OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL

Discover...

MARCH 3 - 8

15¢

AKSARBEN CINEMA

Year 15!
Where did fifteen years go? How did we get here?

It is easy to get lost in the blur of everything. Like Ferris once said, “Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

In honor of the last fifteen years, I’ve decided to create a list of the fifteen strongest memories that I have from each year of the festival:

**Year 1** – We literally set the film print of *Hoot* on fire. Well, not us, the ancient projector we had to use set the print on fire. The projectionist – who also happens to be our Financial Director, and also happens to be my dad, Roger Levering – had to keep his fingers in between the film and the machine to make sure the film didn’t completely disintegrate. (Thanks Dad!)

**Year 2** – All under one roof. We moved from being spread across all of downtown Omaha to a single location - Westwood Cinema 8. This was also the first year of the party that became known as the “Ring the Bell” party at Julio’s.

**Year 3** – The blizzard. Everything in town was shut down, including the theatre (we were still at Westwood Cinema 8 this year). But we had a festival to put on, so we piled into Marc’s car to go get the keys to the theatre from the owner. Because we were afraid Marc’s car might get stuck, we parked at the top of the neighborhood, and Jeremy skipped and slid his way down the hill to the owner’s home to get the keys. Despite the weather, we had about 100 people show up that day.

**Year 4** – New theatre! We moved to the Great Escape Theatre (now Regal Cinemas). Also, Chris Klein!

**Year 5** – Thanks to a talented student artist from the Creative Center, we got one of the best poster and T-shirt designs that we’ve ever had.

**Year 6** – Shane Black! Ted Griffin! Maurro Fiore! Tom Elkins! What a year!

**Year 7** – Voluntary Gestures, a short documentary that took a very personal look into the life of Omaha’s beloved cartoonist, Jeffrey Koterba, was an Audience Choice winner that year. Plus, we had Hawk Ostby, Jaime King, and Chad Michael Murray!

**Year 8** – The Greatest American Hero, William Katt, was here. This was also our first year doing the Writer’s Theatre!

**Year 9** – Our first year at Village Pointe Cinema! We screened the movie *Enemy*, which was directed by a little known director at that time, Denis Villeneuve (*Arrival*, *Sicario*, *Blade Runner 2049*).

**Year 10** – Holy Anniversaries, we made it to year 10?

**Year 11** – This was a special year for me personally as it was the year that *Black Luck* screened out of competition. But this was also the year of *The Invitation* (with writer Phil Hay in attendance), a movie that to this day is one of my favorite movies of all time, and still my favorite movie that OFF has ever shown. This was also the year that we first introduced the OFF Student Academy, a dream project that we had been envisioning from the start, now finally a reality.

**Year 12** – Mark Davis and Jan Jensen, the director and producer of one of our documentary films, *The Bear and the Owl*, spent time with a group of local kids crafting hand-made cards as a tie-in to their film.

**Year 13** – There were unverified reports that Shia LaBeouf was in attendance on opening night. We can, however, confirm that Pamela Ribon, the writer of *Moana* and *Wreck It Ralph 2: Ralph Breaks the Internet*, was in attendance, and she was a delight with the kids during the OFF Academy.

**Year 14** – Our first year at AKSARBEN CINEMA! Right in the heart of the city! And Bill Plympton!

**Year 15** – This one is for you, dear reader. Fill in the blank with your favorite moment from the 15th ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL:

As always, thanks for being a part of what we do! AND ENJOY THE SHOW!

Jason Levering, Executive Director
## Schedule

### Tuesday, March 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Opening Night Film – <em>Military Wives</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Opening Night Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Herbe Sainte – 1934 South 67th Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Wednesday, March 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:45</td>
<td><em>A Home Called Nebraska</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td><em>After So Many Days</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:10</td>
<td>Shorts 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Diving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The Hand of the Devil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Je Finirai en Prison (I’ll End Up in Jail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Zitate Furs Leben (Quotes for Life)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- They Won’t Last</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15</td>
<td><em>Knots: A Forced Marriage Story</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td><em>Being Dead</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>Shorts 2 – Nebraska Shorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Alejandra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Slasher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Buzz vs Scooty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Underlying Fear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td><em>Wednesday Night Party</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liv Lounge – 2285 South 67th Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Thursday, March 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:45</td>
<td>Shorts 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Willows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The Mouse and the Lion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Wax Paul Now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- White Guys Solve Sexism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Meats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Over the Line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Blocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Summer Lightning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>I Am Not Alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15</td>
<td><em>The Short History of the Long Road</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15</td>
<td><em>The Blackout</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Shorts 4 – Nebraska Shorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- May I Have This Dance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Friday, March 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:45</td>
<td><em>Resistance</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Shorts 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Mr. Marvelous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Buzzard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The Shabbos Coy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The Chef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- But First...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tacos for [Redacted]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Little Chief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The Tattooed Heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15</td>
<td><em>The Planters</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:10</td>
<td><em>The Night</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:20</td>
<td>Barefoot: The Mark Baumer Story*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>In Other Words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Ring the Bell Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Julio’s West – 2820 South 123rd Court</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Saturday, March 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Shorts 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- My Dinner with Werner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The Sunny Side Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Daddio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Something in Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Helter Shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Guanajuato Norte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Maven Voyage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

04 THE 15TH ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL
THE 15TH ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL
MARCH 3-8, 2020

SCHEDULE

– In the Blood
12:15 Waging Change *
12:30 From the Vine *
1:45 Shorts 7 - Animation
  – Recoiled
  – Why Slugs Have No Legs
  – The Lonely Orbit
  – Deadman’s Reach
  – TellTale
  – Irritable Ball Syndrome *
  – The Haunted Swordsman
  – Kim
  – Abe’s Story
  – If Anything Happens I Love You *
2:45 The Job *
3:00 The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain *
4:00 Shorts 8
  – Coffee Shop Names
  – Portraiture
  – Age of Bryce *
  – The Devil’s Harmony
  – Bunker Burger
  – Tree #3
  – Oh, Sorry
5:45 Sergio
6:00 The In-Between *
6:30 Shorts 9 – Nebraska Shorts
  – Sessions *
  – One Bullet to Shoot *
  – Better with You *
  – The Boulevard: Six Months *
  – Until Evening *
  – Not *
  – David *
  – The Last Showdown *
8:10 Aggie
8:20 Here Awhile *
8:45 Shorts 10 – Nebraska
  – Feel Pretty *
  – Caniglia *

– The Murder King *
– The Night Watcher *
– Fortunate Country *
– One Punch *
10:00 Saturday Night Party
  The Gallery at Brickway –
  1116 Jackson Street

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

10:30 Shorts 11 - Nebraska encore *
11:00 Red Flame *
12:15 It’s Nice to Be with You Always *
12:30 Shorts 12 - Nebraska encore *
1:30 On Broadway
2:05 Colectiv (Collective)
2:30 Shorts 13 - Nebraska encore *
4:30 AWARDS
5:45 Closing Night Film - Dream Horse
7:30 Closing Night Party
  Backlot Taphouse –
  2110 South 67th Street #108

* Indicates filmmaker scheduled to attend.
Special Screenings shown in bold.
All screening times subject to change. Refer to website for actual times.

www.omahafilmfestival.org

CONTENTS

Writer’s Theater  6
Special Screenings  9
Nebraska Spotlight  13
Feature Films  17
Documentary Films  23
Short Programs  29
OFF Academy  52

MARCH 3-8, 2020
Saturday, March 7, 2pm  
Gross Auditorium, College of Saint Mary

FEATURES:
**Highway 83** by Anthony Rainone  
A driven sheriff in the Badlands of 1970 South Dakota desperately tries to stop her convict father’s execution by hunting down the real killer - a Nazi who escaped from a German POW camp in Nebraska decades earlier.

