

NINETEENTH ANNUAL



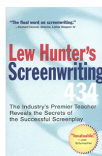
# OMAHA

## FILM FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 3, 2024

2024 FILM GUIDE

**AKSARBEN**  
C I N E M A



What's my favorite part of film festivals?

I've been asked several times in interviews over the years and I never really hesitate with the answer. I'm not 100% sure that this is my real answer, but I think it is, and it always feels right when I say it. What's my favorite part of film festivals? Probably a generic question that you'd ask someone who runs a film festival but I'm always quick to say ... interacting with filmmakers and screenwriters. Food and drinks are fun, social time with like-minded (and non-like minded!) folks is important, and seeing dozens of movies that you wouldn't ordinarily get a chance to be exposed to is awesome. Everything around what film festivals bring to a community, in my humble opinion, is amazing. And I'm on board with all of it.

But for me, sitting in a crowd and watching a movie, then having a chance to interact with the filmmaker after the screening is what I love. I always say that going to the cinema is one of life's great pleasures, you get your popcorn and soda, watch an amazing film, the credits roll, and your experience is over. At a film festival, when the filmmakers are in attendance, the experience has just begun. The communal nature of watching a film with a group of people, then having the folks that made the film participate in the Q&A... then the filmmaker is in the hallway afterward... and at other screenings, and the after parties. You get a real opportunity to look behind the curtain at the filmmaking process. Your own DVD extras, live and in person!

I love talking to artists about their art. The who, what, when, where of it all. A look inside. I think it helps broaden our human experience. Sitting in a cubicle all day is a requirement, sitting in your living room is

comfortable, but the wider your overall view, the better life can be.

Well over half of the filmmakers and screenwriters involved in this year's festival will be traveling from across the globe to our little community this week. They feed us with their stories and ideas, we feed them with our attention and participation. We're glad you're going on this journey with us and we look forward to a truly transformative week of amazing cinema.

In alignment with the sentiments shared by our esteemed partners at the Film Festival Alliance, when you attended your local film festival, here's what you just did:

- YOU nurtured your community.
- YOU invested in storytellers from around the world.
- YOU created jobs and supported local businesses.
- YOU made your city an artistic destination.

So with that, I want to say, thank YOU, and on with the show!

Marc Longbrake  
Executive Director

# Schedule

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6:30 Opening Night Film

**With Love and a Major Organ** . . . . . 10

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

6:00 Shorts Block 1 . . . . . 32

- Deep Tish
- Demon Box
- Fervor
- Brothers for Life \*
- Smoke
- Demo-Lition
- Blue Hour

6:10 Junction . . . . . 14

6:15 **Lousy Carter** . . . . . 10

8:05 *No Right Way* \* . . . . . 14

8:15 Shorts Block 2 – Nebraska Shorts . . . . . 34

- Premonition \*
- The Power Went Out on Perdue Street \*
- The 7 Year Senior \*
- The Gun is Full of Wine \*
- The Might Kozmos \*
- The Crocodile \*

8:30 *Life After the NeverEnding Story* \* . . . . . 22

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

5:45 *Ramona at Midlife* \* . . . . . 15

5:50 *Scrap* . . . . . 15

6:00 *Blue Baby* \* . . . . . 22

8:00 *The Body Politic* \* . . . . . 23

8:15 Shorts Block 3 – Nebraska Shorts . . . . . 36

- Fresh Potatoes \*
- The Diary of Michael Shiner \*
- I Dream of Love \*
- Yekatrina: A Fairy Story \*
- The Chicken Wing Apocalypse \*

- The Going Away Part \*

- Emrys \*

8:30 *Aligned* \* . . . . . 16

## FRIDAY, MARCH 1

5:35 *Wait for Me* \* . . . . . 16

5:45 *Divisible* \* . . . . . 28

6:00 Shorts Block 4 . . . . . 38

- From the Dark \*
- Father Figures \*
- Everything is Out to Get Me
- Full Service
- As You Are \*
- Nisei
- Tacenda

8:00 *No One Asked You* \* . . . . . 23

8:05 *Brave the Dark* \* . . . . . 17

8:25 Shorts Block 5 – Nebraska Shorts . . . . . 40

- Court Ordered \*
- The Nightmare Paradox \*
- The Dying Sensation \*
- Danger-Closed: Omaha's Flora Apartments \*
- The Dutch Angle \*
- Please Eat This Sloppy Joe \*

## SATURDAY, MARCH 2

10:00 *Writers Theatre* \* . . . . . 7

12:15 *Guacamole Yesterdays* \* . . . . . 17

12:30 Shorts Block 6 – Animation Shorts . . . . . 42

- In Your Dreams
- North of Nowhere
- Dragonfly \*
- In Your Orbit
- Nubbinwood \*
- Zintkala Nuni (Lost Bird) \*
- My Vagina

