

2024 MILWAUKEE FILM

POTAWATOMI CASINO HOTEL PRESENTS

**DIALOGUES
DOCUMENTARY
FESTIVAL**



POTAWATOMI
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MILWAUKEE
FILM

Potawatomi Casino Hotel
is Proud to Present the

2024 DIALOGUES DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL



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1721 WEST CANAL STREET, MILWAUKEE, WI 53233

WELCOME!

DEAR FILM ENTHUSIASTS,

We welcome you to the first-ever Dialogues Documentary Festival. For sixteen years, Milwaukee Film has proudly brought unique cinematic experiences to our city through the annual Milwaukee Film Festival and our ongoing commitment to film exhibition at the historic Oriental Theatre, and more recently, the Downer Theatre, Wisconsin's oldest continuously operating cinema.

This festival has emerged from our understanding of documentaries' profound impact in sparking conversation and connection. In a different way from any other form of film, documentaries engage us deeply, prompting discussions that resonate long after the credits roll. In recent years, as non-fiction films have largely shifted to streaming platforms, it's increasingly rare to experience them in a theatrical setting. We believe that documentaries deserve a grand stage and a communal space where ideas can flourish and dialogues can deepen. We're thrilled that many of these 35 documentary programs will be followed by panel discussions and Q&A sessions. These opportunities for engagement are not merely additions to the viewing experience; they are central to our mission of fostering understanding and reflection through film.

We dedicate this inaugural festival to our beloved city of Milwaukee—a city as diverse in its people as it is rich in its pursuit of knowledge and cultural engagement. This carefully curated selection of films aims to not only entertain but to enlighten, challenge perceptions, and encourage the spirited exchange of ideas.

Join us as we celebrate the art of documentary filmmaking in a setting that honors the tradition of shared cinematic adventure. Whether you are a longtime supporter or new to our community, your presence enriches the conversation and contributes to the continuing vibrancy of Milwaukee's cultural landscape.

We look forward to sharing these days of discovery and dialogue with you.

Yours in Cinema,



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MILWAUKEE
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Dialogues Documentary Festival would not be possible without the support of our sponsors!

MEDIA PARTNERS



TICKETS & ACCESSIBILITY

The first annual Dialogues Documentary Festival offers a diverse array of nonfiction films, covering topics ranging from health and wellness, natural environments, social justice, modern technology, just to name a few. #DDF features groundbreaking documentaries and panels with distinguished speakers, all aiming to educate, energize, and inspire the people of Milwaukee.

Tickets can be purchased at mkefilm.org/ddf-tickets

Film & Ticket Information

Film Tickets

\$15.00	.....	General Admission
\$14.00	.....	Senior (60 & over)
\$14.00	.....	Student/Educator*
\$13.00	.....	MKE Film Member
\$8.00	.....	Child (12 & under)

*ID required

Film Accessibility Options

Our cinemas lobby, restrooms, and concession stand are all wheelchair-accessible, and all auditoriums have reserved seating for guests who use wheelchairs.

Assistive Technologies

Assistive technologies can be checked out and returned at the concession stand. Please note that film distributors determine closed-captioning and descriptive-narration availability, so films we screen might not work with our array of devices. For those that do, we have the following options to offer:

All auditoriums at the Oriental Theatre are equipped with hearing loop technology, enabling any patrons with T-coil hearing aids or our in-house receivers to receive and amplify the features audio, allowing it to be heard more clearly. At the Downer, hearing assistance is also available via a Fidelio device.

Fidelio is a wireless audio receiver that delivers descriptive narration to guests with visual and/or hearing impairments. Each Fidelio receiver has a plug-in headset, but guests may use their own headsets or headphones if desired.

All auditoriums across both cinemas feature CaptiView, which is a personal closed-captioning device for hard-of-hearing guests. Closed captions are wirelessly transmitted to a small, easy-to-read screen attached to an auditorium seat so you can view closed captions privately during the feature.

FAQS

Can I purchase same-day tickets?

Absolutely! Same-day tickets are available at the cinemas and online at mkefilm.org/ddf-tickets until each film's showtime sells out.

Where should I park & how can I get to the theatre?

The Oriental and Downer Theatres are located in the heart of the East Side with metered street parking and a limited number of off-street lots.

We recommend arriving early enough to find a parking spot or utilizing public transportation, such as the MCTS bus system.

How can I get a Member discount?

Milwaukee Film Members pay less for tickets, concessions, merch, and more all year long. To become a Member today, see our wonderful box office staff or go to mkefilm.org/members.

When should I arrive for a screening?

We highly recommend you arrive at least 30 minutes before showtime to guarantee a seat. To ensure a seat for a screening, ticket holders must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to scheduled showtime. Ticket holders arriving less than 15 minutes before scheduled showtime cannot be guaranteed a seat. They will be seated as capacity allows and at the discretion of Festival staff. No refunds or exchanges are available to ticket holders who are refused entry after this time.

How will I know if a showtime is sold out?

