AT THE MOVIES: AN AMERICAN PASTIME

My first real memory of the movies was made in the summer of 1977, in the back seat of my father’s car at the local drive-in theatre. I had just turned 3 years old, and at the time I was an only child (my brother and sister would come along later). It was my first time seeing a movie on the big screen, and in so many ways it was the perfect movie to introduce me to the world of cinema. That move was Star Wars: A New Hope. It dazzled me, thrilled me, scared me – I couldn’t take my eyes off the screen. I was hooked. Transported. Completely in awe at the majesty of film. I wanted to be Luke Skywalker, and I was. Every time I played Star Wars with my friends, I had to be Luke. It was the first of many movies that would spur my imagination, both as a child and as an adult. I can only recall that particular evening in small glimpses now – Princess Lea being captured by Darth Vader, the metal speaker hanging from the driver’s side window of our car, my dad watching the film intently (I think it’s still one of his favorites, too), and my mom in the front passenger seat, smiling back at me; what I remember the most is the way that the whole experience made me feel, and I relish the joy from that night that floods back to me when I take the time to reminisce. Even as I write this, my heart swells and my eyes get misty. Movies have been a large part of my life since that first magical night. Ghostbusters. Batman (Tim Burton’s). Lethal Weapon. Reservoir Dogs. I saw these all in the theatre and I left with that same sense of enchantment that Star Wars had brought to me. And then, most recently, La La Land - which won my heart and made my skin prickle and took me back to that night in my parent’s car, reminding me that movies can be sheer magic.

Most of my friendships are tied to the movies. I remember watching Lethal Weapon with one of my best friends (and then watching Lethal Weapon 2, and 3 and 4…), and to this day we still tell each other “I’m getting too old for this shit.” We use movie quotes in our everyday conversations, and crack each other up with the lines we remember
the most from the movies we’ve watched together. “It’s merely a flesh wound.” “I am serious. And don’t call me Shirley.” “Oh Captain, My Captain.” “Yippee Ki-yay Mother.....”

As I was growing up, movies shaped who I wanted to be. I took my love of pretending to be Luke Skywalker and turned it into a love of becoming someone else through acting. I became an avid writer, scribbling stories down on lined paper when I was a child, then graduating to the typewriter (remember typewriters?), then using my dad’s computer to write plays when I was a teen, and finally teaching myself how to write a screenplay when I was in college.

When I first moved to Omaha, I got to know one of my new roommates through a mutual love of the movies, and we became fast friends. The first complete screenplay that I ever wrote was with this friend, we spent many late nights into early mornings writing and laughing and doing something exciting that we’d never done before because movies had brought us together.

Once I understood the dynamics of how a screenplay worked, I began to take a longer look behind the curtain, learning how movies are made and dissecting all the various parts of movie making. In doing so, I initially began to feel that magic drift away; I would go to the movies and see something magnificent on screen and think to myself “I know how they did that.” It wasn’t until a half-crazy friend of mine made a half-crazy suggestion about putting together a film festival in Omaha that I started feeling that old-time magic again through independent cinema, in movies that break boundaries and are unconventional and terrifying and often braver than your normal popcorn fare.

Movies have also been associated with tragedy in my life. The death of Robin Williams – or more specifically, the manner in which he died – was painful and devastating for me. More personally, in 2012 I became close friends with a talented producer who brought a beautiful feature film to our festival and screened it in Omaha for its world premiere. On December 14 of that year, he died in a car accident. That same day, a young man armed himself with guns and walked into a school in
Newtown, Connecticut. As I wept for my friend that day, I also wept for the young lives that were lost and for the families whose lives were forever changed. Days like that will make you question your own mortality, and even question whether or not we deserve to still exist as a society.

And then, in 2015, our festival showed a documentary about an entire city that came together to give a young boy with cancer one of the most remarkable days of his life – to let him become Batman for a day...or rather, BatKid. And once again, I was reminded about the power of film, and about why I fell in love with movies in the first place, and that there is always more good in the world than bad.

It’s easy to get lost in the deluge of breaking news and social media, especially when it seems that there is so much awful stuff going on all the time. You see a post on Facebook or Twitter and suddenly you are tumbling down the rabbit hole.

But that is why I think that movies are so important to me. We all need to escape sometimes, whether it’s from the news or politics or just a little break from the norm. We all need to connect with each other in human ways, not just with our thumbs. Going to the movies can help us do that. Movies are designed to help us unite with one another; they are best watched in the company of family and friends, in a theatre where other people are laughing or crying alongside you while you share a buttered popcorn and an ice cold soda with the person next to you.

As you are enjoying the festival this year, I hope you will take the time to harken back to your first experience at the movies. I hope that we can help you recapture a little bit of that first time magic.

“Carpe diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary.”

Jason Levering
Executive Director, Omaha Film Festival
### SCHEDULE

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 6
- 6:30 Opening Night Film – *Borg vs McEnroe*
- 8:00 Opening Night Party – *Cheeseburger in Paradise, 17304 Davenport*

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7
- 6:00 At the Drive-In *
- 6:15 Shorts 1
  - Trash *
  - Emergency
  - Guests Always Return
  - The Turk Shop
  - Cup of Tea
  - Lockdown
  - Last Meal
  - Blue Christmas
- 6:30 *Journey’s End*
- 8:15 Mobile Homes
- 8:40 Shorts 2
  - La Sirena
  - Sac de Merde *
  - It Began Without Warning
  - The Son, the Father... *
  - The Telemarketer *
  - End of the Line
  - Home Shopper
- 8:45 Funny Story
- 10:00 *Wednesday Night Party – Tavern 180, 203 North 180th Street*

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 8
- 5:45 Shorts 3
  - The Lightkeeper *
  - The Sound
  - Professional Cuddler
  - The Happiness Machine *
  - Washed Away *
  - Serenity
- 6:00 *Stumped* *

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 9
- 5:45 Shorts 5
  - Alzhaimour
  - Maude
  - An Aria for Albrights *
  - Zion
  - Stealing Silver
  - What Lives Under the Bed
  - The Final Show *
- 6:00 Rodents of Unusual Size *
- 6:10 *The Independents* *
- 8:15 Pick of the Litter *
- 8:30 Shorts 6 – Nebraska Shorts
  - I’m Just Saying... *
  - Whitney Young, To Become Great... *
  - Left Field *
  - As Thick As Thieves *
  - Verge *
  - The First Day of School *
  - Tunnels Above Ground *
  - Cross-Stitch *
  - Dakota *

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*indicates filmmaker scheduled to attend

special screenings shown in bold

everything subject to change – refer to omahafilmfestival.org for actual times
The Endless
Ring the Bell Party – Julio’s West, 2820 South 123rd Court

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

11:15 Muth Williams: The Artist in the Basement *
11:30 Shorts 7
- The Undertaker’s Son
- Thursday Night
- Ruthless
- Mi Miedo (My Fear) *
- Game *
- Suits Don’t Matter
- Justice Served *
- Wink *
- Rabbit Punch *

1:00 Meerkat Maantuig (Meerkat Moonship)
2:15 Shorts 8
- Don’t be a Hero
- So Much Yellow
- Two Strangers Who Meet Five Times
- From Scratch
- My Dead Dad’s Porno Tapes
- The Transfer
- Madre (Mother)

3:30 Bernard & Huey *
3:45 Chasing the Blues *

5:00 One Vote *
6:00 I Hate the Man In My Basement *
6:15 Dark Money *

7:45 Shorts 9 – Nebraska Shorts
- Helping Others: The Scatter Joy Acres Story*
- The Pure Product of Omaha*
- Trading Faces*
- The Legend of Wolfe Canyon*
- Certainty*
- Mildred D. Brown, a Life and a Legacy*
- Kap*
- Until Now*
- The Headliner*
- Sally*
- Now or Forever*

8:30 Adventures in Public School
8:45 The Guilty
10:00 Saturday Night Party – Dante, 16901 Wright Plaza, #173

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

11:25 Mary Goes Round
11:30 Shorts 10 – Animated
- Weeds
- Vows
- The Snowman’s Hat
- I Mostri non Esistono (Monsters Don’t Exist)
- First Bloom
- The Orange Crayon *
- The Pirate Cruncher
- Hedgehog’s Home
- Sunny and Gerd in Spring Cleaning
- Mars Love
- Midnight Runway
- Cradle
- E-delivery
- Catherine
- Two Balloons