- Scale

- Mr Chicken Goes to Mars

- Back to Normal

2:15 *Abled* \* . . . . . 24

2:45 Shorts Block 7 . . . . . 46

- [subtext]
- #MESSYKIDNAPPING
- Barefoot
- Caught on Tape \*
- Detox
- Clownfish \*
- A Conversation in Passing \*
- Somewhere in Between

3:00 *Don't Get Eaten* \* . . . . . 18

5:00 *Texas Music Revolution* \* . . . . . 24

5:15 Shorts Block 8 . . . . . 48

- The Heart of Texas \*
- I Can't Be Sorry
- Stalking the Bogeyman
- There's Always Time to Say It \*
- Red, White and Blue
- Last Call

5:30 *The Headliner* \* . . . . . 29

7:45 *Two Lives in Pittsburgh* \* . . . . . 18

8:00 *Chasing Chasing Amy* \* . . . . . 25

8:10 Shorts Block 9 – Nebraska Shorts . . . . . 50

- Take Care \*
- Protect Her \*
- Damned If You Do \*
- Laboratories of Democracy:  
NE's Unicameral \*
- Truth Detector \*
- May \*
- The Artiste \*

## SUNDAY, MARCH 3

11:45 *Step Over* . . . . . 19

12:00 *Crows are White*. . . . . 25

12:15 Shorts Block 10 . . . . . 48

- USA
- Coward
- Hedgehog
- Layaway
- Loons
- A Man for the Job \*
- Car Sick

2:00 *Tokyo Cowboy* \* . . . . . 19

2:15 *Out There: A National Parks Story* . . . . . 26

2:45 **Frida** . . . . . 10

4:30 AWARDS

5:45 Closing Night Film

**The Animal Kingdom** . . . . . 10

Special screenings shown in **bold**

\* Indicates filmmaker scheduled to attend

All screening times subject to change – refer to website for actual times.

**OMAHAFILMFESTIVAL.ORG**

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# OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 3, 2024

## Special Screenings



# Special Screenings



Tuesday, February 27 • 6:30 pm

## OPENING NIGHT FILM

### *With Love and a Major Organ*

(Drama/Fantasy)

**Canada - 91 minutes**

**Director:** Kim Albright

**Writer:** Julia Lederer

**Producer:** Madeleine Davis

**Cast:** Anna Maguire, Hamza Haq, Veena Sood

In a world where everyone's heart is an object and there's a strong societal pressure to dampen emotion, lonely Virtual Insurance broker Anabel (Anna Maguire) always follows her heart. At odds with this overly pragmatic society, and after a series of devastating emotional blows, she rips her heart from her chest and gives it to a man she's fallen for, the strangely unfeeling George (Hamza Haq). Unburdened by her unique yet cumbersome heart, Anabel finds life easier. George, on the other hand, begins to feel everything, to the shock of his overbearing mother, Mona (Veena Sood). Anabel soon realizes she needs to get her heart back if she's going to survive.



Wednesday, February 28 • 6:15 pm

## NARRATIVE FEATURE

### *Lousy Carter*

(Comedy)

**USA - 80 minutes**

**Writer/Director:** Bob Byington

**Producer:** Bob Byington, Chris McKenna

**Cast:** David Krumholtz, Martin Starr, Olivia Thurby, Jocelyn DeBoer, Stephen Root

Lousy Carter (David Krumholtz) is a middle-aged literature professor struggling to inspire his students and eager to find inspiration of his own. So when he receives a life-changing medical diagnosis from his disaffected doctor, he decides to take life by the horns and live a little more dangerously. But just like everything else in his life, Lousy can't seem to find meaning for himself in this new-found freedom.



Sunday, March 3 • 2:45 pm

## DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

### *Frida*

**USA - 87 minutes**

**Director:** Carla Gutierrez

**Producer:** Sara Bernstein, Justin Wilkes, Alexandra Johnes, Katia Maguire, Loren Hammonds

**Executive Producer:** Brian Grazer, Ron Howard, Julie Cohen, Betsy West, Meredith Kaulfers, Lynne Benioff, Alexa Conway

**Cast:** Frida Kahlo

An intimately raw and magical journey through the life, mind, and heart of iconic artist Frida Kahlo. Told through her own words for the very first time — drawn from her diary, revealing letters, essays, and print interviews — and brought vividly to life by lyrical animation inspired by her unforgettable artwork.

Just world premiered at Sundance 2024



Wednesday, February 28 • 6:15 pm

## CLOSING NIGHT FILM

### *The Animal Kingdom*

(Drama/Comedy)

**USA - 127 minutes**

**Director:** Thomas Cailley

**Writer:** Thomas Cailley, Pauline Munier

**Producer:** Pierre Guyard

**Cast:** Romain Duris, Paul Kircher, Adèle Exarchopoulos

In a world hit by a wave of mutations transforming humans into animals, François does everything he can to save his wife. As some of the creatures disappear into a nearby forest, he and their son Émile embark on a quest that will change their lives forever.

