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

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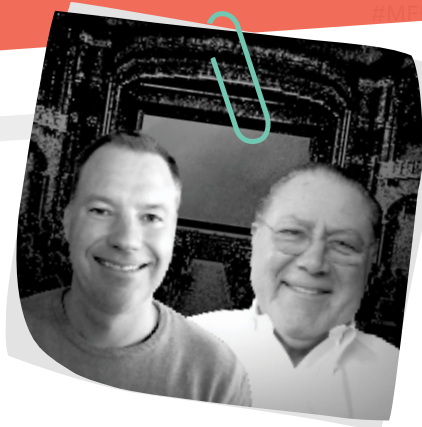
Associated Bank PRESENTS

2021 MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL

May 6-20

Hello Film Fans!

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



Our world is opening up, and our thoughts are once again wandering beyond the confines of anxiety and isolation that have defined the past 14 months. Though we're not yet to the point of safely welcoming crowds to a packed house at the Oriental Theatre, we can envision a time in the not-too-distant future when that will be happening again. In the meantime, we are incredibly pleased to bring you the 13th annual Milwaukee Film Festival, presented by Associated Bank.

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

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

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

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

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


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Annual Fund

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

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

Luminary | \$100K+

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Donald and Donna Baumgartner

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Allan H. (Bud) and Suzanne L. Selig

Visionary | \$50K+



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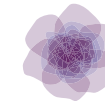
Innovator | \$20K+

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Providing | \$10K+



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



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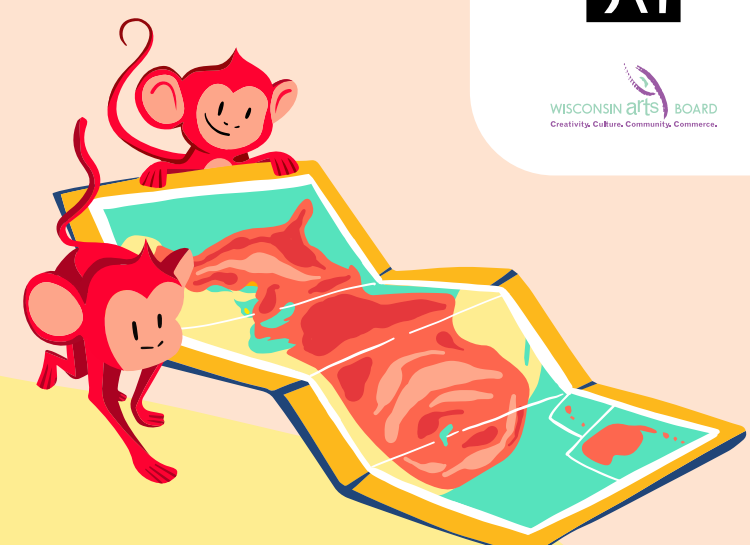
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Film Programs



American Independents

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

SPONSORED BY: Wisconsin Public Radio



Art & Artists

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

PRESENTED BY: Heil Family Foundation

SPONSORED BY: Milwaukee Magazine



Black Lens

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

PRESENTED BY: Johnson Controls Foundation

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



Cine Sin Fronteras

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

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

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 and events 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: John Axford

SPONSORED BY: Urban Milwaukee, WUWM 89.7 FM – Milwaukee's NPR



Documentary Festival Favorites

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



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



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.



Shorter Is Better

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



Sound Vision

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

PRESENTED BY: Lacey Sadoff Foundation

SPONSORED BY: WMSE 91.7 FM



Teen Screen

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

– Blair Martin, Teen Screen Selection Committee



Worldviews

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

PRESENTED BY: Marianne and Sheldon Lubar



How to Fest

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



Who Can Watch?

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

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

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



When to Watch?

Most films will be available throughout the Festival.

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

The Milwaukee Film Festival turns back into a pumpkin at 11:59 p.m. CT on Thursday, May 20, so no matter when you start your film, it won't be available at midnight.

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

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



Where to Watch?

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

How to Watch?

Watching our films is easy!

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



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

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

PASSES

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

TICKETS

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

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

EVENTS

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

 youtube.com/mkefilm

 [@milwaukeeifilm](https://facebook.com/milwaukeeifilm)

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

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

More Questions?

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

Feature Films



CREAM CITY CINEMA

25 Weeks: A Wisconsin Pizza Harvest

USA / 2021 / 56 min / English

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

DIR Charlie Tennesen
SCR Charlie Tennesen



WORLDVIEWS

Adam

Morocco, France, Belgium, Qatar / 2021 / 98 min / Arabic with English subtitles

Abla and her daughter Warda lead a quiet life running their Casablanca bakery. Their lives are shaken up when they take in Samia, a young pregnant woman looking for shelter. Abla's icy facade slowly starts to melt as it becomes clear to her that she needs Samia's companionship as much as Samia needs a place to stay. Through baking delectable pastries, sing-alongs, and not-so-subtle matchmaking, Abla, Warda, and Samia all grow to become stronger women together.

DIR Maryam Touzani
PROD Nabil Ayouch
SCR Maryam Touzani



BLACK LENS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Anatomy of Wings

USA / 2020 / 84 min / English

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

DIR Nikiea Redmond, Kirsten D'Andrea Hollander
PROD Jane Cottis

Preceded by Thoughts That Come to Mind (Dir. Keyana Robinson)



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE CINE SIN FRONTERAS

Baby

Spain / 2021 / 103 min / No Dialogue

Baby is a dark fairytale about an addict mother who, in desperation, sells her newborn to traffickers. She quickly regrets the decision and ventures into an eerie forest to get him back. Inspired by Guillermo del Toro and the Brothers Grimm, Basque filmmaker Juanma Bajo Ulloa constructs a world that is equal parts grotesque and beautiful. This macabre tale is told entirely without dialogue and stars Rosie Day (*Outlander*), Harriet Sansom Harris (*Desperate Housewives*), and Natalia Tena (*Game Of Thrones*, *Harry Potter*).