1:45 The Drawer Boy *
1:50 Home Truth
4:00 Awards Ceremony
5:30 Closing Night Film - Beirut
7:30 Closing Night Party — Brickway Brewery, 1116 Jackson Street

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OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL
WRITER’S THEATRE

SUNDAY, MARCH 11
NOON | THEATRE 12

Directed by
JASON LEVERING
DAVID M. WEISS
AARON SAILORS
CHRISTINA ROHLING

Cast
STEPHANIE FINKLEA  ANDREA ERICKSON  TIM CICH  BRUCE BRIGGS
JEREMY PETTIGREW  TIM BARR  KARRIE BAUMAN  JACKSON TATUM
CHRISTINA ROHLING  KARL ROHLING  JEFF LUBY  ZAC TRIEMERT
AMBER BAMBLER KELLER  SHERRINE FOSSLER  EDDIE FOSSLER
JUSTIN MILANI  CRYSTAL MILANI  CRAIG HOFFMAN  KEN GRAY
CHRISTOPHER LEVERING  KIERA LEVERIN  CASSIDY TOWEY
DAPHNE FOSSLER  COLETON PLEISS  NEVAYA GEIGER
MALIK FORTNER  JEREMY KENDALL  LINDA HUGHES
SCREENPLAY/TELEPLAY FINALISTS

FEATURES

**American Mule** by Ian Ortiz (Dir. by David M. Weiss)
A suspicious trucker finds himself caught in a drug war after saving a mother and her child, just miles from the border of Mexico.

**Sam’s War** by Stephen Settle (Dir. by Aaron Sailors)
Two young men, best of friends. One fights for their country, while the other must fight with each breath for his life.

**The Road to Mantanzas** by Chris Helton (Dir. by Jason Levering)
A woman veteran suffering from PTSD struggles to adjust to her new life while fighting off the ghosts from her past.

**Alice in War** by Steven Bogart (Dir. by Aaron Sailors)
When young Alice follows her sister into the desert to save an Angel shot down by the military, she must confront the mysteries of the desert born of grief and war.

SHORTS

**Mad Rush** by Christine Burright McGuigan (Dir. by David M. Weiss)
Bridesmaid Hannah has to catch a flight for her best friend’s wedding. But first, she has to get to the airport.

**Monkeys** by Matthew Strasburger (Dir. by Christina Rohling)
A father and son begin their days.

**Memories for Sale** by Doug Sasse (Dir. by Jason Levering)
A desperate husband must permanently sell treasured memories to a shadowy tech firm to afford a life-saving operation for his wife.

**Honor** by Ed Vela (Dir. by Christina Rohling)
A young teen grapples with his feelings about an incident that took the life of his younger brother.

TELEPLAYS

**Hell Hound** by Giancarlo Fusi (Dir. by Jason Levering)
Following the death of his wife and baby during childbirth, a sharecropper’s burning desire to be a famous Bluesman leads him to sell his soul to Satan at a Mississippi crossroads to become the greatest guitarist of all time. But his Faustian pact unleashes a pair of vicious and rabid hellhounds that will doggedly pursue him for the rest of his days.

**End of Life** by Sean Collins-Smith (Dir. by David M. Weiss)
A hitman who stages murders for suicidal people reconnects with his daughter, which sets in motion a new direction for both of their lives.

**Buffalo Nation** by Alexander Major (Dir. by Jason Levering)
Based on the life of legendary warrior Crazy Horse, Buffalo Nation is a serialized drama depicting politics, power, sex, and violence in the American West in a manner never before undertaken in film or television – uniquely Indian.

**f7/f2** by Ana Loes (Dir. by Aaron Sailors)
A Spec Script for the Netflix original series "Stranger Things”. Upon the first day of school, Mike Wheeler, Dustin Henderson, Lucas Sinclair and Will Byers are thrust once again with the world of The Upside-Down, with the hopes of finding their long, lost friend Eleven.
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SPECIAL SCREENINGS
Opening Night Film 

Tuesday, March 6th at 6:30pm

Borg vs McEnroe

(Biography / Drama)

Sweden - 107 minutes
Rated R
Director: Janus Metz
Writer: Ronnie Sandahl
Cast: Sverrir Gudnason, Shia LaBeouf, Stellan Skarsgård

borgvsmcenroefilm.com

It's the summer of 1980 and Björn Borg (Sverrir Gudnason) is the top tennis player in the world, dominating the sport both on and off the court. A powerful and rigorously disciplined player, there is only one obstacle in his pursuit of a record-breaking fifth Wimbledon championship: the highly talented but ferociously abrasive young American, John McEnroe (a perfectly cast Shia LaBeouf).

With three days until the tournament begins, Borg trains religiously in his lavish Monaco home, aided by his coach and mentor Lennart (Stellan Skarsgård) and girlfriend Mariana (Tuva Novotny). But McEnroe's explosive confidence and wrecking-ball persona continue to infiltrate Borg's ice-cool and normally unshakable temperament. With each man the antithesis of the other, both players delve into their formative memories as the climactic tournament draws near and anticipation reaches fever pitch.

Visceral and breathlessly tense, the match itself - regarded as one of the greatest of all time - would mark the pinnacle of the 'Fire and Ice' rivalry between Borg and McEnroe; an exhilarating battle of personalities that set the world of tennis alight.

Special Screenings

SPECIAL SCREENING

Wednesday, March 7th at 6:30pm

Journey’s End

(Drama / War)

UK - 107 minutes
Rated R
Director: Saul Dibb
Writer: Simon Reade
Producer: Guy de Beaujeu and Simon Reade
Cast: Paul Bettany, Sam Claflin, Asa Butterfield

journeysendmovie.co.uk

March, 1918. C-company arrives to take its turn in the front-line trenches in northern France led by the war-weary Captain Stanhope (Sam Claflin). A German offensive is imminent, and the officers (Paul Bettany, Stephen Graham, Tom Sturridge) and their cook (Toby Jones) distract themselves in their dugout with talk of food and their past lives. Stanhope, meanwhile, soaks his fear in whisky, unable to deal with his dread of the inevitable. A young new officer, Raleigh (Asa Butterfield), has just arrived, fresh out of training and abuzz with the excitement of his first real posting – not least because he is to serve under Stanhope, his former school house monitor and the object of his sister’s affections. Each man is trapped, the days ticking by, the tension rising and the attack drawing ever closer...
SPECIAL SCREENING

Friday, March 9th at 8:40pm

The Endless
(Mystery, Thriller, Sci-Fi, Horror)

USA - 112 minutes
Director: Justin Benson and Aaron Moorhead
Writer: Justin Benson
Cast: Justin Benson, Aaron Moorhead, Callie Hernandez, Emily Montague, Lew Temple, Tate Ellington, James Jordan
theendless-movie.com

Following their Lovecraftian modern cult classic SPRING, acclaimed filmmakers Moorhead and Benson return with this mind-bending thriller that follows two brothers who receive a cryptic video message inspiring them to revisit the UFO death cult they escaped a decade earlier. Hoping to find the closure that they couldn’t as young men, they’re forced to reconsider the cult’s beliefs when confronted with unexplainable phenomena surrounding the camp. As the members prepare for the coming of a mysterious event, the brothers race to unravel the seemingly impossible truth before their lives become permanently entangled with the cult.

Two brothers return to the cult they fled from years ago to discover that the group’s beliefs may be more sane than they once thought.

SPECIAL SCREENING

Saturday, March 10th at 8:45pm

The Guilty
(Thriller)

Denmark - 85 minutes
Director: Gustav Möller
Writer: Emil Nygaard Albertsen, Gustav Möller
Cast: Jakob Cedergren, Jessica Dinnage, Omar Shargawi
imdb.com/title/tt6742252

Alarm dispatcher and former police officer, Asger Holm, answers an emergency call from a kidnapped woman. When the call is suddenly disconnected, the search for the woman and her kidnapper begins. With the phone as his only tool, Asger enters a race against time to save the endangered woman. But soon he realizes that he is dealing with a crime that is far bigger than he first thought.