*With 12 Nominations at the 2024 César Awards including Best Film, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, & Best Actor*

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## Feature Films



# Feature Films



Wednesday, February 28 • 6:10 pm

## ***Junction***

(Drama)

**USA - 88 minutes**

**Writer/Director:** Bryan Greenberg

**Producer:** Chad A Verdi, Aaron Kaufman, Chad Verdi Jr, Paul Luba

**Cast:** Bryan Greenberg, Sophia Bush, Jaime Chung, Griffin Dunne, Dascha Polanco, Michaela Conlin, Josh Peck, Ryan Eggold, Eddie Kaye Thomas, Yara Martinez, Dash Mihok, Hill Harper, Ashley Madekwe

Tackling the modern-day opioid epidemic, JUNCTION tells three interconnected stories of a CEO of a pharmaceutical corporation, a doctor, and an addict, exploring the ways in which they're all deeply affected by - and play a part in - the crisis in America.



Wednesday, February 28 • 8:05 pm

## ***No Right Way***

(Drama/Comedy/Coming of Age)

**USA - 103 minutes**

**Filmmaker in attendance**

**Writer/Director:** Chelsea Bo

**Producer:** Sean Drummond

**Cast:** Chelsea Bo, Ava Acres, Eliza Coupe, Sufe Bradshaw

Georgie, a brazen tween, is thrust into the guardianship of her half-sister Harper whose attempts to parent only lead to exposing their paralleled childhood wounds.



Thursday, February 29 • 5:45 pm

## ***Ramona at Midlife***

(Drama)

**USA - 76 minutes**

**Filmmaker in attendance**

**Writer/Director:** Brooke Berman

**Producer:** Kristen Vaganos

**Cast:** Yvonne Woods, Alysia Reiner, Joel de la Fuente

A single mother and former Literary It Girl discovers that her unflattering current reality is the subject of a hot filmmaker's newest project.



Thursday, February 29 • 5:50 pm

## ***Scrap***

(Drama/Comedy)

**USA - 105 minutes**

**Writer/Director:** Vivian Kerr

**Producer:** Vivian Kerr, Rachel Stander

**Cast:** Vivian Kerr, Lana Parrilla, Anthony Rapp

After getting laid off, young single-mom Beth finds herself living in her car and struggles to hide her homelessness from her estranged brother Ben.

 Torchwerks





# Feature Films



Thursday, February 29 • 8:30 pm

## ***Aligned***

(Drama/LGBTQ+/Romance/Dance/Self-Love)

Greece, USA - 78 minutes

**Filmmaker in attendance**

**Writer/Director/Producer:** Apollo Bakopoulos

**Cast:** Panos Malakos, Dimitris Fritzelas, Mantalena Papadatou, Nick Atkinson

Aligned is an intimate exploration of self-discovery, love, desire, and pain set against a backdrop of dance, beautiful music and stunning cinematography. Aeneas is a modern dancer in Hellas who struggles with self-worth and finds solace and direction in dance. Meanwhile, in NYC, another modern Greek-American dancer, Alex is flying to Greece to perform his thesis. He forges a strong friendship with Aeneas both in and out of class and while touring Athens. The two dancers, though worlds apart, share a cultural heritage that sparks an unexpected connection. This sensual tale reveals the beauty that resides within us all and the transformative power of self-love.



Friday, March 1 • 5:35 pm

## ***Wait For Me***

(Drama/Thriller)

United Kingdom - 94 minutes

**Filmmaker in attendance**

**Director:** Keith Farrell

**Writer:** Bernard O'Toole

**Producer:** Fiona Kinsella, Thea Burrows, Margot Douglas

**Cast:** Karen Hassan, Sean McGinley, Aaron Chobham, Elva Trill, Rebecca Atkinson, Neil Bell, Kelli Hollis, Theo Ogundipe, Izabella Dawson

ALISON is no girl-next-door. Lost in a life of crime, she's longing to escape but can't see a way out. When she meets SAM, a damaged soul with a troubled past, he opens her eyes to the fact that life can be a beautiful thing, if you meet it halfway. Alison realises that if she doesn't make some changes, she isn't long for this world. Together ALISON and SAM hit the road in search of the daughter ALISON feels she abandoned years earlier. Plagued by grief, SAM keeps his demons at bay just long enough to help ALISON realise she is not a product of her circumstances. But the dangers ALISON has grown accustomed to, her abusive father GED and her violent pimp MAX, are never far behind. However, the connections she makes on her journey forces her to realise she needs to rid her life of these evil men for good.