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



AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

Best Summer Ever

USA / 2020 / 72 min / English

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

DIR Michael Parks Randa, Lauren Smitelli
PROD Terra Mackintosh, Andrew Pilkington, Leah Romond, Jake Sharpless, Katie White
SCR Will Halby, Terra Mackintosh, Michael Parks Randa, Andrew Pilkington, Lauren Smitelli



TEEN SCREEN WORLDVIEWS

Beans

Canada / 2020 / 92 min / English

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

AGES 14+ WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Tracey Deer
PROD Anne-Marie Gélinas
SCR Tracey Deer, Meredith Vuchnich



ART & ARTISTS

Bill Traylor: Chasing Ghosts

USA / 2020 / 75 min / English

Born into slavery in 1853, Bill Traylor witnessed profound social and political change during his life – spanning slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow segregation, and the Great Migration. In his late 80s, despite living homeless, he poured this wealth of experience and emotion into more than 1,000 pieces of art and would eventually become one of the most celebrated American, self-taught artists. Balancing interviews with Traylor's family, visual art, and music, this film is a must-see for any art lover. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Jeffrey Wolf
PROD Jeffrey Wolf, Fred Barron, Daphne McWilliams, Jeany Nisenholz-Wolf
SCR Fred Barron



SOUND VISION

Bleeding Audio

USA / 2020 / 90 min / English

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

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Chelsea Christer
PROD Erin Persley, Chelsea Christer, Jannette Bivona



ART & ARTISTS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Call Me Human

Canada / 2020 / 78 min / French, Innu-aimun with English subtitles

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

DIR Kim O'Bomsawin
PROD Andrée-Anne Frenette
SCR Kim O'Bomsawin



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

Coming Home in the Dark

New Zealand / 2021 / 93 min / English

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

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



AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS GENREQUEER

Cowboys

USA / 2020 / 83 min / English

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

DIR Anna Kerrigan
PROD Chris Parker, Dylan Sellers, Anna Kerrigan, Gigi Graff
SCR Anna Kerrigan



ART & ARTISTS BLACK LENS

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

USA / 2020 / 90 min / English

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

WISCONSIN ONLY

DIR Rosalynde LeBlanc, Tom Hurwitz
PROD Duana Butler, Rosalynde LeBlanc



TEEN SCREEN GENREQUEER

Cocoon

Germany / 2020 / 95 min / German with English subtitles

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

DIR Leonie Krippendorff
PROD Jost Hering
SCR Leonie Krippendorff



WORLDVIEWS GENREQUEER

Days (Rizi)

Taiwan / 2020 / 127 min / No Dialogue

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

DIR Tsai Ming-Liang
PROD Claude Wang



WORLDVIEWS TEEN SCREEN

Death of Nintendo

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

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

DIR Raya Martin
PROD Kriz G. Gazmen, Marjorie Lachica, Valerie Castillo Martinez, Marizel Samson-Martinez
SCR Valerie Castillo Martinez



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Downstream to Kinshasa

Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Belgium / 2020 / 90 min / Swahili, Lingala with English subtitles

An unflinching yet empathetic portrait of a group of disabled survivors of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Six Day War as they travel to Kinshasa seeking reparations that have been delayed over 20 years. Through the journey, we bear witness to the unwavering tenacity of spirit to persist in speaking truth to power no matter what it takes. With this film Dieudo Hamadi cements his firm placement amongst the most important documentarians working today.

DIR Dieudo Hamadi
PROD Quentin Laurent, Frédérique Féraud, Dieudo Hamadi, Aurélien Bodinaux



AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

Freeland

USA / 2020 / 80 min / English

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

DIR Kate McLean, Mario Furloni
PROD Laura Heberton
SCR Mario Furloni, Kate McLean



CINE SIN FRONTERAS **AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS** **WORLDVIEWS**

Hijo de Monarcas (Son of Monarchs)

Mexico, USA / 2021 / 97 min / Spanish, English with English subtitles

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

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



ART & ARTISTS

Holy Frit

USA / 2021 / 119 min / English

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

DIR Justin Monroe
PROD Justin Monroe, Chris Saito
SCR Justin Monroe, Ryan Fritzsche



TEEN SCREEN **CINE SIN FRONTERAS**

Fruits of Labor

USA / 2021 / 78 min / English

Fifteen-year-old Ashley rises early to work the fields, while also working the night shift at the processing plant. During the day she attends high school and dreams of being the first in her family to graduate, all while the threat of ICE and deportation looms overhead. In this documentary, Emily Cohen Ibañez crafts a lyrical portrait of a young Latina that, like so many, forms the backbone of her family all while torn between familial responsibilities and personal fulfillment. **AGES 14+**

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



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Gunda

Norway, USA / 2020 / 93 min / No Dialogue

Executive produced by Joaquin Phoenix, *Gunda* follows the daily life of animals on a Norwegian farm. Gunda the pig raises her piglets alongside two cows and a one-legged chicken. As the film progresses, you can see why Paul Thomas Anderson calls it "pure cinema... jaw dropping images and sound put together with the best ensemble cast and you have something more like a potion than a movie."

DIR Victor Kossakovsky
PROD Susan Rockefeller, Anita Rehoff Larsen, Joslyn Barnes
SCR Victor Kossakovsky, Ainara Vera



BLACK LENS

How It Feels To Be Free

Canada, USA / 2020 / 113 min / English

Yoruba Richen's latest documentary showcases six Black women entertainers (Lena Horne, Abbey Lincoln, Nina Simone, Diahann Carroll, Cicely Tyson, Pam Grier) whose talent and activism propel them into transformative figures in popular culture. Based on the book by Ruth Feldstein, the film chronicles the defiant way in which each woman challenged an entertainment industry that sought to reduce them to marginalized roles and racist stereotypes.

DIR Yoruba Richen
SCR Elizabeth Trojian



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE

I Blame Society

USA / 2020 / 84 min / English

Stretching the 'fake it 'til you make it' ethos to its breaking point, *I Blame Society* is a whip-smart satire that takes a machete to the vacuous Hollywood machine. Director Gillian Wallace Horvat plays struggling filmmaker...Gillian Wallace Horvat, who in the process of fleshing out her mockumentary about committing the perfect murder accrues a very real body count, warping her vision into something more madness than method.

DIR Gillian Wallace Horvat
PROD Michelle Craig, Mette-Marie Kongsved, Laura Tunstall, Monte Zajicek
SCR Gillian Wallace Horvat, Chase Williamson



AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

I Was a Simple Man

USA / 2021 / 100 min / English

A haunting meditation on death, *I Was A Simple Man* follows the final days of Masao as he reflects on the phases of his life. He is cared for by his estranged grandchildren and comforted by the specter of his dearly departed wife, played with care by the always wonderful Constance Wu. Hawaiian filmmaker Christopher Makoto Yogi cements himself as a promising voice in American independent cinema with his poetic and lush filmmaking style.