**Float Me Up** by Daniel Talbott  
Emma lives on her own in the house where she was raised, her parents both gone. She travels far out of New Orleans each week to care for her wayward brother Cody—their family a tightly closed island of two. When her brother makes a decision that breaks open her life and leaves her utterly alone, Emma emerges from the smallness of her existence and ventures into the chaos and swirl of the French Quarter and greater New Orleans, whose eclectic inhabitants, lost souls, and fellow travelers will either drown her or help her toward some new shore of possibility.

**They Went On** by Anthony Gilmore & Drew McCoy  
They Went On begins with the narrator, a young Marina Hernandez, in the middle of escaping a Kansas City mental ward in 1979. We learn that Marina, charismatic and electric despite signs of a hard life, has undifferentiated schizophrenia ... and that she has a story to tell us, starting from the end.

**Black Star Rising** by Doug Williams  
Barbara Jordan conquers poverty and racism to become a leading black politician in the 1970s. But as she rises, Jordan’s allies sabotage her career because she doesn’t act like a stereotypical “black woman politician.” Though crippled by illness and betrayal, she confronts her critics in one last war against injustice.

SHORTS:
**Hippy Dippy** by Anthony Rainone  
Two men set out to steal a rodeo bull and come up against a migrant woman tougher than all of them.

**Bronko and Dorothy** by John T. Frederick  
Two old folks discuss disappointment, anger, death and life at The Gardens Of Eden... a modern elder care warehouse.

**People In A Box** by M.r. Fitzgerald  
A passionate, naive singer is trapped in a mysterious Black-Box Theatre where she and other entertainers must perform to survive.

TELEPLAYS:
**Undone – Pilot** by Christine Burright McGuigan  
A jaded wedding photographer must come to terms with her career and her views on marriage after splitting up with her husband.

**Shadowpoint -- A Domestic Incident** by Doug Sasse  
After accidentally killing his wife during a heated argument and burying her in the woods, a guilt-ridden husband begins to see his dead wife all over town. This is an episode in a new anthology series.

NEBRASKA SPOTLIGHT:
**The Group** by Joel Stevens & Angee Stevens  
In Dr. Kyle’s Teen Coping Group, the only thing more terrifying than the secrets revealed are the ones that aren’t.
THE 15TH ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL
MARCH 3-8, 2020
SPECIAL SCREENINGS
Tuesday, March 3 • 6:30pm

**Opening Night Film**

**Military Wives**

(Comedy/Drama)

**UK** - 112 minutes  Rated R

**Director:** Peter Cattaneo  
**Writer:** Rosanne Flynn, Rachel Tunnard  
**Producer:** Rory Aitken, Ben Pugh, Piers Tempest  
**Cast:** Kristin Scott Thomas, Sharon Horgan, Emma Lowndes

**Synopsis:** Directed by Peter Cattaneo and starring Academy Award® nominee Kristin Scott Thomas and Sharon Horgan (*Catastrophe*), the film centers on a group of women in England whose partners are away serving in Afghanistan. Faced with the men’s absences, they form a choir and quickly find themselves at the center of a media sensation and global movement.

Thursday, March 5 • 6:15pm

**The Short History of the Long Road**

(Drama)

**USA** - 90 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Ani Simon-Kennedy  
**Cast:** Maggie Siff, Danny Trejo, Sabrina Carpenter, Steven Ogg  
**Website:** www.shorthistorylongroad.com/

**Synopsis:** Teenage Nola grew up living out of a van with her beloved father Clint, two nomads against the world. When tragedy strikes, Nola is confronted by the reality that life as an outsider may not be her only choice. She must engage with others to integrate herself into a society she has never known. As she slowly expands the relationships in her life, she is faced with the decision to get off the road for the first time, or to forge onward - with only her wits and memories as her road map.
Friday, March 6 • 5:45pm

**Resistance**
(Biography, Comedy, Drama)

France, USA, Germany, UK - 121 minutes
**Writer/Director:** Jonathan Jakubowicz
**Cast:** Ed Harris, Jesse Eisenberg, Edgar Ramírez, Clémence Poésy

**Synopsis:** The story of a group of Jewish Boy Scouts who worked with the French Resistance to save the lives of ten thousand orphans during World War II.

---

Saturday, March 7 • 5:45pm

**Sergio**
(Drama)

USA - 118 minutes
**Rated R** for language, some bloody images and a scene of sexuality.
**Director:** Greg Barker
**Writer:** Craig Borten
**Cast:** Wagner Moura, Ana de Armas, Garret Dillahunt, Brian F. O’Byrne, Will Dalton, Clemens Schick, Bradley Whitford.

**Synopsis:** A sweeping drama set in the chaotic aftermath of the US invasion of Iraq, where the life of top UN diplomat Sergio Vieira de Mello hangs in the balance during the most treacherous mission of his career.
SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Sunday, March 8 • 2:05pm

**Colectiv (Collective)**
(Documentary)

*Romania/Luxembourg - 109 minutes*
*Director: Alexander Nanau*
*Writer: Alexander Nanau, Antoaneta Opris*
*Producer: Alexander Nanau, Bianca Oana*
*Website: [www.magpictures.com/collective/](http://www.magpictures.com/collective/)*

**Synopsis:** In Romania, a night club experienced a significant fire that left several dead and many more suffering from intense burn wounds. However, in the weeks following the conflagration, many of the victims began succumbing to their wounds, despite not being overtly life-threatening. Documentary footage charts the course of a group of investigative journalists on a mission to expose the flaws of the government health system and the wider infrastructure at large. Ultimately, the team poses significant questions about the consequences of political corruption.

Sunday, March 8 • 5:45pm

**Dream Horse**
(Closing Night Film)
(Drama)

*UK - 102 minutes*
*Director: Euros Lyn*
*Writer: Neil McKay*
*Producer: Katherine Butler, Tracy O’Riordan*
*Cast: Toni Collette, Damian Lewis, Joanna Page*

**Synopsis:** The film tells the true story of Jan Vokes, (Toni Collette) a Welsh cleaner and bartender, who decides to breed and rear a race horse. She persuades her neighbors and friends to contribute financially to the goal. The group’s unlike-ly investment plan pays off as the horse rises through the ranks and puts them in a race for the national championship.
NEBRASKA SPOTLIGHT FILMS
A Home Called Nebraska
Nebraska Spotlight Documentary

USA - 69 minutes
Producer/Director: Beth Gage, George Gage
Writer: Beth Gage
Cast: Lacey Studnicka, Feroz Mohmand, Gharghasha Katawazai, Kaela Volkmer, Sara Gilliam, Koang Doluloney, Dekow Sagar, Amel Hskan
Website: gageandgageproductions.com

Synopsis: In 2020, with the United States’ Refugee Resettlement Program hanging by a thread, A Home Called Nebraska is the story of mid-western welcome, support and unlikely friendships in a time of national anxiety and emboldened bigotry.

Knots: A Forced Marriage Story
Nebraska Spotlight Documentary

USA - 77 minutes
Director: Kate Ryan Brewer
Writer: Kate Ryan Brewer, Darmyn Calderon, Chris Cook
Producer: Kate Ryan Brewer, Paige Livingston, Jasmine Lord, Timothy Ryan
Cast: Jennifer McClellan, Fraidy Reiss, Jeanne Smoot, Casey Swegman, Nicholas L. Syrett, Sara Tasneem, Nina Van Harn, Bella Waru
Website: knotsthefilm.com

Synopsis: Forced and child marriage is happening all across the U.S., legally. Three survivors—Nina, Sara, and Fraidy—take us on a journey into the depths of this human rights abuse hiding in plain sight.
**The Job**

*(Drama)*

*Nebraska Spotlight Narrative Feature*

USA - 120 minutes  
**Director:** Randy J. Goodwin  
**Writer:** Randy J. Goodwin, Steven Lee  
**Producer:** Randy J. Goodwin, Steven Lee, Nicholas Smith, Gina Rugolo, Mimi Goodwin  
**Cast:** Randy J. Goodwin, Kendra C. Johnson, Ben C. Adams, Larry Bagby, Sean Summers, Brandon Collins, Styles Collins

**Synopsis:** After killing a man in the ring, boxing champion, Lance “The Dance” Foster, spirals out of control and loses everything. Five years later, Lance finds faith in God, a job at a gym, sobriety, and more importantly, peace. He vows never to be violent again and now lives an “every man” life. Unfortunately, this life is not acceptable to his wife Natalie, who has grown accustomed to a life of wealth that is no longer available to her. Nor to Abe, the jobless kid breaking into the champ’s house looking to score big in order to take care of his young wife and sick child. Does Lance break his vow of nonviolence to save his life, or trust that God will provide?

