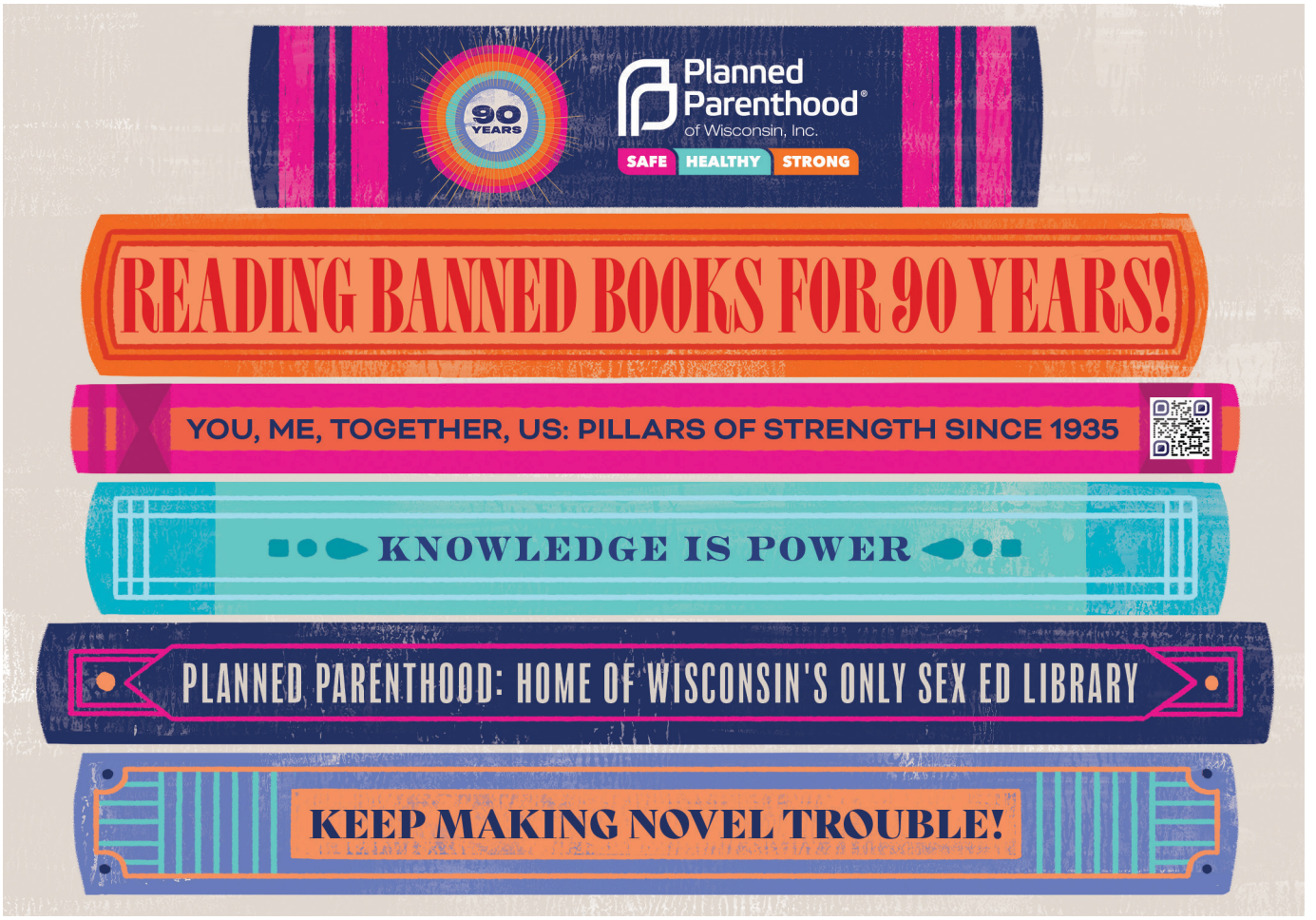
Thank you for being part of our family! We are so lucky to share our love of all things film with you, and if you see me around, please say hello!

Now, on with the show!

Susan Kerns

Susan Santha Kerns, Ph.D.
Executive Director




90 YEARS
Planned Parenthood®
of Wisconsin, Inc.
SAFE HEALTHY STRONG
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YOU, ME, TOGETHER, US: PILLARS OF STRENGTH SINCE 1935
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KEEP MAKING NOVEL TROUBLE!


RAISE A GLASS and
ENJOY THE SHOW!
For 90 years, Badger Liquor has been bringing the world's finest wines and spirits to Wisconsin. We invite you to sip, savor, and celebrate the magic of cinema. Cheers to great films, great drinks, and 90 years of unforgettable moments!
WISCONSIN'S PREMIER WINE & SPIRITS DISTRIBUTOR SINCE 1935.
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CHEERS TO 90 YEARS



Photo: Brandon Moreale

Greetings Milwaukee Film Members, supporters, film goers, and friends,

After nearly a decade on the Board of Directors, this year I'm excited and honored to welcome you to the 17th Annual Milwaukee Film Festival as Board Chair. Thank you for joining us for the greatest 15 days of the year!

Whether it's through my business, foundation, or personal life, building community through the arts, connection, and unique experiences is at the core of everything I do and everything in which I believe.

Milwaukee Film has become a cultural institution in our community, and deservedly so. Through world-class cinematic experiences all year long that convene our diverse communities and catalyze positive change, our small but mighty staff has earned ongoing respect and built an outstanding national reputation for the work they do.

Movies, and the experience of watching them in venues like our incredible Oriental and Downer Theatres, enable a type of closeness you just can't find anywhere else. Whether you grab a stranger's arm as you gasp in a horror film, or offer someone a tissue during an emotional drama, there are few, if any, other places it's acceptable to interact with strangers in the dark. So, talk to a stranger, make a new friend, and take advantage of all the things film and independent cinemas add to our lives. Let it be a way for us all to make sense of our world, together. Embrace connection, community, conversation, and of course, enjoy the popcorn!

Thank you for creating these moments with us, we're grateful to share the experience and joy of film with you.

See you at the movies!

Lacey Sadoff
Board Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD CHAIR
Lacey Sadoff

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THANK YOU to our wonderful sponsors who have generously contributed financially and through in-kind services to support Milwaukee Film's mission.

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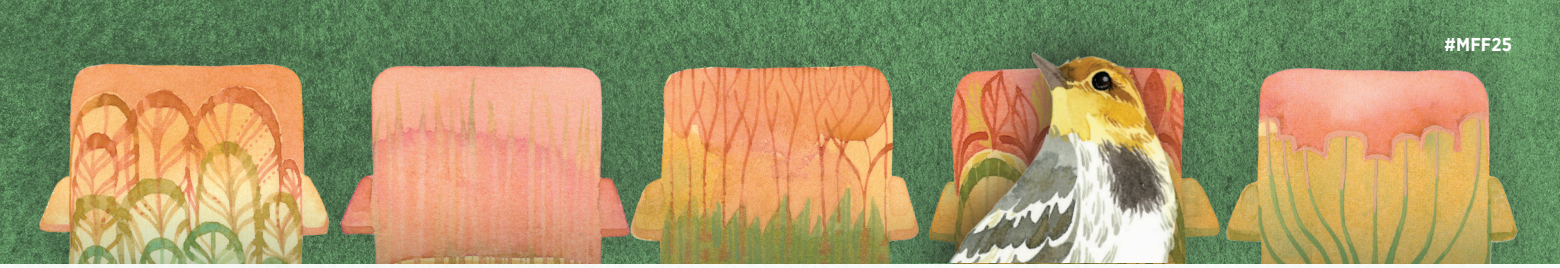
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yelp



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A huge **THANK YOU** to our members and philanthropic partners who have gone above and beyond in support of Milwaukee Film's mission.

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Chris and Jennifer Abele

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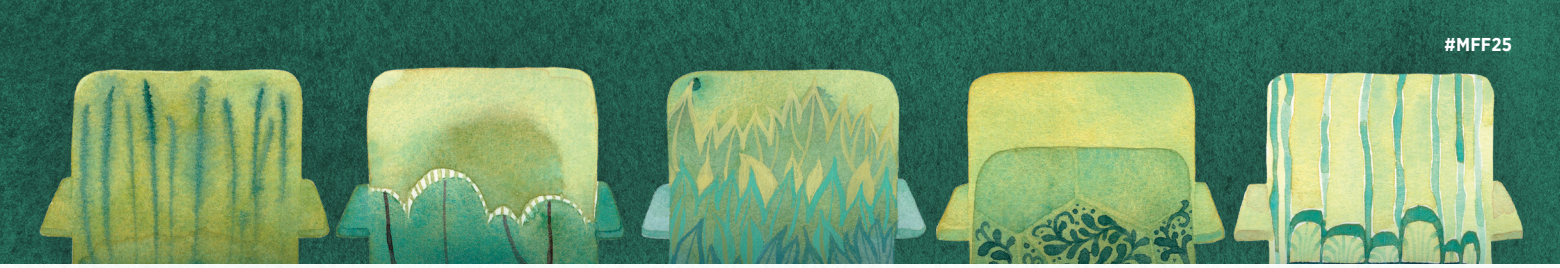
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MARIANNE AND SHELDON LUBAR

SUSAN A. LUBAR

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Paul Barribeau and Claude Mills | Kelly Cushion and Angela Pinta | Robert Davis | Cecelia Gore and Randy Bryant | Jill Haas | Dion and Jennifer Lewis | Gil Southwell and Tracy Luber | Carolyn and Jay Scott

TICKET INFO

BUY TICKETS

ONLINE AT MKEFILM.ORG*

Opens Apr 14 online (Milwaukee Film Members)

Opens Apr 16 online (General Public)

BY PHONE AT (414) 755-1965*

Opens Apr 14 (Milwaukee Film Members)

Opens Apr 16 (General Public)

IN PERSON AT FESTIVAL BOX OFFICES

Oriental Theatre

Apr 18–22: 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM daily

Apr 24–May 8: Box Office opens one hour before the first screening and closes 20 minutes after the last screening starts.

Downer Theatre

Apr 25–May 8: Box Office opens one hour before the first screening and closes 20 minutes after the last screening starts.

CREDIT ONLY

(Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover accepted—no checks please).

*Tickets purchased online or by phone will be delivered by email and can be scanned at entry on your mobile device.

TICKET PRICES

PREMIUM SCREENINGS (MARKED WITH A P)

$20 General Public

$18 Seniors (60+), Students/Educators and Military Members (with ID)

$17 Milwaukee Film Member

REGULAR SCREENINGS

$15 Adults

$14 Seniors (60+), Students/Educators and Military Members (with ID)

$13 Milwaukee Film Member

$8 Children (12 and under)

FESTIVAL PASSES

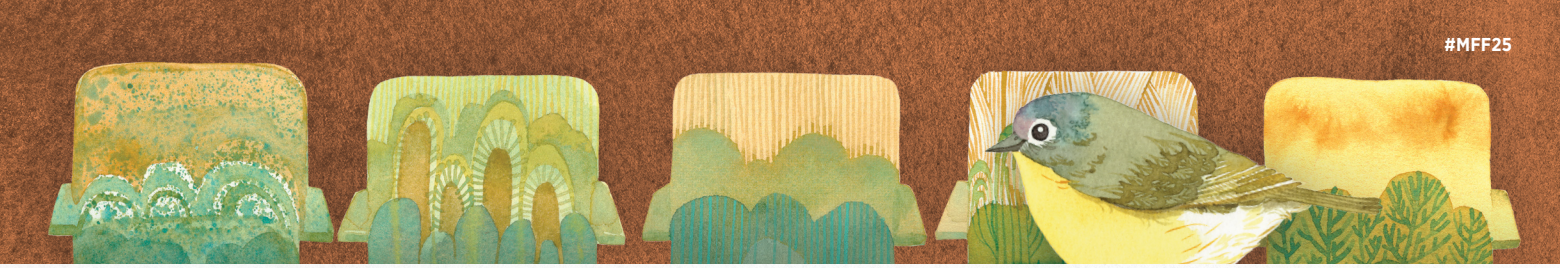
An All-Access Festival Pass provides access to every Film Festival screening*, including the Opening Night film and films on Standby. If you have an All-Access Festival Pass please arrive at the theater at least 30 minutes before showtime. You'll get to enter the theater without waiting in the ticket-holder line!

$625 General Public

$525 Milwaukee Film Members

*Super Secret Members-Only Screening is excluded; must be a current Milwaukee Film Member to attend. Registration is required

IMPORTANT NOTE To guarantee a seat for a screening, ticket and pass holders must arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to scheduled showtime. Ticket and pass holders arriving less than 15 minutes prior to scheduled showtime cannot be guaranteed a seat and will be seated only as capacity allows and at the discretion of Festival staff. No refunds or exchanges are available to ticket and pass holders who are refused entry after this time.



ACCESSIBILITY

All films for the Festival will have hearing-impaired device capability.

HEARING IMPAIRED (HI)

For those with hearing impairment, we will be offering HI devices. These will work for all films at the Festival. These devices allow for the user to hear the Left, Center and Right channel more clearly.

We offer multiple devices for users to access HI devices: at the Oriental Theatre, we use hearing loops to transmit HI audio tracks which can be received by users with T-Coil devices (such as certain hearing aids) or with devices we supply in house that receive the signal via a headset.

At the Downer Theatre, we supply Fidelio devices and headsets which staff will program to receive the HI track transmitted from our projection equipment.

CLOSED CAPTIONING (CCAP)

We will be offering closed captioning whenever a filmmaker/distributor has provided closed captions. When closed captions are provided, the dialogue and audio of the film will be represented on text displays for individual users to read during the film.

The devices we offer for accessing closed captioning tracks are called Captiview. These are small displays that can be mounted by the user either in a cup holder or on a seat rest and positioned so that the captions can be read while watching the film.

Staff will need to program these devices for each film, and it should be noted that Closed Captions will only be available for the featured content (e.g. not on trailers).

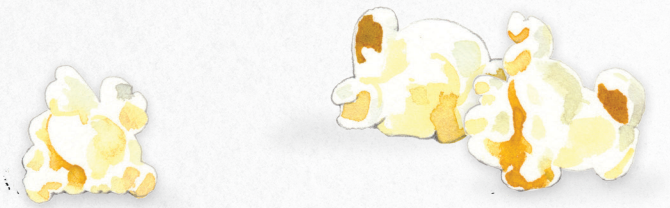
Attendees should inquire with box office staff if a film will be offering closed captioning.

OPEN CAPTIONS (OCAP) OC

We will be offering open captions for two films: LIFE AFTER (pg. 36) and MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE (pg. 37). For these screenings, the captions will be on the screen for everyone to see and no devices will be necessary.

VISUAL IMPAIRED (VI)

For those with visual impairments, we will be providing devices for VI tracks whenever they have been provided by the filmmaker or distributor. These audio tracks provide a narrated description of what is happening on the screen. These audio tracks are transmitted to the user via a Fidelio receiver and headset which staff will program to receive the appropriate audio track. Attendees should inquire with box office staff if a film will be offering VI.



THE FINE PRINT NO REFUNDS. NO RESALES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. IMPORTANT—PLEASE NOTE: Tickets cannot be redeemed for attendees who are not present. To guarantee a seat for a film, ticket and pass holders must arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to scheduled showtime. Ticket and pass holders arriving after this time will be seated only as capacity allows and at the discretion of festival staff. No refunds or exchanges are available to ticket and pass holders who are refused entry after this time. Tickets and passes, and their associated privileges, may be revoked at any time, for any reason, without liability to Milwaukee Film. Film programs, special guests, events, venues, dates, and times are subject to change without notice. Unless noted, films are not rated; viewer discretion is advised. Patrons grant Milwaukee Film and its partners permission to use their images or likenesses in any reproduction of events. Patrons voluntarily assume all risks and dangers incidental to Festival events, whether occurring prior to, during, or after the event. Patrons voluntarily agree that Milwaukee Film and its facilities, sponsors, directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and respective agents are expressly released from any injuries or claims arising from any Festival event. By entering any Milwaukee Film-operated event or venue, all parties agree to adhere to our Code of Conduct to ensure Milwaukee Film spaces are spaces of community-building: mkefilm.org/conduct.

EVENTS AND VENUES

The Festival doesn't stop when the credits roll—join us throughout MFF25's two weeks for various parties, panels, and events all over the East Side!

Following the Opening Night screening of *Sally*, join us for an Opening Night Block Party! Celebrating this year's walkable Festival footprint, this party will kick off MFF25 by activating the community that surrounds our historic cinemas. The party will begin at 8:00 PM and will be free and open to the public, but ticket and passholders will receive special discounts and freebies throughout the party!



Panels will occur both weekends at East Library (Saturdays) and Pomona Cider Co. (Sundays). Find out details about what and when on our website in the lead-up to the Festival!



And join us at Triple Taproom every day of the festival (hours may vary) at our Festival Lounge presented by The Yabuki Family Foundation for a drink or a bite—many of our local and visiting filmmakers will be hanging here, how about you?

CINEMAS

1. **Oriental Theatre** | 2230 N Farwell Ave.
2. **Downer Theatre** | 2589 N Downer Ave.

EVENT VENUES (PANELS & LOUNGE)

3. Triple Taproom & Kitchen | 2018 E North Ave.
4. East Library | 2320 N Cramer St.
5. Pomona Cider Co. | 2163 N Farwell Ave.

PARKING

Street parking is available near both cinemas; always check signs, meters, and lots for details.

6. Downer Garage | 2584 N Downer Ave.
7. Public Parking Lot | 2530 E Park Pl.
8. U.S. Bank Farwell Lot | 2303 N Farwell Ave.
9. Prospect Medical Commons Garage | 2401 N Maryland Ave.
10. North Avenue Lot | 1915 E North Ave.
11. Kenilworth Lower Level Parking | 2164 N Farwell Ave.
12. Prospect Lot | 2009 E Kenilworth Ave.
13. Kenilworth Secure Lot | 2139 N Prospect Ave.

FOOD & DRINK & FRIENDS

14. Crossroads Collective / The Pharmacy Bar / Shanghai | 2238 N Farwell Ave.
15. Beans & Barley | 1901 E North Ave.
16. Kind Oasis | 2169 N Farwell Ave.
17. Von Trier | 2235 N Farwell Ave.
18. Pizza Man | 2597 N Downer Ave.
19. Café Hollander | 2608 N Downer Ave.
20. Ian's Pizza | 2035 E. North Ave.
21. Colectivo Coffee | 2211 N Prospect Ave.
22. Stone Creek Coffee - Downer Cafe & Kitchen | 2650 N Downer Ave.
23. Boswell Book Company | 2559 N Downer Ave.

Milwaukee Film Festival Lounge Presented by The Yabuki Family Foundation



1 CINEMAS
2 EVENT VENUES
3 PARKING
4 FOOD & DRINK & FRIENDS
SUGGESTED ROUTES

E Park Pl.
E Belleview Pl.
E Webster Pl.
E Bradford Ave.
E Greenwich Ave.
E Thomas Ave.
E North Ave.
E Wyoming Pl
E Windsor Pl.
E Kenilworth Pl.
N Maryland Ave.
N Prospect Ave.
N Stowell Ave.
N Hackett Ave.
N Farwell Ave.
N Frederick Ave.
N Downer Ave.
N Oakland Ave.
N Cramer St.
N Murray Ave.
N Lake Dr.
N Terrace Ave.
N Summit Ave.
Water Tower Rd.
Memorial Dr.

SCAN HERE FOR THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF FESTIVAL EVENTS!

ORIENTAL THEATRE MILWAUKEE | DOWNER THEATRE



PICTURE PERFECT CINEMAS.

MKEFILM.ORG/CINEMAS

FESTIVAL FAQS

WHEN SHOULD I BUY TICKETS?

You already know the answer to this one: as soon as possible! Many of our screenings sell out, leaving sad, ticket-less people. Don't be one of those. Buy your tickets early!

WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE AT SCREENINGS?

If you have a ticket or a pass, we highly recommend you arrive a minimum of 30 minutes prior to showtime to secure your seat. All ticket and pass holders must arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled showtime to guarantee a seat. Beginning 15 minutes before the show, any empty seats will be sold to patrons in the Standby line (see below).