DIR Christopher Makoto Yogi

PROD Sarah S. Kim, Christopher Makoto Yogi, Matthew Petock, Yamato Cibulka

SCR Christopher Makoto Yogi



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

In Silico

USA / 2020 / 83 min / English

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

DIR Noah Hutton

PROD Kellen Quinn, Taylor Hess, Jesse Miller

SCR Noah Hutton



CINE SIN FRONTERAS WORLDVIEWS

Las Siamesas (The Siamese Bond)

Argentina / 2021 / 80 min / Spanish with English subtitles

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

DIR Paula Hernández

PROD Juan Pablo Miller

SCR Leonel D'Agostino, Paula Hernández



CINE SIN FRONTERAS WORLDVIEWS

Los Sonámbulos (The Sleepwalkers)

Argentina, Uruguay / 2019 / 107 min / Spanish with English subtitles

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

DIR Paula Hernández

PROD Paula Hernández, Juan Pablo Miller

SCR Paula Hernández



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Jacinta

USA / 2020 / 105 min / English

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

DIR Jessica Earnshaw

PROD Jessica Earnshaw, Holly Meehl, Nimisha Mukerji



RATED K: FOR KIDS

Jackie & Oopjen

Netherlands / 2020 / 90 min / Dutch, English, French with English subtitles

When Oopjen steps out of a Rembrandt painting to find her sister, 12-year-old Jackie is determined to help this conspicuously dressed new arrival, taking her in as a houseguest without her museum curator-mom's knowledge. Will these BFF's be able to navigate their tweens and teens in 21st Century Amsterdam and keep Oopjen's identity secret long enough to reunite Oopjen and her sister? Boisterous, stylish, and sweet, *Jackie & Oopjen* will delight the entire family. **AGES 8+**

DIR Annemarie van de Mond

PROD Chantal van der Horst, Annemieke van Vliet

SCR Miranda Jongeling



BLACK LENS AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

Love Like Winter

USA / 2020 / 70 min / English

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

DIR Artel Great

PROD Artel Great

SCR Artel Great



CINE SIN FRONTERAS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Luchadoras

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

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

DIR Paola Calvo, Patrick Jasim

PROD Phillip Kaminiak

SCR Paola Calvo, Patrick Jasim, Phillip Kaminiak

Preceded by *Blackfeet Boxing: Not Invisible* (Dirs. Kristen Lappas, Tom Rinaldi)



CINE SIN FRONTERAS BLACK LENS AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

Ludi

USA / 2021 / 80 min / English

With an understated performance by Shein Mompremier, *Ludi* is about a woman pushed to her physical and emotional limits as she chases the American Dream in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood. Working as a nurse, she receives regular updates (and requests for money) from her family while battling coworkers for extra overtime. Writer/director Edson Jean draws from his mother's immigration experience to tell a tale that is personal, amusing, and inspiring.

DIR Edson Jean
PROD Mark Pulaski, Fabiola Rodriguez
SCR Edson Jean, Joshua Jean-Baptiste



WORLDVIEWS

Luzzu

Malta / 2021 / 94 min / Maltese with English subtitles

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

DIR Alex Camilleri
PROD Alex Camilleri, Rebecca Anastasi, Ramin Bahrani, Oliver Mallia
SCR Alex Camilleri



BLACK LENS GENREQUEER

Mama Gloria

USA / 2020 / 76 min / English

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

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



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Manzanar, Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust

USA / 2021 / 82 min / English

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

DIR Ann Kaneko
PROD Ann Kaneko, Jin Yoo-Kim



ART & ARTISTS

M.C. Escher: Journey To Infinity

Netherlands / 2019 / 81 min / Dutch, English, Italian, German with English subtitles

Featuring the Dutch graphic artist's own words (narrated by Stephen Fry), this illuminating documentary explores his well-known works through a less-well-known lens. Using animation to help us see these pieces again in a new way, audiences are asked to consider anew the celebrity of Escher, layered here with the philosophical power and profundity of his scientific thinking and biographical details that inform his worldview.

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



AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS GENREQUEER WORLDVIEWS

Ma Belle, My Beauty

USA, France / 2021 / 93 min / English, French with English subtitles

Musicians Bertie and Fred are settling into their new life in provincial France when a blast from their past arrives to shake things up: their former polyamorous partner, Lane. The arrival of Lane reignites old passions and opens up old wounds as the three try to find themselves in the gorgeous French countryside. Featuring a mesmerizing soundtrack, *Ma Belle, My Beauty* is a refreshing take on the complexities and dramas of polyamorous relationships.

DIR Marion Hill
PROD Ben Matheny, Kelsey Scult, Marion Hill
SCR Marion Hill



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Misha and the Wolves

Belgium, United Kingdom / 2021 / 90 min / English, French with English subtitles

Misha Defonseca's story sounds too good to be true - an orphan escaping the Holocaust by hiding in the woods and living amongst wolves - but Misha inspires all she encounters. When her memoir's publisher starts to peel back one corner of this narrative, however, it turns into a detective story with twists and turns you'll never see coming. Hobkinson's film ultimately asks us to examine truth, belief, and trauma in the most tangled of stories. WISCONSIN ONLY

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



WORLDVIEWS

My Donkey, My Lover and I (Antoinette Dans Les Cevennes)

France / 2020 / 96 min / French with English subtitles

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

DIR Caroline Vignal
PROD Laetitia Galitzine, Aurélie Trouvé-Rouvière
SCR Caroline Vignal



WORLDVIEWS **CINE SIN FRONTERAS**

My Heart Goes Boom! (Explota, explota!)

Spain / 2020 / 112 min / Spanish with English subtitles

Mamma Mia! fans rejoice! Maria is a young dancer who wants to bring color and joy to the drab, oppressive world of 70's Spain. She dreams of becoming a TV star but her sensual, provocative dancing is too much for the rigid, prudish censors. Inspired by *Mamma Mia!* and *Hairspray*, director Nacho Álvarez crafts a musical comedy of forbidden love that features gorgeous production design and the hit songs of Italian singer Raffaella Carrà.

DIR Nacho Álvarez
PROD Gerardo Herrero, Javier López Blanco
SCR Eduardo Navarro, David Esteban Cubero, Nacho Álvarez



GENREQUEER **TEEN SCREEN** **CINE SIN FRONTERAS**

My Name is Baghdad

Brazil / 2020 / 99 min / Portuguese, English with English subtitles

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

AGES 14+
DIR Caru Alves de Souza
PROD Caru Alves de Souza, Rafaella Costa
SCR Caru Alves de Souza, Josefina Trotta



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Not Going Quietly

USA / 2021 / 96 min / English

When grassroots lawyer and activist Ady Barkan is diagnosed with ALS just as he's welcomed his first child, he initially turns inward. But a chance encounter with Sen. Jeff Flake on a plane helps him find his voice anew, and this inspiring tear-jerking documentary follows his literal and figurative journey to become a staunch advocate for health care access for all. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Nicholas Bruckman
PROD Amanda Roddy
SCR Nicholas Bruckman, Amanda Roddy