Saturday, March 1 • 8:05 pm

## ***Brave the Dark***

(Drama)

USA - 122 minutes

**Filmmakers in attendance**

**Director:** Damian Harris

**Writer:** Dale Bradley, Lynn Robertson Hay, John Spencer, Nathan Deen

**Producer:** Derek Diener, Grant Bradley, Dale Bradley

**Cast:** Jared Harris, Nicholas Hamilton

Based on a true story in 1986, smalltown USA. Brave the Dark tells the story of a homeless teen struggling to find his purpose and the courage to confront the darkness of his past. When popular drama teacher, Stan Deen, takes on a troubled kid, Nate, no one quite prepared him for the journey he was undertaking or the dark secrets Nate is hiding. Brave the Dark is a heartwarming story about a teenager who finds his true father.



Saturday, March 2 • 12:15 pm

## ***Guacamole Yesterdays***

(Sci-Fi/Romance/Drama)

USA - 86 minutes

**Filmmakers in attendance**

**Director:** Jordon Noel

**Writer:** Hudson Phillips

**Producer:** Michelle Moreland, LaSean Smith

**Executive Producer:** Dawnmarie Deshaies

**Cast:** Sophie Edwards, Randy Havens, Adetipo Thomas, Charity Cervantes, Brice Anthony Heller, Megan McFarland

Following a painful separation, a heartbroken woman uses an experimental technology that allows her to revisit and manipulate her memories as a means to cope.



# Feature Films



Saturday, March 2 • 3:00 pm

## ***Don't Get Eaten***

(Comedy/Zombie/Family/Horror/Scary)

USA - 77 minutes

**Filmmaker in attendance**

**Writer/Director:** George Simon, Joe Simon

**Producer:** Melinda Simon

**Cast:** Justin Kilduff, Melinda Rose, Elizabeth Simon, Claire Simon, Gracie Simon, Dale Dobson, Reese Ravencraft, Joe Simon, James Simon, Greg Krajewski, Anne Linn, Vo'a Alailima

A zany zombie-family-comedy that follows Noah, a homeschooling dad running an apocalypse prepping Youtube channel. He and his wife Rose (breadwinner...high strung) reach a breaking point in their marriage. On a therapist's recommendation they take their 3 girls on a technology-free family retreat in the woods. However, on the first night an actual zombie shows up. Noah (who has, of course, not actually left his phone at home) starts streaming, battling zombies with his daughters, and tries (unsuccessfully) to hide all this from Rose. The family eventually discovers that the only thing scarier than these zombies, is where the zombies have come from.



Saturday, March 2 • 7:45 pm

## ***Two Lives in Pittsburgh***

(Drama/LGBTQIA+)

USA - 103 minutes

**Filmmakers in attendance**

**Writer/Director:** Brian Silverman

**Writer:** Jesus Lloveras, Joan Lloveras Mora

**Producer:** Lola Noh, Tiffany Murray, Brian Silverman

**Cast:** Brian Silverman, Annie O'Donnell, Emma Basques, Sky Elobar, Casey Braxton, Delissa Reynolds, Trevi Williams, Mark McClain-Wilson, Robert John Brewer

Confronted by his mother's illness and his child's exploration of gender, a traditional blue-collar guy is torn between who he has always been and who his child needs him to be.



Sunday, March 3 • 11:45 am

## ***Step Over (Doppio Passo)***

(Drama)

Italy - 93 minutes

**Director:** Lorenzo Borghini

**Writer:** Lorenzo Borghini, Cosimo Calamini

**Producer:** Lorenzo Borghini, Alessio Di Naro, Emanuele Nespeca

**Cast:** Giulio Beranek, Giordano De Plano, Valeria Bilello, Lorenzo Adorni, Fabrizio Ferracane, Bebo Storti, Marco Giuliani

Claudio is the legendary captain of Carrarese Calcio, a leading force, both in football and family life. Everything seems to be going great: the team reaches promotion to Serie B (higher league) and, together with his wife, he finally opens the restaurant he has always wanted to, in order to stabilise the family's economic future. The long-awaited Serie B, however, turns out to be a doom: Claudio's contract is not renewed due to his age. It will be the beginning of the decline, as an athlete and as a man. Claudio will be dragged into a vortex of events that will undermine his certainties and his own moral rigor.



Sunday, March 3 • 2:00 pm

## ***Tokyo Cowboy***

(Drama)

Japan, USA - 118 minutes

**Filmmakers in attendance**

**Director:** Marc Marriott

**Writer:** Ayako Fujitani, Dave Boyle

**Producer:** Brigham Taylor

**Cast:** Arata Iura, Ayako Fujitani, Goya Robles, Robin Weigert, Jun Kunimura

A Japanese Salaryman goes on an unwitting journey of self-discovery when he takes a business trip from Tokyo to a Montana cattle ranch.