WHAT IF A SCREENING IS SOLD OUT?

If a film is listed online as "Standby Only," there's still hope! You can join the Standby line at the venue to buy an unclaimed seat. Standby tickets are sold on a first-come, first-served basis, so get in line early. There's also a chance the film will be screening again during the Festival! Check your program guide for dates, times, and locations.

WHAT ARE STANDBY TICKETS?

Standby tickets are last-minute tickets to screenings where all advance tickets have been sold. If available, Standby tickets are sold within 15 minutes of showtime. All Standby tickets are sold at full price and are not subject to discounts. 6-pack and 10-pack vouchers are not redeemable for Standby tickets.



HOW DO I KNOW WHICH SCREENINGS HAVE GONE TO STANDBY STATUS?

Every day at noon during the Festival, we update mkefilm.org/standby to let you know which screenings have gone to Standby Only status (and which screenings are selling quickly).

CAN I PURCHASE SAME-DAY TICKETS?

Absolutely! Same-day tickets are available at both box office locations, online, and over the phone, up until each film's showtime or until a film goes to Standby.

HOW CAN I GET A MEMBER DISCOUNT?

Milwaukee Film Members pay less for tickets, passes, concessions, and merchandise during the Festival. Throughout the year, they also get to take advantage of many other great benefits, including year-round discounts on tickets and concessions at the Oriental and Downer Theatres. If you aren't a Member yet, sign up at mkefilm.org/membership or at the Festival box office to enjoy these discounts immediately!

CAN I BRING KIDS TO THE FILM FESTIVAL?

Certainly. We're a kid-friendly Festival! However, not all films have MPAA ratings. Some movies might contain material unsuitable for children, so please use discretion when selecting films for youths. Age-appropriate films with recommendations are available in the Rated K: For Kids program.

FILM PROGRAMS

SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS

If you can only make one screening, we are sorry for you and strongly suggest choosing one from this list. These crowd-pleasing Premium presentations are perfect for first-time festival-goers and seasoned screen junkies alike.

PRESENTED BY: Donald and Donna Baumgartner
SPONSORED BY: Radio Milwaukee

ART & ARTISTS

Go into the studio, around the work, and deep into the visionary mind with these films featuring the creativity of visual, performing, literary, and culinary artists.

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 from across the Black diaspora and relevant to all in order to inspire conversation, celebration, and community.

SPONSORED BY: HYFIN,
WNOV 860am/106.5 FM "The Voice"

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.

SPONSORED BY: Telemundo Wisconsin

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 you'll never forget.

SPONSORED BY: 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.

PRESENTED BY: Susan and Robert Mikulay
SPONSORED BY: OnMilwaukee, Urban Milwaukee





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.

PRESENTED BY: Christine Symchych and Jim McNulty
SPONSORED BY: Shepherd Express, Milwaukee PBS

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

NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

This showcase of modern independent cinema presents fiction exploring all corners of North America—works in which the "where" is just as important as the "who" and "what."

PRESENTED BY: The Helmerich Trust
SPONSORED BY: Wisconsin Public Radio

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.

SPONSORED BY: Beans & Barley

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.

SPONSORED BY: WUWM 89.7 FM – Milwaukee's NPR

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.

PRESENTED BY: Lacey Sadoff Foundation
SPONSORED BY: 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 the cinema.

PRESENTED BY: Joan Lubar and John Crouch

WHERE TO START

Overwhelmed by all the options? Well, allow us to take you *under our wing* with these suggested starting points. From special one-time-only screenings and events, to recommendations direct from our programming team that will help you find your vibe, let's start planning your MFF25 itinerary!



OPENING NIGHT FILM: SALLY

Thursday, April 24 | 6:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema) . . . . . pg. 41

Opening Night launches our Festival off like a rocket with Milwaukee native Cristina Costantini's latest, *Sally*. With filmmakers and special guests in attendance, and a block party right as you step outside the cinema, this night will prepare you for two more weeks of films, guests, and celebration.



40TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING & BOOK SIGNING: DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN

Saturday, April 26 | 10:45 AM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema) . . . . . .pg. 30

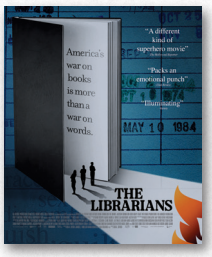
Join acclaimed filmmaker Susan Seidelman for a screening, Q&A, and book signing of *Desperately Seeking Something: A Memoir About Movies, Mothers, and Material Girls*. Purchase the book and get it signed starting at 10:45 AM, or buy a pre-signed copy following the post-film Q&A. **Screening starts promptly at 11:30 AM**.



ANVIL ORCHESTRA PRESENTS A LIVE SCORE TO NOSFERATU: A SYMPHONY OF HORROR

Monday, April 28 | 6:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema) . . . . . .pg. 39

Returning this year is a fan-favorite Festival tradition: Anvil Orchestra's annual live in-theatre performance of musical accompaniment to a classic silent film. This year, hot off the tails of Roger Eggers' successful 2024 adaptation, Anvil Orchestra will be performing alongside a special screening of F. W. Murnau's *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror* from 1922.



CENTERPIECE FILM: THE LIBRARIANS

Friday, May 2 | 7:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema) . . . . . .pg. 45

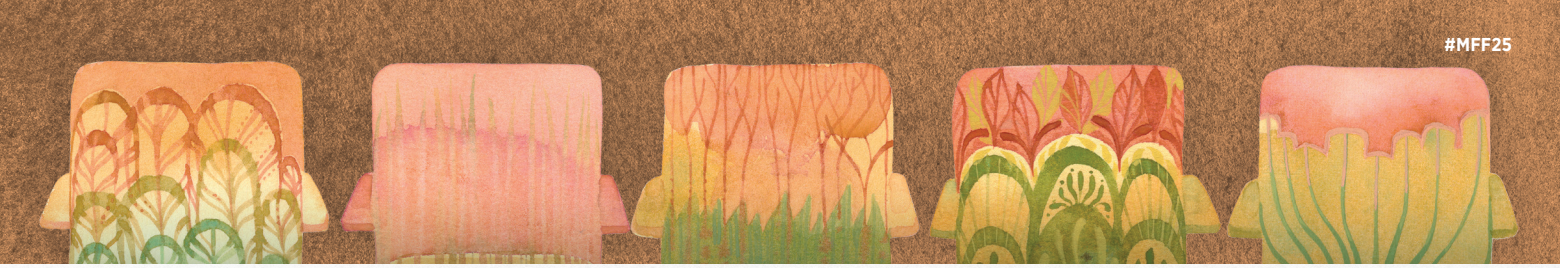
MFF20 Audience Award winner (*Us Kids*) Kim A Snyder returns to the Festival with her latest: *The Librarians*. Join us for our Centerpiece presentation featuring a Q&A with Snyder and special guests, then come back on Saturday for a panel discussing this timely and dialogue-prompting film alongside local experts.



CLOSING NIGHT FILM: JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE

Thursday, May 8 | 7:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema) . . . . . .pg. 35

Close out two fantastic weeks of films with this charming and witty romantic comedy before it releases in theaters. This film is the perfect way to ease back into your day-to-day life, putting the final stamp on a cinematic journey that took you around the world and guided you through every possible human emotion with MFF25.



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The Entire Cream City Cinema Lineup!

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MEMBERSHIP IT'S GIVING *DISCOUNTS* FREE FILMS, & MORE!

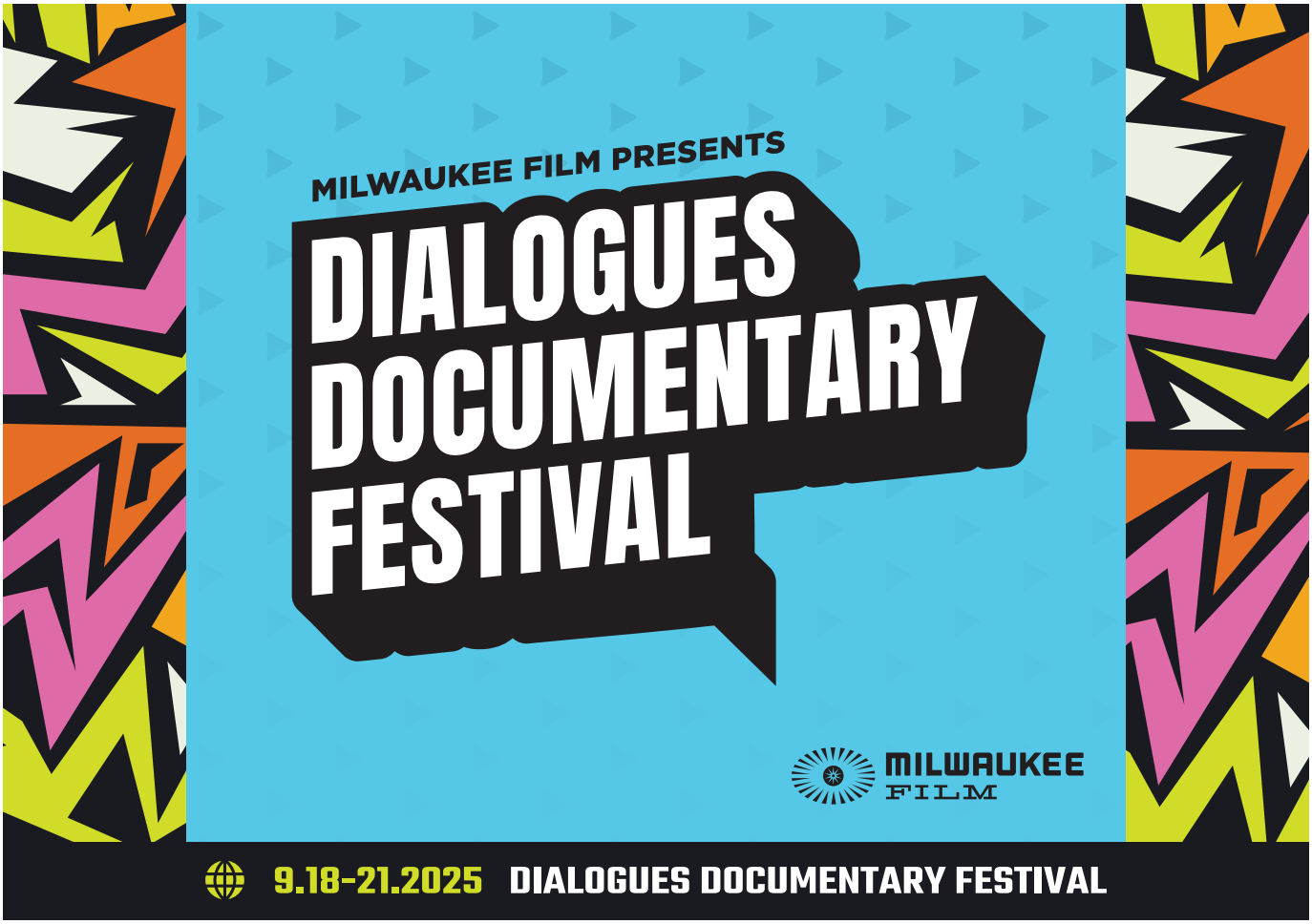
SAVE ON EVERYTHING: FROM CONCESSIONS, TO MOVIE TICKETS, AND MERCH

Plus enjoy a FREE Members-Only Screening every month at the Oriental Theatre! Your Membership supports all things Milwaukee Film, including our historic cinemas, diverse year-round programming, and our world-class Film Festivals.

MKEFILM.COM/MEMBERS




See what all the birds are chirping about at mkefilm.org/membership
SUPER-SECRET
MEMBERS-ONLY SCREENING
APRIL 30, 2025 • 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM • ORIENTAL THEATRE


MILWAUKEE FILM PRESENTS
DIALOGUES DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL
MILWAUKEE FILM
9.18-21.2025 DIALOGUES DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

FEATURE FILMS





DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES CREAM CITY CINEMA **FILM SPONSOR**

Otis McNulty

25 CATS FROM QATAR

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 95 MIN / ENGLISH

When Katy McHugh, owner of Milwaukee's Sip and Purr Cat Café, learns of the feral cat crisis in Doha, Qatar, she creates a brave and unsanctioned plan to fly 25 cats from Doha back to Wisconsin for adoption. From MFF alum Mye Hoang (CAT DADDIES, MFF22), this film offers a heartwarming, urgent look at strangers overcoming barriers to save lives, highlighting the global struggle for animal welfare.

DIR Mye Hoang
PROD Dave Boyle, Alex Megaro, Eman Akram Nader
SCR Mye Hoang

Saturday, May 3 | 3:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 4:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE BLACK LENS

40 ACRES

CANADA / 2024 / 113 MIN / ENGLISH, CREE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In a post-apocalyptic future where food is scarce, the last descendants of a Black family of farmers who settled in Canada after the American Civil War must protect their homestead from an organized militia hell-bent on taking their land. Structured like a typical apocalypse film, 40 ACRES subverts expectations in ways that will leave you breathless. With a terrific ensemble cast led by Danielle Deadwyler (STATION ELEVEN, TILL), this action/thriller captivates and surprises.

DIR R.T. Thorne
PROD Jennifer Holness
SCR R.T. Thorne, Glenn Taylor, Lora Campbell

Friday, May 2 | 9:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 8:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 8:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



BLACK LENS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

A MOTHER APART

CANADA / 2024 / 89 MIN / ENGLISH, GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Poet, writer, and LGBTQ+ activist Staceyann Chinn reminisces on her journey as a poet while attempting to break the generational curse of abandonment with her own daughter, Zuri. When she discovers unopened childhood letters addressed to her mother, Hazel, Chin begins an emotionally intense investigation into the past of a woman whose absence has shaped her poetry, politics, and motherhood.

DIR Laurie Townshend
PROD Ngardy Conteh George, Alison Duke, Justine Pimlott
SCR Alison Duke, Laurie Townshend

Friday, May 2 | 12:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 6:30 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 3:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

AJ GOES TO THE DOG PARK

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 79 MIN / ENGLISH

Preceded by THE NOTORIOUS NETWORK: A DEVILISH DISH | Dir. Sam Aria

A surreal and gag-driven comedy about an ordinary man named AJ, who enjoys a simple life in the midwest haven of Fargo, ND. When his favorite dog park is taken away, it begins a chain reaction that completely upends his existence and sends him on an unforgettable odyssey to fight, fish, scrap, scrape, and slap things back into place.

DIR Toby Jones
PROD Ben Hanson
SCR Toby Jones

Friday, Apr 25 | 10:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Tuesday, Apr 29 | 9:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Friday, May 2 | 8:45 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



GENREQUEER WORLDVIEWS

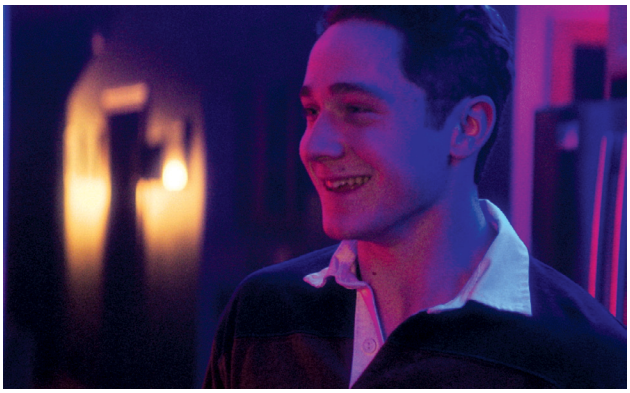
ALL SHALL BE WELL

HONG KONG, CHINA / 2024 / 93 MIN / CANTONESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Winner of LGBT film festival awards across the globe, ALL SHALL BE WELL follows Hong Kong couple Angie and Pat as they enter their late 60s. After an unexpected turn of events, Angie finds herself at the mercy of Pat's family, struggling to retain her dignity and the home she has shared with her partner for over thirty years. A moving depiction of loss and the true meaning of chosen family that is not to be missed.

DIR Ray Yeung
PROD Teresa Kwong, Chowee Leow, Michael J. Werner, Sandy Yip
SCR Ray Yeung

Saturday, Apr 26 | 1:15 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 1:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



CREAM CITY CINEMA

ALL THAT GLITTERS

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 75 MIN / ENGLISH

In his feature debut, Milwaukee filmmaker Noah Meister presents ALL THAT GLITTERS, a thrilling coming-of-age story about Christopher, a high schooler frustrated with his suburban life who accidentally ends up with thousands of dollars' worth of cocaine after a drug deal goes wrong. With dealers hunting him down, he plans to sell the drugs at a party for the richest kids in his grade, but must quickly face the dangerous consequences of his reckless actions.

DIR Noah Meister
PROD Noah Meister, Jack Hurbanis, Benjamin Russano, Ethan Pinkham
SCR Noah Meister

Tuesday, Apr 29 | 8:30 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, Apr 30 | 9:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Thursday, May 1 | 5:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



BLACK LENS GENREQUEER SOUND VISION

ANY OTHER WAY: THE JACKIE SHANE STORY

CANADA / 2024 / 99 MIN / ENGLISH

Blending music, unreleased phone conversations, and soulful animated re-enactments, ANY OTHER WAY: THE JACKIE SHANE STORY provides a powerful account of Jackie Shane's life in her own words. A compelling tribute to a groundbreaking artist and trailblazer in music and LGBTQ+ rights, this documentary not only gives her the recognition she deserves but also introduces her to a new generation fighting for their right to be their true selves.

DIR Michael Mabbott, Lucah Rosenberg-Lee
PROD Amanda Burt, Michael Mabbott, Justine Pimlott
SCR Michael Mabbott, Lucah Rosenberg-Lee, Alison Duke

Sunday, Apr 27 | 6:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Tuesday, Apr 29 | 1:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 12:15 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



GENREQUEER WORLDVIEWS CINE SIN FRONTERAS

BABY

BRAZIL, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS / 2024 / 107 MIN / PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Preceded by THE RENTALS | Dir. Nick Thompson

After his release from a juvenile center, Wellington finds himself homeless in São Paulo. At an after-hours cruising spot, he meets Ronaldo, a slick and sexy escort who mentors him in street survival. Their bond evolves into a steamy and (apparent to everyone but Wellington) turbulent affair.

DIR Marcelo Caetano
PROD Stienette Bosklopper, Marcelo Caetano, Juliette Lepoutre, Ivan Melo, Pierre Menahem, Maarten Swart, Beto Tibiriça
SCR Gabriel Domingues, Marcelo Caetano

Saturday, Apr 26 | 9:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 6:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



ART & ARTISTS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

ART SPIEGELMAN: DISASTER IS MY MUSE

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 98 MIN / ENGLISH, POLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Dive into the life and work of venerated comix artist Art Spiegelman, from his early days inspired by the irreverence of MAD Magazine to his seminal MAUS, a personal exploration of generational trauma during and after the Holocaust. Now in his late 70s, his work has turned to anti-fascist and anti-censorship activism, no less strident about the truths and values of art and life.

DIR Molly Bernstein, Philip Dolin
PROD Alicia Sams, Sam Jinishian

Sunday, Apr 27 | 5:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Tuesday, Apr 29 | 3:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 12:00 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

BABY DOE

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 100 MIN / ENGLISH

Preceded by FULL OUT | Dir. Sarah Ballard

30 years ago, Gail Ritchey, a young woman from a conservative Ohio community, gave birth alone and left her newborn in the woods. Now a mother of three, her suburban life unravels when she is arrested for murder, despite claiming the baby was stillborn. This documentary explores Gail's journey as she faces the possibility of a life sentence, forcing her to confront the denial and shame surrounding her past.

DIR Jessica Earnshaw
PROD Holly Meehl Chapman

Sunday, Apr 27 | 2:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 7:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



CINE SIN FRONTERAS ART & ARTISTS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

BALOMANIA

DENMARK, SPAIN / 2024 / 93 MIN / PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

The culture and work of Brazilian baloeiros—secret groups of men who craft and launch intricate hot-air balloon art—deserve a place on the big screen. This epic portrayal captures the free-spirited artistry and subculture, showcasing a raw, authentic exploration of Brazilian masculinity. Through the filmmaker's earned trust and intimate lens, the film reveals both the beauty and complexities of this unique community, exposing deep, sometimes turbulent truths about identity, pride, and tradition.

