11th Annual
OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL
Village Pointe Cinema  304 North 174th St

FESTIVAL
March 8 - 13, 2016

CONFERENCE
March 12-13, 2016

omahafilmfestival.org
FADE IN
INT. VILLAGE POINTE CINEMA – NIGHT

Long tables adorned with black tablecloths form a makeshift booth in the lobby of the theatre. Laid out on the tables are promotional postcards and posters for over 100 films, all beckoning to would-be audience members: “Come to the show!” FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS stand behind the booth, anxious smiles stretched across their faces, all of them eager to help out when called upon. A FEMALE VOLUNTEER is pulling stacks of booklets out of a box; upon closer inspection, we see that these are festival guides for the 11th ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL.

Across the street at THE FUNNY BONE, SCOTT KURZ and AARON ZAVITZ are working with the most well-oiled machine of actors you can find in this city, putting the finishing touches on the Writer’s Theatre performance.

JULIE MATTHEWS, a tall drink of water who looks like she should be a CEO, steps back behind the booth and calls the Volunteers over into a huddle. It’s obvious that Julie runs the volunteers (and the festival directors).

The door to the projection booth opens and out steps MARC LONGBRAKE, the Program Director, with his mane of long, flowing, gorgeous hair trailing behind him. He’s just finished talking with the FESTIVAL PROJECTIONISTS, most of whom have been with the festival since year one.

Through the front doors of the theatre stumbles JASON LEVERING, the Executive Director, his gray beard unshaven and hair mussed, he is most likely drunk or hung-over. He gets that way this time of year.

Jason is intercepted by JEREMY DECKER, the Festival Director, who can still pass for Joaquin Phoenix. Jeremy is riding on a unicorn. No one questions how Jeremy found a unicorn, it just is. Jason and Marc join Jeremy on the unicorn and they trot down to Theatre 10, where they need to check sound levels for the opening night film.

Dim the lights. Cue the Sponsor Reel. Enjoy the show.

WELCOME TO THE 11TH ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL!
Schedule

Tuesday, March 8
- 6:30 PM: Eye in the Sky
- 8:00 PM: Cheeseburger in Paradise
- 8:00 PM: Opening Party
- 8:15 PM: God Knows Where I Am
- 8:30 PM: Stereotypically You
- 8:45 PM: Hunky Dory
- 10:00 PM: Funny Bone Party

Wednesday, March 9
- 5:45 PM: It Snows All the Time
- 6:00 PM: Short Film Block 1
- 6:15 PM: Writer’s Theater
- 6:15 PM: God Knows Where I Am
- 6:30 PM: Eye in the Sky
- 8:00 AM: OFF Academy

Thursday, March 10
- 8:00 AM: OFF Academy
- 8:00 AM: OFF Academy
- 8:15 PM: Short Film Block 2
- 8:25 PM: Llama Nation
- 8:30 PM: Black Luck
- 8:45 PM: How to Plan an Orgy in a Small Town
- 10:00 PM: Bravol! Party!

Friday, March 11
- 11:30 AM: Sabali
- 5:30 PM: Short Film Block 4
- 5:45 PM: Rwanda & Juliet
- 6:00 PM: No Resolution
- 8:00 PM: The Invitation
- 8:15 PM: Short Film Block 5
- 8:30 PM: Baby, Baby, Baby
- 10:00 PM: Ring the Bell Party

Saturday, March 12
- 12:00 PM: Short Film Block 6
- 1:15 PM: Man Vs. Snake
- 2:30 PM: Short Film Block 7
- 3:45 PM: Once in a Lew Moon
- 5:00 PM: Short Film Block 8
- 5:30 PM: Coming Through The Rye
- 6:15 PM: Take Me to the River
- 7:45 PM: Short Film Block 9

Sunday, March 13
- 12:00 PM: Short Film Block 10
- 2:15 PM: Keep in Touch
- 2:30 PM: I Dream of an Omaha Where...
- 4:30 PM: Awards Ceremony
- 5:30 PM: The Lobster
- 6:00 PM: Short Film Block 1
- 7:30 PM: Closing Night OFFice Party

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2016 SCREENWRITING FINALISTS (SHORTS)

50 YEARS OF VALENTINES
by Doug Sasse

ANIMAL SKINS
by Brian Ott

BAD HEIR DAY
by Jeffrey Field

CALLING CC
by Adam Whitenker

DOWN THE DRAIN
by Robert Sheppard

THE FORWARD PLACE
by Henry P. Gravelle

IN QUEST OF THE BLUEBIRD
by Robert Mann

2016 SCREENWRITING FINALISTS (FEATURES)

THE ANGEL RAINBOW CARWASH
by Tom Rosai

CATHARSIS
by Billy McNabb and Hannah Feller

JACKSONVILLE
by Jeffrey Field

ONLY THE IMPESSIONED
by H. C. Tur

A POSTHUMOUS PERFORMANCE
by Drew Wagner

SANCTUARY
by Scott Pitts

THURSDAY, AFTER SCHOOL
by Tom Radovich
### Eye In The Sky
**Tuesday March 8 at 6:30 PM**

*Rated R for violence and language*

- **U.K.** - 102 minutes
- **Director:** Gavin Hood
- **Writer:** Guy Hibbert
- **Producer:** Colin Firth, Ged Doherty, David Lancaster
- **Cast:** Helen Mirren, Aaron Paul, Alan Rickman, Barkhad Abdi

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2057392/

Complications arise when a lieutenant general (Alan Rickman) and a colonel (Helen Mirren) order a drone missile strike to take out a group of terrorists in Nairobi, Kenya.