CINE SIN FRONTERAS **WORLDVIEWS**

Nudo Mixteco

Mexico / 2021 / 91 min / Spanish, Mixteco with English subtitles

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

DIR Ángeles Cruz
PROD Ángeles Cruz, Lucía Carreras, Lola Ovando
SCR Ángeles Cruz



WORLDVIEWS

Night of the Kings

Côte d'Ivoire, France, Canada, Senegal / 2020 / 93 min / French, Dioula, Nouchi with English subtitles

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

DIR Philippe Lacôte
PROD Delphine Jaquet, Ernest Konan, Yanick Létourneau
SCR Philippe Lacôte



GENREQUEER **SOUND VISION**

No Ordinary Man

Canada / 2020 / 84 min / English

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

DIR Aisling Chin-Yee, Chase Joynt
PROD Sarah Spring
SCR Aisling Chin-Yee, Amos Mac



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES **CINE SIN FRONTERAS**

Once Upon a Time in Venezuela

Venezuela, United Kingdom, Brazil, Austria / 2020 / 99 min / Spanish with English subtitles

At the edge of Venezuela's Lake Maracaibo is the small floating village of Congo Mirador. Now sinking into sediment, this once-prosperous fishing community is unraveling after years of ecological and economic neglect. Focusing on two powerful women representing diverse views amidst this story, Anabel Rodríguez Ríos's sensitive and bold Oscar submission immerses us in the human realities of this battle to safeguard cultural heritage and retain political relevancy.

DIR Anabel Rodríguez Ríos
PROD Sepp R. Brudermann
SCR Anabel Rodríguez Ríos



CREAM CITY CINEMA

Operation Wolf Patrol

USA / 2021 / 83 min / English

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

DIR Joe Brown
PROD Joe Brown



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Playing With Sharks: The Valerie Taylor Story

Australia / 2021 / 90 min / English

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

DIR Sally Aitken
PROD Bettina Dalton
SCR Sally Aitken



GENREQUEER AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

Potato Dreams of America

USA / 2021 / 95 min / English

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

DIR Wes Hurley
PROD Wes Hurley, Mischa Jakupcak
SCR Wes Hurley



WORLDVIEWS

Rams

Australia / 2020 / 118 min / English

The Australian remake of the Icelandic favorite (MFF2016), *Rams* follows brothers Colin (Sam Neill) and Les (Michael Caton) through their decades long feud. This sibling rivalry manifests itself through their sheep farming, until a rare illness starts to spread through the flocks and authorities are forced to purge all the sheep in the valley. This outside enemy may be just enough to bring the brothers back together, but will they be able to save their herds?

DIR Jeremy Sims
PROD Janelle Landers, Aidan O'Bryan
SCR Jules Duncan



GENREQUEER

Rebel Dykes

United Kingdom / 2021 / 90 min / English

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

DIR Harri Shanahan, Sian Williams
PROD Siobhan Fahey



WORLDVIEWS

Preparations to Be Together For an Unknown Period of Time

Hungary / 2020 / 95 min / Hungarian, English with English subtitles

Márta meets the love of her life while attending a neurosurgery residency in America. They make a pact to reunite in Budapest in one year to start their lives together, but when Márta arrives, her would-be soulmate claims he doesn't know her. Drawing from Krzysztof Kieślowski and Claire Denis, director Lili Horvát has established herself as a newcomer with a strong vision within the European filmmaking scene with this mysterious romance. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Lili Horvát
PROD Dóra Csernátony, Lili Horvát, Péter Miskolczi
SCR Lili Horvát



WORLDVIEWS

Quo Vadis, Aida?

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, Netherlands, Austria, Romania, France, Germany, Poland, Turkey / 2020 / 101 min / Serbo-Croatian, Bosnian, English, Dutch, Serbian with English subtitles

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

DIR Jasmila Žbanić
PROD Damir Ibrahimovich, Jasmila Žbanić
SCR Jasmila Žbanić



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Rebel Hearts

USA / 2021 / 99 min / English

Blessed with incredible archival access, the new documentary from MFF2017 alum Pedro Kos (*Bending the Arc*) offers an unprecedented look into The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who, in the 1960s, bravely stood up to the Catholic Church, challenging the unequal status of women in the church. Ultimately breaking off to create an intentional community with a dedication to education, art, and justice of all kinds, these women will inspire you with their bravery and unrelenting faith.

DIR Pedro Kos
PROD Shawnee Isaac-Smith, Kira Carstensen, Judy Korin
SCR Pedro Kos, Shawnee Isaac-Smith, Erin Barnett



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Red Heaven

USA / 2020 / 84 min / English, German, French with English subtitles

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

DIR Lauren DeFilippo, Katherine Gorringer
PROD Lauren DeFilippo, Katherine Gorringer
SCR Katherine Gorringer



SOUND VISION

Rez Metal

USA / 2021 / 76 min / English

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

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



CINE SIN FRONTERAS ART & ARTISTS

Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go For It

USA / 2021 / 90 min / English

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

DIR Mariem Pérez Riera
PROD Mariem Pérez Riera



SOUND VISION

Sisters With Transistors

United Kingdom / 2020 / 86 min / English

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

DIR Lisa Rovner
PROD Anna Lena Vaney
SCR Lisa Rovner



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Some Kind of Heaven

USA / 2020 / 83 min / English

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

DIR Lance Oppenheim
PROD Darren Aronofsky, Kathleen Lingo, Jeffrey Soros, Simon Horsman, Melissa Oppenheim, Pacho Velez, Lance Oppenheim



GENREQUEER AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

See You Then

USA / 2021 / 74 min / English

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

DIR Mari Walker
PROD Matt Miller, Mari Walker, Mia Schulman, Kristen Uno
SCR Kristen Uno, Mari Walker



BLACK LENS DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Since I Been Down

USA / 2020 / 105 min / English

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

DIR Gilda Sheppard
PROD Gilda Sheppard, June Nho Ivers, Saman Maydani



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Spring Valley

USA / 2021 / 108 min / English

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

DIR Garrett Zevgetis
PROD Ariana Garfinkel, Jeff Consiglio, Chico Colvard



SOUND VISION

Stop Making Sense

USA / 1984 / 88 min / English

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

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



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Stray

USA / 2020 / 72 min / Turkish with English subtitles

Like fest fave *Kedi* (MFF2016), Elizabeth Lo's meditative documentary takes us to the streets of Istanbul, this time with an eye to its canine residents rather than the feline. With a dog's-eye view of the city and interspersed quotations from the Greek philosopher Diogenes, *Stray* asks us to consider the dog not just as the trusty companion of lore but as a cypher of humanity, especially as we increasingly encounter displaced humans on these streets.