# Nebraska Spotlight



Friday, March 1 • 5:45 pm

## ***Divisible***

USA - 76 minutes

**Filmmaker in attendance**

**Writer/Director:** Lizzy Barrett

**Producer:** Lizzy Barrett, Terri Crawford, Nikitah Okembe-RA Imani, Schmeeka Simpson

**Cast:** Jade Rogers, Dr. Kimberley Johnson, Lasha Goodwin, Rev. Dr. Nikitah Okeme-RA Imani, Harry Lawson, Jr., Dawaune Lamont Hayes, Schmeeka Simpson, Gary Fischer, Leo Louis II, Terri Crawford, Allen Stevenson, Dr. Neil Lewis, Jr., James Freeman, Preston Love, Jr., Joe Garcia, Talia Smith, Zo Meija, Laura Fisher, Chrome Louis, Qassim C. Shabazz Asad, Jasmine Harris

Divisible is an educational documentary film focusing on the history and current impacts of redlining in the United States. This feature film highlights the specific case of Omaha, Nebraska to illustrate how redlining continually affects and harms people nationwide today across multiple issue areas. Told through a combination of expert and personal interviews, Divisible provides a detailed look into redlining: what happened, where it came from, who was involved, how it supposedly "ended", and why anti-discrimination laws have not truly ended the practice of redlining or its impact. Divisible also explores how redlining continues to affect the following issues today: white privilege, housing, health, education, economics, the highway system, and the criminal justice system. The film begins with a brief and engaging overview of relevant historical information, followed by a series of character vignettes that focus on the impact of redlining on the aforementioned issue areas today. In doing so, Divisible creates through lines from past discriminatory practices to our current landscape of systemic racism and oppression.

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## Documentary Films



# Documentary Films



Wednesday, February 28 • 8:30 pm

## *Life After the NeverEnding Story*

Canada - 93 minutes

**Filmmakers in attendance**

**Director:** Lisa Downs

**Producer:** Lisa Downs, Ashley Pugh

**Cast:** Noah Hathaway, Tami Stronach, Deep Roy, Alan Oppenheimer, Jason James Richter, Keith Coogan, Jost Vacano, Limahl

Following on from LIFE AFTER FLASH and LIFE AFTER THE NAVIGATOR, feature documentary LIFE AFTER THE NEVERENDING STORY not only celebrates Wolfgang Petersen's iconic 1984 film, but offers in depth behind the scenes stories with cast and crew, as well as delves into the impact the film had on stars Noah Hathaway ("Atreyu") and Tami Stronach ("the Childlike Empress").

nude  
balm



Thursday, February 29 • 6:00 pm

## *Blue Baby*

USA - 75 minutes

**Filmmakers in attendance**

**Director:** Josh Sabey

**Producer:** Lisa Sabey

Eight incarcerated youth are put in a prison alternative known as Boys Town. Their story challenges what people have believed about problem behavior for thousands of years.



Thursday, February 29 • 8:00 pm

## *The Body Politic*

USA - 91 minutes

**Filmmakers in attendance**

**Director:** Gabriel Francis Paz Goodenough

**Producer:** Dawne Langford, John Benam

THE BODY POLITIC follows Baltimore's idealistic young mayor into office where he puts his personal and political future on the line to save his beloved city from chronic violence. Like many areas in the United States, the City of Baltimore has been plagued by gun violence. Amid the George Floyd uprising, Brandon Scott, a young reform-minded leader, is elected mayor. With unfettered access, we follow him into office and throughout his first year in city hall. Brandon, who grew up in one of the city's most underserved neighborhoods, sets out with unyielding idealism to change the course of his beloved city by introducing an ambitious new plan for violence reduction and police reform that he is confident will lower the city's murder rate. After entering office and barely getting a chance to enact his first safety reforms, violence surges to new highs. As the media & political foes attack his holistic plan, he remains committed to his principles even as it puts his future as a politician in jeopardy. Cameras continue to follow Brandon to see if his plan will work and lead to healing in Baltimore and maybe even reveal a path forward for the nation.



Friday, March 1 • 8:00 pm

## *No One Asked You*

USA - 106 minutes

**Filmmakers in attendance**

**Writer/Director:** Ruth Leitman

**Producer:** Rachel Rozycki, Andrea Raby

**Cast:** Lizz Winstead, Maysoon Zayid, Sarah Silverman, Gina Yashere, Joyelle Johnson, Helen Hong, Greg Proops, Ian Harvie, Margaret Cho, Mark Hamill, Aida Rodriguez, Jaye McBride, Molly Gaebe, Abby Holland, Jenn Roman, Julie Rosing, Sarah Hartshorne, Nicole Moore, Anna Bean, Moji Alawode-El, Alex English, Solange Azor, Renee Chelian, Lara Chelian, Rusty Thomas, Activist Mommy AKA Elizabeth Johnson, Jason Storms, Kat Green, Aparna Nancherla, Jill Sobule, Derenda Hancock, Kim Gibson, Dr. LeRoy Carhart, Dr. Erin King, Annie Williams, Jax West

Comedian, disruptor-extraordinaire Lizz Winstead (co-creator The Daily Show) and her team of activists crisscross the U.S. to support abortion clinic staff and bust stigma. Pop culture icons and next-gen comics fuel this six-year road film activating small-town folks to rebuild vandalized clinics, exposing wrongdoer politicians, domestic terrorists, and media neglect as the race to the bottom ensues. A bold call to action reminds us that when the patriarchy burns down, joy will prevail.