---

**In Other Words**

*(Romance)*

*Nebraska Spotlight Narrative Feature*

USA/Mexico - 99 minutes  
**Director:** Patrick Perez Vidauri  
**Writer:** Cristina Nava  
**Producer:** Cristina Nava, Patrick Perez Vidauri  
**Cast:** Bryan McClure, Edy Ganem, Chris Kattan, Natasha Esca, Renee Victor, Joe Nunez, Rishi Arya, Enrique Castillo

**Synopsis:** *In Other Words* is a romantic comedy about a tech geek (Bryan McClure) who lands an investor (Chris Kattan) for his matchmaking app. But when his app matches him with a beautiful girl (Natasha Esca) who doesn’t speak English, he travels with his buddies (Joe Nunez and Rishi Arya) to wine country in Baja California, Mexico to prove his algorithm isn’t screwy.
Red Flame
(test screening)
(Thriller)

USA - 104 minutes
Writer/Director: The Maze Brothers

Synopsis: A renegade detective and injured professional cyclist navigate the bizarre criminal underbelly of a steroid ring intertwined with the exclusive art world.

It’s Nice To Be With You Always: A Film About Neeli Cherkovski

Nebraska Spotlight Documentary

USA - 49 minutes
Writer/Director: Kyle Harvey
Producer: Danny Rosen
Cast: Neeli Cherkovski

Synopsis: It’s Nice To Be With You Always blends together Cinéma-vérité style footage and conversations to create an intimate portrait of the poet Neeli Cherkovski. Imagine being dropped into the middle of a poem. Neeli Cherkovski is the author of many books of poetry, including Elegy For My Beat Generation (2018), From the Canyon Outward (2009), and The Crow and I (2015). He was the coeditor of Anthology of L.A. Poets (with Charles Bukowski). Cherkovski also wrote biographies of Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Charles Bukowski, as well as the critical memoir Whitman’s Wild Children (1988). An archive of his papers is held at the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. He has lived in San Francisco since 1974.
THE 15TH ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL
MARCH 3-8, 2020
FEATURE FILMS
FEATURE FILMS

Wednesday, March 4 • 8:30pm

**Being Dead**
(Drama)

USA - 99 minutes
**Director:** John Meyers
**Writer:** John Meyers (screenwriter), Jim Crace (novel)
**Producer:** John Meyers, Che Meriales
**Cast:** Elizabeth Marvel, Linus Roache, Kathryn Erbe, Daniella Alma, Emilotte Persson, Matthew Lure, Nicholas Wilder, Zoe Kaplan
**Website:** www.beingdeadthemovie.com

**Synopsis:** Biologists Joseph and Celice Adkins (Linus Roache and Elizabeth Marvel) now have a reason to attempt to rekindle a love they once knew for the briefest of time before tragedy stained it forever. They journey back to the stretch of isolated coastline where they met 25 years earlier in search of the species of insect they once discovered that now faces extinction. Once there, they must decide if what they caused long ago will prevent forgiveness and renewal. What becomes of Joseph and Celice forces this love story full-circle with their estranged daughter, Syl. Having hit her own bottom, Syl returns home after many years to find her parents missing. Having dismissed her parents’ staid lives, she’s delivered at last to the dunes in which Joseph and Celice remain, so sure there was still time.

Thursday, March 5 • 8:15pm

**The Blackout**
(Drama)

USA - 80 minutes
**Writer/Director:** Daniela De Carlo
**Producer:** Alexandra Creswick
**Cast:** Leah Henoch, Hillary Anne Matthews, Tess Paras
**Website:** www.theblackoutmovie.com

**Synopsis:** As hurricane Sandy descends upon New York, leaving destruction in her wake and plunging the city into darkness, a group of friends and neighbors come together and discover the joys, heartaches, and pleasures of human connection.
Thursday, March 5 • 8:45pm

**Senior Love Triangle**  
(Drama)

**USA - 92 minutes**  
**Director:** Kelly Blatz  
**Writer:** Kelly Blatz, Isadora Kosofsky  
**Producer:** Jenna Cavelle, Lori Tanner, Drew Diamond, Mathew Smaiglik, Baron Davis, Emilie Khair, Isadora Kosofksy  
**Cast:** Tom Bower, Marlyn Mason, Anne Gee Byrd, Travis Van Winkle  
**Website:** www.seniorlovetrianglefilm.com

**Synopsis:** An 84-year-old charming but delusional WWII veteran forms romantic relationships with two elderly women and goes on a crusade to save them from the isolation of their retirement homes in East Hollywood. Inspired by a true story documented in *TIME* magazine.

---

Friday, March 6 • 6:15pm

**The Planters**  
(Comedy)

**USA - 78 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Alexandra Kotcheff, Hannah Leder  
**Producer:** Jacqueline Beiro, Alexandra Kotcheff, Hannah Leder  
**Cast:** Alexandra Kotcheff, Hannah Leder, Phil Parolisi, Pepe Serna  
**Website:** theplantersfilm.com/

**Synopsis:** The *Planters* is a dark comedy about Martha Plant, a telemarketer who sucks at her job, doesn’t like people, but likes to bury stolen treasure for cash donations. When she finds unlikely friendship in Sadie Mayflower, a Jesus-loving vagrant with multiple personalities, Martha’s world starts looking up. But Martha learns that opening herself up can come with unexpected consequences.
**From the Vine**
Canada/Italy - 94 minutes
**Director:** Sean Cisterna
**Writer:** Willem Wennekers, based on the novel Finding Marco by Ken Cancellara
**Producer:** Kyle Bornais, Paula Brancati, Ken Cancellara, Francesco Papa
**Cast:** Joe Pantoliano, Wendy Papa, Marco Leonardi, Paula Brancati
**Synopsis:** *From The Vine* is the story of a downtrodden CEO experiencing a moral crisis who travels back to Italy to re-calibrate his moral compass. He discovers new life by reviving his grandfather’s old vineyard, offering the small town of Acerenza a sustainable future and reconnecting with his family in the process. Combining magic realism and Italian neorealism, and set against the backdrop of wine country Italy, the film is about finding your roots in your family when you’re at the bottom of the barrel.

**THE NIGHT**
USA/Iran - 105 minutes
**Director:** Kourosh Ahari
**Writer:** Kourosh Ahari, Milad Jarmooz
**Producer:** Alex Bretow, Jeffrey Allard, Cheryl Staurulakis, Armin Amiri, Mohammad Dormanesh
**Cast:** Shahab Hosseini, Niousha Jafarian
**Website:** www.thenightfilm.com
**Synopsis:** *The Night* is a psychological thriller that follows an Iranian couple, Babak and Neda, and their one-year-old daughter, Shabnam. Returning home from a friend’s gathering, Babak drives drunkenly, too stubborn to let Neda drive with a suspended license. When Babak’s driving threatens the safety of the family, Neda insists they stay the night at a hotel. Once they check into the hotel, Babak and Neda find themselves imprisoned—forced to face the secrets they’ve kept from each other. And though the clock moves forward, “the night” never ends.