DIR Sissel Morell Dargis
PROD Jesper Jack, Marie Schmidt Olesen, Elisa Barbosa Riva

Saturday, May 3 | 6:00 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 3:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES ART & ARTISTS

FILM SPONSOR

Associated Bank

BAR

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 88 MIN / ENGLISH

MFF alum Don Hardy's (PICK OF THE LITTER, MFF18) latest goes behind the BAR 5-Day course—the world's premiere educational program on distilled spirits and mixology. Two parts competition, one part the camraderie of teachers and learners served over ice with a dash of spiritous history, this film will whet your interest in and appreciation for what goes into serving a great drink well.

DIR Don Hardy
PROD Don Hardy, Shawn Dailey, Maxwell Britten
SCR Don Hardy

Saturday, Apr 26 | 3:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Sunday, Apr 27 | 7:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

BLACK DOG

CHINA / 2024 / 106 MIN / MANDARIN CHINESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

On the edge of the Gobi desert in Northwest China, Lang returns to his hometown after being released from jail. While working for the local dog patrol team to clear the town of stray dogs before the Olympic Games, he strikes up an unlikely connection with a black dog. Together, these two lonely souls embark on a poetic journey of redemption in this mesmerizing drama.

DIR Guan Hu
PROD Jing Liang, Wenjiu Zhu
SCR Rui Ge, Guan Hu

Monday, Apr 28 | 7:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 5:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



SOUND VISION DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

BLUR: TO THE END

UNITED KINGDOM / 2024 / 104 MIN / ENGLISH

Filmed over a decade, but also drawing in a wealth of footage from throughout their entire career, Toby L's documentary portrait explores Blur's trajectory, from a group of friends jamming to becoming one of the most acclaimed British bands of the last 35 years. It captures them as they come together to record their first record in eight years ahead of their sold-out, first ever shows at London's Wembley Stadium in 2023.

DIR Toby L.
PROD Josh Connolly

Sunday, May 4 | 1:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 8:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS RATED K: FOR KIDS

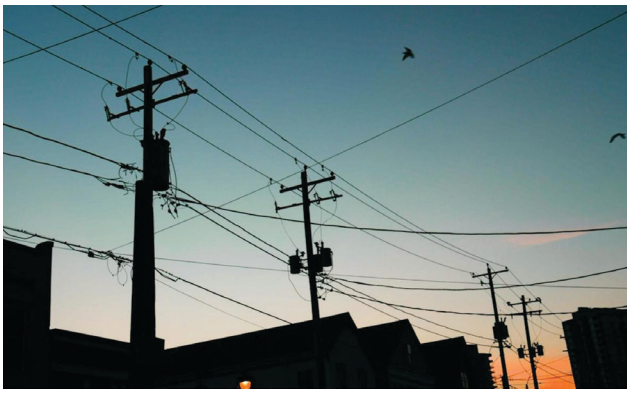
BOYS GO TO JUPITER

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 88 MIN / ENGLISH

Set in the construction sites and abandoned pools of suburban Florida, Grubster delivery boy Billy 5000 and his ragtag friends hoverboard around town trying to save an alien named Donut from the evil schemes of the Dolphin Groves Juice Company. A surefire cult classic, BOYS GO TO JUPITER is a surreal coming-of-age story packed with 2000s gummy animation, deadpan jokes, musical numbers, the who's-who of awkward comedy (Joe Pera, Julio Torres, Sarah Sherman), and lots of grub. **AGES 13+**

DIR Julian Glander
PROD Julian Glander, Peisin Yang Lazo
SCR Julian Glander

Saturday, Apr 26 | 10:00 AM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Sunday, Apr 27 | 10:00 AM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 7:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



CREAM CITY CINEMA

FILM SPONSOR
VISIT MILWAUKEE

BRADY STREET: PORTRAIT OF A NEIGHBORHOOD

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 86 MIN / ENGLISH

In the 1960s and '70s, Brady Street became a thriving hub of counterculture—a legacy that persists in Milwaukee today. Like many neighborhoods, Brady Street has faced its share of decline. But by the end of the 20th century, determined community efforts sparked a renaissance, revitalizing the area and transforming it into a diverse urban haven. Longtime resident Julilly Kohler puts it best: "It's people that make the street. It's really about people and getting people involved."

DIR Sean Kafer
PROD Emanuel Zander, Georgia Didier, Kim Reese, Eetae Jung, Michael Sander

Friday, May 2 | 3:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 12:30 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 8:30 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

CAN I GET A WITNESS?

CANADA / 2024 / 110 MIN / ENGLISH

Eight years since her last feature, filmmaker, writer, and visual artist Ann Marie Fleming brings her gentle, introspective touch to the timely genre of environmental science fiction. It's the future and we've solved all the world's problems: mitigated climate change, eradicated poverty, achieved trans-species equality. There's just one catch... humans have to end their lives at 50 and teenage artists have to document it. It's Kiah's first day on the job.

DIR Ann Marie Fleming
PROD Ann Marie Fleming, Raymond Massey, Ruth Vincent
SCR Ann Marie Fleming

Friday, May 2 | 12:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 6:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

CLOUD

JAPAN / 2024 / 123 MIN / JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

CLOUD is a Kiyoshi Kurosawa neo-noir thriller that centers on Yoshii, a factory worker in Tokyo who makes extra money reselling goods online under a pseudonym. After a particularly successful stint, he quits his job and relocates to the countryside with his girlfriend, hiring a local young man to help with his reselling business. However, Yoshii's seemingly idyllic life is shattered by mysterious attacks from unknown assailants, dismantling his peace as he discovers multiple enemies targeting him.

DIR Kiyoshi Kurosawa
PROD Yumi Arakawa, Yuki Nishimiya, Nobuhiro Iizuka
SCR Kiyoshi Kurosawa

Friday, Apr 25 | 10:00 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 6:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES ART & ARTISTS

COEXISTENCE, MY ASS!

UNITED STATES, FRANCE / 2025 / 95 MIN / ENGLISH, HEBREW, ARABIC, FARSI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

After a brief stint at the United Nations, comedian Noam Shuster-Eliassi goes to Harvard Divinity School on a fellowship to create a personal and political one-woman comedy show about the struggle for equality in Israel/Palestine. But when the elusive coexistence she's spent her life working toward starts sounding like a bad joke, she challenges her audiences with hard truths that are no laughing matter.

DIR Amber Fares
PROD Amber Fares, Rachel Leah Jones, Valérie Montmartin
SCR Rachel Leah Jones, Rabab Haj Yahya

Tuesday, Apr 29 | 3:30 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 7:00 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



BLACK LENS NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

COLOR BOOK

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 115 MIN / ENGLISH

Preceded by BOOKEND | Dir. Justin Goodrum

COLOR BOOK highlights the strength and resilience that emerge from the bond of Lucky and Mason, a father and son grieving the loss of Mason's mother, while exploring the myriad of experiences that can accompany raising a child with Down syndrome. Stellar performances from William Catlett and Jeremiah Alexander Daniels, along with phenomenal directing and writing from David Fortune, make this critically acclaimed directorial debut a film worth seeing.

DIR David Fortune
PROD Autumn Bailey, Kiah Alexandria Clingman, Kristen Uno
SCR David Fortune

Saturday, Apr 26 | 6:30 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Monday, Apr 28 | 1:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Thursday, May 1 | 11:30 AM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES GENREQUEER

CREEDE U.S.A.

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 96 MIN / ENGLISH

Creede, CO—population 257—is a historic mining town that happens to have an acclaimed summer repertory theatre (opened in 1966 and boasting amongst its alumni, Mandy Patinkin), as well as "the world's largest fork." Almost 60 years since the theatre's founding, traditional values and progressive ideas from "arts people" live side by side, and, as this hopeful and urgent documentary depicts, Creede is a taut microcosm of currently forking national divisions in thought, values, and ideology.

DIR Kahane Corn Cooperman
PROD Innbo Shim, Kahane Corn Cooperman

Thursday, May 1 | 7:00 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 1:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



CREAM CITY CINEMA

CYCLE

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 95 MIN / ENGLISH

The narrative of police violence in the United States is shaped by viral videos, hashtags, and a cycle of profiling and abuse, followed by law enforcement immunity. The killing of Racine's Ty'rese West pushes this narrative forward, exposing the truth behind unchecked police reports when incidents aren't captured for the world to see. CYCLE investigates this systemic whitewashing and gives a voice to the countless victims whose names have yet to be heard.

DIR Laura Dyan Kezman, William Howell
PROD Michelle Himsalam, Lance Hori, Chelsea Merrow, Laura Dyan Kezman, Vianca Fuster

Sunday, May 4 | 1:45 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 3:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 3:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

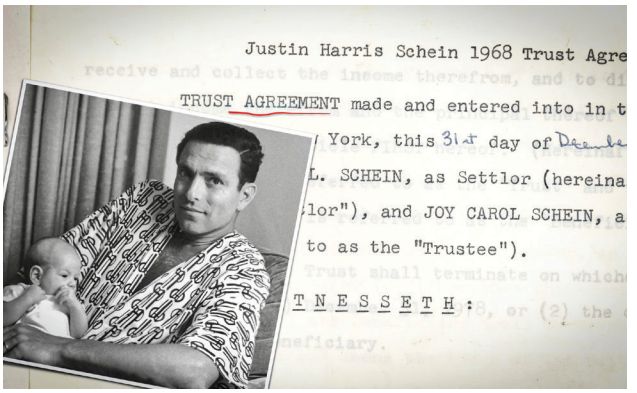
DEAD LOVER

CANADA / 2025 / 82 MIN / ENGLISH

A lonely gravedigger who stinks of corpses finally meets her dream man, but their whirlwind affair is cut short when he tragically drowns at sea. Grief-stricken, she goes to morbid lengths to resurrect him through madcap scientific experiments. "With its blend of lurid camp and twisted romanticism, its embrace of gleefully lo-fi special effects and a twangy electro-retro score, Grace Glowicki's DEAD LOVER, a singular spin on the Frankenstein story, sets its sights firmly on cult status." (Screen International)

DIR Grace Glowicki
PROD Grace Glowicki, Ben Petrie, Yona Strauss
SCR Grace Glowicki, Ben Petrie

Friday, Apr 25 | 9:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Saturday, Apr 26 | 10:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 9:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

DEATH & TAXES

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 86 MIN / ENGLISH

Director Justin Schein turns the camera on his father: Harvey Schein, a successful record company CEO who was a bit obsessed with passing on his wealth to his heirs while avoiding taxes. A case study in America's history of tax benefits for the wealthy, this timely film deftly interweaves charming and complex family dynamics with equally complex American economic policy, illustrating to even the layperson how our tax structure works for some and not for all.

DIR Justin Schein
PROD Justin Schein, Robert Edwards, Yael Melamede

Thursday, May 1 | 2:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 12:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



CINE SIN FRONTERAS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

DESERT ANGEL

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 87 MIN / SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

For 25 years, Rafael Larraenza has tirelessly searched the border deserts to rescue lost immigrants and recover remains, becoming a hero of the Latinx community. Despite needing a double hip replacement, Rafa continues his mission, knowing every moment counts for those lost. This urgent documentary follows Rafa as he risks his life to search for the missing son of a woman from El Salvador, driven by sheer determination, even as the years and terrain take their toll.

DIR Vincent Michael DeLuca
PROD Séverine Tibi

Tuesday, May 6 | 5:15 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 3:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN

UNITED STATES / 1985 / 104 MIN / ENGLISH

Preceded by a book signing starting at 10:45 AM

After hitting her head, Roberta Glass (Rosanna Arquette), a bored New Jersey suburban housewife, goes from being just fascinated with Susan (Madonna), a free-spirited woman she has read about in the personal columns, to being mistaken for her! Susan Seidelman's acclaimed 1985 screwball dramedy is a chaotic adventure of amnesia and self-discovery. Celebrate its 40th anniversary with this screening and book signing event that will take you back to the 1980s!

DIR Susan Seidelman
PROD Sarah Pillsbury, Midge Sanford
SCR Leora Barish

Saturday, Apr 26 | 11:30 AM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema) P



WORLDVIEWS

FILM SPONSOR

DJ AHMET

NORTH MACEDONIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, SERBIA, CROATIA / 2025 / 99 MIN / TURKISH, MACEDONIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Ahmet, a 15-year-old boy from a remote Yuruk village in North Macedonia, finds refuge in music while navigating his father's expectations, a conservative community, and his first experience with love—a girl already promised to someone else. Winner of the World Dramatic Audience Award at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival, DJ AHMET is "a quiet little underdog story, but with enough charm to engage any audience. Plus, there's a pink sheep who is frankly iconic." (Consequence)

DIR Georgi M. Unkovski
PROD Ivan Unkovski, Ivana Shekutkoska
SCR Georgi M. Unkovski

Saturday, Apr 26 | 4:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 7:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



BLACK LENS ART & ARTISTS

ERNEST COLE: LOST AND FOUND

FRANCE / 2024 / 105 MIN / ENGLISH

This documentary from Oscar®-nominated filmmaker Raoul Peck chronicles the life and work of South African photographer Ernest Cole, who was the first to expose the horrors of apartheid to a world audience. In 2017, more than 60,000 of his 35mm film negatives were discovered in the safe of a Swedish bank. Through a collection of archival writings and the lens of his uncompromising work, this film reintroduces a pivotal Black artist to a new generation.

DIR Raoul Peck
PROD Raoul Peck, Tamara Rosenberg
SCR Raoul Peck

Friday, Apr 25 | 1:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 7:15 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 12:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

FAMILIAR TOUCH

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 91 MIN / ENGLISH

FAMILIAR TOUCH is an affecting coming of (old) age film. It follows an octogenarian woman's transition to life in assisted living as she contends with her conflicting relationship to herself and her caregivers amidst her shifting memory, age identity, and desires. Inspired by writer/director Sarah Friedland's work as a memory care worker and teaching artist to older adults, FAMILIAR TOUCH is an intergenerational production made in collaboration with the residents and care workers at a Los Angeles retirement community.

DIR Sarah Friedland
PROD Alexandra Byer, Matthew Thurm
SCR Sarah Friedland

Tuesday, Apr 29 | 2:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Friday, May 2 | 3:15 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 12:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



CINE SIN FRONTERAS GENREQUEER NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

FINE YOUNG MEN

MEXICO, SPAIN, FRANCE / 2024 / 89 MIN / SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

17-year-old Alf returns to his Catholic boy's school after a year abroad. He no longer relates to his friends; it seems they just want to get drunk and party. He meets Oliver, a tender and kind musician. The two quickly become friends and may become something more. To dispel the rumors of his sexuality, Alf reconnects with his old friends and ends up committing a crime to prove that he is still one of them.

DIR Alejandro Andrade
PROD Armando Andrade, Alejandro Andrade Pease, Fredy Garza, Daniel Birman Risotein, Gerardo Morán, Nicolas Brevière
SCR Alejandro Andrade, Armando López Muñoz

Monday, Apr 28 | 4:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Tuesday, Apr 29 | 2:00 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 6:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



GENREQUEER WORLDVIEWS

FILM SPONSOR

Michael Best

FOUR MOTHERS

IRELAND / 2024 / 89 MIN / ENGLISH

Winner of the Audience Award at the 2024 London Film Festival, this cheerful Irish comedy follows a shy, commitment-phobic novelist living with his elderly mother. When his friends take off for an impromptu Pride weekend, he finds each of their eccentric and combative mothers at his doorstep, all in need of home care—the same weekend his agent finally secures a life-changing book tour miles and miles away. Buckle up for one of the sweetest adventures of the year.

DIR Darren Thornton
PROD Eric Abraham, Jack Sidey, Martina Niland
SCR Darren Thornton, Colin Thornton

Sunday, Apr 27 | 10:30 AM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, Apr 30 | 3:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



CINE SIN FRONTERAS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

FREE LEONARD PELTIER

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 120 MIN / ENGLISH

Preceded by LANGUAGE BACK | Dir. Dusan V. Harminc

MFF alum directors Jesse Short Bull (LAKOTA NATION VS. UNITED STATES, MFF23) and David France (HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE, MFF12) excavate the life of Indian rights activist Leonard Peltier and his oft-protested imprisonment for the 1975 murder of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation of South Dakota. Making this film extra timely, just before its premiere, Peltier's conviction was pardoned in January 2025.

DIR Jesse Short Bull, David France
PROD David France, Paul McGuire, Jhane Myers, N. Bird Runningwater

Sunday, Apr 27 | 6:00 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 6:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 3:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



ART & ARTISTS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

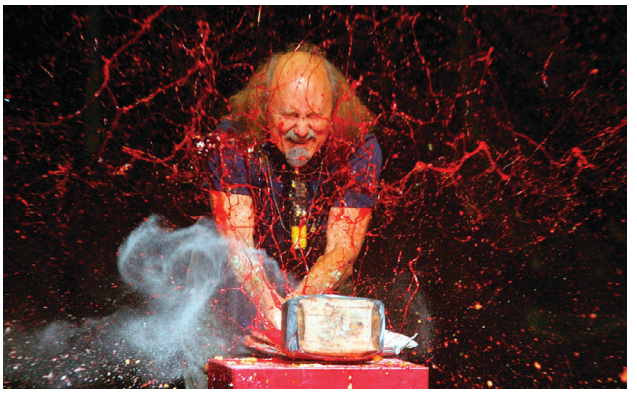
FRONT ROW

NETHERLANDS, UNITED STATES, UKRAINE, UNITED KINGDOM / 2024 / 75 MIN / UKRAINIAN, ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In the throes of war, the United Ukrainian Ballet Company defiantly insists on dancing through the dark times. Though flung far from the land they call home, these young dancers take quiet comfort from art. For a while, their work feels like the old days, until they are joined by an unexpected new member of the corps—a soldier learning to dance with new prosthetic legs.

DIR Miriam Guttmann
PROD Lea Fels, Isidoor Roebers

Saturday, May 3 | 11:00 AM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 1:45 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 1:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



ART & ARTISTS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

GALLAGHER

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 102 MIN / ENGLISH

With his witty wordplay and wacky props, Leo Gallagher became one of the biggest comedy acts of the 1980s. The comedian's most famous bit: smashing a watermelon with a giant mallet to the messy delight of audiences. But as tastes change, the aging Gallagher seeks the respect he deserves as an innovator in this doumentary from our friends at September Club.

DIR Josh Forbes
PROD Jeremy Coon, Daniel Kellison, Barry Poltermann

Sunday, Apr 27 | 8:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Tuesday, Apr 29 | 9:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Wednesday, Apr 30 | 9:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



CINE SIN FRONTERAS WORLDVIEWS

GLIMMERS (LOS DESTELLOS)

SPAIN / 2024 / 101 MIN / SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Isabel's life takes an unexpected turn the day her daughter asks her to visit Ramón, her ailing ex-husband. They've grown apart, despite having been married for years. Feelings of resentment come back; but by accompanying Ramón she gains new perspective, allowing her to concentrate on her own life as it stands today. GLIMMERS is a moving, devastating and beautiful film, about the end of life and its continuity. A human story told with sensitivity and honesty.

DIR Pilar Palomero
PROD Valérie Delpierre, Simon de Santiago, Fernando Bovaira
SCR Pilar Palomero

Friday, Apr 25 | 3:45 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Tuesday, Apr 29 | 5:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

HARVEST

UNITED KINGDOM / 2024 / 131 MIN / ENGLISH

Over seven hallucinatory days, a village with no name, in an undefined time and place, disappears. Tsangari's follow up to 2015's CHEVALIER, this tragicomic take on a Western follows townsman-turned-farmer Walter Thirsk (Caleb Landry Jones) and befuddled lord of the manor Charles Kent (Harry Melling), childhood friends who are about to face an invasion from the outside world: the trauma of modernity. This visionary period piece is a haunting allegory about xenophobic anxiety and unchecked capitalism.