# Documentary Films



Saturday, March 2 • 2:15 pm

## *Abled*

USA - 90 minutes

**Filmmaker in attendance**

**Director:** Einar Thorsteinnsson

**Producer:** Katherine D LeBlond, Brian Leong, Alan Finkel, Johann Stefansson, Michael Raimondi, James (Jim) Haygood

**Cast:** Blake Leeper

Blake Leeper has the aspirations and the speed to medal at the Olympics in the 400m sprint. However, he's facing a unique hurdle: Challenging the international track federation's belief that a person without legs has an unfair advantage in a footrace.



Saturday, March 2 • 5:00 pm

## *Texas Music Revolution*

USA - 103 minutes

**Filmmaker in attendance**

**Director:** Troy Paff

**Screenwriter:** Joseph Vele, Brandon Faris, Troy Paff

**Producer:** Troy Paff, Joshua Jones

**Cast:** Kiefer Sutherland, Charley Crockett, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Joshua Ray Walker, Tony Villanueva

The covid pandemic of 2020-21 was perhaps the greatest disruption to American society and pop culture in this country's history. This documentary follows Joshua Jones, general manager of Dallas-based indie Americana radio station KHYI-FM, as he struggles to produce the silver anniversary of a beloved roots music festival in the wake of that pandemic. Against a backdrop of stories and performances by Texas music artists Ray Wylie Hubbard, Charley Crockett, Joshua Ray Walker, The Derailers, and Kiefer Sutherland, Joshua's heroic journey mirrors the themes that express the genre of Texas Country Music itself: Dedication, heartbreak, faith, and redemption ... With a healthy bit of humor. In a welcome return from dark times, Texas Music Revolution is a celebration of Texas, its people, and their music.



Saturday, March 2 • 8:00 pm

## *Chasing Chasing Amy*

USA - 89 minutes

**Filmmakers in attendance**

**Director:** Sav Rodgers

**Producer:** Sav Rodgers, Carrie Radigan, Lela Meadow-Conner, Matthew C. Mills

**Cast:** Kevin Smith, Joey Lauren Adams, Scott Mosier, Sav Rodgers, Andrew Ahn, Trish Bendix, Ryan James, Guinevere Turner, Princess Weekes, Kevin Willmott

This charming, earnest meta-documentary examines the transformational impact of a 90s romcom on a 12-year-old queer kid growing up in Kansas. For young Sav Rodgers, the Kevin Smith cult classic "Chasing Amy" became a lifesaving representation of queer identity. A deeper dive into the film as a cornerstone of LGBTQ+ cinema finds the director at many unexpected and emotional crossroads. Featuring interviews with Kevin Smith, Joey Lauren Adams, Guinevere Turner, Bob Hawk, Andrew Ahn, Princess Weekes, and many others.



Sunday, March 3 • 12:00 pm

## *Crows are White*

Ireland, Japan, USA - 97 minutes

**Director:** Ahsen Nadeem

**Writer:** Ahsen Nadeem, Matt Mayes, Dawn Light Blackman

**Cast:** Ahsen Nadeem, Riel Roch Decter, Sebastian Pardo

After decades of living a secret life, a filmmaker travels to a strict Japanese monastery in search of guidance but the only monk who will help him prefers ice cream and heavy metal over meditation. Crows are White is an exploration of truth, faith and love, from the top of a mountain to the bottom of a sundae.





# Documentary Films



Sunday, March 3 • 2:15 pm

## ***Out There: A National Parks Story***

**USA - 70 minutes**

**Director:** Brendan Hall

**Producer:** Anthony Blake, Graham Raubvogel, Sandra Tan

A young filmmaker sets out on a 10,000-mile exploration of the national parks with his childhood best friend during the centennial year of the formation of the National Park Service. Along the way, the two record stories of the people that work in the parks and those that come to enjoy them, as part of the rich tapestry of the history of the park system emerges. They hear profound stories of people from all ages, walks of life, and cultures that come to the parks seeking tranquility, healing, motivation, and connection to the natural world. Between the spectacular shots of the parks and compelling interviews are colorful bits of old maps, posters, and travelogues. This stunning road trip is a tribute to the national parks and their history, and is also a recognition of the people that appreciate them and work to maintain their beauty.