**Saturday, March 7 • 12:30pm**

**From the Vine**
(Drama)

**Friday, March 6 • 8:10pm**

**The Night**
(Horror, Thriller)
Saturday, March 7 • 3:00pm

The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain

( Biography, Drama, History)

USA - 81 minutes
Writer/Director: David Midell
Producer: Enrico Natale, David Midell
Cast: Frankie Faison, Enrico Natale, Stevo O’Connell, Anika Noni Rose
Website: Kennethchambelainmovie.com

Synopsis: Based on the true story of the events that led to the death of Kenneth Chamberlain Sr., an elderly African American veteran with bipolar disorder, who was killed during a conflict with police officers who were dispatched to check on him.

Saturday, March 7 • 6:00pm

The In-Between

(Drama)

USA - 78 minutes
Director: Mindy Bledsoe
Writer: Mindy Bledsoe, Rob Senska, Jennifer Stone
Producer: Chris Lyon, Blayne Weaver, Bledska, Jennifer Stone
Cast: Mindy Bledsoe, Jennifer Stone, Rane Jameson
Website: inbetweenmovie2019.com/

Synopsis: Two women set out on a road trip with different missions. Mads (Jennifer Stone) needs to renew her driver’s license in South Dakota, while Junior needs to visit Portland, OR on a quest for her dead sister. Both women have medical issues that cause friction along the way, but they never let those problems define their identities. Mads is also keeping a secret from Junior, that could explode at any moment and ruin their journey.
Saturday, March 7 • 8:20pm

**Here Awhile**

(Drama)

**USA - 86 minutes**
**Director:** Tim True
**Writer:** Csaba Mera, Tim True
**Producer:** Deborah Lee Smith
**Cast:** Anna Camp, Joe Lo Truglio, Steven Strait

**Synopsis:** Anna (played by Anna Camp) returns to Portland after 15 years to reconnect with her brother Michael (Steven Strait). Anna reveals that she has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and that she plans to end her life utilizing Oregon’s unique Death with Dignity Act. Michael pleads with her to reconsider but she is adamant. Michael’s girlfriend, Shonda, and Michael’s brilliantly quirky neighbor, Gary (Joe Lo Truglio), and Anna’s partner, Luisa, understand and are supportive of her difficult decision. Through a series of adventures, the group gets closer, and ultimately comes together to celebrate her life. When the time is right, Anna addresses each with a heartfelt goodbye as they surround her with love during her last breaths.

---

**Soaring Wings**

**Vineyard & Brewing**
THE 15TH ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 3-8, 2020

DOCUMENTARY FILMS
Wednesday, March 4 • 6:00pm

**After So Many Days**

USA, Canada, Sweden, United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ireland, Norway, Germany, Iceland, Russia – 87 minutes

Director: Jim Hanft, Samantha Yonack
Writer/Producer: Jim Hanft, Samantha Yonack, Natalia Anderson, Kyle Weber

**Synopsis:** After a decade of making music together, Jim and Sam, a recently married singer/songwriter duo from Los Angeles, were not the conventionally successful band they hoped they’d be. Feeling stuck and anxious about their future, the duo made a spontaneous decision to go “all in,” making a pact to play one show every day for a year. With suitcases and a guitar, the troubadours ventured out for a 365-day tour down unexplored roads, and onto unexpected stages, bringing their music to new audiences throughout 14 different countries. After So Many Days, is an intimate front row seat to the highs and lows of what it’s like for two people to pursue a dream, together.

Thursday, March 5 • 6:00pm

**I Am Not Alone**

Armenia - 93 minutes

Writer/Director: Garin Hovannisian
Producer: Alec Mouhibian, Garin Hovannisian, Eric Esrailian, Tatevik Manoukyan
Executive Producer: Serj Tankian
Cast: Nikol Pashinyan, Serzh Sargsyan, Valeriy Osipyan, Anna Hakobyan, Chalo the Dog

**Synopsis:** On Easter 2018, a man put on a backpack and went live on Facebook to announce that he was beginning a walk across Armenia. His mission: to inspire a velvet revolution — and topple the corrupt regime that enjoys absolute power in his post-soviet nation. With total access to all key players, I AM NOT ALONE tells the miraculous true story of what happens in the next 40 days.
Friday, March 6 • 8:20pm

**Barefoot: The Mark Baumer Story**

**USA - 87 minutes**
**Writer/Director:** Julie Sokolow
**Producer:** Olivia Vaughn, Danny Yourd
**Cast:** Jim Baumer, Mary Baumer
**Website:** www.barefootdocumentary.com/

**Synopsis:** **BAREFOOT** is a portrait of Mark Baumer, a writer and activist who walked barefoot for over 100 days to protest climate change. In a voice *The New Yorker* praised as “reminiscent of Andy Kaufman”, Baumer narrates his walk in self-recorded videos, sharing his offbeat take on life and how we all can make a difference.

---

Saturday, March 7 • 12:15pm

**Waging Change**

**USA - 61 minutes**
**Producer/Director:** Abby Ginzberg
**Writer:** Sharon Wood, Abby Ginzberg, Mara Wohl
**Cast:** Saru Jayaraman; Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin; Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez; Rep Jan Schakowsky; Nataki Rhodes, Wardell Harvey, Andrea Velasquez
**Website:** www.wagingchange.com

**Synopsis:** **WAGING CHANGE** reveals two American workers’ struggles hidden in plain sight—the effort to end the federal tipped minimum wage of $2.13 for restaurant servers and bartenders and the #MeToo movement’s efforts to end sexual harassment. The film shines a spotlight on the challenges faced by restaurant workers, 70% of whom are women, trying to feed themselves and their families on tips and the growing movement to end the tipped minimum wage. Featuring Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Saru Jayaraman, the film highlights the critical role consumers have to play in ending the two-tier wage system.
**DOCUMENTARY FILMS**

**USA - 91 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Catherine Gund  
**Producer:** Catherine Gund, Tanya Selvaratnam  
**Cast:** Agnes Gund, Darren Walker, Ava DuVernay, Thelma Golden, John Waters, Glenn Ligon  
**Website:** www.aggiefilm.com  
**Synopsis:** Aggie is a feature-length documentary that explores the nexus of art, race, and justice through the story of art collector and philanthropist Agnes “Aggie” Gund’s life. Emmy-nominated director Catherine Gund focuses on her mother’s journey to give viewers an understanding of the power of art to transform consciousness and inspire social change. Aggie is internationally recognized for her robust and prescient support of artists—particularly women and people of color—and her unwavering commitment to social justice issues. After falling in love with art as a high-school student, Aggie discovers a new way of looking at the world. The film opens with Aggie selling Roy Lichtenstein’s *Masterpiece* for $165 million to start the Art for Justice Fund. The proceeds from one of the highest grossing artworks ever sold fuel a monumental effort to reform the American criminal justice system and end mass incarceration. The film captures Aggie as a true maverick, who demonstrates the unique role and potential of collectors and benefactors to use art to fight injustice. This is untapped terrain, and we see Aggie leading the way.

**USA - 85 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Oren Jacoby  
**Producer:** Oren Jacoby, Holly Siegel, co-producer Sam Jinishian  
**Cast:** Helen Mirren, Christine Baranski, August Wilson, James Corden, Alec Baldwin, John Lithgow, Viola Davis, Hugh Jackman and Ian McKellen Including performances by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Patti Lupone, Bernadette Peters, James Earl Jones and Mandy Patinkin  
**Website:** www.storyville.org/  
**Synopsis:** An all-star cast tells the inside story of Broadway theater coming back from the brink thanks to innovative work, inclusion, and an uneasy balance between art and commerce. A hurly burly ride down the main street of American show business.