DIR Athina Rachel Tsangari
PROD Joslyn Barnes, Viola Fügen, Athina Rachel Tsangari, Rebecca O'Brien
SCR Athina Rachel Tsangari, Joslyn Barnes

Saturday, Apr 26 | 7:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 3:15 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



CREAM CITY CINEMA SOUND VISION

GREEN BLAH! THE HISTORY OF GREEN BAY PUNK ROCK

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 119 MIN / ENGLISH

GREEN BLAH! THE HISTORY OF GREEN BAY PUNK ROCK dives into the surprising punk rock scene of Green Bay, WI, a town known for the Packers, paper mills, and cheese curds. Beyond the cheese, this documentary uncovers how the small town birthed a hardcore punk scene with fierce local bands and a loyal community of concertgoers. From humble beginnings to a lasting legacy, it's a wild ride through Green Bay's rebellious musical history.

DIR Christopher Pretti, James J Baker
PROD Christopher Pretti, James J Baker

Friday, Apr 25 | 8:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Wednesday, Apr 30 | 8:45 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



GENREQUEER DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 85 MIN / ENGLISH

Preceded by SEAT 31: ZOOEY ZEPHYR | Dir. Kimberly Reed

Amid the surge in anti-trans legislation that ACLU lawyer Chase Strangio battles in the courtroom, he must also fight against media bias, exposing how the narratives in the press influence public perception and the fight for transgender rights. Director Sam Feder (DISCLOSURE: TRANS LIVES ON SCREEN) delivers an urgent new documentary that Variety champions, "despite its slim 85-minute runtime, [HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY] feels entirely rigorous in its unraveling of personal and practical information."

DIR Sam Feder
PROD Amy Scholder, Sam Feder, Paola Mendoza

Friday, Apr 25 | 1:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Sunday, Apr 27 | 5:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Monday, Apr 28 | 1:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

HOLY COW

FRANCE / 2024 / 92 MIN / FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

After the tragic death of his father, 18-year-old Totone has to look after his younger sister and their failing family farm in the Jura section of France. He assumes even more responsibility when he enters a cash competition for the best Comté cheese, a regional delicacy. A vérité-style look at the hardscrabble life of French agriculture, it is simultaneously a moving love story and above all an ode to the love of cheese.

DIR Louise Courvoisier
PROD Muriel Meynard
SCR Louise Courvoisier, Théo Abadie

Friday, Apr 25 | 7:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Tuesday, Apr 29 | 4:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Wednesday, Apr 30 | 1:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

HOW TO MAKE MILLIONS BEFORE GRANDMA DIES

THAILAND / 2024 / 125 MIN / THAI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

After his grandmother is diagnosed with cancer, a scheming young man moves in to care for her, motivated by a desire to secure her fortune for himself. Unfortunately for him, it turns out that winning Grandma's favor is no easy feat. Currently in the top 250 highest rated films on Letterboxd, HOW TO MAKE MILLIONS BEFORE GRANDMA DIES is a comedy of generational manners that blossoms into a sweet tearjerker.

DIR Pat Boonnitipat
PROD Jira Maligool, Vanridee Pongsittisak
SCR Pat Boonnitipat, Thodsapon Thiptinnakorn

Thursday, May 1 | 6:45 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 1:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 6:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



GENREQUEER DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

I'M YOUR VENUS

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 85 MIN / ENGLISH

Preceded by SWEET TALKIN' GUY | Dir. Spencer Wardwell

This moving and timely documentary sets the stage for the investigation of the unsolved murder of Venus Xtravaganza, one of the iconic stars of the legendary documentary PARIS IS BURNING. Thirty-five years later, the spotlight is back on Venus as her two families—from birth and ballroom—stand united to discover the truth, challenge the system, and honor the legacy of their sister.

DIR Kimberly Reed
PROD Jamie Schutz, Steven Cantor, Mike Stafford

Saturday, Apr 26 | 2:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Monday, Apr 28 | 5:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Tuesday, Apr 29 | 1:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

IN WAVES AND WAR

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 108 MIN / ENGLISH

Alongside intimate interviews, captivating animation, and first-of-its-kind research at Stanford's Brain Stimulation Lab, IN WAVES AND WAR, from Jon Shenk and Bonni Cohen (ATHLETE A, AUDRIE & DAISY), is the emotional, inspiring odyssey of three former Navy SEALs as they overcome the aftereffects of war on their bodies and minds, and rediscover their humanity through their own journeys with more and less conventional therapies.

DIR Jon Shenk, Bonni Cohen
PROD Jessica Anthony, Bonni Cohen, Jon Shenk

Monday, Apr 28 | 4:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Friday, May 2 | 5:30 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 3:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)

CLOSING NIGHT



SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS WORLDVIEWS

JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE

FRANCE / 2024 / 94 MIN / ENGLISH, FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

CLOSING NIGHT! Agathe is a hopelessly clumsy yet charming young woman who dreams of experiencing love akin to a Jane Austen novel and to be a successful writer. When Agathe's best friend gets her invited to the Jane Austen Writers' Residency in England, she finally has her Jane Austen moment... and is caught in a very unexpected romantic triangle. In her utterly charming debut, writer-director Laura Piani draws from Austen's works while crafting a wholly contemporary romantic comedy that stands on its own merits.

DIR Laura Piani
PROD Gabrielle Dumon
SCR Laura Piani

Thursday, May 8 | 7:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



SOUND VISION GENREQUEER DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

JANIS IAN: BREAKING SILENCE

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 114 MIN / ENGLISH

Janis Ian had one of the most remarkable debuts in modern music history. At the age of 13, she began performing her original songs at New York City gigs alongside future legends. From there, the precocious teenager turned fearless singer-songwriter built a career with many chapters—winning Grammys while navigating personal and professional highs and lows—in a remarkable trajectory now entering its fifth decade.

DIR Varda Bar-Kar
PROD Alessandra Pasquino, Brooke Wentz, Varda Bar-Kar

Monday, Apr 28 | 7:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 4:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



RATED K: FOR KIDS NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

JAZZY

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 86 MIN / ENGLISH

Morrisa Maltz (THE UNKNOWN COUNTRY, MFF23—also starring Lily Gladstone) paints a poignant portrait of friendship and girlhood through the eyes of Jazzy, a young Oglala Lakota girl growing up off-reservation in South Dakota. Filmed over six years, the story follows Jazzy and her best friend as they navigate their ever-changing relationship, capturing their unique perspective with a dreamlike, doc/fiction hybrid approach. **AGES 8+**

DIR Morrisa Maltz
PROD Morrisa Maltz, Lainey Bearkiller Shangreaux, Miranda Bailey, Natalie Whalen, Elliott Whitton, John Way, Vanara Taing, Tommy Heitkamp
SCR Morrisa Maltz, Lainey Bearkiller Shangreaux, Vanara Taing, Andrew Hajek

Sunday, Apr 27 | 11:00 AM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Friday, May 2 | 12:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 3:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

KA WHAWHAI TONU (STRUGGLE WITHOUT END)

NEW ZEALAND / 2024 / 114 MIN / MĀORI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A teenage boy born of two cultures must navigate a brutal war between the Māori and colonial British forces in this powerful retelling of one of New Zealand's most pivotal historical battles. With a cast and crew composed of many descendants of the actual battle of Ōrākau, director Mike Jonathan and writer Tim Worrall draw a direct and potent connection between the legacy of the strength of one's ancestors and the power that's inherent in cultural perseverance.

DIR Michael Jonathan
PROD Piripi Curtis, Toby Parkinson
SCR Tim Worrall

Friday, Apr 25 | 4:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 6:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



RATED K: FOR KIDS WORLDVIEWS

KENSUKE'S KINGDOM

UNITED KINGDOM, LUXEMBOURG, FRANCE / 2023 / 85 MIN / ENGLISH

Shipwrecked on a remote island, Michael discovers he and his dog are not alone—a mysterious man in the forest is trying to help them. As he learns more about looming threats to the jungle, he knows he must help the man in return. With breathtaking 2D animation and an all-star voice cast (Cillian Murphy, Sally Hawkins, Ken Watanabe), KENSUKE'S KINGDOM shares the value of teamwork across cultural divides. **AGES 8+**

DIR Neil Boyle, Kirk Hendry
PROD Camilla Deakin, Ruth Fielding, Stéphan Roellants
SCR Frank Cottrell-Boyce

Saturday, Apr 26 | 10:00 AM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Sunday, Apr 27 | 12:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

LIFE AFTER OC

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 100 MIN / ENGLISH

In 1983, a disabled woman named Elizabeth Bouvia sought the "right to die," kicking off a national debate about autonomy, dignity, and the value of disabled lives. After years of trials, Bouvia mysteriously fell from public consciousness, prompting filmmaker Reid Davenport (I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE) to wonder how she could have disappeared from the headlines so swiftly. LIFE AFTER investigates what happened to Bouvia and her story's disturbing relevance today.

DIR Reid Davenport
PROD Colleen Cassingham

Tuesday, Apr 29 | 4:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 4:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 7:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



SOUND VISION GENREQUEER

LINDA PERRY: LET IT DIE HERE

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 93 MIN / ENGLISH

Linda Perry became an icon with her signature hat, bold attitude, and chart-topping hit "What's Up" with her band 4 Non Blondes. She has gone on to make a name for herself as a Grammy-nominated songwriter and producer, creating hits for artists such as Christina Aguilera, Brandi Carlisle, Dolly Parton, and Pink. In his film, award-winning director Don Hardy takes viewers on an intimate and revealing journey, exploring the life of this pioneering and talented artist.

DIR Don Hardy
PROD Shawn Dailey, Don Hardy

Saturday, Apr 26 | 7:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Sunday, Apr 27 | 10:30 AM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

LOVEABLE

NORWAY / 2024 / 101 MIN / NORWEGIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sigmund and Maria's relationship was also all about love and harmony in the early stages, but after years of married life, the cracks started to appear. Sigmund is ultimately the one to ask for a divorce, and Maria is forced to confront her greatest fears. LOVEABLE isn't a story about the quest for true love; on the contrary, it takes a fresh approach to examine contemporary ideas of romance, equality within the relationship, and the power of womanhood.

DIR Lilja Ingolfsdottir
PROD Thomas Robsahm
SCR Lilja Ingolfsdottir

Saturday, Apr 26 | 12:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Wednesday, Apr 30 | 6:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS CINE SIN FRONTERAS

MAGIC FARM

ARGENTINA, UNITED STATES / 2025 / 93 MIN / ENGLISH, SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A film crew working for an edgy media company travels to Argentina to profile a local musician, but their ineptitude leads them into the wrong country. As the crew collaborates with locals to fabricate a trend, unexpected connections blossom while a pervasive health crisis looms unacknowledged in the background. Chloë Sevigny and Alex Wolff's screen presences are matched scene for scene by the charismatic Argentine cast in this biting satire of our media landscape.

DIR Amalia Ulman
PROD Alex Hughes, Eugene Kotlyarenko, Riccardo Maddalosso
SCR Amalia Ulman

Friday, Apr 25 | 9:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Thursday, May 1 | 8:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 6:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



ART & ARTISTS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

FILM SPONSOR
The Plaza Hotel

MARCELLA

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 97 MIN / ENGLISH, ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Marcella Hazan changed how we cook Italian. Trained as a scientist, she never set foot in a kitchen until she married Victor Hazan, a Jewish Italian, and moved to America in the 1950s. Before long she was not only preparing the Italian dishes she remembered from home, but writing the definitive cookbooks that introduced millions of Americans to the glories of authentic Italian cuisine. Leave this one ready to make some pasta!

DIR Peter Miller
PROD Peter Miller, Renee Frigo, Amy Linton
SCR Peter Miller

Saturday, Apr 26 | 4:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Thursday, May 1 | 4:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



ART & ARTISTS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE DC

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 94 MIN / ENGLISH, AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In 1987, Marlee Matlin became the first Deaf actor to win an Academy Award and was thrust into the spotlight at 21 years old. Reflecting on her life in her primary language of American Sign Language, Matlin explores the complexities of what it means to be a trailblazer. Stern's directorial debut is an intimate, honest, and loving conversation between two profoundly connected people that weaves together this first-person account with interviews from those who know her best.

DIR Shoshannah Stern
PROD Robyn Kopp, Justine Nagan, Bonni Cohen, Shoshannah Stern

Friday, May 2 | 6:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 4:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS CINE SIN FRONTERAS

MEMORIES OF A BURNING BODY

COSTA RICA, SPAIN / 2024 / 90 MIN / SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Raised in Costa Rica during a repressive era where sexuality was taboo, Ana, Patricia, and Mayela were forced to find the meaning of femininity and their roles as women through unspoken rules and implicit impositions. This Audience Award Winner in the Panorama Section at Berlinale showcases their brave voices embodied in a single 65-year-old woman, played masterfully by actress Sol Carballo, who inhabits their kaleidoscopic lives and intertwines their memories, secrets, and hidden desires.

DIR Antonella Sudasassi Furniss
PROD Antonella Sudasassi Furniss, Estephania Bonnett Alonso
SCR Antonella Sudasassi Furniss

Sunday, Apr 27 | 12:15 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Thursday, May 1 | 1:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

MEMORY LANE

BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS / 2024 / 98 MIN / DUTCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Jaap and Maartje have been together almost 50 years. Grumpy old Jaap is no longer terribly interested in doing much, but Maartje, despite her occasional confusion, is still keen to embrace everything life has to offer. When the couple receive a letter from an old holiday friend, Maartje manages to convince her reluctant husband to visit him in Southern Europe. What results is a road movie that is funny and poignant in equal measure.

DIR Jelle de Jonge
PROD Bo de Group, Jorrit Willems
SCR Marjin de Wit, Jelle de Jonge

Tuesday, Apr 29 | 6:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Friday, May 2 | 2:30 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

MIDDLETOWN

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 113 MIN / ENGLISH

Inspired by their "Electronic English" (what we now might call digital journalism) teacher, a group of teenagers in upstate New York in the early 1990s made a student film that went beyond their campus borders to uncover a vast conspiracy involving toxic waste that was poisoning their community. Thirty years later, these students revisit their film and confront the legacy of this transformative experience on each of them as individuals and for the entirety of Middletown, NY.

DIR Jesse Moss, Amanda McBaine
PROD Danny Breen, Teddy Leifer, Amanda McBaine, Jesse Moss, Florrie Priest
SCR Amanda McBaine, Jesse Moss

Friday, Apr 25 | 1:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Saturday, Apr 26 | 3:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



BLACK LENS GENREQUEER SOUND VISION

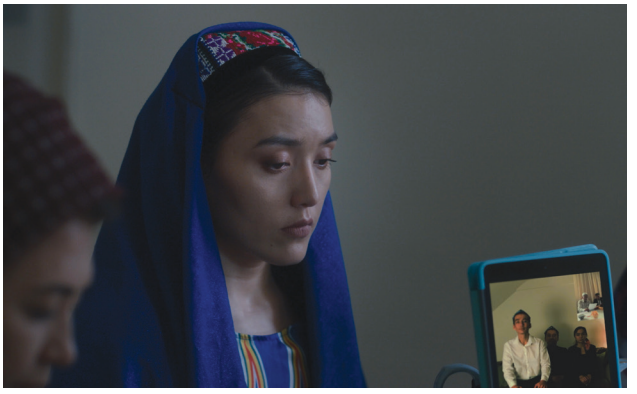
MOVE YA BODY: THE BIRTH OF HOUSE

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 87 MIN / ENGLISH

MOVE YA BODY explores resistance through the life of the first person to record a House song, Vince Lawrence. Experience the story of house music and how queer black, brown, and femme dance culture survived the backlash of its existence and grew into something beloved by many. Through archival recreation and interviews with the founders of house music, the events of Vince's creative life are set against the backdrop of Chicago's volatile contemporary history of segregation.

DIR Elegance Bratton
PROD Chester Algernal Gordon, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Roger Ross Williams
SCR Elegance Bratton

Saturday, Apr 26 | 6:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Sunday, Apr 27 | 1:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

NIKAH

FRANCE / 2024 / 56 MIN / UYGHUR WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Dilber is 27, and her mother wants to quickly find a husband for her—especially now that her younger sister Rena is settling into newly married life. But it's 2017, a time when Uyghur people are arrested without knowing why. Subtle and carefully observed, NIKAH is a powerful story that captures the uncertainty of a young woman at a personal crossroads, while an immense tragedy of internment unfolds.

DIR Bastien Ehouzan, Mukaddas Mijit
PROD Pascal Barneville, Maud Deschambres, Bastien Ehouzan, Mukaddas Mijit, Eve Robin
SCR Camille Dumouchel, Bastien Ehouzan, Mukaddas Mijit

Tuesday, Apr 29 | 8:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Thursday, May 1 | 3:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 12:45 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS

FILM SPONSOR

KPMG

NOSFERATU: A SYMPHONY OF HORROR WITH LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT BY ANVIL ORCHESTRA

GERMANY / 1922 / 94 MIN / NO DIALOGUE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Our annual visit from the Anvil Orchestra turns back the clock on Robert Eggers' 2024 hit to revisit the original 1922 F.W. Murnau silent-era classic with a performance featuring Anvil's own original score. Discover for yourself why Count Orlok continues to haunt our cinemas with this one-night-only live musical experience.

DIR F.W. Murnau
PROD Enrico Dieckmann, Albin Grau
SCR Henrik Galeen

Monday, Apr 28 | 6:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



CREAM CITY CINEMA

ONE MINUTE REMAINING

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 74 MIN / ENGLISH

ONE MINUTE REMAINING follows three families with incarcerated loved ones from across the US, intimately capturing the emotional journey of each family leading up to and through their release, and highlighting the chaotic impact of incarceration on families and, in particular, on women. Central to the story is Julie Magers, who fought for her ex-husband's Multiple Sclerosis treatment throughout his 20-year sentence. Together, these families reveal the consequences of incarceration on millions of American families.

DIR Colin Sytsma
PROD Justin Goodrum, Kurt Sensenbrenner

Monday, Apr 28 | 8:00 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 1:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 2:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



SOUND VISION

ONE TO ONE: JOHN AND YOKO

UNITED KINGDOM / 2024 / 100 MIN / ENGLISH

On August 30, 1972, John Lennon played his only full-length show after leaving The Beatles—the One to One benefit concert at Madison Square Garden, a rollicking, dazzling performance from him and Yoko Ono. Oscar®-winning filmmaker Kevin Macdonald's riveting documentary is a revelatory inside look at the 18 months John Lennon and Yoko Ono spent living in Greenwich Village in the early 1970s, and the year of love, transformation, and protest that led to the legendary musical event.

DIR Kevin Macdonald, Sam Rice-Edwards
PROD Peter Worsley, Kevin Macdonald, Alice Webb

Wednesday, Apr 30 | 12:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 6:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 12:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS GENREQUEER

OUTERLANDS

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 100 MIN / ENGLISH

When Cass (Asia Kate Dillon) is asked by an alluring woman they've hooked up with to watch her 11-year-old daughter while she goes out of town, Cass is eager to impress their new crush. But when the woman disappears, Cass is forced to improvise and confront the truth of their own tumultuous childhood. Fresh off a World Premiere at SXSW, OUTERLANDS showcases a beautiful lead performance from Dillon and a moving exploration of the self.

DIR Elena Oxman
PROD Marc Smolowitz
SCR Elena Oxman

Saturday, May 3 | 7:15 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 1:15 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



SOUND VISION

PAVEMENTS

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 128 MIN / ENGLISH

Alex Ross Perry's PAVEMENTS is a genre-bending fever dream that honors the alt-rock band's legacy. A chaotic mix of narrative, documentary, musical, and metatextual forms, it follows the band prepping for their 2022 reunion tour while a musical, museum, and biopic about their rise unfold in parallel. With offbeat performances from Joe Keery and Jason Schwartzman, PAVEMENTS is both a wild love letter to the band and a surreal deconstruction of music films themselves.

DIR Alex Ross Perry
PROD Craig Butta, Danny Gabai, Peter Kline, Lance Bangs, Arrow Kruse, Alex Needles
SCR Alex Ross Perry

Saturday, Apr 26 | 10:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Thursday, May 1 | 6:15 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

PEACOCK

AUSTRIA, GERMANY / 2024 / 102 MIN / GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Matthias is a master of his profession. Do you need a "cultured boyfriend" to impress your friends? A "perfect son" to influence your business partners' opinion of you? Or maybe just a sparring partner to rehearse an argument? Whatever it is, just rent Matthias! While he excels at pretending to be someone else every day, just being himself is the real challenge. A corrosive comedy, PEACOCK captures with biting humor the essence of human relationships.