DIR Elizabeth Lo
PROD Elizabeth Lo, Shane Boris



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE **TEEN SCREEN**

The Djinn

USA / 2021 / 82 min / English, American Sign with English subtitles

Dylan and his dad have just moved to start a new life after the tragic loss of his mother. Dylan finds a mysterious book in a closet and reads about the Djinn, a magical beast that can grant wishes. Dylan is mute, so he wishes for a voice, but he fails to realize that he has to survive the night at the mercy of the monster. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

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



BLACK LENS **AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS**

The Inheritance

USA / 2020 / 100 min / English

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

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



CINEMA HOOLIGANTE **CINE SIN FRONTERAS**

The Last Matinée (Al morir la matinée)

Argentina, Uruguay / 2020 / 88 min / Spanish with English subtitles

Giallo is alive and well in Uruguay. A murderer is stalking the audience of a rundown movie theatre in Montevideo. As the viewers are savagely picked off one by one, the heroic projectionist decides to save the day and face this deranged killer. A movie made for movie lovers, you'll have a blast finding references to filmmakers like Dario Argento and Bigas Luna. Bathed in blood and neon, *The Last Matinee* never pulls a punch. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Maximiliano Contenti
PROD Maximiliano Contenti, Lucía Gaviglio Salkind, Alina Kaplan
SCR Maximiliano Contenti, Manuel Facal



WORLDVIEWS

The Dry

Australia, USA / 2021 / 117 min / English

Based on the best-selling novel of the same name, *The Dry* follows Aaron Falk (Eric Bana) as he returns home for the funeral of a friend. The small town is reeling from what looks like a murder suicide, but Aaron employs his detective skills to find out what really happened. Haunted by another mysterious death from his youth, Aaron has to reconcile his present with his past as he is confronted with suspects around every corner. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

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



AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

The End of Us

USA / 2021 / 92 min / English

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

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



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

The Meaning of Hitler

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

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

DIR Petra Epperlein, Michael Tucker
PROD Petra Epperlein, Michael Tucker, Mike Lerner, Donna O'Keefe
SCR Michael Tucker



WORLDVIEWS **CINEMA HOOLIGANTE**

The Pink Cloud

Brazil / 2021 / 105 min / English, Portuguese with English subtitles

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

DIR Iuli Gerbase
SCR Iuli Gerbase, Vicente Moreno



WORLDVIEWS

The Woman Who Ran (Domangchin yeoja)

South Korea / 2020 / 77 min / Korean with English subtitles

Gamhee goes to visit some friends while her husband is on a business trip. At first it seems like she's dropping by while passing through town, before long, a shared history bubbles to the surface. With characteristic humor and grace, Hong Sangsoo takes a simple premise and spins a web of interconnecting philosophies and coincidences. *The Woman Who Ran* is a subtle, powerful look at dramas small and large faced by women everywhere. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Hong Sangsoo
PROD Hong Sangsoo
SCR Hong Sangsoo



WORLDVIEWS

This Is Not a Burial, It's a Resurrection

Lesotho, South Africa, Italy / 2019 / 117 min / Southern Sotho with English subtitles

Mary Twala is captivating as Mantoa, an elder in a Lesotho village set to be resettled to make way for a reservoir construction project. Mantoa refuses to stand aside while her home and history are bulldozed away and it's clear why. The breathtaking Lesotho countryside is expertly captured by the impeccable camerawork, with such painstaking attention to mise-en-scène, each shot seems more like a painting than a film.

DIR Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese
PROD Cait Pansegrouw, Elias Ribeiro
SCR Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese



TEEN SCREEN **DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES**

Try Harder

USA / 2021 / 85 min / English

While being Asian American is the norm at San Francisco's Lowell High School, the perceptions and pressures of the "model minority" myth intensify for a group of students undergoing the high-stakes process of applying for their dream college. Debbie Lum's timely film reveals an American school system fraught with drained students in an ever-surmounting cycle of competition for capital-A "Achievement." Fresh, direct, and eye-opening, *Try Harder* is a must-watch for teens, families, and educators alike. **AGES 13+**

DIR Debbie Lum
PROD Nico Opper, Debbie Lum, Lou Nakasako



SOUND VISION

Underplayed

Canada / 2020 / 87 min / English

Underplayed uses a whirlwind summer festival season to illuminate the ways that women are underrepresented in the electronic music industry. Focusing on relative celebrity DJs (Rezz, Alison Wonderland) as well as less well known but rising figures (Tygapaw, Sherelle), this documentary explores the music industry creating and perpetuating gender (and other) inequities. Missing a sweaty late night at the Marcus Amphitheatre? This film will fill that void and challenge you to consume more equitably all at once.

DIR Stacy Lee
PROD William Crouse
SCR Neil Blewett, Georgia Dodson, Stacey Lee



SOUND VISION

Tom Petty, Somewhere You Feel Free

USA / 2021 / 89 min / English

OPENING NIGHT! Combining never-before-seen 16mm archival footage and new interviews with colleagues, director Mary Wharton assembles a deep study of Tom Petty as an artist, tracing the creative process for his seminal album, *Wildflowers*. Fueled by all the hits you know and love, this unvarnished and intimate tribute to an artist gone before his time is not overly mournful but serves as a powerful testament to and document of his creative process.

DIR Mary Wharton
PROD Peter Afterman



WORLDVIEWS

True Mothers (Asa Ga Kuru)

Japan / 2020 / 92 min / Japanese with English subtitles

After a long and unsuccessful struggle to get pregnant, Satoko and her husband decide to adopt a child. As they raise little Asato, they experience the standard highs and lows of parenthood, but feel so lucky to be able to have a son, nonetheless. One day, they are contacted by Hikari, who claims to be Asato's biological mother, and she wants him back. *True Mothers* is a tender film exploring motherhood in all forms.

DIR Naomi Kawase
PROD Yumiko Takebe
SCR Naomi Kawase, Izumi Takahashi, Mizuki Tsujimura



WORLDVIEWS

Undine

Germany, France / 2020 / 90 min / German with English subtitles

Christian Petzold (director of MFF2018 favorite *Transit*) returns to our screens with the mysterious fable, *Undine*. Christoph is smitten when he meets the enchanting Undine at her history lecture. Their relationship blossoms into a romance, but Christoph gets the feeling that Undine is keeping secrets from him. He feels ridiculous even thinking it, but could Undine be the vengeful mermaid of lore? **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Christian Petzold
PROD Florian Koerner von Gustorf, Michael Weber
SCR Christian Petzold



CREAM CITY CINEMA

When Claude Got Shot

USA / 2020 / 97 min / English

When Claude Motley is shot during a visit to Milwaukee for his high school reunion, he realizes there's no escaping gun violence and the ripples of trauma it causes. When he discovers his assailant was shot only two nights later by another attempted victim and is now paralyzed, it complicates thinking of any such crime as singular. Tracing this case through the criminal justice system, this documentary asks how and if these cycles can be broken.