Continued on next page
CLOSING NIGHT FILM

Sunday, March 11th at 5:30pm

Beirut
(Drama / Thriller)

USA - 109 minutes
Rated R
Director: Brad Anderson
Writer: Tony Gilroy
Cast: Rosamund Pike, Jon Hamm, Dean Norris

bleeckerstreetmedia.com/beirut

A U.S. diplomat (Jon Hamm) flees Lebanon in 1972 after a tragic incident at his home. Ten years later, he is called back to war-torn Beirut by a CIA operative (Rosamund Pike) to negotiate for the life of a friend he left behind.
Mobile Homes  
(drama)  
Wednesday, March 7th at 8:15pm  
Canada/France - 105 minutes  
Co-presented by the Consulate General of Canada  
Writer/Director: Vladimir de Fontenay  
Producer: Frédéric de Goldschmidt, Eric Dupont, Mike MacMillan  
Cast: Imogen Poots, Callum Turner, Callum Keith Rennie  
mobilehomesfilm.com  
In forgotten towns along the American border, a young mother drifts from one motel to the next with her intoxicating boyfriend and her 8-year-old son. The makeshift family scrapes by, living one hustle at a time, until the discovery of a mobile homes community offers an alternative life.

Funny Story  
(comedy / drama)  
Wednesday, March 7th at 8:45pm  
USA - 85 minutes  
Director: Michael Gallagher  
Writer: Michael Gallagher, Steve Greene  
Producer: Jana Winternitz, Michael Wormser, Michael Gallagher  
Cast: Matthew Glave, Emily Bett Rickards, Jana Winternitz, Nikki Limo, Lily Holleman, Pete Gardner, Reginald VelJohnson  
funnystorymovie.com  
A tragic comedy about a well-intentioned father who inadvertently wreaks havoc on the life of his estranged daughter.
Tater Tot & Patton  
(drama)  
Thursday, March 8th at 6:05pm  

USA - 91 minutes  
Writer/Director: Andrew Kightlinger  
Producer: Adam Emerson, Dohui Kim  
Cast: Jessica Rothe, Bates Wilder, Forrest Weber  
tatertotpatton.com  

From the producer of “Napoleon Dynamite” comes this intimate drama about a wayward millennial escaping to her Uncle’s remote South Dakota ranch, unhinging his placid boozer existence and dredging up unspoken truths. Shot on location in South Dakota’s natural light, “Tater Tot & Patton” is a true blue independent narrative production. It also stars a cute dog named Little Bastard!

My Name is Myeisha  
(drama)  
Thursday, March 8th at 8:10pm  

USA - 82 minutes  
Director: Gus Krieger  
Writer: Rickerby Hinds, Gus Krieger  
Cast: Rhaechyl Walker, John Merchant, Dominique Toney, Dee Dee Stephens, Alexander Brown-Hinds, with Yvette Cason and Gregg Daniel  
mynameismyeisha.com  

Teenage Myeisha Jackson crosses over into a hip-hop-musical dreamscape at the moment of her tragic death and contemplates her life; what it was and what it could have been.
Never Steady, Never Still
(drama)

Thursday, March 8th at 8:20pm

Canada - 111 minutes
Co-presented by the Consulate General of Canada
Writer/Director: Kathleen Hepburn
Producer: James Brown, Tyler Hagan
Cast: Shirley Henderson, Theodore Pellerin, Mary Galloway, Nicholas Campbell
neversteadyfilm.com

NEVER STEADY, NEVER STILL, the feature film debut of Kathleen Hepburn, is a tender and heartbreaking story of a physically disabled mother and discontent son - each alienated from their world and struggling to manage in the face of grief, guilt, and chronic disease.

The Independents
(drama)

Friday, March 9th at 6:10pm

USA - 97 minutes
Writer/Director: Greg Naughton
Producer: Greg Naughton, Dorottya Mathe, Jonathan Burkhart p.g.a
Cast: Rich Price, Greg Naughton, Brian Chartrand, Richard Kind, Boyd Gaines, James Naughton, Kelli O’Hara, Chris Sullivan, George Wendt
theindependentsfilm.com

THE INDEPENDENTS is musical comedy and drama about three struggling solo-artists who collide at the same “crossroads” and discover harmony. Thus is born “RGB” (at least until they come up with a better band name) and what follows is their roller-coaster-ride journey across America for one last high-stakes shot at musical glory.
Meerkat Maantuig (Meerkat Moonship)  
(drama / fantasy)  
Saturday, March 10th at 1:00pm

South Africa - 96 minutes  
Writer/Director: Hanneke Schutte  
Producer: Andre Scholtz, Dries Scholtz  
Cast: Anchen du Plessis, Themba Ntuli, Hanle Barnard, Pierre van Pletzen, Rika Sennett, Drikus Volschenk, Doctor Khasu-Nkatlo  
thefilmfactory.co.za/meerkat-maantuig-en

Timid, wildly imaginative 13-year-old Gideonette de La Rey learns that the name she was given comes with it a horrible curse. After her father dies, Gideonette is paralyzed by fear and is sent to live on a farm with her grandparents where she befriends a young deaf boy who is “training” to become an astronaut and preparing to fly away in a Moonship that Gideonette’s grandfather had built.

Bernard & Huey  
(comedy)  
Saturday, March 10th at 3:30pm

USA - 89 minutes  
Director: Dan Mirvish  
Writer: Jules Feiffer  
Producer: Mike Ryan, Dana Altman  
Cast: David Koechner, Jim Rash, Sasha Alexander, Eka Darville, Richard Kind, Lauren Miller Rogen, Nancy Travis, Bellamy Young, Mae Whitman  
bernardandhueymovie.com

Based on a screenplay by legendary Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jules Feiffer, Bernard and Huey is a comedy about two old friends who reconnect after 30 years apart, and the women who complicate their lives.
FEATURE FILMS

Chasing the Blues
(comedy)

Saturday, March 10th at 3:45pm

USA - 77 minutes
Director: Scott Smith
Writer: Scott Smith, Kevin Guilfoile
Producer: John Fromstein, Jacqueline “JJ” Ingram, DeAnna Cooper
Cast: Jon Lovitz, Steve Guttenberg, Grant Rosenmeyer, Anna Maria Horseford, Ronald L Conner, Chelsea Tavares, Clem Cheung
chasingtheblues.com

Two rival record collectors attempt to con an old lady out of a rare but cursed 1930s blues record. When a series of unfortunate circumstances lands them in jail, the feud festers for over 20 years until they are released from prison and get a second chance at snagging the vinyl – this time from a more formidable foe.

I Hate The Man In My Basement
(drama)

Saturday, March 10th at 6:00pm

USA - 103 minutes
Writer/Director: Dustin Cook
Producer: Dustin Cook, Drew Allen
Cast: Chris Marquette, Nora-Jane Noone, Manny Montana
spartafox.com/ihtmimb

A man is in grief after the murder of his wife. When he’s coerced by an obnoxious co-worker to join him for some salsa lessons, he develops an unexpected crush on his instructor. Unfortunately for him, it’s hard to move on with a budding romance when you have your wife’s killer chained up in the basement.
**Mary Goes Round**  
(drama)  
Sunday, March 11th at 11:25am

**Canada - 84 minutes**  
Co-presented by the Consulate General of Canada  
Writer/Director: Molly McGlynn  
Producer: Matt Code  
Cast: Aya Cash, Sara Waisglass, John Ralston, Melanie Nicholls-King  
imdb.com/title/tt5814530

Mary is a substance abuse counsellor with a drinking problem. After getting arrested for drunk driving and losing her job, Mary returns to her hometown where she is forced to come to terms with her estranged father and form a bond with her teenage half-sister whom she’s never met.