### The Invitation
**Friday March 11 at 8:00 PM**

- **USA** - 100 minutes
- **Director:** Karyn Kusama
- **Writers:** Phil Hay, Matt Manfredi
- **Cast:** Logan Marshall-Green, Tammy Blanchard, Michiel Huisman, Emayatzy Corinealdi, Lindsay Burdge, John Carroll Lynch, Mike Doyle, Michelle Krusiec, Marieh Delfino, Jay Larson

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2400463/

Two years after a tragic loss ended his relationship, Will accepts an invitation from his ex-wife to attend a mysterious dinner party held at his former house. As the evening progresses, the dread bubbling under the surface is slowly revealed in this superbly directed thriller.

### Take Me To The River
**Saturday March 12 at 6:15 PM**

- **USA** - 85 minutes
- **Writer/Director:** Matt Sobel
- **Writer:** Roberto Patino
- **Producer:** Billy Mulligan
- **Executive Producer:** Nick Case, Hisami Kuroiwa
- **Cast:** TLogan Miller, Robin Weigert, Ursula Parker, Richard Schiff, Josh Hamilton, Azura Skye, Ashley Gerasimovich, Elizabeth Franz

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3142366/  
https://www.facebook.com/TakeMetotheRiverFilm/

A Californian teenager's plan to come out at his Nebraskan family reunion gets derailed when a bloodstain on his young cousin's dress makes him the unwitting suspect of abuse.

### The Lobster
**Sunday March 13 at 5:30 PM**

*Rated R sexual content including dialogue, and some violence*

- **Ireland | UK | Greece | France | Netherlands | USA** - 118 minutes
- **Director:** Yorgos Lanthimos
- **Writer:** Yorgos Lanthimos, Efthymis Filippou
- **Cast:** Colin Farrell, Rachel Weisz, Jacqueline Abrahams, Roger Ashton-Griffiths, Jessica Barden, John C. Reilly

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3464902/  
http://www.lobsterfilm.co.uk/

In a dystopian near future, single people, according to the laws of The City, are taken to The Hotel, where they are obliged to find a romantic partner in forty-five days or are transformed into beasts and sent off into The Woods.
Nebraska Spotlight

It Snows all the Time
Wednesday March 9 at 5:45 PM

Director: Jay Giannone
Writer: Eric Watson, Jay Giannone
Producer: Erich Hover, Jay Giannone
Cast: Brett Cullen, Erich Hover, Sterling Knight, Lesley Ann Warren, Taryn Manning, John Beasley, Erinn Cahill, Jay Giannone, Tatyana Ali, Slaine, Trevor Penick

http://www.itsnowsallthetime.com/
http://www.imdb.com/itsnowsallthetime

When Paul is diagnosed with young onset Frontotemporal Dementia at 58, his family comes closer together than ever before. Along the way, he and his middle son Jesse learn many things about each other by working on Paul’s old truck, finally taking it for one last fishing trip together.

Black Luck
Thursday March 10 at 8:30 PM

Director: Jason Levering, David Weiss
Writer: Jason Levering, Garrett Sheeks
Producer: David M. Weiss, Jason Levering, Garrett Sheeks, Aaron Smith, Associate Producers, Tim Welch, Dr. Thomas Huerter, Sean Nohrenberg, Matt Patterson, Tom Sain
Cast: Garrett Sheeks, Karrie Bauman, Jeff Gamble, Jeff Luby, Jason Levering, Aaron Sailors, Jeremy Caniglia, Jazmyne Van Houten, Konrad Case, Craig Hoffman, Collin Dunn, Royce Kensing, Myriddin McHugh, Christopher Levering, Jeffery Blum, Ethan Rand, Cheri Bloomingdale, Kiera Levering, Justin Milani, Crystal Milani, Cara Rockwell, Rick Barker, Tim Welch, Lacee Newbanks, Sean Nohrenberg, Aaron Smith, Randy Kirby, John Huerter
www.blackluckfilm.com

A hitman in hiding struggles to keep his monsters at bay when his dark past comes calling.

No Resolution
Friday March 11 at 6:00 PM

Writer/Director: Tim Kasher
Producer: Chevy Kozisek
Executive Producer: Brian Young
Cast: Maura Kidwell, Layne Manzer, Erin O’Shea
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt5012620/
www.facebook.com/noresolutionfilm/

Cary, a shiftless, “never was” local musician, struggles with the onset of adulthood, railing against his dull, nine-to-five desk job and impending marriage to his pregnant fiancé, Jean. This resistance culminates on New Year’s Eve as Cary refuses to “settle down” into a pleasant evening at home with Jean, instead, seeking out every opportunity to extend his youth through the debauchery such a night can offer.

Once in a Lew Moon
Saturday March 12 at 3:45 PM

Director: Lonnie Senstock
Writer: Lonnie Senstock, Chance Williams
Producer: Lynn Bartak, Jennifer Pederson
Executive Producer: Drew Vamosi, Chance Williams
Cast: Lew Hunter, Pamela Hunter, Francis Ford Coppola, Patty Duke, Oliver Stone, Bruce Joel Rubin, Hal Ackerman

http://www.onceinalewmoon.com
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4036906/

Lew Hunter came from a poor household and big dreams to make it in Hollywood. We will give writers around the world the applause they deserve. From rags to riches came this farm boy from Nebraska, fighting his way to the top of Hollywood. “Directors and actors don’t make it up as they go along.”
Nebraska Spotlight

I Dream of an Omaha Where...