DIR Brad Lichtenstein
PROD Steven Cantor, Brad Lichtenstein, Jamie Schutz



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America

USA / 2021 / 118 min / English

Interweaving lecture, personal anecdotes, interviews, and all-too-unknown histories, ACLU deputy legal director Jeffery Robinson (and Marquette grad) presents a must-see primer on anti-Blackness in America, calling no one out but calling all in to walk around these histories and find the humanity and empathy within these stories. Not to be missed by anyone living in 2021 America, you'll be thinking and talking about this film for years to come.

DIR Emily Kunstler, Sarah Kunstler

PROD Jeffery Robinson, Emily Kunstler, Sarah Kunstler

SCR Jeffery Robinson



ART & ARTISTS GENREQUEER

Wojnarowicz

USA / 2020 / 105 min / English

David Wojnarowicz (VOY-nə-ROH-vitch) was a key voice in the New York City queer activist art scene swirling around the AIDS crisis. In this fiery documentary portrait, director Chris McKim blends Wojnarowicz's paintings, photos, music, films, answering machine messages and recollections from his community (including the incomparable Fran Lebowitz) to trace the legacy of his unapologetic way of seeing a world in which the personal and the political are inextricably tangled. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Chris McKim

PROD Fenton Bailey, Randy Barbato, Chris McKim



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Writing with Fire

India / 2021 / 93 min / Hindi with English subtitles

Reminiscent of the work of multi-MFF alum Ramona Diaz (*A Thousand Cuts, Motherland*), this uplifting documentary introduces the audience to the fearless journalists behind Khabar Lahariya, India's only newspaper run by Dalit ("untouchable") women. In these women's stories, directors Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh demonstrate the power of the press and of speaking truth to power, no matter where, by whom or how it is done. **WISCONSIN ONLY**

DIR Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh

PROD Sushmit Ghosh, Rintu Thomas



DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Wuhan Wuhan

United States, Canada / 2021 / 90 min / Chinese with English subtitles

Yung Chang (*Up The Yangtze, China Heavyweight*, MFF2012) captures the dignity and kindness of five everyday people caught up in the first COVID-19 lockdown in Wuhan, China. With a classic verité perspective, this documentary strips away statistics to reveal the humanity (and sometimes humor) to be found in the quotidian of a time that is anything but. Ultimately hopeful, this film has the power to remind us of our common experiences as a global community without borders.

DIR Yung Chang

PROD Donna Gigliotti, Peter Luo, Diane Quon



CINE SIN FRONTERAS AMERICAN INDEPENDENTS

Women is Losers

USA / 2021 / 84 min / English

Celina Guerrero (Lorenza Izzo) is a good Catholic girl growing up in 60's San Francisco. She's bright and full of potential until an unintended pregnancy alters her life and forces her to confront a system that too often leaves minorities and single mothers behind. Named for a Janis Joplin song, Lissette Feliciano's feature debut is a fresh and timely look at radical feminism through the lens of culture, class, and identity.

DIR Lissette Feliciano

PROD Andrea Chung

SCR Lissette Feliciano



GENREQUEER DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Workhorse Queen

USA / 2020 / 88 min / English

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

DIR Angela Washko

PROD Angela Washko

SCR Angela Washko



WORLDVIEWS

You Will Die at Twenty

Sudan, France, Egypt, Germany, Norway, Qatar / 2019 / 103 min / Arabic with English subtitles

During her son's naming ceremony, a Sheikh predicts that Sakina's child, Muzamil, will die at the age of 20. Muzamil is haunted by this prophecy and commits to living a pious life while he can. When he turns 19, he meets a traveler who tells him about the world outside his Sudanese village and sheds skepticism on this prophecy of doom. Slowly, but surely Musamil begins to question his fate and his faith all while his 20th birthday looms ever closer.

DIR Amjad Abu Alala

PROD Arnaud Dommerc, Ingrid Lill Høgtun, Michael Henrichs

SCR Youssef Ibrahim, Amjad Abu Alala



RATED K: FOR KIDS

Young Warriors

Brazil / 2020 / 74 min / Portuguese with English subtitles

Cosme and his wife Maria have long yearned to attend a festival in Barbalha city. When they decide to finally check this off their bucket list, they bring their son Benedito, nephew Matheuzinho, and niece Bruna on a series of adventures in their (somewhat dubious) Jeep. The young travel companions encounter ancient landscapes and histories that now seem new, other, even miraculous. Despite their differences, this trip will bond this trio of friends for life. **AGES 9+**

DIR Bárbara Cariry

Short Films



BLACK LENS

Black Lens Shorts: Facing Uncertainty

Total running time: 78 min

Each narrative in this shorts program centers on a character who faces great uncertainty in immediate moments, and must prepare themselves to face the outcome of their decisions. The films illustrate how fighting through doubt and anxiety can ultimately lead to clarity.

- Drip Like Coffee** Anais Cisco
- The Clearing** Chike Johnson
- In Sudden Darkness** Tayler Montague
- Kojo** Ameer Apedo
- The Pandemic Chronicles** Ya'Ke Smith
- White Wedding** Melody Roscher



BLACK LENS

Black Lens Shorts: We Change the Narrative

Total running time: 76 min

This collection of shorts use performance and personal stories to convey efforts to alter dehumanizing narratives of Black people and develop strategies to affirm agency and humanity. While unconventional in their structure, these films prove to be nevertheless revelatory, engaging, and fascinating.

- The Beckoning** DeMar Walker
- Black Bodies** Kelly Fyffe-Marshall
- Don't Go Tellin' Your Momma** Topaz Jones, rubberband.
- Gold** Jade Charon
- The Heartland** Marquise Mays



CINE SIN FRONTERAS

Cine Sin Fronteras Shorts

Total running time: 77 min

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

- At Last** Lorena Gordon
- Calladita** Miguel Faus
- For Rosa** Kathryn Boyd-Batstone
- Since you arrived, my heart stopped belonging to me (Desde que llegaste, mi corazón dejó de pertenecerme)** Erin Semine Kókdil
- When You Clean A Stranger's Home** Sharon Arteaga



GENREQUEER

GenreQueer Shorts

Total running time: 100 min

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

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



K RATED K: FOR KIDS

Kids Shorts: Size Medium

Total running time: 64 min

These live-action and animated shorts closely follow young people (and one fantastical being) who demonstrate bravery, curiosity, and joy in the face of inner struggles and outer adversities. In turns triumphant, exhilarating, and pensive, these stories reveal a depth and strength in children too often taken for granted. **AGES 6+**