**Adventures in Public School**  
(comedy)  
Saturday, March 10th at 8:30pm

**Canada - 86 minutes**  
Co-presented by the Consulate General of Canada  
Director: Kyle Rideout  
Writer: Josh Epstein, Kyle Rideout  
Producer: Josh Epstein  
Cast: Judy Greer, Daniel Doheny, Russell Peters, Grace Park, Andrew McNee, Siobhan Williams, Alex Barima, Andrea Bang, Josh Epstein  
imdb.com/title/tt3364264

A socially awkward home-schooled kid forces his way into public-school against his suffocating but loving mother’s wishes. who complicate their lives.
Canada, Mexico - 98 minutes
Co-presented by the Consulate General of Canada
Director: Arturo Perez Torres, Aviva Armour-Ostroff
Writer: Arturo Perez Torres
Producer: Arturo Perez Torres and Aviva Armour-Ostroff
Cast: Stuart Hughes, Richard Clarkin, Jakob Ehman, Courtney Ch’ng Lancaster, Sochi Fried, Claire Burns, Heidi Lynch, Brendan McMurtry-Howlett, Paul Thompson
thefdrerboy.com

The Drawer Boy
(drama)

Sunday, March 11th at 1:45pm

Ontario - 1972. Miles, a young theatre actor from Toronto, arrives in Huron County at the home of Angus and Morgan, two aging bachelor farmers. Miles stays with the two farmers in order to gather stories about rural life and make a play about it. All three of their lives are irrevocably altered when art attempts to imitate life and the line between truth and fiction is crossed.

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SCREENPLAY.COM

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At the Drive-in

Wednesday, March 7th at 6:00pm

USA - 80 minutes
Director: Alexander Monelli
atthedriveinfilm.com

Unable to purchase a $50,000 digital projector, a group of quirky film fanatics in rural Pennsylvania fight to keep a dying drive-in theater alive by screening only vintage 35mm film prints and working entirely for free.

Stumped

Thursday, March 8th at 6:00pm

USA - 72 minutes
In presentation with community partner Nebraska Organ Recovery
Director: Robin Berghaus
Producer: Robin Berghaus, Bryan W. Davies, Sam Kauffmann, Kevin McCarthy
stumpedthemovie.com

When filmmaker Will Lautzenheiser’s limbs are amputated, his life is derailed and he turns to stand-up comedy as a therapeutic and creative outlet. Meanwhile, a world-famous medical team is performing transplants that restore bodies to unprecedented levels. Despite grave risks, Will agrees to undergo an experimental double-arm transplant in the hope of reclaiming his independence.
Rodents of Unusual Size
Friday, March 9th at 6:00pm

USA - 71 minutes
Directed and Produced by: Quinn Costello, Chris Metzler & Jeff Springer
Narrated by Wendell Pierce
rodentsofunusualsize.tv

Hard headed Louisiana fisherman Thomas Gonzales doesn’t know what will hit him next. After decades of hurricanes and oil spills he faces a new threat - hordes of monstrous 20 pound swamp rats. Known as “nutria”, these invasive South American rodents breed faster than the roving squads of hunters can control them. And with their orange teeth and voracious appetite they are eating up the coastal wetlands that protects Thomas’ town of Delacroix Island from hurricanes. But the people who have lived here for generations are not the type of folks who will give up without a fight. Thomas and a pack of lively bounty hunters are hellbent on saving Louisiana before it dissolves beneath their feet. It is man vs. rodent. May the best mammal win.

Pick of the Litter
Friday, March 9th at 8:15pm

USA - 80 minutes
Producer/Director: Dana Nachman, Don Hardy
movingtrain.org/pick-of-the-litter

Pick of the Litter follows a litter of puppies from birth through the day they make it to become a Guide Dog and into the hands of a blind person, or get cut from the program. The audience comes along on the two-year odyssey as the five dogs train to become guide dogs. Only the best dog will make the cut.
Documentary Films

**One Vote**

Saturday, March 10th at 5:00pm

**USA - 78 minutes**
Director: Christine Woodhouse
Story Research by: Eric Benninghoff
Onevote.us

One Vote captures the compelling stories of diverse American voters on Election Day 2016: the charismatic owner of the last tavern polling place in the US, an Alaskan family that travels by dogsled to reach the polls, an iconic American investor who devotes his Election Day to transporting voters in Omaha needing a ride, a gospel-singing physician who heals and empowers disenfranchised citizens in rural South Carolina, and a former felon, casting an emotional vote in Kentucky for the first time since his right to vote was restored.

At a moment of unprecedented cynicism about the political process, One Vote bears hopeful witness to the humanity and rich diversity of American voters, and to the unsung stories that comprise our exercise of democracy.

**Muth Williams:**

The Artist in the Basement

**NEBRASKA SPOTLIGHT FILM**

Saturday, March 10th @ 11:15am

**USA - 41 minutes**
Producer/Director: John Spence

Muth Williams was an artist. Period. He was born with great artistic talent which he used prolifically. Muth Williams was also reclusive. Exhibiting the art that he made was not a priority. He worked for much of his adult life in the basement of his parent’s house. Only after his death at age 54 was anyone able to see the body of work those years produced.

**Soaring Wings**

**Vineyard & Brewing**

26 The 13th Annual Omaha Film Festival
Home Truth
Sunday, March 11th at 1:45pm

USA - 72 minutes
Producer/Director: April Hayes, Katia Maguire
hometruthfilm.com

In 1999, Jessica Gonzales’ estranged husband abducted their three daughters in violation of a domestic violence restraining order. Jessica’s repeated calls and visits to the police that night went unheeded. Nearly twelve hours after she first called the police, Jessica’s estranged husband arrived at the police station and opened fire, and he was immediately shot and killed by the police. The bodies of the three girls were found in his bullet-ridden truck. Jessica’s quest for answers and justice led her on a 10 year journey through the American legal system and beyond, and have turned her into an outspoken and charismatic advocate for women and children everywhere. Home Truth is a feature-length documentary that follows the story of one woman, who in the wake of unspeakable tragedy and hardship embarks upon a journey to reclaim her voice and discover her own power to heal herself and others.

Dark Money
Saturday, March 10th at 6:15pm

USA - 98 minutes
Director/Producer: Kimberly Reed
Writer: Kimberly Reed, Jay Sterrenberg
Producer: Kimberly Reed, Katy Chevigny
darkmoneyfilm.com

A century ago, corrupt money swamped Montana’s legislature, but Montanans rose up to prohibit corporate campaign contributions. Today, in the wake of the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision — which allows unlimited, anonymous money to pour into elections nationwide — Montana is once again fighting to preserve open and honest elections. Following an investigative reporter through a political thriller, DARK MONEY exposes one of the greatest threats to American democracy.
125TH & CENTER

"Skip the popcorn...have a margarita!"

Home of the Omaha Film Festival’s “Ring the Bell” Party for 12 years running

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The Glidecam Ultra-Shot is the ultimate, transformational, camera accessory that effectively provides many of the most popular production tools needed by independent, reality and documentary, run-n-gun, videographers in an all-in-one tool.

Designed for cameras weighing up to 20 lbs. (9.07 kg.)

NO BATTERIES, NO SOFTWARE, NO Firmware.

JUST SIMPLE MECHANICAL RELIABILITY.
Trash

USA - 12:22 minutes
Director: Kemp Lee
Writer: Kemp Lee, Kimberly Turner
Producer: Kemp Lee, Kimberly Turner, Jada Bates
trash-film.com

A homeless trash collector’s routine life is shaken when he finds an unsettling message in a bottle.

Emergency

USA - 11:39 minutes
Director: Carey Williams
Writer: K.D. Dávilaer
emergencyshortfilm.com

Faced with an emergency situation, a group of young Black and Latino friends carefully weigh the pros and cons of calling the police.

Cup of Tea

India - 3:12 minutes
Writer/Director/Producer: Jitendra Rai
imdb.com/title/tt7038170

One way of getting a person’s attention is to steal their handbag. What may have started out looking like a crime evolves into a message of hope. ‘Cup Of Tea’ is a short film about the potential we all have to change someone else’s life, and while you’re doing that, might as well change it for the better.

Lockdown

USA - 14:55 minutes
Director: Max Sokoloff
Writer: Daisygreen Stenhouse
Producer: Jane Hollon
lockdownthefilm.com

When a high school misfit is taken hostage by a classmate with a gun, he must find common ground with the shooter in order to survive the perilous standoff.
Blue Christmas
UK/USA - 15:23 minutes
Writer/Director: Charlotte Wells
Producer: Joy Jorgensen
imdb.com/title/tt7207674
On Christmas Eve, 1968, in a Scottish coastal town, a debt collector goes to work to avoid confronting his wife’s worsening psychosis at home.