DIR Bernhard Wenger
PROD Michael Kitzberger, Wolfgang Widerhofer, Markus Glaser, Nikolaus Geyrhalter
SCR Bernhard Wenger

Monday, Apr 28 | 1:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Thursday, May 1 | 12:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 1:45 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES CINE SIN FRONTERAS

REMAINING NATIVE

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 85 MIN / ENGLISH

Living on the Yerington Paiute reservation in Northwest Nevada, Ku Stevens is the sole distance runner in his school, yet longs to be seen by his dream school, the University of Oregon. As Ku trains, he is reminded of his great-grandfather, who, as a child, ran 50 miles across the desert to escape an Indian boarding school. As generational traumas endured by his ancestors layer over his training, will he be able to push past them to victory?

DIR Paige Bethmann
PROD Jessica Epstein, Paige Bethmann

Saturday, May 3 | 4:45 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 3:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 12:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



GENREQUEER NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

RENT FREE

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 93 MIN / ENGLISH

After completely blowing up their lives, childhood besties Ben and Jordan come up with a scheme to couch surf and live "rent free" for a year. What could possibly go wrong?! Stacked with hilarious performances from MFF alums Neal Mulani (this year's RAT! and TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW, MFF24) and Jacob Roberts (KNOWING ME, KNOWING YOU, MFF23 and HALF, MFF22). RENT FREE is the Gen Z, bisexual answer to the indie buddy comedy.

DIR Fernando Andrés
PROD Fernando Andrés, Jacob Roberts, Temple Baker
SCR Fernando Andrés, Tyler Rugh

Friday, Apr 25 | 7:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 10:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 9:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES GENREQUEER

ROW OF LIFE

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 85 MIN / ENGLISH

Irrepressible ambition led Angela Madsen to the Marines, multiple Paralympics, and fourteen world records. Continuing to inspire, she embarks on the most improbable and unlikely journey of all—to row across the impossibly vast Pacific Ocean alone. A pulse-pounding, refreshing take on the sports doc, ROW OF LIFE offers a vibrant and unexpected portrait of a queer woman determined to defy the odds.

DIR Soraya Simi
PROD Nick Weissman, Jack Pearkes

Wednesday, Apr 30 | 3:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 3:15 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 10:30 AM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS

SALLY

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 103 MIN / ENGLISH

OPENING NIGHT! Sally Ride became the first American woman to blast off into space, but beneath her unflappable composure were secrets. Sally's life partner, Tam O'Shaughnessy, reveals their hidden romance, deepens our understanding of what motivated this heroine, and gives heft to the sacrifices that accompanied their 27 years together, in the latest from Milwaukee native Cristina Costantini (SCIENCE FAIR, MFF18).

DIR Cristina Costantini
PROD Lauren Cioffi
SCR Cristina Costantini, Tom Maroney

Thursday, Apr 24 | 6:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema) P
Friday, Apr 25 | 4:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Thursday, May 1 | 12:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

SAMIA

ITALY, GERMANY, BELGIUM, SWEDEN / 2024 / 102 MIN / ENGLISH, ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Raised in a Mogadishu, Somalia torn asunder by civil war, all young Samia wants to do is run. Training in a deserted stadium, on a track pockmarked by mortars, she is determined to go to the Olympics like her hero, Mo Farah. Based on the true story of Samia Yusuf Omar, director Yasemin Samdereli brings Samia's life to the screen with a beautiful visual flair and a warm, empathetic approach.

DIR Yasemin Samdereli, Deka Mohamed
PROD Simone Catania, Christoph Fisser, Michele Fornasero, Dietmar Güntsche, David Herdies, Iman Ismail, Michael Krotkiewski
SCR Yasemin Samdereli, Nesrin Samdereli, Giuseppe Catozzella

Monday, Apr 28 | 1:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 12:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



ART & ARTISTS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

SECRET MALL APARTMENT

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 91 MIN / ENGLISH

In 2003, eight Rhode Islanders created a secret apartment replete with furniture, electricity, and even a new cinderblock wall, all inside the Providence Place Mall and lived in it for four years. Far more than a prank, the secret apartment became a sort of happening, an expression of defiance against local gentrification, an arts community, and a 750 square foot "F you" to The Man.

DIR Jeremy Workman
PROD Jeremy Workman

Friday, Apr 25 | 1:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Monday, Apr 28 | 4:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Wednesday, Apr 30 | 6:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES CINE SIN FRONTERAS

SEPARATED

UNITED STATES, MEXICO / 2024 / 93 MIN / ENGLISH, SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Errol Morris confronts one of the darkest chapters in recent American history: family separations. Based on NBC correspondent Jacob Soboroff's book, Morris merges explosive interviews with whistleblowing officials and artful narrative vignettes tracing one migrant family's plight. Together, they reveal that the cruelty at the heart of this policy was its very purpose. Years later hundreds of families are still separated, an unthinkable horror that the new administration is all the more willing to repeat.

DIR Errol Morris
PROD Errol Morris, Robert Fernandez, Molly O'Brien, Steven Hathaway

Wednesday, Apr 30 | 3:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 4:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 3:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

SLICE OF LIFE: THE AMERICAN DREAM. IN FORMER PIZZA HUTS.

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 82 MIN / ENGLISH

A contemporary portrait of America, SLICE OF LIFE tells the origin story of Pizza Hut and its iconic architecture interwoven with a collection of stories from new businesses thriving inside the walls of former Pizza Huts. From an LGBTQ+ church, to a karaoke bar, to a cannabis dispensary, these spaces hold memories of a bygone era, while also offering something new to the communities that continue to flow through them.

DIR Matthew Salleh
PROD Rose Tucker

Saturday, Apr 26 | 10:30 AM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Sunday, Apr 27 | 2:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE WORLDVIEWS

SISTER MIDNIGHT

INDIA, SWEDEN, UNITED KINGDOM / 2024 / 107 MIN / HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Winner of Best Film in the Next Wave section at Fantastic Fest, genre-bending comedy SISTER MIDNIGHT follows rebellious small-town misfit Uma, who arrives in Mumbai to find herself totally unsuited to life as a housewife. At odds with her prying neighbors and under the constant oppressive noise and heat of the city, she decides to break free from the shackles of domesticity and embrace her feral impulses.

DIR Karan Kandhari
PROD Alastair Clark, Anna Griffin
SCR Karan Kandhari

Saturday, Apr 26 | 9:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Tuesday, Apr 29 | 9:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Thursday, May 1 | 10:15 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

SOULEYMANE'S STORY

FRANCE / 2024 / 92 MIN / FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

As he pedals through the streets of Paris to deliver meals, Souleymane repeats his story. In two days, he has to go through his asylum application interview, the key to obtaining papers. But Souleymane is not ready. Director Boris Lojkine crafts a topical and emotionally immersive portrait of a young man whose story is simultaneously singular yet shared by the many undocumented laborers who urban centers rely on, yet constantly seek to restrict.

DIR Boris Lojkine
PROD Bruno Nahon
SCR Boris Lojkine, Delphine Agut

Sunday, Apr 27 | 4:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 3:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

SPEAK.

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 104 MIN / ENGLISH

MFF alum Jennifer Tiexiera (director, SUBJECT, MFF23; editor, 17 BLOCKS, MFF19) teams up with Guy Mossman for this high energy doc following five top-ranked high school oratory students from around the country as they spend a year crafting spellbinding spoken word performances. All dream of winning one of the world's largest and most intense public speaking competitions, but there can be only one champion in this inspiring film about the powers of youth and language.

DIR Jennifer Tiexiera, Guy Mossman
PROD Pamela Griner, Guy Mossman, Jennifer Tiexiera

Friday, Apr 25 | 5:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Wednesday, Apr 30 | 12:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 3:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



CREAM CITY CINEMA

FILM SPONSOR

Rotary Club of Milwaukee

STAND TOGETHER AS ONE

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 60 MIN / ENGLISH

When drought hit Ethiopia in 1983, millions of people in the war-ravaged nation were denied food relief by a ruthless dictatorship. The treacherous war zone didn't stop Kenyan photojournalist Mohamed Amin or his colleagues. Inspired by their historic global report, musicians chose to stand together as one. 40 years after the recording of "We Are The World", this film reveals what's possible when creatives come together in a common cause.

DIR Chip Duncan
PROD Chip Duncan, Salim Amin
SCR Chip Duncan

Friday, Apr 25 | 4:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 6:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



SOUND VISION DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

TAKIN' CARE OF BUSINESS

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 80 MIN / ENGLISH, JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Multi MFF alum Tyler Measom (I WANT MY MTV, MFF19, AN HONEST LIAR, MFF14) tells the captivating story of Canadian rock legend Randy Bachman. Known for his chart-topping hits with The Guess Who and Bachman-Turner Overdrive, Bachman reflects on his unexpected marriage to a Mormon and his wild, obsessive quest to recover his lost Gretsch guitar. This colorful journey is filled with humor, passion, and adventure, offering a fascinating glimpse into the life of a true rock icon.

DIR Tyler Measom
PROD Russell Wayne Groves
SCR Caroline Kessler

Saturday, May 3 | 4:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 1:00 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



SOUND VISION GENREQUEER

TEACHES OF PEACHES

GERMANY / 2024 / 102 MIN / ENGLISH, GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Seamlessly weaving together exclusive archival gems with dynamic tour footage, this film brings us up close to the transformative journey of Canadian Merrill Nisker into the internationally acclaimed cultural powerhouse that is Peaches. Her fearless originality has called social norms into question, dismantled stereotypes and confronted patriarchal power structures. Through biting wit, she advocates for LGBTQIA+ rights and tackles issues of sexual and gender and identity, leaving an indelible mark on popular culture.

DIR Judy Landkammer, Philipp Fussenegger
PROD Cordula Kablitz-Post
SCR Susanne Heuer, Cordula Kablitz-Post, Schyda Vasseghi

Friday, Apr 25 | 6:15 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, Apr 30 | 6:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 10:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

THE DELLS

UNITED STATES / 2023 / 72 MIN / ENGLISH, SPANISH, TURKISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

THE DELLS observes the clash between fantasy and reality faced by international student workers newly arrived in Wisconsin Dells, WI—"the self-described "Waterpark Capital of the World." Coming from globally disparate countries, these students and their temporary J-1 visas are the true labor force for an American summer, especially in the Dells. We see their hopes for a summer of American luck and prosperity rub up against their actual experiences, which are by turns disappointing, funny, and transcendent.

DIR Nellie Kluz
PROD Sara Archambault, Jess Pinkham

Tuesday, Apr 29 | 6:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 3:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



ART & ARTISTS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES CINE SIN FRONTERAS

THE DIAMOND KING

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 89 MIN / ENGLISH

Dick Perez has painted the history of the game of baseball. Perhaps best known for painting the Donruss Diamond King cards (1982-1996) or for being the official artist of the Baseball Hall of Fame, the Puerto Rico native and now octogenarian will help you see the game anew through his eyes and work in this documentary from MFF alum Marq Evans (THE GLAMOUR AND THE SQUALOR, MFF15; CLAYDREAM, MFF22).

DIR Marq Evans
PROD Marq Evans, Michelle Quisenberry
SCR Marq Evans, Joe Posnanski

Friday, May 2 | 6:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 5:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

THE HOME

ESTONIA, ICELAND, SWEDEN / 2025 / 87 MIN / SWEDISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Joel reluctantly returns to his childhood home to help his mother Monika, who has suffered a severe stroke and was clinically dead for minutes. Joel begins to believe that something malevolent and supernatural has taken control of his mother. But with his own history of substance abuse and mental instability, can he trust his own perceptions? As Monika's memories fade, Joel must confront his own demons, all while a horrific entity is spreading amongst the residents.

DIR Mattias Johansson Skoglund
PROD Siri Hjorton Wagner
SCR Mattias Johansson Skoglund

Friday, Apr 25 | 11:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 9:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

THE KIDS ARE NOT ALRIGHT

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 93 MIN / ENGLISH

Despite decades of documented abuse and hundreds of deaths, thousands of teenagers across the United States are held in cult-like reform programs that generate multibillion-dollar profits with little to no government oversight. Told through the personal lens of three families' journeys through what's come to be known as the "troubled teen industry," THE KIDS ARE NOT ALRIGHT is an intimate portrait of trauma and what it means to survive that asks if healing is possible in the absence of justice.

DIR Mikaela Shwer
PROD Kate S. Logan, Robyn Kopp, Kimberly Stuckwisch, Alana Maiello

Saturday, Apr 26 | 12:45 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 3:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)

FESTIVAL CENTERPIECE



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

FILM SPONSOR

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Inc. SAFE HEALTHY STRONG

THE LIBRARIANS

UNITED STATES / 2025 / 94 MIN / ENGLISH

CENTERPIECE! As an unprecedented wave of book banning is sparked in Texas, Florida, and beyond, librarians under siege join forces as unlikely defenders fighting for intellectual freedom. MFF20 Audience Award winner Kim A Snyder (US KIDS) returns with an illuminating documentary that introduces viewers to the everyday and increasingly vital heroes on the front lines of democracy: the librarians who sound the alarm to both legislative and grassroots attempts to pull books from school and public libraries.

DIR Kim A Snyder
PROD Kim A Snyder, Janique L Robillard, Jana Edelbaum, Maria Cuomo-Cole

Friday, May 2 | 7:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 10:30 AM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

THE SHROUDS

CANADA, FRANCE / 2024 / 119 MIN / ENGLISH

A techno-entrepreneur named Karsh (Vincent Cassel) has developed software that allows the bereaved to bear witness to the gradual decay of loved ones dead and buried in the earth. While Karsh is still reeling from losing his wife (Diane Kruger) to cancer, a spate of vandalized "shroud" graves puts his enterprise at risk. Written following the death of his wife, David Cronenberg's new film is both a profoundly personal reckoning with grief and a descent into noir-tinged dystopia.

DIR David Cronenberg
PROD Saïd Ben Saïd, Martin Katz, Anthony Vaccarello
SCR David Cronenberg

Friday, Apr 25 | 6:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 11:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

THE MARCHING BAND

FRANCE / 2024 / 103 MIN / FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thibaut is an internationally renowned conductor who travels the world. When he learns he was adopted, he discovers the existence of a younger brother, Jimmy, who works in a school cafeteria and plays the trombone in a small marching band. Everything seems to set them apart, except their love of music. THE MARCHING BAND is bound to have you cheering while brushing a tear from your eye as you witness the uniting power of music.

DIR Emmanuel Courcol
PROD Marc Boudre
SCR Emmanuel Courcol, Oriane Bonduel, Marianne Tomersy

Sunday, Apr 27 | 4:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Friday, May 2 | 6:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

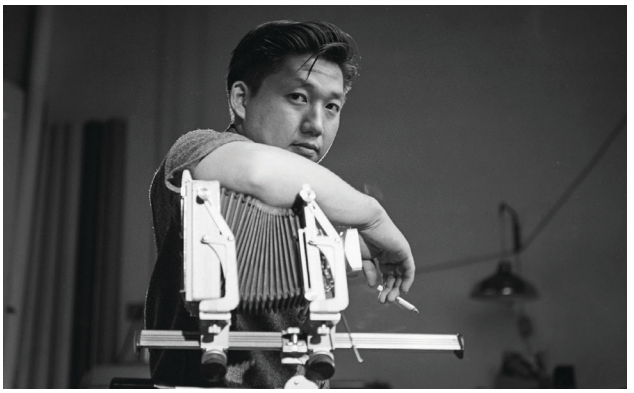
THE UGLY STEPSISTER

NORWAY, POLAND, SWEDEN, DENMARK, ROMANIA / 2025 / 105 MIN / NORWEGIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

In a twisted take on the classic Cinderella story, THE UGLY STEPSISTER follows Elvira as she battles to compete with her insanely beautiful stepsister. In a fairy-tale kingdom where beauty is a brutal business, Elvira will go to any lengths to catch the Prince's eye. THE UGLY STEPSISTER is the gory tale of the blood, sweat, grit, and gold that goes into making Elvira the belle of the ball.

DIR Emilie Blichfeldt
PROD Maria Erkerhovd
SCR Emilie Blichfeldt

Thursday, May 1 | 8:45 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Friday, May 2 | 8:45 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 11:15 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES ART & ARTISTS

THIRD ACT

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 93 MIN / ENGLISH

Generations of artists call Robert A. Nakamura "the godfather of Asian American media," but filmmaker Tadashi Nakamura just calls him Dad. A delicately told family history and portrait of an artist turns urgent with Robert's diagnosis of Parkinson's disease and transforms to be an elegy for fatherhood, art, activism, grief, and the Asian American experience past and present.

DIR Tadashi Nakamura
PROD Eurie Chung, Tadashi Nakamura

Thursday, May 1 | 6:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 10:30 AM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 12:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



SOUND VISION DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

FILM SPONSOR

von Briesen
von Briesen & Roper, s.c. | Attorneys at Law

THIS IS A FILM ABOUT THE BLACK KEYS

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 90 MIN / ENGLISH

This music-filled documentary follows The Black Keys, from their parents' garages in Ohio to global fame. Geeky Pat and popular Dan develop a unique musical chemistry and style influenced by Mississippi blues, and embark on tour in a minivan. During their rise, they gain fans, wives, and acclaim. When rockstar status and the pressures of fame strain their creative partnership, the duo reckon with the hidden costs of success.

DIR Jeff Dupre
PROD Carter Little, Jeff Dupre, Elizabeth Gregory

Friday, Apr 25 | 3:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Sunday, Apr 27 | 1:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Friday, May 2 | 4:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

TWO WOMEN

CANADA / 2025 / 100 MIN / FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Violette is having a difficult maternity leave. Florence is dealing with depression. Despite their careers and families, they feel like failures. Florence's first infidelity is a revelation. When having fun is far down the list of priorities, sleeping with a delivery guy could be revolutionary. "Director Chloé Robichaud's fourth feature film is a fun and sexy romp that discusses infidelity, marriage, and being a mother in our modern age." (Collider)

DIR Chloé Robichaud
PROD Catherine Léger, Martin Paul-Hus
SCR Catherine Léger

Saturday, Apr 26 | 6:45 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Friday, May 2 | 3:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 4:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



CINE SIN FRONTERAS WORLDVIEWS

UNDERCOVER

SPAIN / 2024 / 100 MIN / SPANISH, BASQUE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

UNDERCOVER tells the harrowing true story of the only police officer to infiltrate the Spanish far-left separatist group known as ETA. "Aranzazu" was the pseudonym of the woman who risked her life to go undercover to join the group that terrorized citizens for nearly 50 years in Spain. This thriller has been called "provocative" and "claustrophobic"and was nominated for 13 Goya's (Spain's version of the Oscar®) and won two, including Best Actress and Best Picture.

DIR Arantxa Echevarría
PROD Álvaro Ariza, Mercedes Gamero, María Luisa Gutiérrez, Pablo Nogueroles
SCR Amèlia Mora, Arantxa Echevarría, María Luisa Gutiérrez

Saturday, Apr 26 | 5:00 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 12:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



NORTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

VULCANIZADORA

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 85 MIN / ENGLISH

Two friends trudge through a Michigan forest with the intention of following through on a disturbing pact. It's only after things go shockingly awry that the surreal and unsettling consequences of their actions are revealed. "A grimly comedic story that could just as easily have been titled 'National Lampoon's Faces of Death'. It's a comedy so black that even light can't escape it!" (Nightmare on Film Street)

DIR Joel Potrykus
PROD Hannah Dweck, Matt Grady, Ashley Potrykus, Theodore Schaefer
SCR Joel Potrykus

Saturday, Apr 26 | 9:45 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, Apr 30 | 9:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Friday, May 2 | 9:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



CREAM CITY CINEMA CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

WHAT HAPPENED TO DOROTHY BELL?

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 80 MIN / ENGLISH

Preceded by FINE VALENTINE | Dir. Vincent Maslowski

After uncovering disturbing revelations from her early childhood involving her late grandmother, Ozzie Gray sets out to investigate her past. Desperate for answers, she attempts to communicate with Dorothy's spirit but unwittingly awakens something malevolent. Following his role as The Candyman in Nia DaCosta's CANDYMAN (2021), Michael Hargrove joins iconic final girl actor Lisa Wilcox (A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET 4&5), and Asya Meadows in WHAT HAPPENED TO DOROTHY BELL?