- Colza** Victor Chagniot, Camille Broutin, Matthieu Daures, Victoria De Millo Gregory, Maxime Jouniot, Jade Khoo
- The Last Supper** Michael Risley
- Louis's Shoes** Marion Philippe, Kayu Leung, Théo Jamin, Jean-Géraud Blanc
- Matilda and the Spare Head** Ignas Meilūnas
- Ramon** Natalia Bernal
- Talia** Cara Bamford
- Umbrellas** José Prato



K RATED K: FOR KIDS

Kids Shorts: Size Large

Total running time: 76 min

This collection of shorts spotlights protagonists actively shaping their futures. From a mother and daughter coming to terms in a post-apocalyptic landscape, to a girl given an extra head to keep up her grades, to a stunning father-daughter collab, to a woman transformed by a promise to care for a bag of seeds, these shorts highlight the courage it takes to be yourself. **AGES 10+**

- Ice Breakers** Sandi Rankaduwa
- Joychild** Aurora Brachman
- Kapaemahu** Hinalaimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson
- Matilda and the Spare Head** Ignas Meilūnas
- Mother Didn't Know (Mor visste ingenting)** Anita Killi
- Otanimm/Onnimm (Daughter/Father)** Terrance Houle, Neko Wong-Houle
- The Promise** Chi Thai
- Sol** Andy Alvarez



K RATED K: FOR KIDS

Kids Shorts: Size Small

Total running time: 61 min

Foster a lifelong cinematic obsession for your youngest with our Size Small program. This vibrant collection of animated short films is filled with adventures. Whether in a forest populated by bluegrass-plucking faeries, in the front seat of the symphony, or in a mysterious village populated by a shapeshifting owl, enchanting travels await. **AGES 3+**

- The Boy and the Owl** Mário Gajo de Carvalho
- Cracks in the Pavement** Nicolas Conte
- a film by m + m** Matt Yang, Megan McShane
- Kenya's Symphony** Carlos Douglas, Jr.
- Kiko and the Animals** Yawen Zheng
- Kiri and Lou - Air** Harry Sinclair
- Leaf (Listek)** Aliona Baranova
- Running Up That Hill** Jo Roy
- Tulip** Andrea Love, Phoebe Wahl



SHORTER IS BETTER

Shorts: Let's Get Animated

Total running time: 69 min

Always an audience favorite, the gorgeous animations in this program come from an array of styles made by filmmakers around the world. You'll find an existential crisis, a family secret, a future told in dreams, and so much more! Marvel at the worlds created within these diverse shorts!

- Beyond Noh** Patrick Smith
- Coup d'etat Math** Sai Selvarajan
- Hunting (Ehiza)** Begoña Vicario
- KKUM** Kang-min Kim
- Misery Loves Company** Sasha Lee
- O Black Hole!** Renee Zhan
- Opera** Erick Oh
- Souvenir Souvenir** Bastien Dubois



SHORTER IS BETTER

Shorts: Stranger Than Fiction

Total running time: 68 min

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

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



TEEN SCREEN

Teen Screen Shorts: After Dark

Total running time: 88 min

After dark, Teen Screen goes Teen Scream. These live action and animated short films serve midnight movie vibes through sci-fi, fantasy, and horror-leaning genres. Grab your favorite theatre candy and dive into these spooky, surreal, and bittersweet stories curated by our Teen Screen Selection Committee. **AGES 13+**

- The Boy and the Owl** Mário Gajo de Carvalho
- Hekademia** Gloria Mercer
- My Friend Who Shines in the Night** Grégoire De Bernouis, Jawed Boudaoud, Simon Cadilhac, Hélène Ledevin
- The Promise** Chi Thai
- Siren's Tail (Cue de sirena)** Alba Barbé i Serra
- Souvenir Souvenir** Bastien Dubois
- Yandere** William Laboury



TEEN SCREEN

Teen Screen Shorts: Self/Image

Total running time: 73 min

Reckoning with our identities is part of growing up. These gorgeous and affecting live action and animated shorts presented by our Teen Screen Selection Committee explore diverse stories of selfhood and transformation, family and acceptance, discovery and renewal. **AGES 13+**

- Devenir** Géraldine Charpentier-Basille
- In the Shadow of the Pines** Anne Koizumi
- Joychild** Aurora Brachman
- Kapaemahu** Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson
- The Name of the Son** Martina Matzkin
- Otanimm/Onnimm (Daughter/Father)** Terrance Houle, Neko Wong-Houle
- Self Story** Géraldine Charpentier-Basille
- Tape** Jojo Erholtz
- When I Write It** Nico Opper, Shannon St. Aubin



SHORTER IS BETTER

Shorts: Surprise, Surprise!

Total running time: 76 min

Unsurprisingly, you'll find nothing but great shorts in this program. Quality is the only thing you can count on as the twists and turns, including Will Ferrell as a therapist, come flying in fast and furious.

- David** Zach Woods
- Found Me** David Findlay
- Mountain Cat (Shiluus)** Lkhagvadulam Purev-Ochir
- Revelations** Jack Dunphy
- Succor** Hannah Cheesman
- White Wedding** Melody Roscher
- You Wouldn't Understand** Trish Harnetiaux



SHORTER IS BETTER

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

Total running time: 70 min

You must have a brave heart, strong stomach, and be this tall to view these shorts. These are the shorts that whisper your own name in your ear as you fall asleep. They'll stick in your head and rattle around. We warned you. Now go forth and have fun!

- Bubble** Haonan Wang
- Dar-Dar** Paul Urkijo Alijo
- Don't Text Back** Kaye Adelaide, Mariel Sharp
- Each Other** Oskar Weimar
- Ghost Dogs** Joe Cappa
- Run That Shit!** Tristan Kim



CREAM CITY CINEMA

The Milwaukee Show I

Total running time: 62 min

What would the Milwaukee Film Festival be without The Milwaukee Show? One of our hottest tickets each year, we can't stop and neither do our local creatives. So we've packed two programs full of the best short fiction and documentary films, experimental works and music videos made by your fellow Milwaukeeans.