**Saturday, March 7 • 8:10pm**  
**Aggie**

**Sunday, March 8 • 1:30pm**  
**On Broadway**
THE 15TH ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 3-8, 2020

YOu Have an Idea. YoU Have a Story. YoU Have Something to Say. Whether you want to promote your business, hype a creative idea or share human interest stories, we want to help you make it a podcast!
**Exam**

*Iran* - 14:54 minutes  
**Director:** Sonia K Hadad  
**Writers:** Sonia K Hadad, Farnoosh Samadi  
**Producer:** Pouria Heidary Oureh  
**Cast:** Sadaf Asgari, Hadis Miramini, Masih Kazemi, Elaheh Afshari

A teenage girl gets involved in the process of delivering a pack of cocaine to its client, and gets stuck in a weird cycle of occurrences.

**Diving**

*USA* - 13:50 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Madison Cross  
**Producer:** Madison Cross, Tayler Vee Robinson  
**Cast:** Madison Cross, Rickey Wilson Jr, Taylor Frey

After a first date leads Molly down a road of what ifs, she decides that life is too short not to take the risk.

**Zitate Furs Leben** *(Quotes for Life)*

*Germany* - 8:16 minutes  
**Writer/Director/Producer:** Monty Scholz  
**Cast:** Robert Knorr, Lotta Doll, Paula Hauss, Aleksan Cetinkaya

Moritz tells us why his last relationship ended how it did.

**They Won’t Last**

*USA* - 15:41 minutes  
**Director:** Portlynn Tagavi  
**Writer:** Brandon Gale, Portlynn Tagavi  
**Producer:** Richard Bailey  
**Cast:** Jack De Sena, Brittany Renee Finamore

After attending their friends’ perfect wedding, Christine is forced to consider the future of her own relationship when her hopeless romantic boyfriend Alex proposes. When Christine is unable to say yes, Alex makes it worse by giving her an ultimatum: either get engaged or break up right now.
**The Hand of the Devil**

USA - 13:20 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Max Lollar  
**Producer:** Costa Lapaseotes, Max Lollar  
**Cast:** Jarrid Masse, Chloë Caro, Molly Dougherty, Christian Olivo

In this horror comedy inspired by 1980s B-movies, a desperate man disobeys a mysterious fortune teller and becomes possessed by the devil.

---

**Je Finirai en Prison**  
*(I’ll End Up in Jail)*

Canada - 23:00 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Alexandre Dostie  
**Producer:** Hany Ouichou (Art & essai)  
**Cast:** Martine Francke, Émile Schneider, Guy Thauvette, Joseph Delorey

Maureen Sauvageau’s escape comes to an abrupt end when she drives her monster truck into a deadly car accident. Stuck in the middle of nowhere, she must share the company and the blame of a rather touching junkie dubbed Jelly the Loon.
Alejandra

USA - 11:01 minutes
Writer/Director: Ryan Hovland
Producer: Carter Knopik, Parker Reil
Cast: Caitlin Staebell, Jeremy Kendall, Hannah Neil, William Grange, Wayne Matychuk

When Alejandra arrives in small-town America as a foreign exchange student, she begins to question the true identity of her host.

Slasher

USA - 24:27 minutes
Producer/Director: Ryan Hollst
Writer: Ryan Hollst, Drew Roberts
Cast: Mike Burns, Gabby Kesterson, Brandon Williams, Dennis Stessman, Lyle Kwiatkowski, Andrew Romero, Andy Prescott, DK Kellum, Drew Roberts, Aaron Thomas, Shaylie Hollst, Ben Phillips, Brendan Brown

Six friends venture into the backwoods of a small town, where a vicious killer awaits. However, all might not be what it seems.
Buzz vs Scooty

USA - 16:00 minutes
Director: Margaux Towne
Writer/Producer: Todd Graves
Cast: Houston Alexander, Walter Shatley, PJ Morgan, Rob Baker, Rachel Fox, Matt Wedlock, Larry Karstens, Curlee Alexander, John Pelkey, Mark Ferrera, Riley Clermont, Mike Halac

Men will be boys. Two grown men argue about whose dad is tougher. They arrange for their elderly fathers to meet in the ring for a testosterone-filled, epic battle.

Underlying Fear

USA - 14:29 minutes
Director: Adam V. Turner
Writers: Adam V. Turner, Jon Bass
Producers: Adam V. Turner, Jon Bass
Cast: Taylor Winks, Nehemiah Wright, Nicholas Russel, Michael Zovandy, Vincent Turner, Wayne Matychuk

Rita, a Midwestern woman has to face her underlying fear in the form of racism when she encounters a young black man on the run who is a suspect for a murder.

Firespring is a proud printing partner of the Omaha Film Festival.

firespring.com
Willows
USA - 14:37 minutes
Director: Eduardo Cintron
Writer: Andre Silva, Michael Franklin, Eduardo Cintron
Producer: Eduardo Cintron, Dylan Long, Andre Silva, Ken Rowe
Cast: Darren Assante, Susan O’Doherty, Rich Maloy, Anthony Solano

Willows is an anthology of three stories that examine the feelings of loss, and the value of time.

The Mouse and the Lion
USA - 16:00 minutes
Writer/Director: Lain Kienzle
Producer: Jacob Bittens, Sophia Harvey, Jamal Bilal, Caroline Levine
Cast: Izzie Steele, Jefferson White, Collin Medford

Winter, 1920. As a brutal blizzard strikes, a farmer’s wife finds a World War I veteran collapsed on her doorstep. She hauls him inside and as he regains his strength, their growing bond unearths secrets each would rather keep hidden.

Meats
USA - 10:28 minutes
Writer/Director: Ashley Williams
Producer: Ashley Williams, Neal Dodson
Cast: Ashley Williams, Giancarlo Sbarbaro

A pregnant vegan struggles with her newfound craving for meat.

Over the Line
Canada - 7:08 minutes
Writer/Director: Aaron Hall
Producer: Alex Karakatsanis, Aaron Hall
Cast: Kym Wyatt Mckenzie, Michael Lake

Despite his backseat passenger being near death, an odd young man decides they need to make a quick pitstop before heading to the hospital - to rob a gas station.
**Wax Paul Now**

USA - 16:12 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Rebecca Shaw, Val Bodurtha, Sophie Mann  
**Cast:** Rebecca Shaw, Val Bodurtha, Sophie Mann, Paul Giamatti, Trevor van Uden, Richard Brevard

After visiting Madame Tussauds, three friends answer the museum’s call for ideas on which celebrity to en-waxify next. The girls propose Paul Giamatti, and end up starting an online movement to get the actor a statue of his own.

**Blocks**

USA - 10:44 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Bridget Moloney  
**Producer:** Kate Chamuris, Kristin Slaysman, Valerie Steinberg  
**Cast:** Claire Coffee, Mark Webber, Phoebe Sinclair, George Sinclair, Ruha Taslimi, Kristin Slaysman, Trae Harris,

An existential comedy about the mother of two young children who begins to spontaneously vomit toy blocks.

**White Guys Solve Sexism**

USA - 6:26 minutes  
**Producer/Director:** Christopher Guerrero  
**Writer:** Eric T. Roth, Christopher Guerrero  
**Cast:** Leah Lamarr, Kyle Heif, Max Baumgarten

Because of the Harvey Weinstein scandal, two men realize that all of their favorite movies are now sexist, leading them down a dark path of discovery.

**Summer Lightning**

USA - 11:20 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Andrew Saunderson  
**Producer:** Andrew Preston, Zach Mann, Brendan Kenney  
**Cast:** Ty Simpkins, Ryan Findley

For a father and son, a baseball game isn’t the most important battle of the weekend.
**May I have This Dance Please?**

USA - 4:56 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Elizabeth Rudigier

May I have this Dance Please? takes a look at the 5th graders of Jackson Elementary School as they learn ballroom dance. While the students learn the steps to each dance, they just might also learn more about their dance partners and how to treat them outside the ballroom.