Guests Always Return
Spain - 20 minutes
Writer/Director: Diego Sabanés
Producer: Diego Sabanés, Virginia Romero, Tony Allen
Laura and Miguel are a perfect couple. Who wouldn’t want to live in their house?

Last Meal
USA - 14:45 minutes
Director: Lula Fotis
Writer: Jenny Klein
Producers: Jenny Klein, Emily Roberts
lastmealfilm.com
When a famous chef becomes obsessed with preparing the last meal for a notorious serial killer, both men discover the depths and rock bottoms of their own egos.

The Turk Shop
Sweden - 7 minutes
Writer/Director: Bahar Pars
Producer: Siri Hjorton Wagner
In a creative office in Stockholm, Cecilia tells an anecdote during a break and uses a racial slur. Asal, the new girl, questions her use of words, and Cecilia is very offended. The Turk Shop is a comedy about structural racism at work, and the second film in a trilogy on the same theme from director Bahar Pars.
La Sirena

USA - 24:05 minutes
Writer/Director: Rosita Lama Muvdi
Producer: Daniel Leighto
lasirenafilm.com

LA SIRENA is a psychosexual fairy tale about a woman who surrenders to her inner monster to avenge her broken heart.

The Telemarketer

USA - 4:15 minutes
Producer/Director: Jeremy Decker
Writer: Brandon Rhiness
thetelemarketermovie.com

A young telemarketer can’t handle his job anymore and takes the extreme way out.

Sac de Merde

USA - 12:13 minutes
Writer/Director: Greg Chwerchak
Producer: Gabrielle Berberich
imdb.com/title/tt6096230

Based on a true story, “Sac de Merde” tells the tale of Mazel Mankewicz, an unlucky-in-love yet irrationally optimistic New Yorker who thinks her luck has changed when she spends the night with the man of her dreams. As it turns out, he might just be full of shit. Literally.

End of the Line

USA - 14:30 minutes
Director: Jessica Sanders
Writer: Joanne Giger
Producer: Louise Shore
endofthelineshortfilm.com

Adapted from acclaimed Writer Aimee Bender’s magical and surreal short story, this tale of loneliness, desire, power and its abuse follows a big man who buys a tiny man in a pet store.
It Began Without Warning

**USA - 6:00 minutes**  
Writers/Directors: Santiago C. Tapia, Jessica Curtright  
Executive Producer: Couper Samuelson  
Co-Producer: Efren Ramirez  
itbeganwithoutwarning.com

‘The time has come,’ the Walrus said. And all the little Oysters stood and waited in a row.

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The Son, the Father...

**USA - 13:13 minutes**  
Writer/Director: Lukas Hassel  
Producers: Ben Andrews, Lorraine Montez, Angela DiMarco, David Hogan, Marissa Fujimoto  
lukashassel.com

The events on a young boy’s birthday have twisted consequences far into his future.

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Home Shopper

**USA/Singapore - 16:32 minutes**  
Director: Dev Patel  
Writer: Ryan Farhoudi, Leigh Whannell  
Producer: Dev Patel, Samarth Sahni, Jomon Thomas  
imdb.com/title/tt7561610

In a loveless marriage, Penny finds solace in the hypnotic escape of the home shopping channel. When things take an unexpected turn with her husband, the channel proves to be her saving grace ... or was it the problem all along?
A young girl is desperate to discover the source of the mystery sound that is plaguing her mother.

**The Sound**

*United Kingdom - 14 minutes*

Director: Antony Petrou
Writers: Antony Petrou, Chris Dundon-Smith
Producers: Chris Dundon-Smith, Gina Powell
vimeo.com/the11littlefilms/review/209745894/e2fbf27dde

A weary young woman named Sunny agrees to dinner at the home of Don — an aging recluse who suffers from degenerative brain disease. Set on a remote stretch of stormy coastline, “The Lightkeeper” is about the unexpected connection between two strangers and the enormity of what it means to reconcile the past.

**The Lightkeeper**

*USA - 16:45 minutes*

Writer/Director: Zach Bandler
Producer: Victor Mazzone, Meg Steedle
imdb.com/title/tt6520570

In a story that confronts the voraciousness of the opioid epidemic, one man recounts his tale of addiction, recovery, and regret during a Narcotics Anonymous meeting that is anything but ordinary.

**Serenity**

*USA - 16:34 minutes*

Director: Heather Tom
Writer: Zach Bandler
Producer: Victor Mazzone
imdb.com/title/tt6074342

One man’s struggle with crippling chronic pain drives him to create. But his masterpieces are temporary. They are washed away by the tides within hours of completion.

**Washed Away**

*USA - 18 minutes*

Writer/Director: Dana Nachman
Producers: Ian Reinhard, Dana Nachman
dananachman.com

In a story that confronts the voraciousness of the opioid epidemic, one man recounts his tale of addiction, recovery, and regret during a Narcotics Anonymous meeting that is anything but ordinary.
**Professional Cuddler**

**USA - 15 minutes**  
Director: Mika Orr  
Writer: Mika Orr & Miki Bencnaan  
Producer: Danae Grandison, Mikooka Productions  
facebook.com/ProfessionalCuddlerMovie

A young Israeli man is about to meet his long-distance lover for the first time -- while pursuing his dreams in NYC playing the trumpet by day and working as a Professional Cuddler by night.

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**The Happiness Machine**

**USA - 23:30 minutes**  
Producer/Writer/Director: Rebecca Blumhagen  
rebeccablumhagen.com/thehappinessmachine

Carl grew up a sharecropper on 22 acres in rural Iowa, which he now calls The Promised Land. A philosopher, inventor, and farmer, he shares with us the deeply intricate workings of his projects, (including a full span bridge he built with his hands), how they are connected to the land which was given to him as a promise, and what he hopes to pass on to his children as the gift of place.
**Kaela’s Dream**  
**USA - 15 Minutes**  
**Writer/Director/Producer: Rigobert Ngnoumen**  
zumanto.com/kaela

A young woman strives for significance in her passion as an artist. If she is to realize her dream, she must find her determination to confront her inner uncertainties.

**Nebraska Space Agency**  
**USA - 2:13 minutes**  
**Writer: R. Foley**  
nebraskaspaceagency.com

This very poor animation is presented as a vague grand scheme and goof on the idea that Nebraska has a space program. Crossover technology from space exploration impacts many areas of daily life.

**First Hunt**  
**USA - 17:37 minutes**  
**Director: Jonathan Kimbrell**  
**Writer: K. Anthony, Jonathan Kimbrell**  
**Producer: Nathan Romesser**

Ex special agent hunts a shapeshifting serial killer who has abducted his son.

**Eskimo Kisses**  
**USA - 5:50 minutes**  
**Writer/Director: Chuck Mittan**  
**Producer: Kathy Mittan**  
facebook.com/eskimokissesfilm

Attending his mother’s funeral with his wife and young granddaughter, a man recalls some of the events that shaped his life, both joyous and tragic.
The Pool

USA - 7:03 minutes
Writer/Director: Tom Sarni
vimeo.com/253726974

The life of a pool owner quickly spirals out of control when malevolent forces upend his daily routine.

Amnesia

USA - 3:48 minutes
Writer/Director: Sasha Sepahpur
Producer: Mackenzie Davenport

When a boy wakes up with transient global amnesia after a car accident, he uses items that he finds in the car to piece together his memory of the events prior to the accident, and realizes immediate danger.

Central Incompetence

USA - 6:15 minutes
Director: Grant Carson
Writer: Grant Carson, based on character by Lindsey Parodi
Producer: Grant Carson, Reed Ellefson

Chaos ensues when a wild secret agent, Scarlet, takes her civilian friend along for a mission as her partner.

Breakdown

USA - 8:38 minutes
Producer/Director: Jack Hoppe
Writer: Carl V. Rossi
imdb.com/title/tt7639328/

Will an actor’s dream of becoming a star become a reality? Or will a broken down car, an angry sister, and an oversized ego get in his way?
Let’s Grow Here

**USA - 13:17 minutes**  
Writer/Director: Brent Lubbert  
Producer: Big Muddy Urban Farm  
bigmuddyurbanfarm.org

Let’s Grow Here examines how Big Muddy Urban Farm grew up, taking community risks like vacant lots and abandoned buildings and transforming them into community assets like accessible education and civic meeting spaces. The seven young growers that founded Big Muddy discuss the trails and tribulations of their shared experience in a retrospective narrative style. What happens when an idea, a seed is planted?