Check the film's detail page. If a given showtime is sold out and tickets can no longer be purchased, the showtime listing online will indicate "sold out," and you will not have the ability to add tickets to your cart.

THE FINE PRINT

NO REFUNDS. NO RESALES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. To guarantee a seat for a film, ticket and pass holders must arrive 15 minutes prior to scheduled showtime. 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 before, during, or after the event or any other event connected to the Festival. Patrons voluntarily agree that Milwaukee Film and its facilities, sponsors, directors, officers, employees, supervisors, 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: mkefilm.org/conduct.

FILM INFORMATION

Milwaukee Film's programming team worked tirelessly to curate a lineup of documentary films with the intention of starting discussions amongst our local audiences about issues and topics that are timely and relevant to the Milwaukee community.

Then, taking those conversation starters a step further, many of the screenings will be immediately followed by talkbacks, Q&As, and panel discussions.

To find out what's happening after your screening, check out the individual film descriptions at: mkefilm.org/ddf



ADMISSIONS GRANTED

United States / 2024 / 90 Min / English

In a landmark Supreme Court case pitting Asian American plaintiffs against Harvard University, activists on both sides wrestle with hard truths about race, equality, and stereotypes that AAPI folks face in education. While headlines polarize attitudes around affirmative action, this film nuances these conversations to shine light on the complex dynamics of race in America.

DIR Hao Wu, Miao Wang • **PROD** Miao Wang, Hao Wu, Danielle Elliot

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29 | 6:30 PM | DOWNER THEATRE (NORTH CINEMA)



AGENT OF HAPPINESS

Bhutan, Hungary / 2024 / 94 Min / Nepali, Dzongkha, English

What's the secret to happiness? The tiny mountain nation of Bhutan may have just cracked the code. In 2008 the Bhutanese government started measuring the "Gross National Happiness". The film follows two of the agents tasked with measuring people's happiness as they travel the mountainside, getting to know the people and maybe finding their own happiness along the way.

DIR Arun Bhattarai, Dorottya Zurbó • **PROD** Noémi Veronika Szakonyi, Máté Artur Vincze

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26 | 4:00 PM | DOWNER THEATRE (NORTH CINEMA)



AN INVITATION TO WONDER: WAUBESA WETLANDS

United States / 2024 / 70 Min / English

Guided by the wisdom of his grandfather, a young filmmaker journeys through the mysterious wetland in his grandparents' Wisconsin backyard. Navigating the challenges of this environment, the film uncovers the life, secrets, and wonder of wetlands in a way that must be seen to be believed. When we lose our relationship with nature, we lose our ability to care for and protect it. This documentary is an invitation to explore the beauty our state has hiding just around the corner.

DIR Ben Albert • **PROD** Moss Hegge, Ben Albert

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 | 8:30 PM | DOWNER THEATRE (NORTH CINEMA)



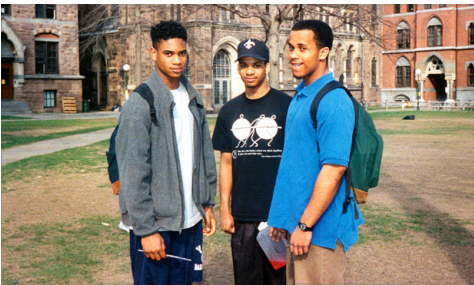
BEYOND THE BRIDGE: A SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS

United States / 2024 / 92 Min / English

BEYOND THE BRIDGE begins by asking seemingly simple questions about solutions to homelessness. Starting in Milwaukee and traveling over 40,000 miles around the US, the filmmakers meet those with lived experience, policymakers, and service practitioners discovering that Housing First and integrated systems are the answer, but getting to zero homelessness is not as simple an equation as the solutions may suggest.

DIR Don Sawyer • **PROD** Don Sawyer

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26 | 6:30 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA)



BLACK TABLE

United States / 2024 / 93 Min / English

The class of 1994, the largest group of Black students at Yale in the 1990s, faced an unprepared institution. The Black Table became their refuge, a space of their own. Directors John James and Bill Mack's documentary BLACK TABLE tells their story by highlighting a created environment for scholars discovering their identities. Through interviews and reunions, the film is a time capsule with insights that resonate today as the country addresses the Supreme Court's decision to abolish affirmative action.

DIR John Antonio James, Bill Mack • **PROD** John Antonio James, Bill Mack, Katie Taber

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 | 5:00 PM | DOWNER THEATRE (NORTH CINEMA)



DUST TO DUST

Japan / 2024 / 87 Min / Japanese

The future of fashion is here and it's being ushered in by Yuima Nakazato. While designing sculptural haute couture for the runway, Yuima dreams up a visionary and socially aware practice through research and experience of environmental and production issues happening all across the world—this time in Kenya, where the scale of textile waste is a harbinger of the urgent need for conservation and social change.