**The Dress**

USA - 7:29 minutes  
**Director:** Jill Zmolek  
**Cast:** Lora Kaup, Torisa Walker

A behind the scenes look at the Creighton stage production of Legally Blonde. The Dress explores the costume construction process for a show that heavily utilizes physical appearance to express gender and class roles that characters both embrace and rebel against throughout the fictional story.

**April Interlude**

USA - 2:55 minutes  
**Director:** Tim Guthrie

April plays Bach.

**Living in a VHS World**

USA - 4:10 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Chris Machian  
**Cast:** Adam Haug

Living in a VHS World explores Adam Haug’s love affair with a medium that many have considered long dead. Haug is not only a collector but he releases his albums on VHS tapes. Chris Machian explores his world while making sure to keep Haug’s interview, like his world, in VHS.
Francisco Ruiz – Tattoo Artist

Netherlands - 7:09 minutes
Director: Susana Vanourney
Writer/Producer: Susana Vanourney, Francisco Ruiz
Cast: Francisco Ruiz

Francisco Ruiz, a Venezuelan tattoo artist currently residing in Amsterdam, discusses his life and love of creating art through tattoos.

Survived

USA - 15:10 minutes
Writer/Director: Deanna Buller
Cast: Amanda Ramold, Deanna Buller, Mia, Mabel (off-screen), Rita, Serenity Jankowski, Tabitha

Survived covers the heavy subject of Sexual Assault and may be difficult for some people to watch. After the 2017 scandal of sexual assault you couldn’t go a day without hearing about the subject.

Grace

USA - 5:39 minutes
Writer/Director: LeAnne Bugay
Producer: AE Stueve, Meg Gross
Cast: Grace Schaefer

Sophomore cross country runner Grace Schaefer pushes through the highs and lows of the sport she loves to medal at a meet.
Great Monsters Walk These Halls

USA - 15:15 minutes
Writer/Director: Mike Machian
Producer: Mike Machian, Michael Torson
Cast: Wayne Sealy, Wayne Halsey, Doug Kabourek, Brian Corey

Great Monsters Walk These Halls is written on the wall backstage at Mystery Manor, Omaha’s longest running haunted house.

Synesthesia

USA - 4:37 minutes
Writer/Director: Molly Misek

Synesthesia is a perceptual phenomenon in which stimulation of one sensory or cognitive pathway leads to involuntary experiences in a second sensory or cognitive pathway. This film explores synesthesia, specifically chromesthesia, through the work of musician Kaitlyn Hova.
**Mr. Marvelous**

USA - 13:55 minutes  
**Director:** Evan Falbaum  
**Writers:** Evan Falbaum, Kemerton Hargrove  
**Producer:** Kemerton Hargrove, Mitch Landry, Landon Miller  
**Cast:** Mitch Landry, M.E. Breithaupt, Torren Davis, Rod V. Phillips, Kemerton Hargrove  

A mall Santa spends Christmas eve alone until someone breaks into his house and discovers his secrets.

---

**Buzzard**

Canada - 15:15 minutes  
**Director:** Joy Webster  
**Writer:** Ben O’Neil, Joy Webster  
**Producer:** Lucas Ford  
**Cast:** Alanna Bale, David Sparrow, Michael Lipka  

A man on the brink of suicide is interrupted by a teenage girl involved in a door-to-door water heater scam.

---

**But First...**

USA - 4:48 minutes  
**Director:** Erin Brown Thomas  
**Writer:** Mike Esperanza, Erin Brown Thomas  
**Producer:** Lindsay Gauthier  
**Cast:** Erin Nicole Love, Tiffanie Carson, Sarah Housepian  

When just one thing, first, makes all the difference!

---

**Tacos For (Redacted)**

USA - 9:58 minutes  
**Director:** Emily Skyle-Golden  
**Writer:** Aaron Foster  
**Producer:** Ryan Golden, Tyler Bourns, Emily Skyle, Aaron Foster  
**Cast:** Aaron Foster, Rick Podell  

An (almost) entirely true story about a National Television Host that spent 10k on a crowdfunding site for a role in a Hollywood Star’s next big film. He never got the role, or a refund - so he got revenge.
The Shabbos Goy

USA - 6:54 minutes
Writer/Director: Talia Osteen
Producer: Jesse Schiller
Executive Producer: Paul Feig, Laura Fischer, Kesila Childers
Cast: Milana Vayntrub, Devere Rogers, Tami Sagher

God literally forbids she turn off a vibrator gone rogue, so an Orthodox Jew sets out on a quest to find someone who can.

The Chef

USA - 19:50 minutes
Director: Hao Zheng
Writer: Vanessa Leqi Kong, Ithaca Yixian Deng
Producer: Ithaca Yixian Deng
Cast: Jim Lau Quinn, Von Hoene, Allen Theosky Rowe

In a time when work is done by robots, a traditional Chinese chef is forced to train a Caucasian humanoid to cook Chinese food, but a former protégé of the chef makes this harder by joining an anti-robot riot group.

Little Chief

USA - 11:48 minutes
Writer/Director: Erica Tremblay
Producer: Erica Tremblay, Kasia Chmielinski, Deidre Backs
Cast: Lily Gladstone, Julian Ballentyne

The lives of a Native woman and nine-year-old boy intersect over the course of a school day on a reservation in Oklahoma.

The Tattooed Heart

USA - 9:00 minutes
Director: Sheldon Wong Schwartz
Writer: Matt Olmstead
Producer: Swift Lee, Matt Olmstead, Willis Chung, Barry Battles
Cast: Jennifer Morrison, Madison Wolfe, Nestor Serrano

A creative writing instructor at a juvenile detention center finds common ground with a troubled student, yet quickly finds herself in great danger when she decides to help her.
**Helter Shelter**

**USA - 4:33 minutes**
**Director:** Jeremy Osbern  
**Writer/Performer:** Nick Givechi  
**Producer:** Through A Glass Productions

Helter Shelter is a spoken word poem/short film about the de-humanization of the homeless.

---

**The Sunny Side Up**

**Ireland - 10:30 minutes**
**Director:** Peter Kilmartin  
**Producer:** Cian O’Connor  
**Cast:** Sonia Jacobs, Peter Pringle

Peter Pringle and Sunny Jacobs both served years in prison for crimes they did not commit. After being exonerated, what are the chances they both met and fell in love? This film explores how love can prevail, and hearts can keep beating when a soul is dragged through so much.

---

**Guanajuato Norte**

**USA/Mexico - 23:00 minutes**
**Writer/Director:** Ingrid Holmquist, Sana A. Malik  
**Cast:** Wenceslao (Winny) Contreras

Winny Contreras has lived and worked on the same farm in Connecticut for the last 24 years with men who are from his hometown in Guanajuato, Mexico. Before him, his father also crossed the border to find work.
**Daddio**

**USA - 17:50 minutes**  
**Director:** Casey Wilson  
**Writer:** Laura Kindred, Casey Wilson  
**Producer:** Laura Kindred, Casey Wilson, Adam Silver, Ursula Camack  
**Cast:** Michael McKean, Casey Wilson, Adam Pally, June Diane Raphael, Blair Beeken, Johnny Meeks, Emma Weiss, Ian Durney, April Mouton

A daughter and her eccentric father, separately struggling to cope with a tragedy, when Dad comes to visit, they will have to work together to reconcile their unorthodox approaches to grief.

---

**Something in Common**

**USA - 1:00 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Lori Allred  
**Cast:** Pinot the dog, Sarah Irwin-Powell, Megan Nichols, Leslie Nichols

A corgi on wheels finds a new friend.