The Boulevard: All You Need Is Chill

**USA - 15:45 minutes**  
Created by Trevor Nealy & Karl Yanike  
Writer: Trevor Neal

Kevin and Rufus find themselves doing the same thing over and over again. So really nothing new.
**Alzhaimour**

*Belgium - 14:36 minutes*

*Writer/Director: Pierre Van de Kerckhove*
*Producer: Pierre De Lattre*

Louise, aged 68, is suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and lives in a nursing home. Her daily life is riddled with sadness because her son Daniel is no longer visiting her, discouraged by his mother’s memory lapses. The arrival of a new patient in the home (Leo, 82), who is also suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, will upset Louise’s life ... but also that of Daniel!

**Maude**

*USA - 9:56 minutes*

*Writer/Director: Anna Margaret Hollyman*
*Producer: Bettina Barrow, Jason Klorfein, Anna Margaret Hollyman maudefilm.com*

Teeny thought it was just another routine babysitting job—until she’s shocked to meet the client. As the day goes on, Teeny decides to become the woman she had no idea she always wanted to be ... until she gets caught.

**An Aria for the Albrights**

*USA - 16:12 minutes*

*Director: Alexander Jeffrey*
*Writer: Paul Petersen, Alexander Jeffery*
*Producer: Jacki & Douglas Alexander, Alexander Jeffery, Paul Petersen facebook.com ariaforalbrights*

Examines the collusion of rich and poor as Anne Albright, a young, precocious opera singer, gets stuck with her auto-mechanic uncle for the afternoon leading up to a performance at her high school talent show. The short film deals with the impact of anxiety and how it can be creatively overcome.

**Zion**

*USA - 10:25 minutes*

*Director: Floyd Russ*
*Producer: Carter Collins zionmovie.com*

A portrait of Zion Clark, a young wrestler who was born without legs and grew up in foster care.
Stealing Silver

UK - 19:55 minutes
Writer/Director: Mark Lobatto
Producer: Dom Santry
stealingsilver.com

A young woman is forced to confront a painful time in her life when she discovers just how wrong she's been about the mysterious old man across the road.

What Lives Under the Bed

USA - 20:23 minutes
Director: Joey Daniel
Writer: Spencer Marentette
Producer: Laurence Zanelli
imdb.com/title/tt6894848/

A timid young boy goes on the adventure of lifetime after catching the monster that lives in his closet.

The Final Show

USA - 9:00 minutes
Writer/Director: Dana Nachman
Producers: Ian Reinhard,
Dana Nachman, Ric Smith
dananachman.com

A woman who has lived a long life full of love and loss has to decide, based on all that she has learned, who to take along to eternity.
I’m Just Saying...

USA - 2:56 minutes
Writer/Director: Joe Vonnahme
Producer: Justin Mark O’Brien
Producers: Jenny Klein, Emily Roberts

Joe vents on issues he believes to be detrimental towards today’s and future generations’ idea of self-worth and success. At the same time, he struggles with his own feelings of hypocrisy.

Whitney Young, To Become Great...

USA - 15:36 minutes
Director: Jason R. Fischer
Producer: Urban League of Nebraska

Youth from the Nebraska Urban League worked on a historical short film about Whitney Young. They explore how he was as big as Martin Luther King Jr and Malcolm X. Also how he got his start in Omaha during the start of the civil rights movement.

Left Field

USA - 6 minutes
Director: Adam Turner
Writer: Maya Linn Peirce
Producer: Adam Turner, Jon Bass

After a death in the family, two best friends reunite and repair their strained relationship.

As Thick As Thieves

USA - 10:32 minutes
Writer/Director: Jordan Smith
Producer: Alexander Sienna

A young couple gets robbed in the middle of the night. All they have to do is find the money.
When Christine comes home to find her brother, Derren, once again in the hospital with the degenerative disorder he’s had since childhood, the bond with her siblings, Ian and Clarissa becomes even stronger. When Derren dies unexpectedly, their bond unravels as they try to navigate their lives without him.

“Verge” is about an inner struggle that a man goes through when he is distanced from his family.

The first day of school can be stressful for anyone, especially when the teacher decides to give a pop quiz.

On the cusp of a new year, a mother deals with the loss of her young daughter, but a stranger leads her to the resolution she didn’t know she needed.
Dakota

USA - 16:19 minutes
Director: Mike Montgomery
Writer: Misty Madden
Story By: Misty Madden, Kelli Chaves
Producers: Jordan Warren, Misty Madden, Danny Herb, Kelli Chaves, Andy McEntee
savetheprincessfilms.com

Dakota is a short film about a young woman on the day of her mother’s wake. She lives in the tiny town of Dakota where life events aren’t just yours, they’re the town’s as well.
The Undertaker’s Son

Canada - 13:56 minutes
Writers/Directors: The Affolter Bros.
Producer: The Affolter Bros., Rebeka Herron
foreshadowfilms.com

Despite his desire to do anything but, Christopher Redding is attending work with his father for the first time to learn the macabre family business. When the duo is faced with a tragic death, Christopher is pushed to his breaking point revealing a deeper conflict that simmers just below the surface.

Thursday Night

Portugal - 8:00 minutes
Writer/Director: Gonçalo Almeida
Producer: Tiago Rosa-Rosso
curtas.pt/agencia/filmes/439

An elusive stranger pays Bimbo a visit in the middle of the night to deliver a vital message.

Ruthless

Australia - 15:30 minutes
Writer/Director: Chris Pender
Producer: Annabel Clayton
facebook.comRUTHLESSFILM2016

Doris’s mind is slipping... She is not only haunted by the death of her beloved husband James, but she is also struggling with the re-emergence of Ruth – Doris’s sinister alter-ego.

Mi Miedo (My Fear)

Mexico - 4:19 minutes
Director: Manfred Lopez Grem
Writer: Diego Dávalos Amezcua
Producer: Edna Aguilar Aguilar
manfredlopez.comfilm/my_fear

A teen born with a physical disability decides to become an actor in order to overcome his fear of his limitations, fear of change and the fear of not fitting in.
**Game**

*Canada - 13:55 minutes*

Writer/Director: Joy Webster  
Producer: Lucas Ford  
joywebster.comfilm

A young boy struggles to endure his sister’s twisted games and accept his mother’s death.

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**Suits Don’t Matter**

*USA - 2:54 minute*

Director: Michael P. Jahoda  
Writer: Phil E. Eichinger  
Producer: Phil E. Eichinger, Michael P. Jahoda  
dancingscuff.com

What happens when routine ends? A moment when we realize the change that occurs during life and how we reflect upon our youth. Sometimes we need to go backwards to move forward.

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**Justice Served**

*USA - 12:56 minutes*

Writer/Director: Patrick Rea  
Producer: Elisa James, Patrick Rea

An attorney defends a young man who has committed a crime in a world where morality is turned upside down.

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**Wink**

*USA - 15:34 minutes*

Writer/Director: Monika Petrillo  
Producer: James Baumgartner  
monikapetrillo.comwink

A lonely and slightly repressed housewife discovers an unusual way to spice up her afternoon.

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**Rabbit Punch**

*UK - 15:00 minutes*

Director: Keith Farrell • Writer: Hannah Salt • Producers: Phil Meachem, Leah Blackaby  
rabbitpunchfilm.com

A young refugee struggles to settle into his new home of Manchester when he stumbles upon something that will change his life.
**Don’t be a Hero**

**USA - 15:05 minutes**  
Writer/Director: Pete Lee  
imdb.com/title/tt7434238

A middle-aged woman battles her loneliness and boredom by robbing banks in the guise of a cowboy on her lunch break. But after the adrenaline rush wears off, she still has to deal with her deeply unhappy life. Inspired by a true story.

**So Much Yellow**

**USA - 11:39 minutes**  
Writer/Director: Erica Milsom  
Producer: Todd Shaiman  
somuchyellowmovie.com

Set in Northern California in the late sixties, So Much Yellow is a short, dramatic film about a young girl and the family road trip that changes her life forever. Inspired by true stories, this film depicts the difficult decision one family makes to institutionalize their young son who has Down syndrome.