Sunday March 13 at 2:30 PM

USA - 53 minutes
Director: Mele Mason
Writer: Daniel Beaty
Producers: Vic Gutman & Associates, Mele Mason, Daniel Beaty


idreamofanomahawhere.com

Moderated by nationally known performer and writer Daniel Beaty, the “I Dream” project takes former Omaha gang members and those they have affected through intense and moving workshops, culminating in a performance play based on their workshop experiences.

The Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center is a state of the art facility that serves the University, the Lincoln community, and the State of Nebraska. The Ross is a comprehensive exhibition program committed to showcasing a wide variety of independent, foreign and documentary cinema, offering Nebraskans a stimulating alternative to commercial movie and television fare by presenting works not ordinarily offered in this area.

One of the most important aspects of the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center’s program, the Norman A. Geske Cinema Showcase brings media artists to Nebraska to make personal appearances and discuss their work with our audiences. Participants appear at screenings of their movies for Q&A sessions, attend University of Nebraska-Lincoln classes, and interact with other organizations in our community. We offer participants a minimum honorarium of $2,500, which is negotiable, and cover all expenses. The Showcase is one of the most stimulating and interesting components of the MRRMAC’s varied exhibition program.

www.theross.org

313 N. 13th Street, Lincoln NE | 402-472-9100 | facebook.com/theross.org

For more information on the visiting filmmaker program, contact DANNY LADELY at 402-472-7174 (office) or 402-326-7703 (mobile)
Feature Films

Stereotypically You
Wednesday March 9 at 8:30 PM
USA - 82 minutes
Writer/Director: Benjamin Cox
Producer: Benjamin Cox, Tracey Becker
Executive Producer: Russell Carpenter, ASC, Kim Winther
Cast: Aaron Tveit, Abby Elliott, Lauren Miller Rogen, Kal Penn, Chris Elliott, Lewis Black, Shane McRae, Kelen Coleman, Annaleigh Ashford
http://stereotypicallyyou.com
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2081374

When Charlie Carroll quits his job and his girlfriend on the same day, it seems as though he's finally found freedom. But after a quick dip in the dark waters of the NYC dating pool, Charlie begins to wonder if he's made a mistake.

Hunky Dory
Wednesday March 9 at 8:45 PM
USA - 88 minutes
Writer/Director: Michael Curtis Johnson
Producer: Michael Curtis Johnson, Tomas Pais
Cast: Chad Hartigan, Edouard Holdener, Peter Van Norden, Jeff Newburg, Joy Darash, Nora Rothman, Tomas Pais, Julia Barna, Josh Fingerhut
http://www.hunkydorythefilm.com
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4515890/

After his ex-girlfriend disappears, Sidney, a glam rock dilettante, is forced to look after his 11-year-old son full-time. His "cool dad" facade quickly falls apart and his life goes into full tailspin as he struggles to let go of his rock-and-roll lifestyle.

Good Ol’ Boy
Thursday March 10 at 5:45 PM
USA - 104 minutes
Director: Frank Lotito
Writer: Gregory Scott Houghton, Anjul Nigam and Paul Quinn
Producer: Anjul Nigam, Franco Lotito, Steve Straka
www.goodolboythemovie.com
www.imdb.com/title/tt1105355/

In 1979, an Indian family moves to America with hopes of living the American Dream. While their 10-year-old boy Smith falls head-over-heels for the girl next door, his desire to become a "good old boy" propels him further away from his family’s ideals than ever before.

How to Plan an Orgy in a Small Town
Thursday March 10 at 8:45 PM
Canada - 101 minutes
Writer/Director: Jeremy LaLonde
Producer: Jordan Walker, Chris Bennett
Executive Producer: Jeremy LaLonde, Jewel Staite, Ennis Esmer, Ryan Goldhar, Avi Federgreen
Cast: Jewel Staite, Ennis Esmer, Lauren Lee Smith, Katharine Isabelle, Mark O'Brien, Jonas Chernick, Tommie-Amber Pirie, Kristian Bruun, Lauren Holly
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3919218/

Cassie returns home to face her former friends who slut-shamed her into leaving town when she was a teenager. Now a big-city sex writer, she finds an opportunity to seek revenge by writing a book about them when they ask her if she'll help them plan an orgy.
**Baby, Baby, Baby**  
*Friday March 11 at 8:30 PM*

USA - 86 minutes  
Writer/Director: Brian Klugman  
Producer: Robert Bauer, Cassidy Lunnen  
Executive Producer: Cecil Kyte, Alon Barzilay  
Cast: Adrianne Palicki, Kelsey Grammer, Brian Klugman, James Roday, William Shatner, Michaela Conlin, Cloris Leachman, Kelly McCreary, Dennis Haysbert  
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3829884

BABY, BABY, BABY follows two mismatched people living in Los Angeles who meet and fall in love. It’s perfect...until it’s not.