DIR Danny Villanueva Jr.
PROD Danny Villanueva Jr.
SCR Danny Villanueva Jr.

Saturday, Apr 26 | 11:59 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Friday, May 2 | 10:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 6:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



WORLDVIEWS

WAVES

CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA / 2024 / 131 MIN / CZECH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Set in 1968, a pivotal moment in modern Czech history, this dynamic and suspenseful drama follows the international office at Czechoslovak Radio led by editor Milan Weiner, whose commitment to honest journalism and the truth puts the organization in the crosshairs of the secret police. Shortlisted for Best International Feature Film for the 97th Academy Awards®, WAVES is a gripping ode to press freedom and a timely reminder of the dangers of censorship.

DIR Jiří Mádl
PROD Vlasta Kristl, Monika Kristlová
SCR Jiří Mádl

Monday, Apr 28 | 7:15 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, Apr 30 | 5:30 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES GENREQUEER

WOOLLY

NORWAY / 2024 / 86 MIN / NORWEGIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

WOOLLY follows the director's sister and her wife as they return to far Northern rural Norway to take over the family sheep farm—something neither of them really knows how to do. We follow their seasons of learning by doing, laughter, exhaustion, and a myriad of challenges in this intimate vérité documentary featuring more adorable lambs than you are probably prepared for!

DIR Rebekka Nystabakk
PROD Benedikte Bredesen

Friday, May 2 | 1:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 4:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 1:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

WTO/99

UNITED STATES / 2024 / 95 MIN / ENGLISH

Preceded by THE THIN BLUE WAVE | Dir. Jonathan Klett

An immersive archival documentary that reanimates the 1999 "Battle of Seattle"—a clash heard round the world between the then-emerging World Trade Organization (WTO) and the more than 40,000 people who took to the streets of Seattle in protest. As timely as ever, this meditation on the past remains essential viewing for those who care about the environment, human rights, and labor 25+ years on in a new moment for activism.

DIR Ian Bell
PROD Laura Tatham, Alex Megaro, Debra McClutchy

Thursday, May 1 | 3:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 1:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



GENREQUEER WORLDVIEWS

YOUNG HEARTS

BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS / 2024 / 97 MIN / DUTCH, FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fourteen-year-old Elias increasingly feels like an outsider in his town. When he meets Alexander, his new neighbor of the same age, Elias is confronted with his burgeoning sexuality and the universal experience of a first real crush. Bursting with warmth, YOUNG HEARTS is a joy to behold and "a balm to LGBTQ kids wrestling with their sexuality as well as to parents struggling with acceptance" (The Hollywood Reporter).

DIR Anthony Schatteman
PROD Xavier Rombaut
SCR Anthony Schatteman

Wednesday, Apr 30 | 3:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 6:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



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SHORT FILMS





BLACK LENS

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BLACK LENS SHORTS | 95 MIN

Real stories of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. playing basketball, a conversation with a ghost, and an intimate look at the reconciliation of a broken up couple. These are just a few of the heart racing shorts exhibited in this year's Black Lens Shorts program—a collection of expressive work that proves that sometimes the shortest films can pack the largest punch.

About Time Donald Conley
Entre le Feu et le Clair de Lune Dominic Yarabe
Hoops, Hopes & Dreams Glen Kaino
Mondele Daniel Kayamba
Songbird Jonathan Horton
Thomasville Alex Woodruff

Sunday, Apr 27 | 3:00 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Wednesday, Apr 30 | 12:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 10:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



K RATED K: FOR KIDS

KIDS SHORTS: SIZE LARGE | 75 MIN

These short films will have our tween cinephiles seeing others their age organizing to preserve skateable spaces, accepting their cultural styles, and bravely standing up as the only Black ballerina in the room. They're sure to walk away empowered to do good in their community. **AGES 10+**

Dynasty and Destiny Travis Lee Ratcliff
Eclipse Mina Chacko
Monster Piers Goffart, Eric Geissmann
On a Sunday at Eleven Alicia K. Harris
Scrumpy Dan Holmwood
Skate in the City Lies van der Auwera
The Sun is Bad Rachel Mow
The Tornado Outside Maria Tomazou
Unibrow Nedda Sarshar

Saturday, Apr 26 | 10:30 AM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 10:00 AM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



K RATED K: FOR KIDS

KIDS SHORTS: SIZE MEDIUM | 76 MIN

Meant to guide those little ones growing into their childhood, these shorts dive a little deeper and spark imagination about the world that kids see. Pigs ice skating, friends moving apart, a portal that connects the world, a disastrous family vacation—with plenty of laughs along the way. **AGES 6+**

As the Sun Goes Down Laurine Bocquet, Ilona Caucal, Inès Fechner, Jahnice Laurent, Sarah Robert, Emma Roussel, Kevin Vandenbeuck

Happy Snaps Tyro Heath

Hello Summer Martin Smatana, Veronika Zacharová

Hoofs on Skates Ignas Meilūnas

Princess Aubergine Dina Velikovskaya

Stuck Matthias De Clercq

The Night Tunnel Annechien Strouven

The Queen's Flowers Ciara Leinaala Lacy

Sunday, Apr 27 | 10:00 AM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 1:00 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



K RATED K: FOR KIDS

KIDS SHORTS: SIZE SMALL | 62 MIN

Shorts for our shortest shorties. This collection of animated films taps into the wonder of a first-time cinematic experience and the early lessons of life: from facing the fear of a new sibling, to finding your passion, to getting off that iPad and noticing the friends around you. **AGES 3+**

Baking With Boris Masa Avramovic

Coot Marlies van der Wel

Fly By Filip Dobeš

Homework Nacho Arjona

Lulina and the Moon Marcus Vinicius Vasconcelos, Alois Di Leo

The Carp and the Child Morgane Simon, Arnaud Demuynck

The Girl with the Occupied Eyes André Carrilho

The Sound Collector: Float Your Boat Andy Burns, Barry Purves, Chris Tichborne, Lisa Arioli

Saturday, Apr 26 | 12:30 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 10:00 AM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 10:00 AM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



SHORTER IS BETTER

SHORTS: DATE NIGHT | 91 MIN

There's no doubt about it: what the world needs now is love—and this collection of seven heartwarming short films. Explore love in all of its glory: from heartracing meet-cutes, hilarious misunderstandings, crushing (locally made!) heartbreak, and steamy declarations of devotion. Your 2025 MFF isn't complete without a Date Night.

A Bear in the Woods Andrew Laurich

AN ALMOST SUCCESSFUL DATING APP LOVE STORY Winter Coleman

Halfway Kumar Chheda

Hiawatha Rachel B. Joyce

I'm The Most Racist Person I Know Leela Varghese

Jane Austen's Period Drama Julia Aks

Ripe! Tusk

Tuesday, Apr 29 | 7:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Thursday, May 1 | 9:30 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 8:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



SHORTER IS BETTER

SHORTS: GRAB BAG 2025 | 88 MIN

What do a solo trip to Chapultepec, a tense family dinner, an epic coming of age drama, and one last kiss before the end of the world have in common? They make up the captivating, award-winning stories in this year's collection of "anything goes" shorts so bold that they needed a program of their own.

After What Happened at the Library Kyle Casey Chu

Au Revoir Mon Monde Estelle Bonnardel, Quentin Devred, Baptiste Duchamps, Maxime Foltzer, Florian Maurice, Astrid Novais

Grandma Nai Who Played Favorites Chheangkea

One Day This Kid Alexander Farah

Susana Gerardo Coello Escalante, Amandine Thomas

Unholy Daisy Friedman

Thursday, May 1 | 3:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 4:15 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 12:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



SHORTER IS BETTER

SHORTS: LET'S GET ANIMATED | 78 MIN

Whether they're computer animated, stop-motion, or hand-drawn on toilet paper (?!), the dynamic characters in these shorts are always three-dimensional. Dive into ten thrilling new worlds where imagination reigns supreme and experience how animation can convey heartache, humor, and wonder in the span of just a few moments.

Dragfox Lisa Ott
It Shouldn't Rain Tomorrow Maria Trigo Teixeira
LUKi & the Lights Toby Cochran
Next? Christel Guibert
Octopus Banana Hotchpotch Milanka Fabjancic
Retirement Plan John Kelly
The Miracle Nienke Deutz
The Refusers Wiep Teeuwisse
The Wild-Tempered Clavier Anna Samo

Tuesday, Apr 29 | 7:15 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Friday, May 2 | 12:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Monday, May 5 | 4:15 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)



SHORTER IS BETTER

SHORTS: SURPRISE, SURPRISE | 92 MIN

It's no surpise that this wacky, witty, and fast-paced shorts program has become an annual tradition for festivalgoers. Get ready for a rollercoaster of laughs, twist reveals, and—that's it! We've said enough!

ILY, BYE Taylor James
Out for Delivery Chelsea Christer
Shut Up, Jack Alec Bewkes
The Eighth Day Jonah Weinstein
The Move Eric Kissack
The Sentry Jake Wachtel
The Singers Sam Davis

Wednesday, Apr 30 | 12:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Thursday, May 1 | 12:45 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)
Sunday, May 4 | 7:15 PM | Downer Theatre (South Cinema)



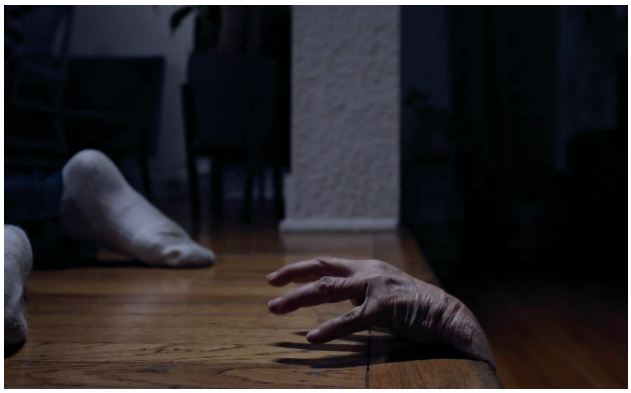
SHORTER IS BETTER

SHORTS: STRANGER THAN FICTION | 84 MIN

He was arrested for taking a picture of a donkey. They met online and crossed oceans to save each other's lives. She created one of the most enduring ad campaigns of all-time. You can learn all about them when you secure your ticket for this documentary short program, because you're worth it.

Hello Stranger Amélie Hardy
Looking for a Donkey Juan Vicente Manrique
The Final Copy of Ilon Specht Ben Proudfoot
The Reality of Hope Joe Hunting
View From the Floor Megan Griffiths, Mindie Lind

Sunday, May 4 | 11:00 AM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)
Tuesday, May 6 | 12:30 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Thursday, May 8 | 7:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Herzfeld Cinema)



SHORTER IS BETTER

SHORTS: THE BEST DAMN F*#@ING MIDNIGHT PROGRAM EVER. SHIT. | 84 MIN

Who doesn't love a little mayhem? Your inner monster will thank you for this night of kooky comedies, hair-raising horror, and cRuNCHy sqUISHYyy battles between flesh and...is that f*#@ing Cate Blanchett?! It's a late-night party so unhinged you can only see it after midnight (or fine, twice at 10 PM).

Be Right Back Lucas Paulino, Gabe Ibáñez
Bozo Over Roses Matty Sidle
Earwax Jasper Martin
Kombucha! Jake Myers
Lurk Mairin Hart, Josh Wallace Kerrigan
Playing God Burani Matteo
RAT! Neal Mulani
Steak Dinner Nathan Ginter
Whitch Hoku Uchiyama

Friday, Apr 25 | 11:59 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)
Saturday, May 3 | 10:00 PM | Downer Theatre (North Cinema)
Wednesday, May 7 | 10:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Lubar Cinema)



CREAM CITY CINEMA

FILM SPONSOR

NOVA

THE MILWAUKEE SHOW I | 81 MIN

Each year THE MILWAUKEE SHOW is one of the hottest tickets of the Festival—a rare chance to see work from our local best and brightest in the gloriously opulent setting of our beloved Oriental Theatre's Abele Cinema. This collection of stunning shorts allows you to watch locally, yet think globally.

American Teenager Mira Santo Tomas
DAG Camera Repair Atesh Atici
Heart Shaped Grace Mitchell, Sofia Theodore-Pierce
Home-land: Hmong American Women Pader Xiong
Legacy in Motion Brandon Stearns, Brema Brema
MINE! Lou Morton
Red Dog Lenora Hill
The Farm: A BMX Film Nicholas Kohnhorst
Zastava Brothers Pep Stojanovic

Monday, May 5 | 6:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



CREAM CITY CINEMA

FILM SPONSOR

THE MILWAUKEE SHOW II | 82 MIN

The shorts program is so nice, we have to do it twice! THE MILWAUKEE SHOW II brings you EVEN MORE fantastic films courtesy of our thriving local artistic community. There's simply too much quality to be contained by a single screening, so settle in for another collection of shorts with a diversity of styles and perspectives.

25 Million Stitches: One Stitch, One Refugee José Alberto Castillo
Calling - Immortal Girlfriend James Tindell
Fresh Values Drew Durepos, Isaac Brooks
hidden note Tyshun Wardlaw
Loaded - Trapper Schoepp Trapper Schoepp, Nels Lindquist
Mandatory Bathroom Break Alyssa Sue Borkowski
Something in the Water Nateya Taylor
The Orange Mackenzie Endlich
The Phalanx Ben Balcom

Tuesday, May 6 | 6:00 PM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



CREAM CITY CINEMA

THE MILWAUKEE YOUTH SHOW | 66 MIN

In a time of uncertainty, it's reassuring to know that the kids are definitely alright. With works exploring topics like mental health, finding purpose, and how window-unit fans relate to humanity, the next wave of Milwaukee's visionaries are ready to share their work—and perspective—with our city.

A 2 Week Art Journey Jorge Guifarro
Confessions Josh Willenson
Cooking Lucas Lovo
Doom Scroll Joe Tzougros
eventide. Liana Lima, Joey Drouin
Hang Sam Slowik
I AM Joshua Peter Borg
No Humanity In efficiency Hugh Hancock
Office Cats Cole Russel Bruce
Talking to the Past Lola Milanovic
The Faces of Ukraine Diana Zaiats

Sunday, May 4 | 10:30 AM | Oriental Theatre (Abele Cinema)



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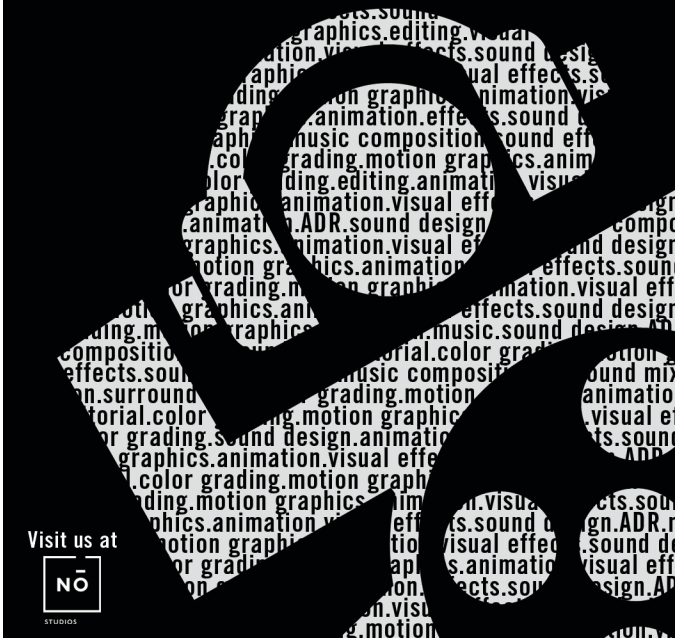
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SCREENING SCHEDULE



THURSDAY, APRIL 24: OPENING NIGHT!

SALLY

6:00 PM | 103 MIN | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA) (P)

OPENING NIGHT BLOCK PARTY TO FOLLOW AT 8:00 PM OUTSIDE THE CINEMA (PG. 14)

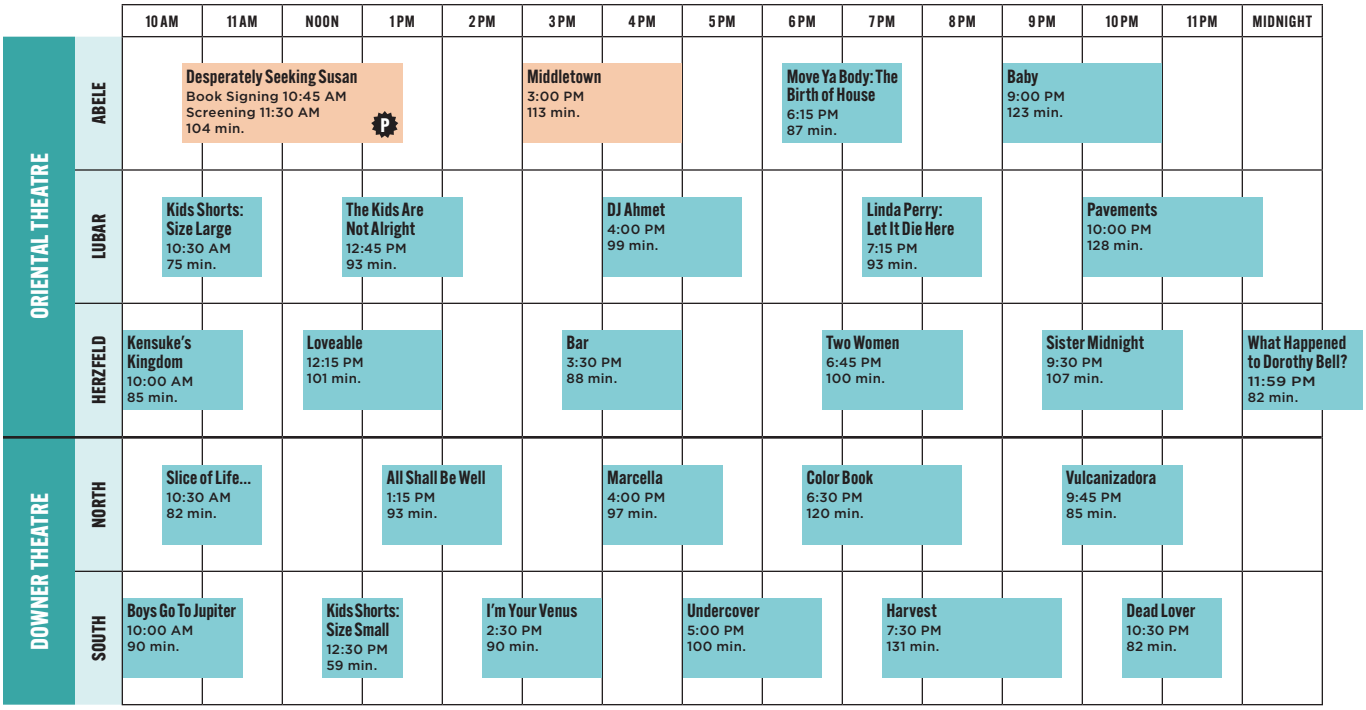
FRIDAY, APRIL 25

		10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	MIDNIGHT
ORIENTAL THEATRE	ABELE						...The Black Keys 3:00 PM 90 min.		Speak. 5:30 PM 104 min.			Green Blah! the History of Green Bay Punk Rock 8:15 PM 119 min.				Shorts: The Best Damn... 11:59 PM 85 min.
	LUBAR				Secret Mall Apartment 1:00 PM 91 min.			Glimmers 3:45 PM 101 min.		The Shrouds 6:15 PM 119 min.			Dead Lover 9:00 PM 82 min.		The Home 11:15 PM 87 min.	
	HERZFELD				Ernest Cole: Lost and Found 1:30 PM 105 min.			Sally 4:15 PM 103 min.			Holy Cow 7:15 PM 92 min.			AJ Goes to the Dog Park 10:00 PM 89 min.		
DOWNER THEATRE	NORTH				Middletown 1:00 PM 113 min.			Stand Together... 4:00 PM 60 min.		Teaches of Peaches 6:15 PM 102 min.			Magic Farm 9:00 PM 93 min.			
	SOUTH					Heightened Scrutiny 1:45 PM 99 min.			Ka Whawhai Tonu 4:45 PM 114 min.		Rent Free 7:30 PM 93 min.			Cloud 10:00 PM 123 min.		