- Gold** Jade Charon
- home** Diya Mark
- A Lark and a Swallow** Parker Winship
- Perennial Pilot** Joey Bina
- Spaidez - "Justice Overdue"** Sean Kafer, Madeline Schweitzer, Oscar Walton
- Trustwormy** Kyle Kenowski
- The Women and the Sea** Camila Guarda
- Zhauzhee Xiong** Nkaujoua Xiong



CREAM CITY CINEMA

The Milwaukee Show II

Total running time: 63 min

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

- Background Material** Britany Gunderson
- The Beckoning** DeMar Walker
- Beth Lipman's "House Album"** Atesh Atici
- Fuzzysurf - "She Was Crying Sugar"** Tommy Simms
- Greenhorn** Zach Erdmann
- Puzzle - "Scenes Like This"** Derek Schmitt
- Spontaneous** Lori Felker
- Wiggle Room** Vincent Maslowski



CREAM CITY CINEMA

The Milwaukee Youth Show

Total running time: 68 min

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

- Crimson & Lilacs** Maddie O'Connell
- Dangerous Days** Clayton Allen
- distance** Dara Carneol
- The Guardian** Kayla VanProoyen
- Hmong Woman** Anthony Xiong
- How I Write Stories** Frances Bresser
- If You Need Me** Tommy Young
- Impermanence** Nicolas Dittmar Greaves
- Isolation** Coen Kriofske Mainella
- MiMi's Bakery** Giselle Candelaria
- Olympic Dolls** Deanna Lapis
- Remember** Aral Nen Jr.
- Sanity** Georgia Fritsch
- The Service** Colin Sandee
- Table for Two** Jessica Rodriguez
- Visit Milwaukee** Javen Minella-Farley, Joaquin De Hann



CREAM CITY CINEMA

Three Ways of Looking at Milwaukee

Total running time: 74 min

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

- Bid Caller** David Van Auken
- The Heartland** Marquise Mays
- Milwaukee Night and Day** Dick Blau

A Heartfelt Note from Milwaukee Film...

The past year has been a difficult one for all of us. At the very least, there was a level of uncertainty with every day that passed.

As a nonprofit cultural institution, of course we were immediately concerned about our future and how we would survive this ongoing crisis. But, the very first thing that signaled to us we would make it through the most challenging time for our organization was the response from you, our Members. We received a torrent of messages of support and appreciation for our work. Well wishes, words of consolation, and promises to stick with us throughout. Not to mention your renewals, upgrades, and amazing donations!

Our existence has and always will depend on our supporters and you sent us a welcome message that we're not going anywhere!

You're the wind beneath our wings, the gin in our juice, the Abbott and Costello movies on a Sunday afternoon in the 80s... (that last one may be too specific to our childhood)...

We've said it so many times before, but perhaps never in so lovely a font as this.....

Thank You!



Super-Secret Members-Only Screening

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

Yup, this great Festival tradition continues in the virtual realm! Like other years, our Members will get an email asking them to RSVP to this film - and we'll have a limited number of seats (or in this case, views) available. The lucky members who RSVP first will get detailed access instructions via email on May 19.

We know there's a global pandemic and the world is all weird and stuff, but NO, you can't find out the title in advance. It's a surprise!

Wednesday
May 19



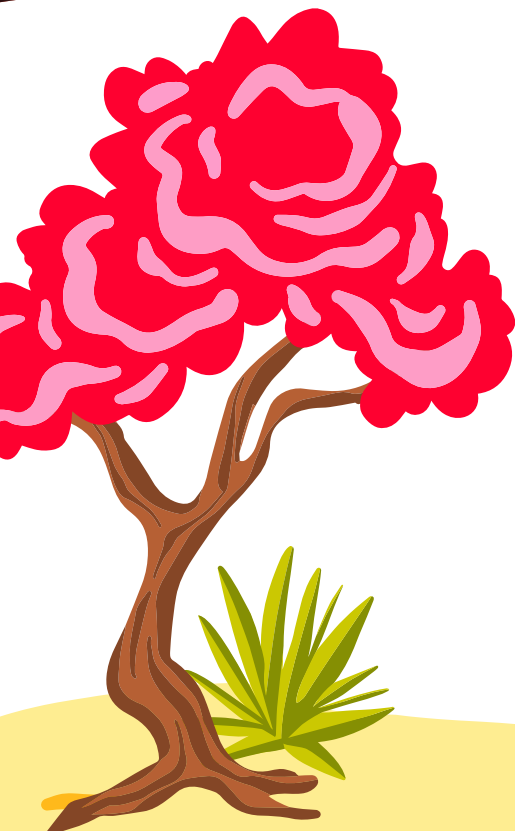
#MFF2021



About Milwaukee Film

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

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



Milwaukee Film Festival (MFF)

The cornerstone of Milwaukee Film's programs, our annual Milwaukee Film Festival attracted more than 87,000 attendees into packed cinemas in 2019 (remember when we could do that?) and more than 66,000 moviegoers at last year's first all-virtual festival. Recognized in 2019 by Moviemaker Magazine as one of the Coolest Film Festivals in the World, MFF is also the largest arts event in the city. MFF has served to elevate Milwaukee's film industry, as well as bring world-class films and filmmakers to local audiences. It's a celebration of film, arts, and culture unlike anything else in our community.



Oriental Theatre

Since getting the keys in 2018, Milwaukee Film has worked to revitalize and restore our city's historic cinema palace, the Oriental Theatre. In 2019, we fully restored one of the three houses inside the theater, replaced the lobby concessions stand, and still showed nearly 250 film titles outside of MFF. After the theater closed in March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, we began our next phase of renovations, working to restore much of the theater's other two houses while also incorporating hearing loops for improved accessibility. We look forward to reopening the theater this year so we can all enjoy amazing films and this gem of a building together again.

Cultures & Communities

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

Education

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

Milwaukee Film Staff

Leadership

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

Innovation

- Kaitlin Erickson**
Marketing Assistant
- Haven Falk**
Creative Services Manager
- Tom Fuchs**
Digital Media Manager
- Gabriella Griffith**
Marketing Coordinator
- Akila Ingvoldstad**
Membership Coordinator

Artistic

- Marielle Allschwang**
Education Manager
- Ian Cessna**
High School Filmmaking Instructor
- Aster Gilbert**
GenreQueer Coordinator
- Kerstin Larson**
Programming Director

Operations

- Kristopher Pollard**
Membership Manager
- Maureen Post**
Strategic Partnerships Director
- Ranell Washington**
Strategic Partnerships Manager

Development

- Donte McFadden, Ph.D.**
Black Lens Programmer
- Ernie Quiroz**
Cine Sin Fronteras Programmer
- Anna Sampers**
Programming Administrative Director
- Molly Veh**
Artist Services Manager

Operations

- Andy Helmkamp**
Cinema Operations Manager
- Kelsey Parks**
Assistant Technical Director
- Ryan Putskey**
Cinema Manager
- Kevin Rice**
Technical Director
- Jamie Webb**
Festival Manager

Development

- Sebastian Mei**
Development Consultant
- Dana Reinos**
Grants Coordinator and Executive Assistant
- Rachel Vander Weit**
Development Manager