DIR Kosai Sekine • **PROD** Yusuke Kamata

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 | 8:00 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (HERZFELD CINEMA)



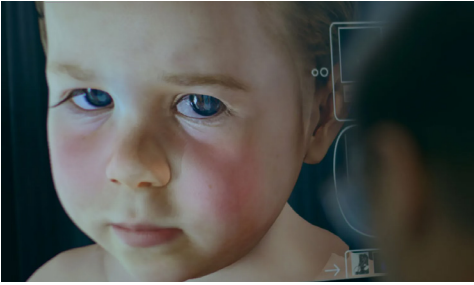
EMERGENT CITY

United States / 2024 / 99 Min / Chinese, English, Spanish

EMERGENT CITY is an observational civic epic that explores the profound intersections of gentrification, climate crisis, and real estate development in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. When this neighborhood with a long legacy of good industrial jobs (and the environmental impact of that industry) meets a global developer who promises “innovation,” a battle erupts over the future of this place for current residents, future residents and workers, and the land itself.

DIR Kelly Anderson, Jay Arthur Sterrenberg • **PROD** Kelly Anderson, Brenda Avila

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 2:00 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA)



ETERNAL YOU

Germany, United States / 2023 / 87 Min / English, Korean

With the help of artificial intelligence, a dream comes true that is as old as mankind itself: eternal life. ETERNAL YOU examines the story of people who live on as digital replicants in the pockets of their loved ones. The film tracks tech start-ups creating these “digital doppelgangers” raising crucial questions: Can a digital replica replace a lost loved one? How will human memory be impacted? And do we have the right to forget?

DIR Hans Block, Moritz Riesewieck • **PROD** Christian Beetz, Zora Nessler, Lena Raith, Georg Tschurtschenthaler

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29 | 11:00 AM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (HERZFELD CINEMA)



FAMILY TREE

United States / 2024 / 93 Min / English

This cinema vérité style documentary showcases the moving story of two Black family forest owners in North Carolina and tracks their triumphs and struggles historically and in the present day. The Jefferies sisters, Nikki and Natalie, struggle with their estranged father, Sidney, to clear the overgrown thicket of underbrush on their property. Meanwhile, the Williams family cultivates an award-winning tree farm at their aptly named Fourtee Acres.

DIR Jennifer MacArthur • **PROD** Kelin Verrette, Rupert Maconick

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 2:00 PM | DOWNER THEATRE (NORTH CINEMA)



FOOD AND COUNTRY

United States / 2023 / 99 Min / English

Worried about the survival of small farmers, ranchers, and chefs hobbled by America's policy of producing cheap food, trailblazing food writer Ruth Reichl reaches across political and social divides to report on the country's broken food system and the innovators risking everything to transform it. As Reichl says: "How we grow and make our food shows us our values—as a nation and as human beings."

DIR Laura Gabbert • **PROD** Laura Gabbert, Caroline Libresco, Paula P. Manzanedo, Ruth Reichl, Lisa Remington

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29 | 11:30 AM | DOWNER THEATRE (NORTH CINEMA)



FREE MONEY

Kenya, United States / 2022 / 74 Min / English, Swahili, Luo

When universal basic income (UBI) comes to the Kenyan village of Kogutu, lives are forever changed. GiveDirectly, one of the fastest growing nonprofits of the 21st century, is sending free money to select villagers for twelve years as part of the world's largest UBI experiment. FREE MONEY juxtaposes these young, ambitious economists deadset on ending poverty with the lived experiences of local Kenyans whose lives are being impacted in diverse ways by UBI.

DIR Sam Soko, Lauren DeFilippo • **PROD** Jeremy Allen, Tess Cohen, Jordan Fudge, Amanda Pollak

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26 | 4:00 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA)



MEDIHA

United States / 2023 / 90 Min / English, Arabic, Kurdish, Turkish

Mediha, a teenage Yazidi girl who was kidnapped and enslaved by ISIS and was recently liberated from captivity, turns her camera on herself to process her trauma while rescuers search for her missing family members. MEDIHA tells the story of the Yazidi genocide and its aftermath, shown through the lens of one young survivor as she confronts her past through personal video diaries, reclaiming her voice and stepping bravely toward the future.

DIR Hasan Oswald • **PROD** Fahrinisa Campana, Annelise Mecca, Stephen Nemeth, Hasan Oswald, Alexander Spiess

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 | 2:15 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA)



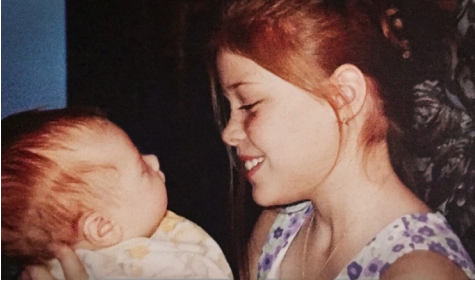
MISSING FROM FIRE TRAIL ROAD

United States, France / 2024 / 101 Min / English

Mary Ellen Johnson Davis has been missing from the Tulalip Reservation since 2020, just one of thousands of Native American women gone missing in the U.S. This urgent documentary sheds light on the epidemic of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women plaguing this country. Davis' story opens up a broader conversation about the violence and generational trauma suffered by Indigenous communities, as well as the fallible laws, policies between tribal and federal entities, and lack of investigation surrounding them.