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**Sabali**  
*Saturday March 12 at 11:30AM*

Canada - 79 minutes  
Writer/Director: Ryan McKenna  
Producer: Becca Blackwood, Menia Raoul, Gabrielle Tougas-Frechette  
Cast: Marie Brassard, Francis LaHaye, Hugo Giroux, Youssef Camara, Michel Forget, Paul Ahmarani, Mireille Metelus, Hamidou Savadogo, Amadou et Mariam, Phyllis Gooden, Anik Vermette  
http://madamesabali.com  
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4899342/

After receiving her new heart, Jeannette begins to have strange visions of her donor’s former life. Soon after, she is befriended by her donor’s son, a Malian teenager, who believes she is his mother reincarnated.

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**Coming Through the Rye**  
*Saturday March 12 at 5:45 PM*

USA - 97 minutes  
Writer/Director: James Sadwith  
Producer: James Sadwith, Teddy Grennan, Stan Erdreich  
Executive Producer: Jeff Steen, Alexandra Woodward  
Cast: Adrian Pasdar, Chris Cooper, Alex Wolff, Amy Parrish, Stefania LaVie Owen, Michael Siberry, Caleb Emery, Eric Nelson  
http://comingthroughtheryemovie.com  
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4048168/

After stumbling through disastrous relationships at boarding school, a 16 yr old boy travels the mountains of New Hampshire in search of J.D. Salinger, the reclusive author of The Catcher in the Rye.

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**Trivia Night**  
*Saturday March 12 at 8:30 PM*

USA - 87 minutes  
Director: Robert Gregson  
Writer: Addison Anderson, Collin Drummond, Michael Molina  
Producer: Robert Gregson  
Executive Producer: Addison Anderson, Collin Drummond, Michael Molina  
Cast: Clem McIntosh, Clark Middleton, Addison Anderson, David Neal Levin, Howard Pinhasik  
www.trivianightfilm.com  
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4011018/

Obsessive trivia buff Scott Nadler is living hand-to-mouth off pub quiz payouts when the unbeaten game show “Trivia Night” announces its send-off episode. As he navigates the qualifying rounds for the show, Scott combats a rival from the past who may be the only person who can outmaneuver him.
West of Redemption
Saturday March 12 at 8:45 PM
USA - 89 minutes
Director: Cornelia Moore
Writer: Meagan Daine
Producer: Larry Estes, Tony Becerra
Executive Producer: Rich Cowan, Terry Edward Moore
Cast: Billy Zane, Kevin Alejandro, Mariana Klaveno
http://www.WestOfRedemption.com/
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3980642

A married couple living in a remote farmhouse are interrupted by a stranger, who is taken prisoner by the husband and interrogated for reasons the stranger doesn’t readily understand. Their lives are irrevocably changed once the truth of their history is revealed.

Keep in Touch
Sunday March 13 at 2:15 PM
USA - 105 minutes
Director: Sam Kretchmar
Writer: Sam Kretchmar & Michael Covino
Producer: Michael Covino, Rachel Dengiz, Amelia Covino
Executive Producer: Gilda Moratti
Cast: Ryan Patrick Bachand, Gabbi McPhee, Michael Covino, Reggie Watts, Jill Eikenberry, Peter Friedman, Sarah Nealis, Adam David Thompson, James Colby, Frank Harts
www.keepintouchfilm.com
www.imdb.com/title/tt3344998

After a major crisis, a man attempts to track down his “first love,” only to discover she was killed many years ago in a car accident. Stumbling upon her younger sister online, he obsesses and begins a relationship without disclosing his true identity.
God Knows Where I Am
Wednesday March 9 at 6:15 PM
USA - 97 minutes
Producer/Director: Todd Wider & Jedd Wider
Cinematographer: Gerardo Puglia
Editor: Keiko Deguchi
Cast: Lori Singer
www.widerfilmprojects.com
www.imdb.com/title/tt5073020

During one of the coldest winters on record, Linda Bishop survived on apples and rain water for nearly four months, waiting for God to save her. As her story unfolds from different perspectives, including her own, we learn about our systemic failure to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

The Million Dollar Duck
Thursday March 10 at 6:15 PM
USA - 72 minutes
Director: Brian Golden Davis
Executive Producer: Mark Jonathan Harris
Editor: Derek Boonstra
Cinematographer: Christian Bruno
www.themilliondollarduckfilm.com
www.imdb.com/title/tt5372452

The Million Dollar Duck focuses on the strange and wonderful world of the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, the only juried art competition run by the U.S. government. This film explores the history and challenges facing this successful conservation program, while delving into the eccentric nature of six wildlife artists who battle to win the “Olympics of wildlife art.”

Llama Nation
Thursday March 10 at 8:25 PM
USA - 87 minutes
Director: Tanner Shinnick
Producer: Tanner Shinnick, John Meier, Aaron Allsop
www.llamanationfilm.com
www.imdb.com/title/tt4083500

Llama Nation explores the quirky and competitive subculture of llama breeding, training and showing in the U.S. The film follows multiple passionate llama owners each with their own unique story, including two 16 year-old girls as they compete in hopes to become the national llama showing champion.