---

**In the Blood**

**USA - 6:41 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Regina Banali  
**Producer:** Regina Banali, Nancy O'Brien  
**Cast:** Frankie Banali, Tal Berkovich, Joe Chambrello, Alex Grossi, Chuck Wright, James Durbin, Jim Law

In the old west, Sartana rides into town to score some cash, form a gang and settle a score. His ex, Dolores, has been hiding out with an unwitting suitor. She has secrets and they are catching up with her. She means to skip town but her beau confronts her looking for answers and she doesn’t make it out in time before having a shootout with Sartana and his gang.

---

**Maven Voyage**

**USA - 14:58 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Rachel Emerson  
**Producer:** Andrew Mueller, Rachel Emerson  
**Cast:** John Fulton, Rachel Emerson, Emily Popp, Reese Benson, Murphie Cunningham, Sam Ortiz

Maeve is training to be a part of the first manned mission to Mars. However, her experiment leads to some interesting results.
Recoiled
USA - 8:01 minutes
Director: Claire Grim
Writer: Kersten Schatz, Story by Shalom Simmons and Claire Grim

*Recoiled* is a 3D animated short that tells the story of two young African American sisters. Kailli’s hair is so curly that it has a life of its own. With the help of her young sister, Kalli quickly discovers that being true to one another and to themselves is far more important than conforming to social norms of beauty and peer pressure to fit in.

Why Slugs Have No Legs
Switzerland - 10:44 minutes
Writer/Director: Aline Höchli
Producer: Marcel Derek Ramsay, Michèle Wannaz

Slugs have a hard time keeping up with the pace of life in the city of insects. When a financial crisis hits, the industrious bees only see one solution...

TellTale
USA, Taiwan - 3:09 minutes
Writer/Director/Producer: Fu Yang

A man who holds too many secrets goes to confess to a sacred tree...

Irritable Ball Syndrome
USA - 5:21 minutes
Writer/Director: Brady Glover
Cast: Hayden Howe

A scientist tries to infuse life into a ball and learns how to roll with what life zaps at him.
The Haunted Swordsman

USA - 16:25 minutes
Producer/Director: Kevin McTurk
Writer: Tab Murphy
Cast: Jason Scott Lee, James Hong, Fanka Potente, Christopher Lloyd

In a world of demons and ghosts, a lone samurai and his odd companion seek vengeance.

The Lonely Orbit

Switzerland - 9:20 minutes
Writers/Directors: Frederic Siegel, Benjamin Morard
Producer: Marwan Abdalla Eissa

Leaving for his dream job, a satellite technician keeps solitude at bay by constantly texting with his old friends. After neglecting his duties, a satellite leaves its orbit which causes the world’s network to collapse.

Deadman’s Reach

UK - 11:19 minutes
Writer/Director/Producer: Quentin Vien

After falling asleep on the London underground, a man finds himself mysteriously spirited into the desert where he follows an illusive trail of a failed love affair. Through the exploration of songwriting, the man eventually reaches catharsis and the acceptance that allows him to move on and to find his way out of the desert.

Kim

USA - 6:21 minutes
Writer/Director/Producer: Madeline Landry
Cast: Natalie Bendheim, Haynes Brooke

Kim is a stop-motion animated, mockumentary style short about the titular Kim, a friendly, creative, people-eating siren. The film follows her average day as she explains her unconventional lifestyle, her encounters with the gruff fisherman Phil, and the problems they both face due to a changing environment.
**Abe’s Story**

Ireland - 12:21 minutes  
**Director:** Adam H. Stewart  
**Writer:** Adam H. Stewart, Garry Walsh  
**Cast:** Colin O’Donovan, David Bamber, Owen Roe, Jonathan Ryan

Set in Victorian London, Abe, an over-worked Irish writer draws inspiration from his day job in the theater to write a bloody brilliant novel.

**If Anything Happens I Love You**

USA - 12:21 minutes  
**Writers/Directors:** Will McCormack, Michael Govier  
**Producer:** Maryann Garger, Gary Gilbert, Gerald Chamales

Grieving parents struggle with the loss of their daughter after a school shooting. An elegy on grief.
THE 15TH ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL
MARCH 3-8, 2020
SHORT PROGRAM

BLOCK 7
125TH & CENTER

“Skip the popcorn...have a margarita!”

Home of the Omaha Film Festival’s “Ring the Bell” Party for 14 years running
**Short Program Block 8**

**Coffee Shop Names**
USA - 7:58 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Deepak Sethi  
**Producer:** Valerie Steinberg  
**Cast:** Danny Pudi, Karan Soni, Kausar Mohammed, Anders Holm

Three Indian people imagine their personas as their “coffee shop names,” the names they give baristas because their real names are hard to pronounce.

**Bunker Burger**
Canada - 11:30 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Adam Yorke  
**Producer:** Adam Yorke, Kristy Neville, Matt Code  
**Cast:** Enrico Colantoni, Sara Mitich, Tony Babcock, Jennifer Vallance, Sarah Gnocato, Bethanie Ho, Ronnie Rowe Jr., Jake Raymond, Kyana Teresa, Ava Augustin, Danijel Mandic, Greg Zajac, Tanya Beván, Grant Landry, Emily Siobhan McCourt

The members of an underground, post-apocalyptic bunker invite a psychologist from the radioactive surface above to audition for a place to live among them.

**Portraitist**
Luxembourg - 15:00 minutes  
**Producer/Director:** Cyrus, Neshvad  
**Writer:** Guillaume Levil  
**Cast:** Albert Delpy

A grandfather at the edge of despair is called to care for his dying granddaughter. Through art, he kindles a relationship with her that brings beauty to the darkness in their lives.

**Tree #3**
USA - 19:50 minutes  
**Director:** Omer Ben-Shachar  
**Writers:** Omer Ben Shachar, Sydney Meadow  
**Producer:** Iris Xuan Yang  
**Cast:** Lior Malka, Rita Zohar, Alex Gonzalez, Eva Du, Shira Gross, Kelly Ryan, Ohad Bitton

After he’s been cast (again!) as a background tree in his annual middle school play, an ambitious and imaginative Israeli immigrant boy leads a revolution on stage that his intolerant drama teacher will never forget.
**Age of Bryce**

USA - 9:50 minutes  
**Producer/Director:** Brian Elliott; David Feagan  
**Writer:** Brian Elliott  
**Cast:** DeAnna Toten Beard; Major Dodson

Smothered by an adoring, over-protective mom, 12-year-old Bryce Yancy Paul (Bip) is pushed to the brink of pubescent revolution. It’s time to ripen. Bloom. Break the shackles of parental paranoia. It’s the *Age of Bryce*. Sometimes a man’s gotta do what a man’s gotta do.

---

**The Devil’s Harmony**

UK - 14:23 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Dylan Holmes Williams  
**Producer:** Nathan Craig  
**Cast:** Patsy Ferran, Leo Suter

A bullied teenage girl leads an a cappella club on a trail of destruction against her high school enemies.

---

**Oh, Sorry**

USA - 14:56 minutes  
**Director:** Justin Giddings & Ryan Welsh  
**Writer:** Madeleine Coghlan  
**Producer:** Cindi Rice, John Frank Rosenblum  
**Cast:** Wyatt Oleff, Madeleine Coghlan, Reina Hardesty, Brandon Perea

A grieving young woman leans on her younger brother for emotional support until a spontaneous night out forces her to confront her denial.
THE 15TH ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL

MARCH 3-8, 2020

**One Bullet to Shoot**  
USA - 4:23 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Vaughn Miller  
A musical video of a song by Vaughn Miller.

**Sessions**  
USA - 5:55 minutes  
**Instructors:** Jason Levering, David Weiss  
**Writer/Cast:** Stella Ehrhart, Caleb Eschliman, Haden Batchelder, Sydney Skierka, Michael Frandolig

Sessions is the result of a collaborative film course from the 2020 Nebraska Thespians Conference. With the help of the class instructors, each of the student actors devised their own characters and determined a setting in which each of these characters could possibly intersect. The resulting story is highly improvised, a thoughtful character study of five youth with troubled background.