DIR Sabrina Van Tassel • **PROD** Sabrina Van Tassel

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 9:00 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (HERZFELD CINEMA)



MY SISTER LIV

Australia, United States / 2022 / 71 Min / English

The bond between the sisters Tess and Liv seems to be unbreakable until Liv, who battles with depression, body dysmorphia, and suicidal thoughts, can't take it anymore. Surviving sister Tess takes us on a heart-wrenching journey through their shared joys and fears, seeking to understand the circumstances that led to her sister's death as she takes steps to help other struggling youth, honoring Liv's memory by making a difference.

DIR Alan Hicks • **PROD** Paula DuPré Pesmen, Camilla Mazzaferro

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 5:15 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA)



NEW WAVE

United States / 2024 / 88 Min / English, Vietnamese

Mile-high hair. Synthesized sounds. Teenage rebellion. Elizabeth Ai was on a mission to excavate an untold story of rebellious punks in the chaotic world of 80s Vietnamese new wave, until she uncovered a hidden past. Amidst vibrant performances, she also reveals the struggles of refugees navigating cultural assimilation. Bolstered by a treasure trove of archival footage, **NEW WAVE** is ultimately a love letter to a determined community striving for acceptance and identity.

DIR Elizabeth Ai • **PROD** Elizabeth Ai, Rachel Sine

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 8:15 PM | DOWNER THEATRE (NORTH CINEMA)



ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE?

United States / 2024 / 80 Min / English

ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE gives an in-depth look at the Electoral College, its slavery origins, and its impact on society today. Four dynamic electors from different parties during the 2020 election cycle—a Republican, a Democrat, a Green, and a Kanye West elector—offer insight into the inner workings of this often-misunderstood institution. This timely, nonpartisan documentary will fill a stark information gap in American presidential elections for audiences.

DIR Maximina Juson • **PROD** Daresha Kyi, Maximina Juson

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26 | 7:00 PM | DOWNER THEATRE (NORTH CINEMA)



PRECONCEIVED

United States / 2023 / 80 Min / English

Where does someone turn when facing an unplanned pregnancy? PRECONCEIVED follows Maleeha and Maria, two women whose quests to navigate their unplanned pregnancies misled them to enigmatic centers that some call “pregnancy resource centers” and others call “fake clinics.” Shedding light on how many of these centers are a part of a movement striving to make abortion unthinkable and illegal, the documentary explores the complex role of deception, finances, faith, and privacy.

DIR Sabine Keane, Kate Dumke • **PROD** Maggie Contreras, Sabine Keane

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29 | 3:00 PM | DOWNER THEATRE (NORTH CINEMA)



PUBLIC DEFENDER

United States / 2024 / 51 Min / English

Heather Shaner, a feisty, blue-haired defense attorney in Washington, DC, has spent over 45 years representing people who can't afford a lawyer. Her empathy is tested when she is assigned to represent two clients who participated in the violent mob that stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2021. PUBLIC DEFENDER explores the delicate state of U.S. democracy, the forces threatening to tear it apart, and the people dedicated to protecting it.

DIR Andrea Kalin • **PROD** Liz Gilbert Cohen, Janice Engel, Andrea Kalin, Ethan Oser

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 | 5:00 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA)



QUAD GODS

United States / 2024 / 90 Min / English

From debut filmmaker Jess Jacklin, this high-stakes and heart-warming documentary follows three New York men who meet at Mount Sinai Hospital's neuro-rehabilitation lab and decide to form the first fully quadriplegic e-sports team. Providing a unique lens into both gaming and disability, this captivating story challenges assumptions and spotlights the restorative power of resilience, passion, and found community.

DIR Jess Jacklin • **PROD** Johnny Fego, Jess Jacklin

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 6:00 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (HERZFELD CINEMA)



RAZING LIBERTY SQUARE

United States / 2023 / 86 Min / English

As rising seas threaten Miami's luxurious beachfront, wealthy property owners are pushing inland to higher ground. Residents of the historically Black neighborhood of Liberty Square—the first segregated public housing project in the South—are the new target of an upcoming “revitalization” project due to their location 12 feet above sea level. RAZING LIBERTY SQUARE is a character-driven verité documentary that weaves personal stories with the larger social justice narrative of climate gentrification.

DIR Katja Esson • **PROD** Ann Bennett, Katja Esson, Corinna Sager

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29 | 6:00 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (HERZFELD CINEMA)



SABBATH QUEEN

United States / 2024 / 105 Min / English, Hebrew, Yiddish

The choices are clear: accept a 38 generation-deep ancestral tradition or become a rebellious drag queen. Rabbi Amicai Lau-Lavie chooses both! Filmed over 21 years, SABBATH QUEEN joins the Rabbi on a quest to creatively and radically reinvent religion while challenging gender norms in a rapidly changing 21st century.