**Two Strangers Who Meet Five Times**

**United Kingdom - 12:12 minutes**  
Writer/Director: Marcus Markou  
twostrangersfilm.co.uk

Two strangers meet at five key turning points over the duration of their lives. Initial conflict gives way to compassion and eventual friendship.

**From Scratch**

**USA - 12:33 minutes**  
Director: Anthony Almonte  
Writer: Sutton Dewey, Mark Millner  
Producer: Emily Wirth  
facebook.com/FromScratchMovie

A death row prison chef reflects on his past and perfects an old recipe.
My Dead Dad’s Porno Tapes

Canada - 13:41 minutes
Director: Charlie Tyrell
Writer: Charlie Tyrell, Josef Beeby
Producer: Julie Baldassi
mydeaddadspornotapes.com

A short documentary that follows director Charlie Tyrell as he tries to uncover a better understanding of his deceased father through the random objects he inherited. Including a pile of VHS dirty movies.

The Transfer

Germany, Israel, Austria - 22:24 minutes
Director: Michael Grudsky
Writer: Evgeny Sosnitsky
Producer: Nina Poschinski
facebook.com/thetransferfilm

Erez, an Israeli commissioned officer, and two other soldiers have been ordered to transfer a prisoner to Megiddo prison. Along the way, a conflict arises that forces the young officer to surpass himself in order to solve the situation.

(Madre) Mother

Spain - 18:00 minutes
Writer/Director: Rodrigo Sorogoyen
Producer: Maria del Puy Alvarado, Clara Nieto, Rodrigo Sorogoyen, Marta Garcia Larriu
imdb.com/title/tt6597824

While at home in her apartment with her own mother in Spain, a woman gets a phone call from her six-year-old son, who’s on holiday in France with his father. Every parent’s nightmare ensues.
Helping Others: The Scatter Joy Acres Story

USA - 5:53 minutes
Writer/Director/Producer: Trenton Hancock

Scatter Joy Acres is a local Omaha ranch that contains many service animals to be provided to people in need. Joy Bartling, the owner of the ranch started with the goal of helping others and finding herself in the process.

The Pure Product of Omaha

USA - 4:56 minutes
Writer/Director: Mike Comstock

An impressionistic look at Omaha’s art and music community....

Trading Faces

USA - 7:15 minutes
Director: Jack Hoppe
Writer: Warren Bable, Jack Hoppe
Producers: Warren Bable, Wil Boyens, Jack Hoppe

Two college friends must face unprecedented consequences after an ugly fight lands them in each other’s shoes.

The Legend of Wolfe Canyon

USA - 3:53 minutes
Director: Sam Senser
Writer: Monet McCoy, Sam Senser, John Senser, Jake Bruce, John Duplancich
Producer: John Senser

Two cowboys hear the faint distant sound of a violin leading them to the legendary town of Wolfe Canyon.
Certainty

**USA - 9:18 minute**
Writer/Director: Candace Nelson
Producers: Natalia Hernandez

A girl caught in-between life and death must face the reasons that got her there in the first place.

Mildred D. Brown, a Life and a Legacy

**USA - 9:33 minutes**
Director: Jason R. Fischer
Producer: Urban League of Nebraska

Mildred D. Brown was an Omaha, Nebraska Native that founded the first Black woman-owned newspaper. Which is the longest running black-owned newspaper as well.

Kap

**Haiti - 8:22 minutes**
Director: David M. Weiss
Writer: Jason Levering and David M. Weiss
Producer: Candice Jean-Jaques, Jason Levering, David M. Weis
kapshortfilm.com

When a young boy is given away to become a restavek, he must come to terms with his new reality. After years of suffering, his search for hope leads him to build a kite to fly away, even if only in his mind.

Until Now

**USA - 8:05 minutes**
Director: Dana Altman
Writers: Samantha Michele Buchanan (story), Derrek E. Schutte
imdb.com/title/tt7825522/

Never has a found letter, a first time read, great timing and a simple dance been combined into one work revealing a true story of loss, love and kindness... Until Now.
The Headliner

**USA - 14:42 minutes**

Director: Tony Bonacci  
Writer: Christine Burright McGuigan  
Producers: Gregory Lilly, Tony Bonacci  
facebook.com/theheadlinerfilm

This is the story of Chad Allen Nilsson. A stand up comic on the verge of becoming huge when a traumatic life event happens causing him to take an abrupt hiatus. This film is what happens when he finally returns to the stage and the world he once knew.

Sally

**USA - 1:30 minutes**

Writer/Director/Producer: Jordan Fountain  
RadRadish.com

What was it like when the world was a vast and mysterious place?

Now or Forever

**USA - 16:45 minutes**

Writer/Director/Producer: Darcy Lueking Bahensky  
facebook.com/NowOrForeverFilm

On the day of her wedding, a young bride wrestles with her own expectations.
OFF ‘18 PARTY LOCATIONS

OPENING NIGHT PARTY

Tuesday • 8PM
17304 Davenport Street

Wednesday • 10PM
203 North 180th Street

Thursday • 10PM
12744 Westport Parkway, La Vista

Friday • 10PM
2820 South 123rd Court

Saturday • 10PM
16901 Wright Plaza, #173

Sunday • 8:30PM
1116 Jackson Street
**Weeds**

**USA - 3 minutes**  
*Writer/Director: Kevin Hudson  
Producer: Brad Simonsen  
weedsShort.com*

WEEDS is the story of a little Dandelion who struggles to get himself from the dry barren side of a driveway to the other, where water is plentiful and the grass is greener.

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**Vows**

**USA - 4:30 minutes**  
*Director: Mark McKinsey  
Writer: Mark McKinsey, Ariana Fletcher, & McKenna Morison  
Producers: Catherine Anderson  
vowsshort.com*

A man experiences conflicting feelings on what should be the happiest day of his life.

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**The Snowman’s Hat**

**USA - 2:47 minutes**  
*Writer/Director: Jeff Draheim*

“The Snowman’s Hat” is a stop motion, animated short film about the lengths a Snowman will take to retrieve his beloved top-hat.

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**I Mostri non Esistono (Monsters Don’t Exist)**

**Italy - 3:20 minutes**  
*Writers/Directors: Ilaria Angelini, Luca Barberis Organista, Nicola Bernardi  
themonstersjournal.wordpress.com*

Tommaso and Giovanni are two little boys, a little pestiferous, who find themselves again in punishment for having disturbed the lesson, thus having to stay in class with their teacher during the break.
First Bloom  
*China/USA - 4:38 minutes*
Writer/Director: Tingting Liu
wintersweetanimation.com/firstbloom

He is a servant in the royal palace. She is the emperor’s daughter. Growing up together, they become friends and soul mates. Naturally their budding feelings for each other are forbidden in this feudalistic kingdom, but they strive for the freedom to love and to bloom.

The Orange Crayon  
*USA - 3:08 minutes*
Writer/Director: Eric Hug

Late at night on a table, a box of crayons spills over and the crayons come to life. The story zooms in on a confident cyan crayon, and an orange crayon afraid to leave a messy mark on the page. The cyan crayon helps the orange crayon gain confidence by drawing together with it. At the end, when the orange crayon has gained some confidence, all the crayons return to their box and the drawing is revealed.

The Pirate Cruncher  
*USA - 9:58 minutes*
Director: Paul Conner, Tripp Vroman
Writer: Alexander Ang (story)
imdb.com/title/tt7207958

One night in Port Royal a band of pirates meets an old fiddler with a map leading to treasure. As they set out across the sea they learn that the treasure is guarded by a monster called the Pirate Cruncher and that not everything is what it seems.

Hedgehog’s Home  
*Canada, Croatia - 10 minutes*
Director: Eva Cvijanović
Writer: Eva Cvijanović,
(based on the short story by Branko Ćopić)
Producers: Jelena Popović, Vanja Andrijević, Michael Fukushima

A hedgehog is made fun of by a sly fox, a greedy bear, a wicked wolf and a muddy wild boar.
Sunny and Gerd in Spring Cleaning

Canada - 5:35 minutes
Writer/Director: DaCosta Bayley
Producers: DaCosta Bayley, Jennifer Dahlman
sunnyandgerd.com

Things go from zero to WHAT THA-? when Sunny finds himself in a tight spot and Gerd has to rescue his little buddy.