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## Nebraska Spotlight



# Nebraska Spotlight



Saturday, March 2 • 5:30 pm

## *The Headliner*

USA - 89 minutes

**Filmmakers in attendance**

**Director:** Tony Bonacci

**Writer:** Christine Burright

**Producer:** Tony Bonacci

**Cast:** Darrick Silkman

Chad Allen is a stand-up comedian trying to find his voice and break out of the Omaha scene. As he works on material and his career, Chad Allen also finds himself working on his relationships with his ex-wife, manager, best friend, adult daughter, and a potential love interest. When the career opportunity of a lifetime presents itself, Chad Allen has to decide which is more important: advancing his career or being there for the people that need him.



# NINETEENTH ANNUAL OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 3, 2024

## Short Films

Blocks 1-10



## Deep Tish

**USA – 13 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Dave Paige  
**Producer:** Joshua Cohen  
**Cast:** Zack Fox, Zolee Griggs, Corey Podell  
 A.J.'s massage could have been better.



## Demon Box

**Canada – 14 minutes**  
**Director:** Sean Wainsteim  
**Writer:** Aurora de Peña, Sean Wainsteim  
**Producer:** Simone Stock, Misha Skoric, Sean Wainsteim, Brendan Steacy  
**Cast:** Liam Hill, Michael Jordan, JJ Greenberg, Richard Cole, Vince Mayer, Michael Murkavitch, Amanda Pye, Aphra Willis, KayLi Lum  
 After festival rejections, a director transforms his film about trauma, suicide, and the Holocaust into a painful, blunt and funny dissection of the film and his life. Ten years in the making. *Please be advised that this film deals with themes of trauma and suicide.*



## Fervor

**USA – 10 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Enrique A. Mendoza  
**Producer:** Daniel Piñeros, Mateo Vergara  
**Cast:** Johanna Martinez, Tim Roarke  
 In the unforgiving embrace of a desolate desert, a young Latina faces off against her relentless foe. As the layers of her tumultuous past are unveiled, the narrative takes us deep into the lives of two brothers in a secluded village, weaving a tapestry of destiny, survival, and the haunting echoes of violence. With each revelation, tensions surge, and Fernanda's enigmatic mission becomes a palpable force, leaving both characters and viewers grappling with the harsh realities of their circumstances.



## Brothers for Life

**Israel, Nepal – 17 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Alon Juwal  
**Producer:** Alon Juwal, Elhanan Oren, Amit Hay Ben Shlomo  
**Cast:** Nir Reichert, Hagai Zadok, Or Eilon  
 Three IDF veterans embark on a breathtaking journey to the Langtang Valley of Nepal in an attempt to heal wounds and find peace.



## Smoke

**USA – 15 minutes**  
**Director:** Joshua Gallas  
**Writer:** Lizette Barrera, Joshua Gallas  
**Producer:** Seehum Isa, Lizette Barrera  
**Cast:** David DeLao, Anna Antonia  
 A firefighter returns home after the most difficult shift of his life.



## Demo-Lition

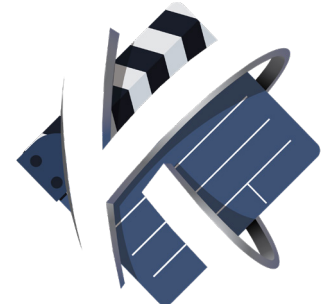
**USA – 8 minutes**  
**Director:** Alesia 'Z' Glidewell  
**Writer:** Omar El Alami  
**Producer:** Nina Burnett, Lidiya Korotko, Alesia Glidewell, Robb Hanson  
**Cast:** Rell Battle, Geri-Nikole Love, Carl McDowell  
 Aspiring rapper Darren his supportive wife Enora struggle to get by as Darren's dreams have yet to pay off, a decade into their marriage. It all hinges on an all-too-important phone call from a record label this afternoon to decide their fate.



## Blue Hour

**USA – 15 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** J.D Shields  
**Producer:** Diana Ward, Maya Korn, Lauren Avinoam  
**Cast:** Doyin Domingo, Diamond Taylor  
 Two personal journeys intersect when a struggling young photographer is hired for a cheap last minute portrait gig. The unfolding photo session, while transient, leaves an indelible mark on both women.

**MOVIE MAGIC<sup>®</sup>**  
**SCREENWRITER**



**KEVIN KEPLAR**  
 PRODUCTION & POST PRODUCTION





## Premonition

USA – 11 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Pete Brown

**Producer:** Pete Brown, Kate Robertson Pryor

**Cast:** Jonathan Purcell, Kate Robertson Pryor, Joshua Orsi

A lonely man retreats to drug induced vivid dreams to live a life of comfort and control, but discovers his real life isn't all that boring after all.