DIR Sandi DuBowski • **PROD** Sandi Simcha Dubowski

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26 | 7:30 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (HERZFELD CINEMA)



SHORTS: CARCERAL JUSTICE

From bail freedom funds, to expungement, to programs creating communications access for Deaf incarcerated, these three films will open your eyes to carceral justice reforms and actions, including some efforts happening right here in Milwaukee.

A Clean Slate Tran Hoang Calvin

Breaking Silence Amy Bench, Annie Silverstein

How We Get Free Geeta Gandbhir, Samantha Knowles

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 | 2:00 PM | DOWNER THEATRE (NORTH CINEMA)



SHORTS: MAKING A SPLASH

This set of splashy shorts follows trailblazers from across the US who are fighting to protect our most precious natural resource: Water. Whether they are combatting oil spills, maintaining unfettered access to shorelines, or demolishing dams to restore tribal fishing sources, these eco-warriors will inspire you to fight the good fight in your own community.

Boca Chica Ái Vuong, Samuel Díaz Fernández

ᑭᓄᓐ ᑭᓄᓐ (Meet Me at the Creek) Loren Waters

Planetwalker Dominic Gill, Nadia Gill

Undammed Shane Anderson

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 5:15 PM | DOWNER THEATRE (NORTH CINEMA)



SHORTS: RESILIENT PATHS

In this program of shorts, we bear witness to the great resilience of women in the face of trauma and gain insights to how collective action and activism can help surround impacted communities with abundant love and healing.

Funny Not Funny Marc D'Agostino, Ben Feldman

Smile4Kime Elena Guzman

We Ride for Her Prairie Rose Seminole, Katrina Lillian Sorrentino

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 11:00 AM | DOWNER THEATRE (NORTH CINEMA)



SHORTS: THE FIGHT FOR HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

This duo of longer short docs explore healthcare access—from both a geographic and a policy standpoint—in the American South and Southeast. These issues are not irrelevant to those of us in Wisconsin, however, and this program will inspire you to learn more locally.

If Dreams Were Lightning: Rural Healthcare Crisis Ramin Bahrani

In Due Season Ashley O'Shay

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26 | 4:30 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (HERZFELD CINEMA)



SHORTS: WOMB-ANHOOD

Four shorts that explore reproductive justice and medical impoverishment for people who have uteruses that will leave audiences fired up and ready to join the revolution to combat period poverty, or fight for more medical research for endometriosis, among other topics.

As Long As We Can Kristy Guevara-Flanagan

Contractions Lynne Sachs

The Menstruation Station Miguel Luis

There's Not Much We Can Do Erica Monde

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 11:00 AM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA)



THE BOOK OF MARY - A MEMORABLE MAN

United States / 2023 / 105 Min / English

Milwaukee filmmaker Dan Ollman chronicles forty years of the life of Leslie Lemke, a prodigious savant who, despite severe physical and cognitive limitations (including having his eyes removed at birth) has proven to have the deep talent of inspiring others across the world through his musical gift. Audiences will come to know Leslie's life and, in turn, the power of family to nurture the unique gifts of all individuals.

DIR Daniel Ollman • **PROD** Daniel Ollman

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29 | 12:00 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA)



THE CLICK TRAP

Spain, France / 2024 / 90 Min / English, French

Automated ad tech dominates the web, with just a few big tech giants using sophisticated algorithms to match ads with users, cementing their monopoly over this multi-billion-dollar industry. THE CLICK TRAP exposes how this powerful digital advertising machine not only drives massive profits but also fuels scams, spreads misinformation, and amplifies extremist hate online. THE CLICK TRAP is required viewing for anyone using the internet — which includes you.

DIR Peter Porta • **PROD** Carles Brugueras, Fabrice Esteve, Marieke van den Bersselaar

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29 | 7:00 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA)



THE ETERNAL MEMORY

Chile / 2022 / 85 Min / Spanish

Augusto and Paulina have been in love for 25 years. Eight years ago, their lives were forever changed by Augusto's Alzheimer's diagnosis. Oscar-nominated for Best Documentary Feature, THE ETERNAL MEMORY beautifully balances the heartbreaking taxes of the disease with the same warmth and tender sense of humor shared by its subjects.

DIR Maite Alberdi • **PROD** Maite Alberdi, Rocío Jadue, Juan de Dios Larraín, Pablo Larraín, Andrea Undurraga

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 | 4:30 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (HERZFELD CINEMA)



THE STRIKE

United States / 2024 / 86 Min / English

Pelican Bay—one of the most infamous prisons in the US—houses mostly men of color, many alone in tiny cells for indefinite periods based on questionable evidence. In 2013, 30,000 prisoners went on hunger strike. **THE STRIKE** features a half century of personal and criminal justice history, combined with unprecedented access to state prison officials along with never-before-seen footage from inside Pelican Bay to reveal the panic that gripped the highest echelons of state government.