Rwanda & Juliet
Friday March 11 at 5:45 PM
Rwanda/USA - 87 minutes
Producer/Director: Ben Proudfoot
Producer/Executive Producer: Andrea Batista
Cinematographer/Associate Producer: Doug Burgdorff
Cinematographer: David Bolen
Editor: Michael Fallavallita
http://www.rwandaandjuliet.com
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3970256

Rwanda & Juliet follows eccentric ivy league professor emeritus Andrew Garrod to Kigali, Rwanda, where he mounts Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet with Rwandan college students from both Hutu and Tutsi backgrounds.
Man vs. Snake: The Long and Twisted Tale of Nibbler
Saturday March 12 at 1:15 PM
USA/Canada/Japan/Italy - 91 minutes
Producer/Director/Editor: Andrew Seklir & Tim Kinzy
Cast: Tim McVey, Dwayne Richard, Enrico Zanetti, Walter Day, Billy Mitchell, Tina McVey
http://manvssnake.com
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2933794

Man vs. Snake is the story of the first person in history to score over one billion points on a video game. Inspired by rumors of a higher score, he embarks on an epic quest to regain his title by setting a new world record 25 years later.

When Voices Meet: One Divided Country; One United Choir; One Courageous Journey
Sunday March 13 at 11:45 AM
USA, South Africa - 86 minutes
Director: Nancy Sutton Smith
Executive Producer: Marilyn Cohen
http://www.whenvoicesmeet.com
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4517574/

When Nelson Mandela was finally released from prison, South African musician and music therapist Sharon Katz joined with singer/educator Nonhlanhla Wanda to bring together 500 courageous black and white youth to form a multiracial choir that would break through Apartheid’s barriers.

When Voices Meet documents the trials, tribulations and triumphs of those musician activists and young choir members.
## Short Program 1

### Minimum Wage
**USA – 15 minutes**  
**Director:** Joey Ally

Walking home from a rough night at work, Kit (Sarah Ramos), takes a chance when a stranger, Tim (Ian Harding), mistakes her identity.

### Mother’s Day
**USA – 7 minutes**  
**Director:** Jeff Tan

Tragedy forces Mary (Academy Award Winner Melissa Leo) and her son Jay (Gabriel Furman) to say goodbye forever.

### Unbelief
**USA – 13 minutes**  
**Director:** Fabien Martorell

It’s Christmas Eve. Kane is an assassin, on his way to do a job which means more to him than the usual killings he is paid to do. This time it’s personal...

### Promise Me
**USA – 8 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Kevin Machate  
**OFF’15 Writer’s Theatre Finalist**

A once flourishing woman, now at the end of her life, struggles to ensure that her recently reconciled son does not make the same mistakes she did.

### Partners
**USA – 7 minutes**  
**Director:** Joey Ally

When a slump in their sex life forces them to reconsider their relationship, Kate and Leigh confront how intertwined their lives have become.

### EXO
**USA – 7 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Ashley Eakin

A father and son reunite over dinner to discover things aren’t always what they seem.

### Purpose
**USA – 11 minutes**  
**Director:** Utkarsh Sharma

Set in the Peshawar School Massacre, a radical jihadist reflects on his purpose when he encounters the first child he killed.

### The Puppet Man
**USA – 9 minutes**  
**Director:** Jacqueline Castel

A supernatural killer stalks a young woman and her friends in a seedy, neon-lit, dive bar. Featuring Master of Horror John Carpenter.
Short Program 1

**Brix and the Bitch**

*USA - 10 minutes*
*Writer/Director: Nico Raineau*

Trapped in a seedy and illegal fight club, one woman’s only chance for escape is a gruesome brawl against the one person she refuses to harm.

**Killer**

*USA - 20 minutes*
*Writer/Director: Matt Kazman*

When Dusty masturbates for the first time, something bad happens.
Announcing the First Annual OFF Academy
Thursday and Friday, March 10 & 11
Omaha Funny Bone Comedy Club

With industry professionals from across the country the OFF Academy offers two days of sessions that will give students an inside look at screenwriting, acting, cinematography, lighting, animation, editing, directing, and producing and will include hands-on interactive workshops targeting students in the disciplines they’re most interested in.

In addition to the Academy, the students are all invited to participate in everything the Omaha Film Festival has to offer which includes the Writer’s Theatre, the Filmmakers Conference, and the over 100 films that will screen at the Village Pointe Theatre from March 8-13.

Made possible in part by grants provided by
Omaha Steaks
Ike & Roz Friedman Foundation
Linder Family Foundation
Holland Foundation

Hosted by
Omaha Funny Bone Comedy Club

Participating schools:
Bellevue West High School
Benson High School
Burke High School
Creighton Prep High School
Elkhorn High School
Elkhorn South High School
Jefferson County North High School - Kansas
Leavenworth High School - Kansas
Marian High School
Omaha South High School
Westside High School
Kearney Goes to War: Remembering the Homefront
USA – 24 minutes
Writer/Director: Jacob Rosdail
The Kearney Army Air Field was a large part of Nebraska’s contribution to the second World War. Today, the base is mostly forgotten, but a group of college students are using modern digital history methods to change that.

Cael
USA – 7 minutes
Writer/Director: Hannah Campin, Yves Genius, T.K Seng
Cael is the story of a talented young Omaha boy who lives with Down Syndrome. He a resilient and beautiful character; nothing can stop him.

Comedy Open Mic
USA – 25 minutes
Writer/Director: John Morgan
Comedian/Film Maker JC Morgan captures the Comedy Open Mic rituals of humiliation and triumphs while showcasing a uniquely colorful cast as they chase their dreams for laughter in the spotlight.

Handle With Care: Celebrating the Work of Harold Chenoweth
USA – 10 minutes
Writer/Director: Colleen Kenney
Harold Chenoweth was Nebraska’s first film producer and left behind unbelievable footage.