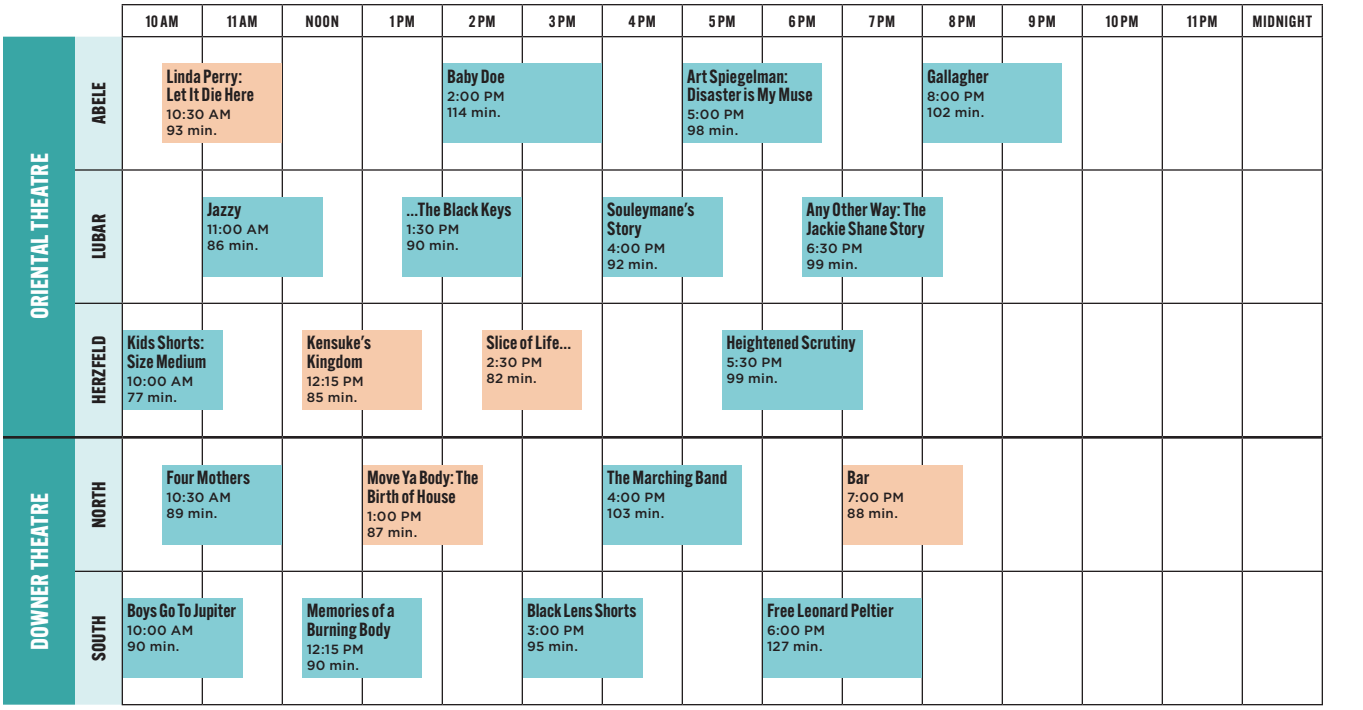
Running times for programs includes film content only.
Grid end times do not include introductions or Q&As, and are subject to change.

(P) PREMIUM SCREENING | SUPER SECRET MEMBERS-ONLY SCREENING | LAST/ONLY SCREENING

SATURDAY, APRIL 26



SUNDAY, APRIL 27



Running times for programs includes film content only.
Grid end times do not include introductions or Q&As, and are subject to change.

P PREMIUM SCREENING | SUPER SECRET MEMBERS-ONLY SCREENING | LAST/ONLY SCREENING

MONDAY, APRIL 28

		10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	MIDNIGHT
ORIENTAL THEATRE	ABELE									Nosferatu: A Symphony... 6:30 PM 94 min. (P)						
	LUBAR				Color Book 1:00 PM 120 min.			Fine Young Men 4:30 PM 89 min.			Janis Ian: Breaking Silence 7:00 PM 114 min.					
	HERZFELD					Peacock 1:30 PM 102 min.			I'm Your Venus 5:00 PM 90 min.			Black Dog 7:30 PM 106 min.				
DOWNER THEATRE	NORTH				Heightened Scrutiny 1:00 PM 99 min.			In Waves and War 4:00 PM 108 min.			Waves 7:15 PM 131 min.					
	SOUTH					Samia 1:45 PM 102 min.			Secret Mall Apartment 4:45 PM 91 min.			One Minute Remaining 8:00 PM 74 min.				

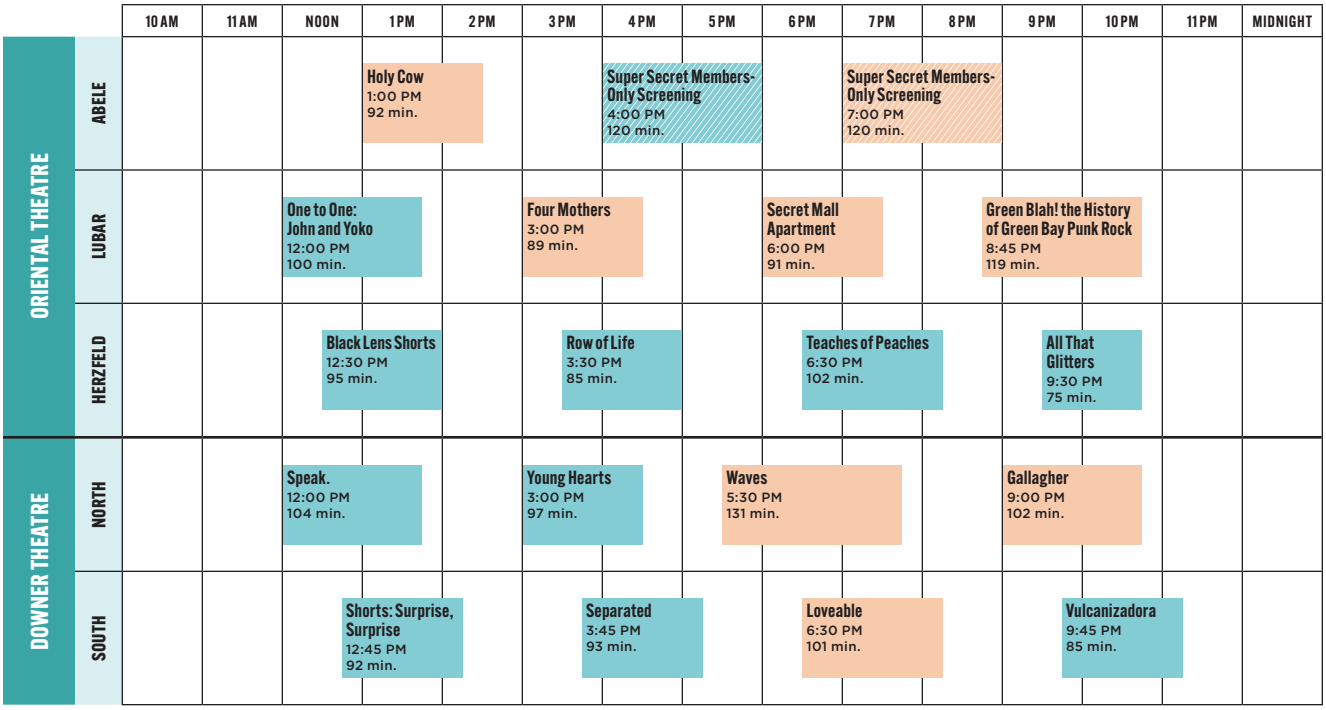
TUESDAY, APRIL 29

		10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	MIDNIGHT
ORIENTAL THEATRE	ABELE						Art Spiegelman: Disaster is My Muse 3:30 PM 98 min.				Shorts: Date Night 7:00 PM 92 min.			Sister Midnight 9:30 PM 107 min.		
	LUBAR				Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story 1:00 PM 99 min.			Holy Cow 4:00 PM 92 min.		The Dells 6:30 PM 72 min.			AJ Goes to the Dog Park 9:00 PM 89 min.			
	HERZFELD					Familiar Touch 2:00 PM 91 min.			Glimmers 5:00 PM 101 min.			Nikah 8:00 PM 56 min.				
DOWNER THEATRE	NORTH				I'm Your Venus 1:00 PM 90 min.		Coexistence, My Ass! 3:30 PM 95 min.			Memory Lane 6:00 PM 98 min.		All That Glitters 8:30 PM 75 min.				
	SOUTH					Fine Young Men 2:00 PM 89 min.		Life After 4:30 PM 100 min.			Shorts: Let's Get Animated 7:15 PM 78 min.			Gallagher 9:30 PM 102 min.		

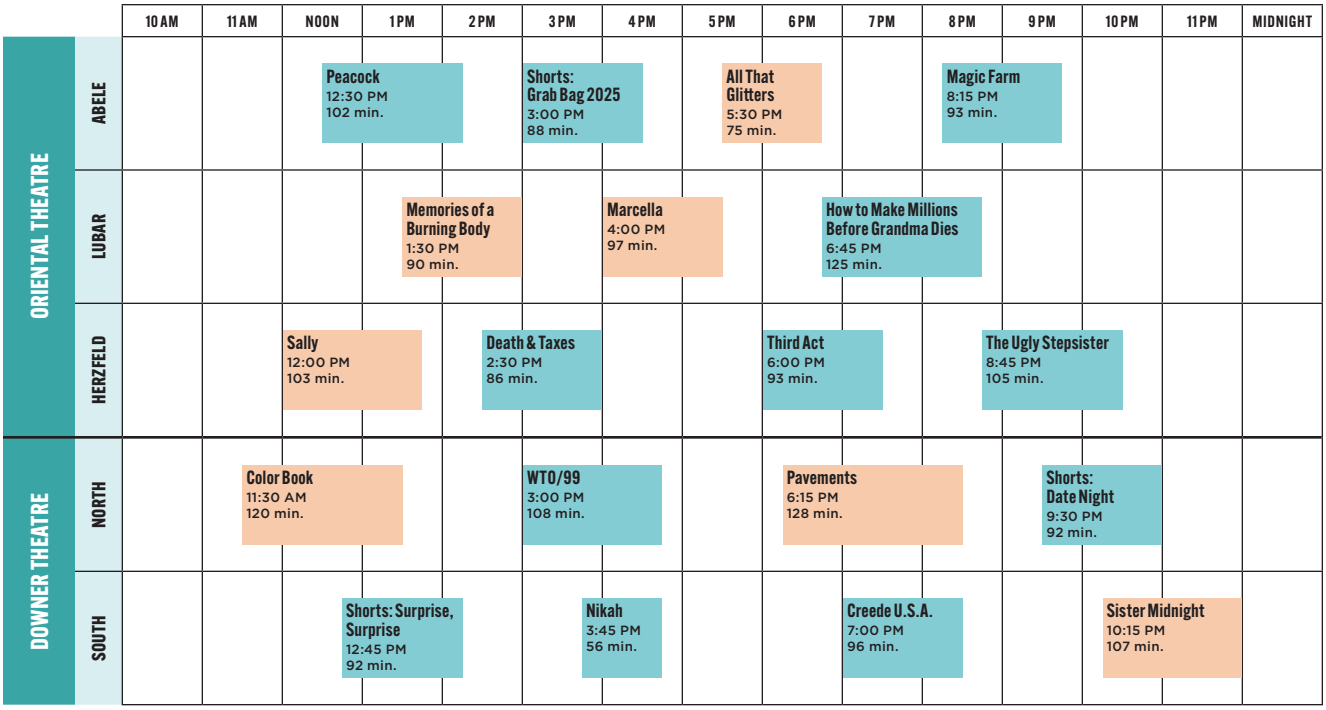
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(P) PREMIUM SCREENING | SUPER SECRET MEMBERS-ONLY SCREENING | LAST/ONLY SCREENING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30



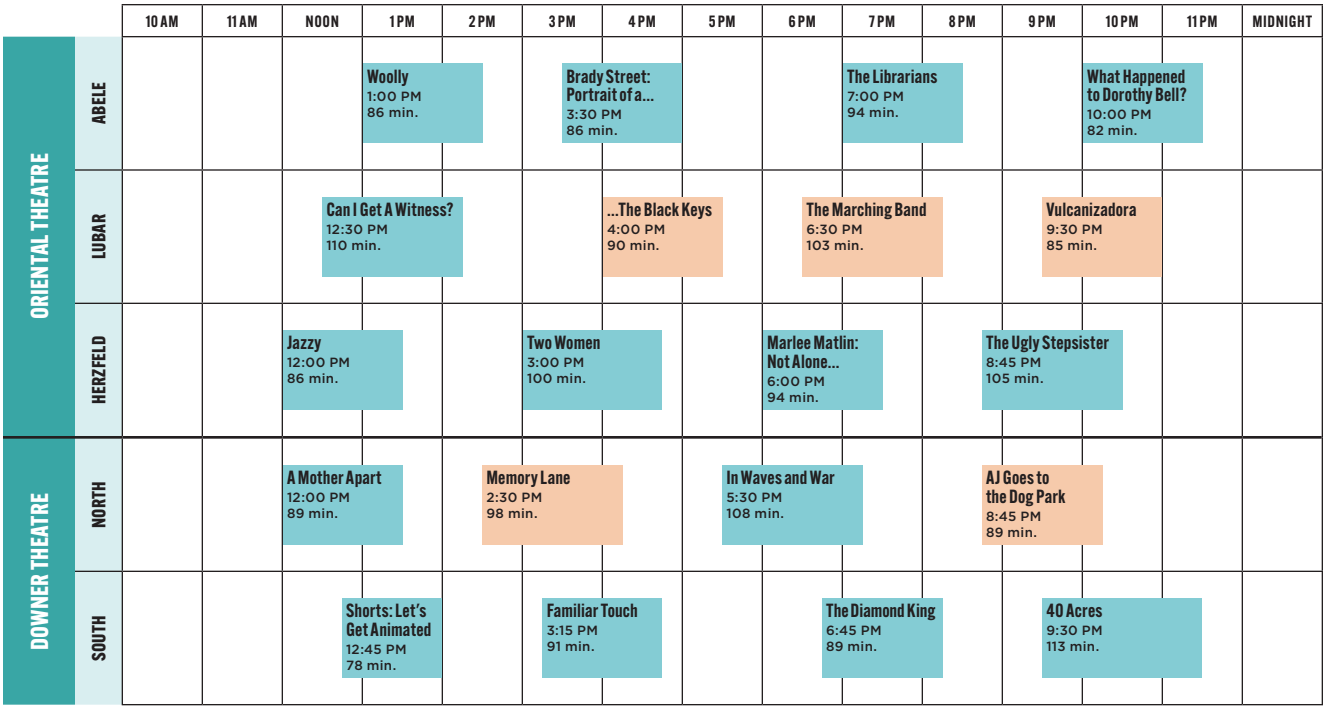
THURSDAY, MAY 1



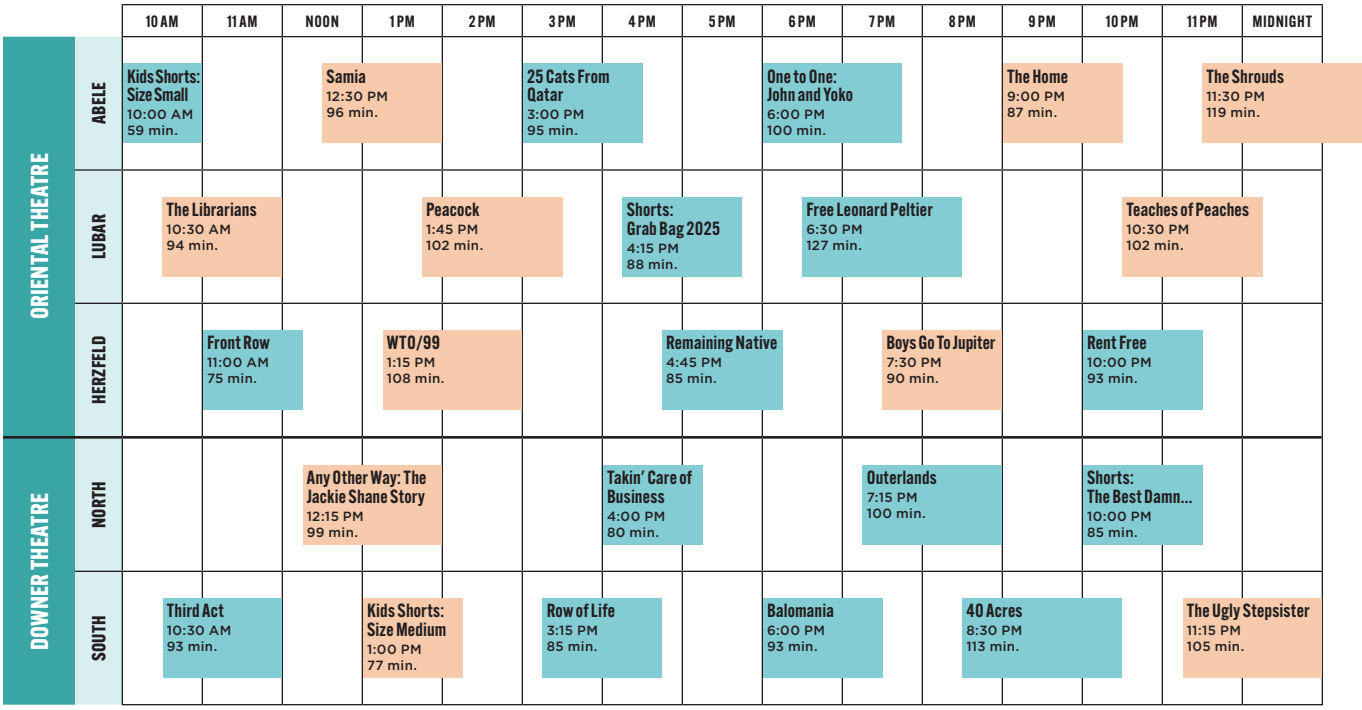
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P PREMIUM SCREENING | SUPER SECRET MEMBERS-ONLY SCREENING | LAST/ONLY SCREENING