DIR JoeBill Muñoz, Lucas Guilkey • **PROD** Lucas Guilkey, JoeBill Muñoz

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 11:30 AM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (HERZFELD CINEMA)



THE THINKING GAME

United States / 2024 / 83 Min / English

THE THINKING GAME takes you on a fascinating journey into the heart of DeepMind, one of the world's leading AI labs, as it strives to unravel the mysteries—and possible ethical concerns—of artificial general intelligence (AGI). Filmed over five years, the documentary puts viewers in the room for the pivotal moments of this quest, including the exhilaration of historic breakthroughs, the crushing weight of disappointment during setbacks, and the unwavering pursuit of knowledge.

DIR Greg Kohs • **PROD** Gary Krieg

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 3:00 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (HERZFELD CINEMA)



UNION

United States / 2024 / 100 Min / English

In 2022, a group of ordinary workers made history when they successfully won their election to become the very first unionized Amazon workplace in America with no prior organizing experience, no institutional backing, and a total budget of \$120,000 raised on GoFundMe. Heralded as the most important win for labor since the 1930s, this timely documentary captures the Amazon Labor Union's historic grassroots campaign to unionize thousands of their co-workers from day one of organizing.

DIR Stephen Maing, Brett Story • **PROD** Samantha Curley, Martin Diccio, Stephen Maing, Brett Story, Mars Verrone

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29 | 2:30 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (HERZFELD CINEMA)



UNSEEN

United States / 2023 / 88 Min / English, Spanish

An aspiring social worker, Pedro faces restrictions as a blind, undocumented immigrant to get his college degree. But when attaining his dreams leads to new challenges, what will Pedro do? Using experimental cinematography, UNSEEN reimagines film accessibility through an audio-centric experience, while exploring the intersections of immigration, disability, and mental health. The film is a jagged quest towards healing in a society that struggles to see folks with these challenges as multi-dimensional.

DIR Set Hernandez • **PROD** Day Al-Mohamed, Felix Endara, Set Hernandez

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29 | 3:30 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA)



WAR GAME

United States / 2023 / 94 Min / English

WAR GAME sweeps audiences into an elaborate future-set simulation inhabited by a group of bipartisan U.S. defense, intelligence, and elected policymakers, spanning five presidential administrations. While participating in an unscripted role-play exercise, they confront a political coup backed by rogue members of the U.S. military, in the wake of a contested presidential election. Like actors in a thriller, but with profound real-world stakes, the players have only six hours to save American democracy.

DIR Jesse Moss, Tony Gerber • **PROD** Mark DiCristofaro, Isabel Evans, Jessica Grimshaw, Jesse Moss, Nick Shumaker, Jack Turner

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 | 7:30 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA)