MARS LOVE

Spain - 7 minutes
Director: Mario Serrano
Writer: Mario Serrano, Víctor L.Pinel, Kenny Ruiz
Producer: Milio Luján, Mario Serrano, Abraham Lopez, Pablo de la Chica, Guillermo Logar, Javier Aguayo, Manuel Carbajo
salonindienfilms.com/mars-love-eng

"Today is the anniversary of the first Martian contact with Earth. Now martians are part of our society, our neighbors, our friends, our lovers. This is the love story of Austyn and Green, an interplanetary love. What if someone crossed half the universe just to be with you?"

Midnight Runway

Mexico - 2:36 minutes
Director: Alejandro Garza Villanueva
Writer: Alejandro Garza Villanueva, Enrique Morales, Angelica Fuentes, Michelle Cabrera
Producer: Alejandro Garza Villanueva, Enrique Morales
vimeo.com/247394057

A Fashion Design student stays working late on some cloth designs, but she isn’t convinced about them. Suddenly, some mannequins come alive and help her finish her work, just before the midnight runway begins.

Cradle

USA - 14:33 minutes
Writer/Director: Devon Manney
Cast: Alexa Nikol Curran, Devon Manney, Trevor Larson
devonmanney.com/cradle

Returning to the USA after losing both arms overseas, a young veteran battles phantom pains, prosthetics, and memories of his pre-war life while reaching for a sense of normalcy.
E-delivery

USA - 3:53 minutes
Writer/Director: Young Gul Cho
vimeo.com233085182

Is it possible that machines will disrupt our natural biological imperative to reproduce? The film takes us into a factory that produces humans so we can see what that’s like. Audiences may be amused, horrified, or both.

Catherine

Belgium - 11:51 minutes
Writer/Director: Britt Raes
Producer: Karim Rhellam
catherine-catlady.tumblr.com

Catherine loves pets! But most of all, she loves her cat. As she grows up, she can not connect with other people. Her cat is her life, and little by little she grows up to be a crazy old cat lady... Across the street lives Dwight. He tries everything to be part of her life. Will Catherine ever notice him?

Two Balloons

USA - 9:08 minutes
Writer/Director: Mark C. Smith
Producer: Adam C. Sager
twoballoons.film

Two travelers return to a place crossed by stars and clouds where love is at the beginning of everything.
Welcome to the Third Annual OFF Academy
Thursday and Friday, March 8 & 9
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, editing, special efx make-up, 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 115 films that will screen at the Village Pointe Theatre from March 6-11.

Made possible in part by grants provided by
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Torchwerks

Hosted by
Omaha Funny Bone Comedy Club

Schools that have participated over the last two years:

- Bellevue West High School
- Burke High School
- Creighton Prep High School
- Elkhorn South High School
- Jefferson County North High School – KS
- Marian High School
- Millard West High School
- North High Magnet
- Omaha Bryan High School
- Roncalli High School
- South High Magnet
- Westside High School
- Westside Middle School
- Benson High School
- Central High School
- Elkhorn High School
- Gretna High School
- Leavenworth High School – KS
- Millar North High School
- Northwest High Magnet School
- Omaha South High School
- Papillion LaVista South High School
- Russell Middle School
- Waukee High School – IA
- and various home schoolers
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Kansas
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Omaha South High School
Papillion LaVista South High School
Russell Middle School
Waukee High School

Iowa
Westside Middle School

OFF Academy Conference Panelists

PAMELA RIBON

Pamela Ribon is a screenwriter (Moana, Smurfs: The Lost Village), TV writer (Samantha Who?), comic book writer (SLAM!, Rick & Morty), author, and best-selling novelist. She’s currently co-writing Ralph Breaks the Internet: Wreck-It Ralph 2. She was recently named one of Variety’s 10 Screenwriters to Watch and was a 2017 Film Independent Directing Lab Fellow. She has been a member of the Disney Animation Story Trust since 2013. She was a writer and narration consultant on the Disney Nature documentary Bears. Her comedic memoir Notes to Boys (and Other Things I Shouldn’t Share in Public) was praised by NPR as “brain-breakingly funny.” Her first graphic novel, My Boyfriend is a Bear, (co-created with Cat Farris) will be released April 2018 from Oni Press. She’s been in comedy rooms for both network and cable television, and developed original series and features for ABC, ABC Family, Sony, Warner Bros., Disney Channel and 20th Century Fox Productions.

JASON HEADLEY

Jason Headley’s feature film, “A Bad Idea Gone Wrong,” won a Special Jury Prize at the 2017 SXSW Film Festival and the Grand Jury Award at the deadCenter Film Festival. Called “a talent to watch” by the Hollywood Reporter, Jason is currently writing an upcoming feature film for Pixar Animation Studios. His short films—including the viral videos “It’s Not About the Nail” and “F*ck That: An Honest Meditation”—have been featured at Banksy’s Dismaland, NBC’s TODAY Show, SundanceTV, the TED Conference, Vimeo Staff Picks, and film festivals far and wide. Jason has been a part of the IFP Narrative Labs, IFP Emerging Storytellers, and SFFILM FilmHouse. He’s also been commissioned by Heineken, Sony, and Chrysler to write, direct, and produce original short films. Fun fact: Jason is more handsome in real life than he is on camera, but he’s still not actually handsome.
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018 – DAY 1

8:00am - 9:00am  **Participant check-in / breakfast**
Students will check in for the day
Beverages and a light breakfast will be provided

8:30am - 9:00am  **Welcome from OFF Staff**

9:15am - 10:30am  **Breakout Sessions**
“Special FX Makeup: Creating A Character”
Tim Welch, Sarah O’Connell from Scream in the Dark

“How to Talk the Talk”
Pamela Ribon, Jason Headley from Pixar

Lighting/Cinematography For Your Scene
Ben Drickey from Torchwerks

“Directing: The Ups, Downs, and Enjoying the Ride”
Visiting Filmmakers

10:45am - 12:00pm  **Breakout Sessions**
“Special FX Makeup: Creating A Character”
Tim Welch, Sarah O’Connell from Scream in the Dark

“How To Talk The Talk”
Pamela Ribon, Jason Headley from Pixar

Lighting/Cinematography For Your Scene
Ben Drickey from Torchwerks

“Directing: The Ups, Downs, and Enjoying the Ride”
Visiting Filmmakers

12:00pm - 1:00pm  **Lunch**
Beverages and lunch will be provided
FUNNY BONE MAIN ROOM

1:00pm - 1:20pm  **Group Photograph**

1:20pm - 2:15pm  **Say What? Sound Mixing**
Kevin Keplar

2:15pm – 2:30pm  **End of the Day Wrap Session**
FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018 – DAY 2

8:00am - 9:00am  Participant check-in / breakfast
Students will check in for the day
Beverages and a light breakfast will be provided

8:30am - 9:00am  Welcome from OFF Staff

9:15am - 10:30am  Breakout Sessions
“How To Walk the Walk”
Pamela Ribon, Jason Headley from Pixar
“Documentary Filmmaking: How Do I Tell My Story?”
Dana Nachman and Robin Berghaus
“Live Auditioning For Film”
Visiting Actors
“Live Storyboarding for Your Movie”
Dave Weiss, Jason Levering

10:45am - 12:00pm  Breakout Sessions
“How To Walk the Walk”
Pamela Ribon, Jason Headley from Pixar
“Documentary Filmmaking: How Do I Tell My Story?”
Dana Nachman and Robin Berghaus
“Live Auditioning for Film”
Visiting Actors
“Live Storyboarding for Your Movie”
Dave Weiss, Jason Levering

12:00pm - 1:15pm  Lunch and Learn with Filmmakers
Beverages and lunch will be provided
Vegetarian option available
FUNNY BONE MAIN ROOM

1:30pm - 2:30pm  Visiting Filmmaker Panel

2:30pm - 2:40pm  End of the Day Wrap Session and Goodbye

Schedule subject to change – see website for any schedule updates
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OUTSIDE SPACES. Socialize on the patio, throw dinner on the grill or curl up by our fire pit.

OUTDOOR TRAIL. Jog, walk or stroll through our outdoor walking path.

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