**Until Evening**  
USA - 11:00 minutes  
**Director:** Mike Machian  
**Writer:** Maya Peirce, Chuck Mittan and Christopher Siaens  
**Producer:** Mike Machian, Chuck Mittan  
**Cast:** MJ Peters, Erika Kozel, Cheri Bloomingdale, Linda Hughes, Stephanie Finklea, Michael Torsen, Chris Williams, Jonathan Newton

A young woman with a troubled past encounters a mysterious stranger has a chilling message about the future.

**Not**  
USA - 1:10 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Allison Schafer

A quick reflection of what you are, and are not.
THE 15TH ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL
MARCH 3-8, 2020

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 / 6:30PM - 7:25PM / THEATRE 4 / 55 MINUTES

**Better with You**

USA - 6:24 minutes  
**Director:** Allison Holt  
**Writer/Producer:** Samantha D. Boesch  
**Cast:** Alex Abate  

A man who lives with OCD feels as though his life is missing something.

**The Boulevard: Six Months**

USA - 20:16 minutes  
**Created by:** Trevor Nealy and Karl Yanike  
**Cast:** Karl Yanike, Trevor Nealy, Jimmy Hill  

Two slackers try to maintain their sanity while living off a six-month supply of mac and cheese in their apartment.

**The Last Showdown**

USA - 3:18 minutes  
**Writer/Director/Producer:** Cooper Watkins  
**Cast:** Evan Eggers, Gabe Foreman Albers, Cooper Watkins  

An old prospector leads a cowboy to a black clad gunfighter. A duel ensues.

**David**

USA - 2:19 minutes  
**Writer/Director:** Christine Burright McGuigan  
**Cast:** Christine Burright McGuigan, Becky Grey, Aaron Slagle, Taryn Woods  

Three friends discuss their nicknames.
**Feel Pretty**

USA - 3:31 minutes  
**Writers/Directors:** Dale Brooks, Matt Brooks  
**Producer:** Jameon Rush  
**Cast:** Maggie Vaughan

A woman prepares.

**Fortunate Country**

USA - 22:44 minutes  
**Directors:** Kristin Jordan Tripe, Julia Hinson  
**Writer:** Kristin Jordan Tripe  
**Producer:** Kristin Jordan Tripe, Paul Marcarelli  
**Cast:** Kristin Jordan Tripe, Regina Palmer, Haley Haas, Aaron McCauley

Two small-town women in the rural Midwest confront their feelings for one another and explore the quiet romance unexpectedly blossoming out of their long friendship. A modern adaptation of the 1913 Willa Cather novel, *O Pioneers!*, this naturalistic drama follows one young woman who is restlessly trying to reconcile her past so that she can escape her hometown, and another clutching to a quiet life in the country.

**Caniglia**

Italy - 9:03 minutes  
**Director:** David M. Weiss  
**Writer:** David M. Weiss, Jeremy Caniglia, Carlos Hof (Film Score)  
**Producer:** David M. Weiss  
**Cast:** Jeremy Caniglia, Jacqui Caniglia, Vivian Caniglia, Caravaggio Caniglia, Grace Hartigan

*Caniglia* is known for his emotionally charged figurative and portrait paintings, which focus on the human condition. His work explores moments caught in time that show glimpses of climate change, wars, revolution, and poverty. His work embraces the old masters’ style of technical virtuosity while embodying the ancient Greek archetypes of life, love, death and rebirth. *Caniglia* has a strong global following with his work in private collections and museums around the world. This film strikes at the heart of the human psyche and gives the audience an inside look at his illuminating, foreboding, haunting but always poignant narrative paintings. Caniglia’s world wallows in the glories of expansiveness, empathy, and timeless places.
**The Murder King**

**USA - 15:54 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Kate Ryan Brewer  
**Producer:** Michael Hennings, Greg Lilly  
**Cast:** Mindy Wood, Ben Brewer, Helen Hudgins, Monica Ortiz, Adam Flohr

When Leanne was a girl her younger sister, Emily, disappeared. Months later Leanne got her first letter from the killer. Sixteen years later she’s still haunted by her sister’s death - and the murderer who won’t let her go.

**The Night Watcher**

**USA - 1:30 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Rob Yanike  
**Cast:** Reagan Yanike, Greg Nissen, Caleb Yanike, Karis Yanike, Shannon Smay

7-year-old Lauren likes to sneak out of bed at night and watch scary movies...bad idea.

**One Punch**

**USA - 8:04 minutes**  
**Writers/Directors:** Shawn Gourley, Lauren Abell  
**Producer:** MJ Peters  
**Cast:** Beau Fisher, MJ Peters, Matthew Olsen

Shortly after buying a self-defense class from an infomercial, a broken-hearted manager must use his newly acquired skills.
Welcome to the Fifth Annual OFF Academy
Thursday and Friday, March 5 & 6
Hilton Garden Inn - Aksarben

The two-day OFF Academy welcomes and serves 7th-12th grade students from the Omaha and surrounding area. Our goal is to educate, entertain, and inspire by providing interactive seminars and specialty breakout sessions taught by highly-regarded industry professionals from around the world. In a comfortable and safe learning environment, a diverse group of students are exposed to different aspects of the filmmaking process. They benefit from hands-on learning, networking, and creative synergy. Classes are held at the Aksarben Hilton Garden Inn ballroom and Aksarben Cinema.

In addition to the Academy, students are invited to participate in everything the Omaha Film Festival has to offer including the Writer’s Theatre and the 101 films screening at Aksarben Cinema from March 3rd-8th.

Made possible in part by grants and support provided by
Weitz Family Foundation
Mann Kind Foundation
Walmart Community Grants
Kevin Keplar
Torchwerks
The Omaha Funny Bone

Hosted by
Aksarben Hilton Garden Inn

Schools previously attending include:
Ashland-Greenwood High School
Bellevue West High School
Benson High School Magnet
Bryan Senior High School
Burke High School
Creighton Prep High School
Dakota Valley High School - South Dakota
Elkhorn High School
Elkhorn South High School
Gretta High School
Heartland Academy High School
Jefferson County North High School - Kansas
Leavenworth High School - Kansas
Lincoln North Star High School
Marian High School
Marshall High School - Minnesota
Millard West High School
NGL Academy
Northwest High School
Omaha Career Center
Omaha Central High School
Omaha South High School Magnet
Omaha North High School Magnet
Papillion-La Vista High School
Papillion-LaVista South High School
Russell Middle School
Waukee High School - Iowa
Waverly High School
Westside Middle School
Westside High School
Various Homeschoolers
OFF ACADEMY SCHEDULE

Programming for preregistered High School students only.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020 / DAY 1

8:00am - 8:30am  Participant Check-in
                  Light breakfast

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

9:00am - 9:45am  Foley, Can You Guess That Sound?
                  Kevin Keplar

10:00am - 10:45am Acting/Casting/Auditioning
                   Jason Levering/David Weiss
                   Film Tech
                   Ben Drickey/Aaron Smith

11:00am - Noon  Directing/Producing

Noon - 1:00pm  Craft Services

1:00pm - 2:00pm  How to Break Into the Business
                  Bryan McClure

2:00pm - 2:30pm  Wrap Session

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020 / DAY 2

8:00am - 8:30am  Participant Check-in
                  Light breakfast

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

9:00am - 9:45am  Story Development/Pitch Pit
                  Visiting Filmmakers

10:00am - 10:45am Documentary Filmmaking
                   Julie Sokolow & Alec Mouhibian

11:00am - Noon  Filmmaker/Student Roundtable

Noon - 1:00pm  Lunch and Learn with Filmmakers

1:00pm - 2:00pm  Narrative Feature Filmmaking
                  Visiting Filmmakers

2:00pm - 2:30pm  Wrap Session and Goodbye

(Schedule subject to change - see website for details)