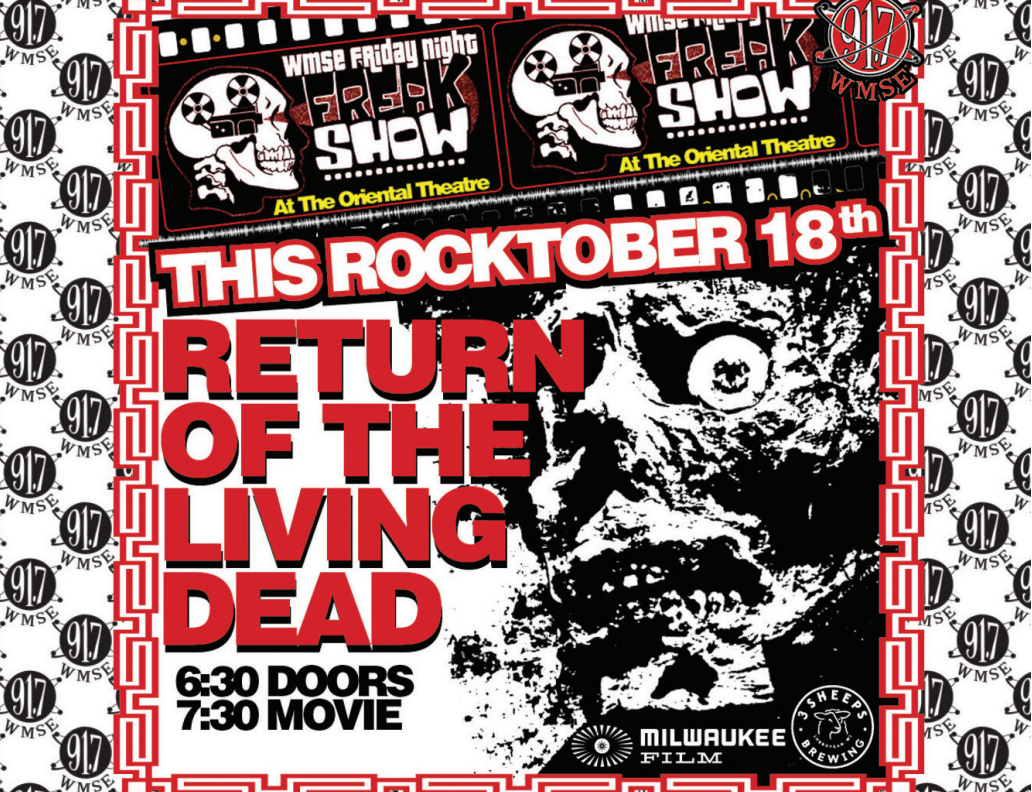
WE CAN BE HEROES

United States / 2024 / 86 Min / English

In a remote corner of upstate New York, a live-action role-playing (LARP) camp becomes a haven where magic isn't just make-believe. Here, neurodivergent, queer, and self-proclaimed "nerdy" teens find more than just camaraderie—they unearth a joyful sanctuary for self-discovery. As the campers immerse themselves in this imaginative world, they discover inner strength, heal from traumas, and emerge as heroes, both in the fantasy realm and in real life.

DIR Carina Mia Wong, Alex Simmons • **PROD** Cristina Costantini, Katy Dierks, Krista Manis, Alex Simmons, Carina Mia Wong, Jennifer Wood

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 | 8:15 PM | ORIENTAL THEATRE (ABELE CINEMA)



MERCH

MERCH

MERCH



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**MILWAUKEE
FILM**

ORIENTAL

**SAVE THE DATE
MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL
APRIL 24 - MAY 8, 2025**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOON	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
ORIENTAL THEATRE							FREE MONEY 4:00 PM | 74 MIN	BEYOND THE BRIDGE... 6:30 PM | 92 MIN					
DOWNER							AGENT OF HAPPINESS 4:00 PM | 94 MIN	SHORTS - HEALTHCARE 4:30 PM | 59 MIN			SABBATH QUEEN 7:00 PM | 105 MIN	ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE? 7:00 PM | 180 MIN	
HERZFELD CINEMA													
ABELE CINEMA													

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
ORIENTAL THEATRE				MEDIHA 2:15 PM | 90 MIN		PUBLIC DEFENDER 5:00 PM | 51 MIN			WAR GAME 7:30 PM | 94 MIN		
ABELE CINEMA						THE ETERNAL MEMORY 4:30 PM | 85 MIN			DUST TO DUST 8:00 PM | 87 MIN		
HERZFELD CINEMA										AN INVITATION TO WONDER... 8:30 PM | 70 MIN	
DOWNER				SHORTS - CARCERAL JUSTICE 2:00 PM | 18 MIN			BLACK TABLE 5:00 PM | 95 MIN				

ORIENTAL THEATRE **ABELE CINEMA** **HERZFELD CINEMA** **DOWNER** **NORTH CINEMA**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

10:00 AM	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
	SHORTS - WOMB-ANHOOD 11:00 AM | 157 MIN			EMERGENT CITY 2:00 PM | 99 MIN			MY SISTER LIV 5:15 PM | 71 MIN		WE CAN BE HEROES 8:15 PM | 86 MIN		
					THE THINKING GAME 3:00 PM | 83 MIN			QUAD GODS 6:00 PM | 90 MIN		MISSING FROM FIRE TRAIL ROAD 9:00 PM | 101 MIN	
	SHORTS - RESILIENT PATHS 11:00 AM | 158 MIN		FAMILY TREE 2:00 PM | 95 MIN				SHORTS - MAKING A SPLASH 5:35 PM | 67 MIN		NEW WAVE 8:35 PM | 88 MIN		

ORIENTAL THEATRE

ABELE CINEMA

HERZFELD CINEMA

DOWNER

NORTH CINEMA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOON	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
DOWNER NORTH CINEMA			FOOD AND COUNTRY 11:30 AM | 95 MIN				PRECONCEIVED 3:00 PM | 80 MIN				ADMISSIONS GRANTED 6:30 PM | 90 MIN		
ORIENTAL THEATRE ABELE CINEMA		ETERNAL YOU 11:00 AM | 87 MIN		THE BOOK OF MARY... 12:00 PM | 105 MIN							THE CLICK TRAP 7:00 PM | 90 MIN		
HERZFELD CINEMA			UNION 2:30 PM | 100 MIN			UNSEEN MARY... 3:30 PM | 88 MIN							
											RAZING LIBERTY SQUARE 6:00 PM | 86 MIN		

Join us at the Oriental Theatre for

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

mkefilm.org/hhm24

SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15, 2024



CINE SIN
FRONTERAS

It's time to talk about mental health

RADIO 
MILWAUKEE

WHEN COMBINED WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE, UNCHECKED MENTAL-HEALTH DISORDERS ARE THE THIRD-LEADING KILLER IN AMERICA.