A Film About Loss
USA – 10 minutes
Writer/Director: Brendan McGinn
Shot and edited on an iPhone, A Film About Loss is an honest and raw look into the death of a father from the eyes of a youngest son.
Move Me
Canada – 20 minutes
Writer/Director: Gabe Crate
While hiking in a forest, a couple find an inexplicably immobile stranger with an antique plaque chained around his neck that reads “Human Contact Moves Me.”

Pant Suits
USA – 10 minutes
Writer/Director: Saralyn Armer
When a crappy day gets worse and Karen is pushed to the brink, she decides that things need to change. With her friends in tow, Karen risks her career for not only herself, but all the women in her office.

Blue Borsalino
U.K. – 17 minutes
Writer/Director: Mark Lobatto
Retired private investigator Ernie Child helps a former client suffering from amnesia piece together events of the night she was attacked.

The Last Words
USA – 19 minutes
Writer/Director: Keegan Mullin
David suffers the isolation of being the only deaf member of a hearing family. After coming into his own, David struggles with the decision to speak for the first time in order to say goodbye to his dying mother.

Finding China
USA – 14 minutes
Writer/Director: Alex Duong
An Asian cowboy confronts his identity issues with the help of his girlfriend.

Beyond the Blue
United Kingdom – 15 minutes
Writer/Director: Elena de Sala
Beyond the Blue is a reflection on the importance of childhood and the problem that these characters encounter in their lives. It is a story about the unbreakable bond between two people whose life has changed forever.

Hut Hut
USA – 9 minutes
Director: Michael Allmon, Courtney Sandifer
Mike, a pre-teen scruffy loner, meets his neighbor, Bubba, who interrupts his solitude with unexpected companionship and life lessons.

The Voice in the Head
U.K. – 12 minutes
Writer/Director: Cyrus Trafford
“If sanity and insanity exist, how shall we know them?”
- Psychologist David Rosenhan, Ph.D.
In Memory
USA – 15 minutes
Director: Robert Kirbyson
In a seemingly utopian future, an elderly couple must decide if it is their turn to make the ultimate sacrifice.

Miss Famous
USA – 15 minutes
Director: Shadae Lamar Smith
Monica, a self-confident maid with big dreams, wants it all: fame, romance and a happily-ever-after ending for herself and her young daughter. But is her powerful fantasy life enough to make her dreams come true?

Southern Justice
USA – 10 minutes
Writer/Director: Amber Rapp
OFF’15 Writer’s Theatre Finalist
Three sisters, two bodies, one mistake. Ami, Dallas and Austin struggle with the morality of a path set on seeking “Southern Justice.”

The Bespoke Tailoring of Mister Bellamy
USA – 17 minutes
Director: Alexander Jeffrey
At the integration of the job market in 1964 Louisiana, a posting for a janitorial position at a local law firm and the discovery of an old sewing machine ignites a buried passion in old Bellamy.

A Walk in Winter
USA – 14 minutes
Director: Ryan Moody
When Conrad returns to his hometown to identify his mother’s body, he is forced to confront the painful memories of his childhood.

This Modern Man is Beat
USA – 16 minutes
Director: Alex Merkin
In a world of cultural confusion and erroneous judgment, Habib bin Habib al Fulan sells his guitar and reconciles with his wife.

Woman Outside
USA – 21 minutes
Writer/Director: Shelly Lauman
An abused homeless woman encounters a lonely business woman and recognizes this stranger’s isolation as her own. She pursues this connection as a chance for her survival.
Reparations
USA – 15 minutes
Director: Alex Lamb
An ex-con seeks recompense by orchestrating a robbery against the drug dealing best friend who ruined his life.

Target Practice
USA – 13 minutes
Director: Dorian Carli-Jones
When a collision on a lonely road forces a dutiful young man to confront his life down the barrel of a BB gun, he must choose whether to obey his selfish mother and brother, or set his sights on a path of his own.

I’m F*#cking Happy
USA – 3 minutes
Writer/Director: Joe Vonnahme
A man tries to come to terms with the fact that, while content with life and his relationship to his girlfriend, he does not feel as fulfilled as he had always hoped he would be.

Midnight Kiss
USA – 7 minutes
Director: Aaron Gum
When married couple Mikaela and Johnathon are celebrating New Years, Johnathon gives his wife a beautiful necklace, while Mikaela has a bloody surprise for her husband.

Tachycardia
USA – 3 minutes
Writer/Director: Mike Machian
Thump, thump, thump.

T for Tyranny
USA – 7 minutes
Writer/Director: Hunter Parry, Brendan Doyle
In a dystopian United States where the greedy and corrupt dictator President T has been in power for 20 years, a group of rebels plan an attack on a wall under construction between Canada and the United States.

Our First Date
USA – 4 minutes
Writer/Director: Elijah Watson
Our First Date listens in on a conversation between two teens, on what is unknowingly their first date. The film then follows the conversation to the end while their future plays out in front of them.

Tattoo
USA – 8 minutes
Director: Kreg Gilson
OFF’15 Writer’s Theatre Finalist
When Seymour (John Beasley), declares his intentions of getting a tattoo to his wife Olivia (Camille Metoyer Moten), she is less than thrilled and ignites the banter between the older couple.
The Office Routine
USA – 5 minutes
Director: Natalia Hernandez

On a day where things should have been business as usual, two coworkers discover that there’s something amuck in the office. The resulting chaos is anything but routine.