FRIDAY, MAY 2



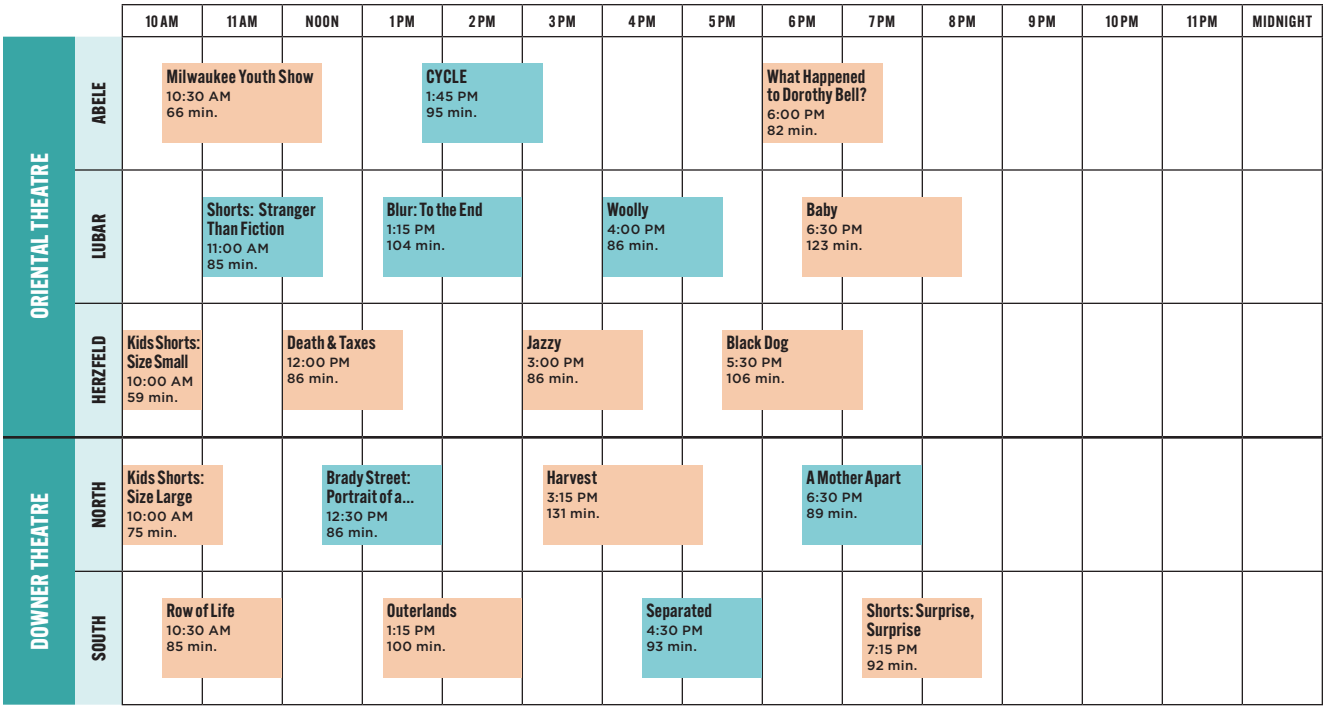
SATURDAY, MAY 3



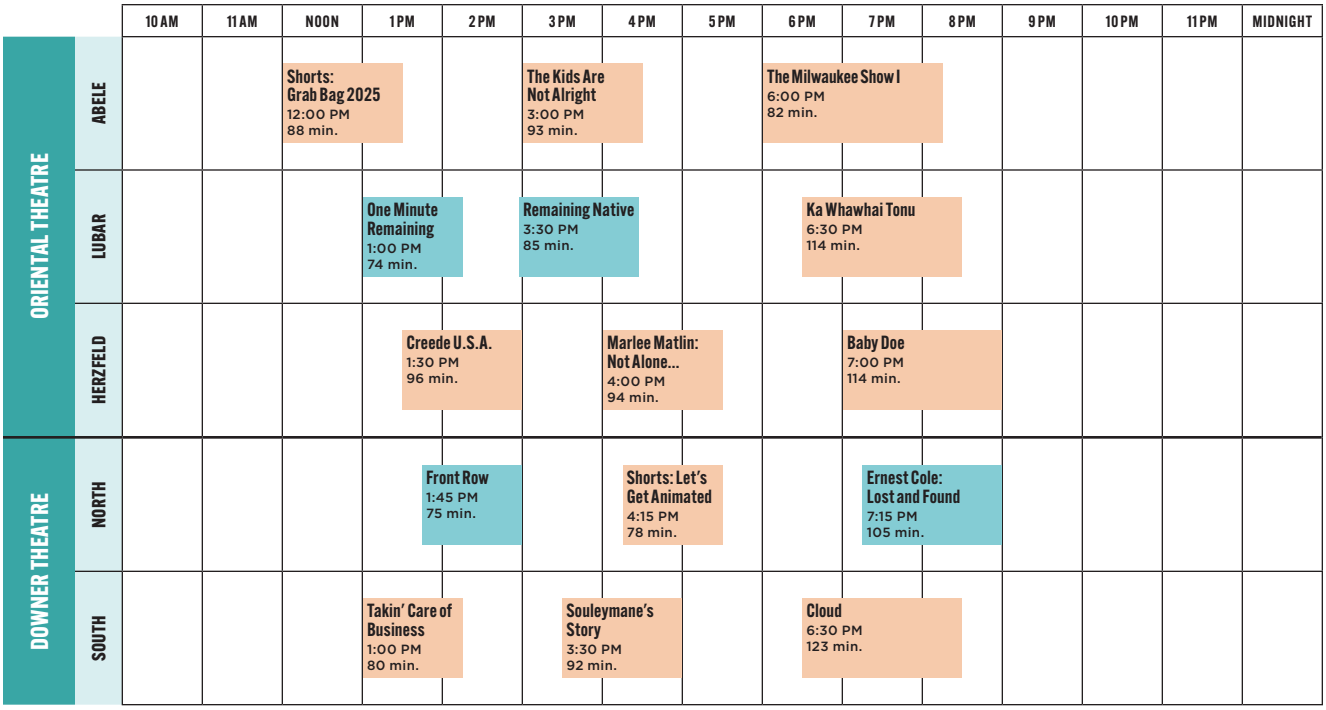
Running times for programs includes film content only.
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P PREMIUM SCREENING | SUPER SECRET MEMBERS-ONLY SCREENING | LAST/ONLY SCREENING

SUNDAY, MAY 4



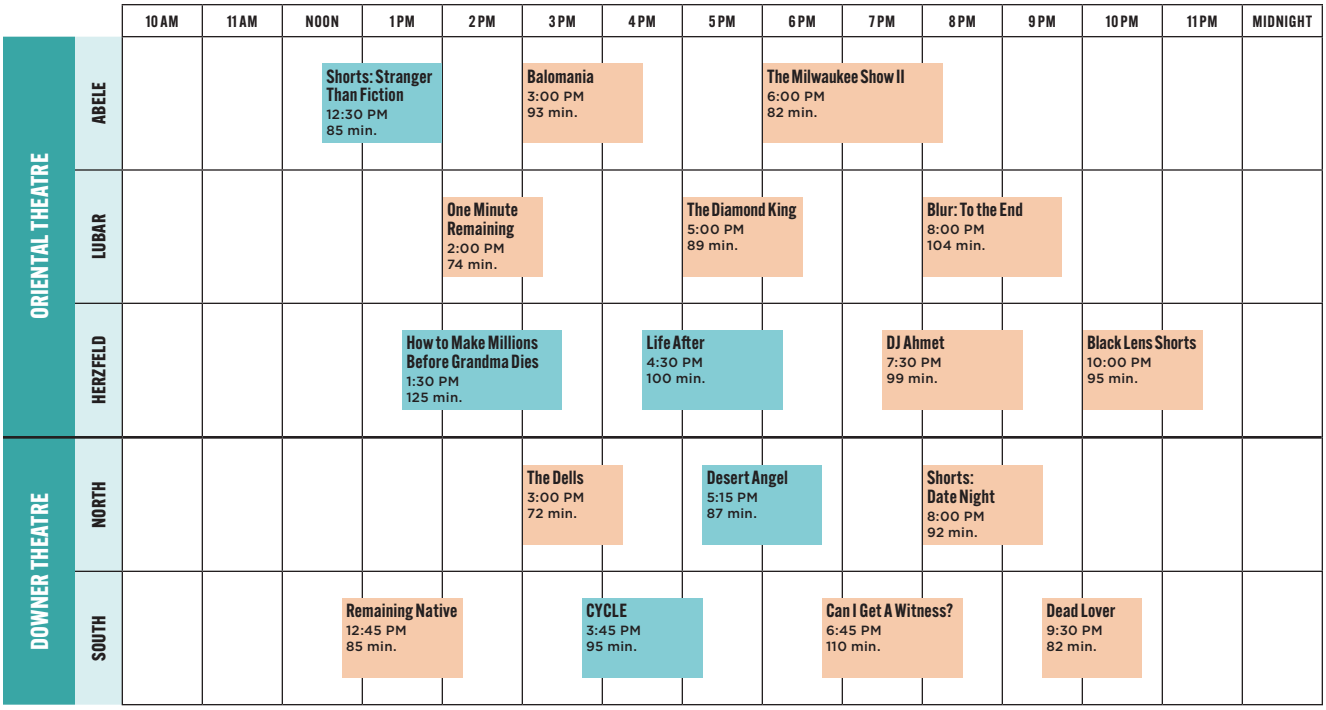
MONDAY, MAY 5



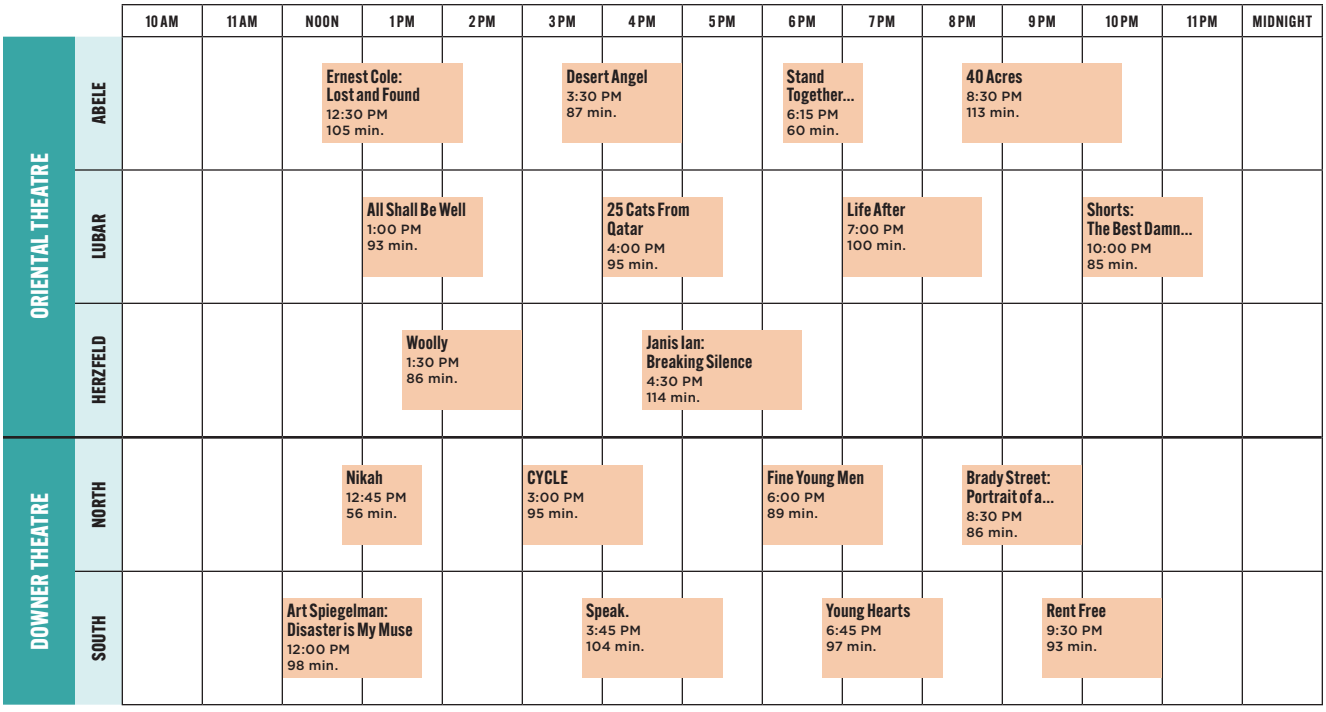
Running times for programs includes film content only.
Grid end times do not include introductions or Q&As, and are subject to change.

P PREMIUM SCREENING | SUPER SECRET MEMBERS-ONLY SCREENING | LAST/ONLY SCREENING

TUESDAY, MAY 6



WEDNESDAY, MAY 7



Running times for programs includes film content only.
Grid end times do not include introductions or Q&As, and are subject to change.

PREMIUM SCREENING | SUPER SECRET MEMBERS-ONLY SCREENING | LAST/ONLY SCREENING

THURSDAY, MAY 8

		10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	MIDNIGHT
ORIENTAL THEATRE	ABELE				Front Row 1:30 PM 75 min.			Two Women 4:30 PM 100 min.			Jane Austen Wrecked My Life 7:30 PM 94 min.					
	LUBAR			Undercover 12:00 PM 100 min.			Separated 3:00 PM 93 min.			How to Make Millions Before Grandma Dies 6:00 PM 125 min.						
	HERZFELD			One to One: John and Yoko 12:30 PM 100 min.				Free Leonard Peltier 3:30 PM 127 min.			Shorts: Stranger Than Fiction 7:00 PM 85 min.					
DOWNER THEATRE	NORTH			Third Act 12:00 PM 93 min.			A Mother Apart 3:00 PM 89 min.			Magic Farm 6:00 PM 93 min.						
	SOUTH				Familiar Touch 12:45 PM 91 min.			In Waves and War 3:45 PM 108 min.			Coexistence, My Ass! 7:00 PM 95 min.					

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BIRD IS THE WORD



MFF25 artist **Jinjer Markley** took inspiration from the springtime migratory patterns of birds that can be found right here in Wisconsin!

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLERS

Black-throated Blue Warblers typically inhabit larger tracts of hardwood and mixed hardwood-evergreen forests, particularly those with a shrubby understory.

BLUE-HEADED VIREOS

Blue-headed Vireos breed in mature boreal and montane forests of many types; migrants and wintering birds can be found in almost any forested setting, but especially those with some understory plants.

CAPE MAY WARBLERS

During their breeding season, **Cape May Warblers** can be spotted in boreal forests like spruce and balsam firs, or in a wide variety of forested and shrubby habitats during migration and in winter.

NASHVILLE WARBLERS

Nashville Warblers prefer to take residence in second-growth, open deciduous, or mixed-species forests, and areas with a coniferous component in northern Wisconsin.

WILSON'S WARBLERS

Often found in wet areas and willow thickets, **Wilson's Warblers** are fairly common migrant birds in Wisconsin, and are a species of special concern in the state.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS

One of the first warblers to return to Wisconsin each spring, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** normally arrive in late March to early April. They prefer a variety of habitats, including urban canopies and a mix of coniferous and deciduous forests during migration.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLERS

Often found in a variety of forest habitats, particularly in northern areas, **Black-throated Green Warblers** are considered a "source" or "core" species for the global population, with individuals from Wisconsin sustaining populations in other areas.



Looking for a clue?
/thehuntison
4-23-25

ABOUT US

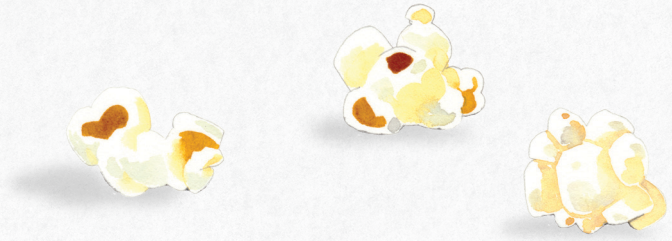
Milwaukee Film is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to creating world-class cinematic experiences that convene diverse communities and catalyze positive change in Milwaukee. Our vision is to become America's most dynamic, well-rounded film culture institution. Fostering values of community, artistry, education, and joy, our work makes our community more empathetic and equitable for everyone.

MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL (MFF)

Since 2009, the annual Milwaukee Film Festival has brought together audiences and filmmakers to celebrate the power of cinema. One of the largest film festivals in the country, MFF was recognized by Moviemaker Magazine as one of the "Coolest Film Festivals in the World." In 2019, our annual Milwaukee Film Festival attracted more than 87,000 attendees to packed cinemas and over 100,000 people joined our virtual festivals in 2020 and 2021. Post-pandemic we have offered a hybrid and now fully in-person Festival experience. Each year we continue to elevate Milwaukee's film industry and bring world-class films and filmmakers to local audiences. It's a celebration of film, arts, and culture unlike anything else in our community.

DOWNER THEATRE

In 2024, after several months of closure after previous tenant-operators left, Milwaukee Film was proud to reopen the iconic Downer Theatre, Wisconsin's oldest still-operating movie theatre (since 1915), kicking off with the 2024 Milwaukee Film Festival and showing great new movies every day since.



ORIENTAL THEATRE

Milwaukee Film operates the historic Oriental Theatre, a magnificent movie palace recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. Since getting the keys in 2018, Milwaukee Film has worked to revitalize this one-of-a-kind space. In 2019, we fully restored one of the three houses inside the theatre, replaced the lobby concessions stand, and showed nearly 250 film titles outside MFF. After the theatre closed in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we began our next phase of renovations, working to restore much of the theatre's other two houses while also incorporating hearing loops for improved accessibility. We're re-opened and proud to show off what we've accomplished in restoring this historical gem.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSE VOICES

Across all of our program areas, we endeavor to center the voices and representations of those who have historically been marginalized. Our programmers carefully select films in programs such as Black Lens, Cine Sin Fronteras, and GenreQueer, that offer year-round examples of that work whether during our Festivals, commemorative months, or general cinema programming. But this does not end with the named programs; seeking out the stories that matter to Milwaukee and inspiring important conversations through the power of film is at the heart of all of our work.



LEADERSHIP

Susan Santha Kerns, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Kristen C. Heller
Managing Director

Cara Ogburn, Ph.D.
Artistic Director

Ryan O'Desky
Fractional CFO

DEVELOPMENT

Rachel Vander Weit
Development Director

Kristopher Pollard
Membership & Giving Director

Dewey Miller
Database Specialist

Tristan Adams
Grants & Special Projects Coordinator

Ashley Hale
Festival Guest Relations Assistant

FINANCE

Jonathan Demers
Controller

Adam Mallen
Accounting Coordinator

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ryan Ziegler
Creative Services Manager

Robyn Ehrlich
Communications & Public Relations Coordinator

Jolee Mallmann
Social Media & Digital Marketing Coordinator

PROGRAMMING

Kerstin Larson
Programming Director

Abbie Esterline
Programming Coordinator

Jack Feria
GenreQueer and Shorts Programmer

Ernie Quiroz
Cine Sin Fronteras Programmer

Ty Williams
Black Lens Programmer

Ian Cessna
Rated K: For Kids Programmer

Justin Hamilton
Festival Hospitality Coordinator

Ashley Hale
Programming Intern

OPERATIONS

Kevin Rice
Technology Director

Ani Injasoulian
Ticketing & Customer Service Manager

Connor Erickson
Operations Manager

Brett Smith
IT Technician

Kelsey Parks
Technical Manager & Festival Projectionist

Ryan Putskey
Facilities Manager

Petey Balestrieri
Cinema Operations Director

Malik Riddle
Front of House Manager

Gini Connell
Cinema & Festival Projectionist

Spencer Tye
Cinema & Festival Projectionist

Assistant Front of House Managers

Aneesh Beahlen

Zac Higgins

Vale Schroeder

Assistant Cinema Managers

Ella Freigang

Tyler Glor

Mahdi Gransberry

Deiva Motley

Ty Williams

Cinema Team

Allux Arellano-Metoxen

Alex Badtke

Giuseppe Balestrieri

Isabella Benitez

Jaylen Briece

Rose Callahan

Dara Carneol

Krissy Casper

Joseph Cullen

Ren Gresbach

Matthew Henderson

Maddie Hogue

Jamie Lee Jackson

Celia Jewell

Maxwell Lyon

Phoebe Odegaard

Ramona Peetz

Carrie Van Gorder

Jada Wegner

Ian Wilkinson

Jake Whalen

Kami Yelk

Marlo Yelk

Venue Security

Sharon Burt

DeAndre Lewis

Tyrone Lewis

Festival Projectionists

Sam La Strapes

Morgan Murphy

Hasti Soltani

Modestina Weeden

Festival Operations

Amelia Bursi
Festival Logistics Manager

Emily Tayler
Festival Volunteer Coordinator

Curt Heiner
Festival Technical Coordinator

Brian Hupke
Festival Engineer

Jonathan Foster
Festival Revisionist

Tristen Ives
Festival Revisionist

Carrie Gray
Festival Sales Coordinator

Kailynn Wettberg
Merchandise Sales Associate

Festival Theater Managers

Michael Kirby

Gene Lee

Courtney Maye

Ben Post

Festival Box Office Managers

Amethyst Fanning

Kevin Hanrahan

Sion Henry

Leyton Schiebel

Festival Assistant Theater Managers

Juliette Acosta

Brooke Bayer

Preston Blaney

Jon Bruning

Zack Cowell

Karen Duerr

Britany Gunderson

Sierra Irwin

Carrie O'Connell

Alondra van Woensel

Chloe Wilkerson

Amanda Worley

Festival Ticket Sellers

Anthony Busateri

Tanya Dhein

Josh Jommen

Bekah Kalb

Courtney King

Seth Schuster

Erin Siettmann


MILWAUKEE
FILM