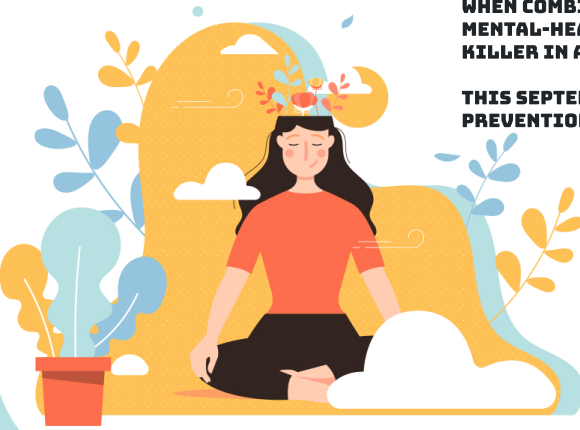
THIS SEPTEMBER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH, RADIO MILWAUKEE WANTS YOU

TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION SO WE CAN FACE THIS CHALLENGE TOGETHER.

SEE THE EVENTS, STORIES AND RESOURCES WE'RE SHARING AT:

RADIOMILWAUKEE.ORG/MENTAL-HEALTH



MEMBERSHIP
MEMBERSHIP
MEMBERSHIP
MEMBERSHIP
MEMBERSHIP
DISCOUNTS.
TICKETS.
MERCH.

And so much more...



mkefilm.org/members



**MILWAUKEE
FILM**

ABOUT US



Milwaukee Film is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to entertaining, educating, and engaging our community through cinematic experiences, with a vision to make Milwaukee a center for film culture. We are committed to high-quality and accessible film programming through our operation of the magnificent Oriental Theatre, a historic cinema palace, and the iconic Downer Theatre, Milwaukee's oldest running cinema.

MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL

Since 2009, the annual Milwaukee Film Festival has brought together audiences and filmmakers in celebration of the immense power of cinema. It is one of the largest film festivals in the country and was recognized by Moviemaker Magazine as one of the "Coolest Film Festivals in the World." The 2024 Milwaukee Film Festival presented 382 screenings to an audience of over 32,000. We continue to elevate Milwaukee's growing film industry each year, and bring world-class films and filmmakers to local audiences while celebrating a shared passion for film, arts, and culture unlike anything else in Milwaukee.

Join us for the 2025 Milwaukee Film Festival, April 24 - May 8!



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. We're proud to show off what we've accomplished in restoring this historical gem.



DOWNER THEATRE

The Downer Theatre, a Milwaukee landmark since 1915, stands as one of the oldest cinemas in the United States, and the oldest running cinema in Milwaukee. Nestled in the heart of Milwaukee's vibrant East Side, this historic venue has been a beacon for film enthusiasts for over a century. Its intimate auditoriums offer a nostalgic glimpse into cinema's golden days, while its commitment to showcasing groundbreaking storytelling keeps it at the forefront of Milwaukee's cultural scene. Milwaukee Film officially took over operations of the iconic Downer Theatre in April 2024.



THE DREAM TEAM

LEADERSHIP

Anne Reed
Executive Director

Kristen C. Heller
Managing Director

Cara Ogburn, Ph.D.
Artistic Director

DEVELOPMENT

Rachel Vander Weit
Development Director

Kristopher Pollard
Membership & Giving Director

Haley Beller
Development Database &
Research Specialist

Tristan Adams
Grants & Special Projects
Coordinator

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ryan Ziegler
Creative Services Manager

Robyn Ehrlich
Public Relations Coordinator

Jolee Mallmann
Digital Coordinator

FINANCE

Adam Mallen
Accounting Coordinator

OPERATIONS

Kevin Rice
Technical Director

Petey Balestrieri
Cinema Operations Director

Ryan Putskey
Facilities Manager

Ani Injasoulian
Ticketing & Customer Service
Manager

Connor Erickson
Operations Manager

Brett Smith
IT Technician

Kelsey Parks
Technical Manager

Malik Riddle
Front of House Manager

Aneesh Beahlen
Assistant Front of
House Manager

Vale Schroeder
Assistant Front of
House Manager

Zac Higgins
Assistant Front of
House Manager

Deiva Motley

Assistant Cinema Manager

Tyler Glor

Assistant Cinema Manager

Mahdi Gransberry

Assistant Cinema Manager

Ty Williams

Assistant Cinema Manager

Spencer Tye

Projectionist

Gini Connell

Projectionist

PROGRAMMING

Kerstin Larson

Programming Director

Abbie Esterline

Programming Coordinator

Jack Feria

GenreQueer and Shorts
Programmer

Ernie Quiroz

Cine Sin Fronteras Programmer

CINEMA STAFF

Alex Badtke

Allux Arellano-Metoxen

Carrie Van Gorder

Celia Jewell

Dara Carneol

Dewey Miller

Giuseppe Balestrieri

Harmony Henderson

Ian Wilkinson

Isabella Benitez

Jada Wegner

Jake Whalen

Jamie Lee Jackson

Jaylen Briece

Joseph Cullen

Kami Yelk

Krissy Olson

Maddie Hogue

Marlo Yelk

Matthew Henderson

Maxwell Lyon

Phoebe Odegaard

Ramona Peetz

Ren Gresbach

Rose Callahan

Zack Cowell