The Boulevard
USA – 18 minutes
Created by: Trevor Nealy and Karl Yanike

In hopes of avoiding eviction, two slackers take on a third roommate in their one bedroom apartment.

Permanent
USA – 6 minutes
Writer/Director: Mattie McIntosh

Sticks and stones may break my bones and the words they say will hurt me.

Leaving Kansas
USA – 16 minutes
Director: David M. Weiss, Chuck Mittan
OFF’14 Writer’s Theatre Finalist

Seeking to ease the side effects of chemotherapy and return to her classroom, a high school teacher with cancer embarks on a road trip with a former student to buy medical marijuana.
Out of the Village

USA, Ghana – 17 minutes
Director: Jonathan Stein

An orphaned boy and his sister seek closure after Ebola ravages their West African village.

The Chicken

Germany, Croatia – 15 minutes
Writer/Director: Una Gunjak

As a present for her 6th birthday, Selma gets a live chicken. When she realizes the animal is going to be killed to feed the family, she decides to save it and set it free, unaware of the high stakes such an action will lead to.

Nowhereland

Spain – 6 minutes
Writer/Director: Guillermo Madurga

Nowhereland is the love story of a young couple who dream to escape from their hometown. It is a trip on their imagination where we travel to nature and we live the privacy that they share with each other. It is a story about being everywhere, and nowhere.

Taste of Life

Iraq – 7 minutes
Writer/Director: Medoo Ali

A grieving mother visits the site where her son was killed. There, she encounters the young boy's spirit. This brief encounter will finally put the boy's spirit to rest, allowing him to join the other victims in the afterlife.

Stay

United Kingdom – 21 minutes
Writer/Director: Ben Hyland

Julian is struggling to come to terms with the death of his wife. One day, whilst sitting in his Chesterfield chair looking out of his window, he sees a dog. Julian follows the dog and he is transported through memories from his life that spans all four seasons.

Runaway

U.K. – 8 minutes
Writer/Director: Tom Ruddock

George is suddenly thrust into a nightmare he can't escape. Now confronted with a difficult choice, and relentlessly involving his friend Henry, they both have to decide on what move they make next.

Disceptatio

Germany – 18 minutes
Writer/Director: Tobias Wolters, Tim Augurzke

A young captive is taken into hostile territory by four agents.

Iris

U.K. – 11 minutes
Writer/Director: Richard Karpala

A man uses his smart phone to assist in burying a dead body.
Borrowed Time
USA – 7 minutes
Director: Andrew Coats, Lou Hamou-Lhadj
A weathered Sheriff returns to the remains of an accident he has spent a lifetime trying to forget. With each step forward, the memories come flooding back. Faced with his mistake once again, he must find the strength to carry on.

Violet
Ireland – 8 minutes
Director: Maurice Joyce
Violet is the dark, cautionary tale of a young girl who despises her reflection.

Bendito Machine V
Spain – 12 minutes
Writer/Director: Jossie Malis
An exotic traveler comes from far away to discover the beauty of a supposedly unexplored territory. Instead, he finds himself in the middle of a turbulent conflict. Trapped against his will, he must wait patiently until the storm has passed.

Pombo Loves You
U.K. – 12 minutes
Director: Steve Warne
A distant father is forced to confront a heroic but troubled past life as a 1980's TV mascot, Pombo.

The Orchestra
Australia – 15 minutes
Director: Mikey Hill
In a word filled with beautiful harmonious music, Vernon always seems to strike the wrong note.

Chatarra (Junk)
Uruguay – 5 minutes
Writer/Director: Walter Tournier
Memories of life in an apocalyptic world.

Sleepy Steve
USA – 4 minutes
Writer/Director: Meghann Artes
A fuzzy bachelor has engineered his wacky morning routine with robotic precision.
Short Program 7

March 12, 2016 2:30PM
Animated, 100 minutes

The Lonliest Stoplight
USA – 6 minutes
Writer/Director: Bill Plympton
The life and times of a neglected stoplight.

Fulfilament
U.K.– 7 minutes
Director: Rhiannon Evans
Travel through the brain with a little, lost thought, and discover what it takes to make a great idea.

We Can’t Live Without Cosmos
Russia – 15 minutes
Writer/Director: Konstantin Bronzit
Two cosmonauts try to do their best in their everyday training life to make their common dream a reality. But this story is not only about the dream.

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Join The Club
USA – 5 minutes
Writer/Director: Eva Vives
A writer’s dilemma of whether or not to join a professional networking club takes many interesting turns as it unfolds entirely during one therapy session.

Fabrizio’s Initiation
Argentina – 17 minutes
Writer/Director: Mariano Biasin
Fabrizio and Nadia are experiencing the beginnings of adolescence and are ready to have their first time together, but they don’t have a place to be alone.

What If My Wife Died In Yoga Class?
USA – 17 minutes
Writer/Director: Jeffrey Williams
During a mundane laundry day, Randy lets his train of thought run out of control. Once he wonders that fateful “what if...” he becomes determined to find an answer.

Auto-Cowrecked
USA – 8 minutes
Director: Hannah Leder
A man’s cell phone auto-correct goes rogue and turns his life into a nightmare.

Natural Insemination
USA – 17 minutes
Writer/Director: Crosby Selander
Natural Insemination is a romantic farce about a happily married couple and the increasingly desperate measures they take to get pregnant.

Killer Friends
USA – 11 minutes
Director: Zach Noe Towers, Tina Carbone
Four friends go on a camping trip that one won’t be coming back from alive.

Madam Black
New Zealand – 11 minutes
Director: Ivan Barge
When a glamour photographer runs over a child’s pet, he’s forced to fabricate a story about its disappearance.

Twisted
Australia – 6 minutes
Director: Stuart Bowen
School reunions are strange for anyone, but especially our socially awkward hero. When the girl of his Middle School dreams makes her appearance known, he will stop at nothing to win her over.
How To Lose Weight In 4 Easy Steps
USA – 7 minutes
Director: Ben Berman

Losing weight and getting fit has never been easier! Shed those unwanted pounds with these simple tricks your gym doesn’t want you to know about. You won’t believe what happens next!
The Adventures of Vanman and Truckboy
USA – 20 minutes
Director: Sam Senser
The dynamic duo faces their greatest challenge as they try to bring justice to the small town of Louisville, Nebraska.

In The Dark
USA – 10 minutes
Director: James Ficenec
A widower confronts his fear of uncertainty while awaiting an unknown assassin.

The Inselberg Effect
USA – 25 minutes
Director: Tony Bonacci
Darren, a hardworking, dedicated husband, finds his life in turmoil after his wife leaves him. After attacking his boss, Darren is forced to take anger management classes where he runs into the famous author, Garrett LaRue.

The Offer
USA – 2 minutes
Writer/Director: Daniel Grzeskowiak
An assassin makes an offer to her target that he can’t refuse.

Second Words
USA – 11 minutes
Director: Jake Hull
As an elderly farmer tries to cook his late wife’s meatloaf recipe, a strange woman threatens to upend his memories of the recently departed.

Run
USA – 8 minutes
Writer/Director: Jonathan Kimbrell
Donnie tells Jack about government agents chasing down a plain envelope.

Faces And Stones
USA – 13 minutes
Writer/Director: Brent Scott Maze
A young photographer and drug dealer discover that a missing person is being held captive by an anonymous client, but due to their reputation, not a single soul will believe them.

Lucky Stiff
USA – 14 minutes
Writer/Director: Scott Kurz
When Jimmy thinks his best friend is keeping a secret, he’ll go to any length to prove he knows what it is, unwittingly setting in motion a chain of events that will challenge their relationship in ways that neither of them anticipated.
**Where We Stand**
USA – 20 minutes  
Writer/Director: Kristine Stolakis

An unlikely group of Mormon feminists fight for ordination in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Stay-at-home mom Abby Hansen navigates the repercussions of her unpopular activism against her church in her predominantly Mormon suburb.

**Together We’re Stronger**
USA – 32 minutes  
Director: Chris Blunk

Two groups of Kansas City high school students, separated by fifty years, learn they have much in common. More than a sports documentary, *Together We’re Stronger* deftly links old school basketball with new school education.

**The House is Innocent**
USA – 13 minutes  
Writer/Director: Nicholas Coles

Meet Tom and Barbara, the proud new owners of a serial killer’s house. The middle-age couple soon realizes it’s going to take more than a fresh coat of paint to whitewash their home’s macabre history.

**The Send-Off**
USA – 12 minutes  
Director: Ivete Lucas, Patrick Bresnan

Emboldened by a giant block party on the evening of their high school prom, a group of students enter the night with the hope of transcending their rural town and the industrial landscape that surrounds them.

**The Simple Gift of Walnut Grove**
USA – 13 minutes  
Writer/Director: John Richard

96-year-old Walter Hansen recounts the dynamics of a father/son relationship forged under the harsh conditions of an early Midwestern settlement.
Conference Schedule

Saturday, March 12, 2016

9:30am – 10:45am – Filmmaker Panel
Attending (non-Nebraska) filmmaker’s Q&A panel moderated by Cheril Lee

11:00am – 12:00pm – Tell Your Story
A conversation with Phil Hay moderated by Cheril Lee

12:30pm – 1:30pm – Producers Panel
With Phil Hay, Dan Petrie, Jr., and Tim Christian moderated by Cheril Lee

1:45pm – 2:45pm – Write On!
A discussion with Lew Hunter moderated by Cheril Lee

Sunday, March 13, 2016

10:00am – 11:00am – OFF’16 Nebraska Spotlight Filmmaker Q&A
A discussion with the OFF’16 Nebraska Spotlight filmmakers

11:15am – 12:15am – Tell Your Story
A conversation with Dan Petrie, Jr. moderated by Cheril Lee

12:30pm – 1:45pm – Editing
A discussion with Tom Elkins and Mike Hill

Panelists:

Phil Hay - writer - “Ride Along,” “Ride Along 2,” “The Invitation,” “R.I.P.D.,” “Crazy/Beautiful”

Dan Petrie, Jr. - writer - “Beverly Hills Cop,” “Toy Soldiers,” “Tuner & Hooch,” “Combat Hospital”


Mike Hill, A.C.E. - editor – “A Beautiful Mind,” “Apollo 13,” “Rush,” “The Davinci Code,” “In the Heart of the Sea”

Lew Hunter - writer - Screenwriting 434, chairman Emeritus and Professor of Screenwriting at the UCLA Department of Film and Television.

Tim Christian - executive producer – “Z for Zachariah,” “Headlock”
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