## The Power Went Out on Perdue Street

USA – 11 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Alyssa Riha

**Producer:** Alyssa Riha

**Cast:** Alyssa Riha, Sofia Drelicharz, John Sierra, Jacob Adam Reese

When a power outage hits the street Jamie and Ali live on, they realize they may have nowhere else to go. Tensions rise as the two slowly begin to reach their breaking point.



## The 7 Year Senior

USA – 18 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Joseph John Merkel

**Producer:** Joseph John Merkel

**Cast:** Blake Hilkemeier, Quinlan Ottoni

Blake is a senior in his local colleges' radio program and he's been tasked with teaching a new freshman how to be a radio student.



## The Gun is Full of Wine

USA – 12 minutes

**Writer/Director:** William Fischer

**Producer:** Cynthia Jones, Nathan Romesser

**Cast:** Natalie McGovern, Christian Velez, Zdenek Voprada, Skylar Condrey

In Paris, a vacationing couple tries to keep refugees one step ahead of a Nazi officer - and their inquisitive, talkative daughter.



## The Mighty Kozmos

USA – 8 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Grant Jason Stoner

**Producer:** Grant Jason Stoner, Carly Liggett, Kathryn Paige Christensen

**Cast:** Mar Hermosillo, Harry Laack

A brother and sister work to clear out their late father's garage, but old ties get in the way.



## The Crocodile

USA – 9 minutes

**Director:** Josh Allen

**Producer:** Jesse Eastman

**Cast:** Katie Otten, Shae'Kell Butler, Timothy Mantil

An elementary school teacher and her husband are at a crossroads in their relationship. Can a crocodile and a pig help them through their strife?

 **Hilton**  
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**THE SOENER  
FOUNDATION**

**INNER RAIL**  
FOOD HALL  
OMAHA / SINCE 2019

**OMAHA  
THE CW**

**DMWEISS**  
PRODUCTIONS





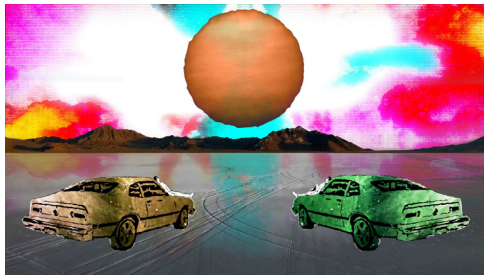
## Fresh Potatoes

USA – 8 minutes

**Writer/Director/Producer:** Amy Hamilton

**Cast:** Alexander Hamilton, Jessica Johnson, Linda Hughes, Walter Shatley, Ben Kadaffi, Malik Fortner

A couple's dinner date takes a wild detour into the surreal. In this culinary rollercoaster, reality and fantasy collide, leaving you questioning what's real and what's a flavorful figment of the imagination. Brace yourself for a side of chaos—a feast that turns a simple meal into an unforgettable adventure. Inspired by true events, this is no ordinary dinner; it's a journey where the boundaries of reality are as unpredictable as the twists in the tale.



## The Chicken Wing Apocalypse

USA – 2 minutes

**Director:** Mike Machian

**Writer:** Michael Torson

**Producer:** Mike Machian

**Cast:** Sam Yancey

Mike had a dream about the end of the world. Another Mike thought that would make a great film. Thirteen years later he got around to making it.



## The Diary of Michael Shiner

USA – 15 minutes

**Director:** Kwakiutl L Dreher

**Writer:** William G Thomas III, Kwakiutl L Dreher

**Producer:** Michael H Burton

**Cast:** Stetson Pierre, Deirdre Barney, Steve Kennevan, Phillip-Charlie Daniell, Bryan Bulebush

Michael Shiner was an enslaved man who labored at the Washington, D.C., Naval Yard. He wrote one of the only diaries of an enslaved person known to exist. Spanning 56 years, the diary covers politics, family, and natural phenomena. Based on his writings, this short film depicts the day he saved his wife from the notorious slave traders, Franklin and Armfield.



## The Going Away Part

USA – 16 minutes

**Director:** Paul Christian Glenn

**Writer:** Jesse Eastman

**Producer:** Patience Glenn, Jesse Eastman Paul Chrsitian Glenn

**Cast:** eJnna Briggs, Tim Mantil, Cameron Gayer, Katie Otten, Rachel Williamson

On the eve of a cross-country move, two longtime friends find their relationship on the rocks.



## I Dream of Love

USA – 8 minutes

**Director:** Alicia Lopez

**Cast:** Katherine Murphy, Soleil Gonzalez-Harford, Alix Kahler

A young woman wants to have a lover. She sets out on a journey to attract one.



## Yekatrina: A Fairy Story

USA – 3 minutes

**Writer/Director/Producer:** William Fischer

**Cast:** Cynthia Jones, Niamh Ryan, William Fischer

Once upon a time, a princess died – and when she returned, she brought not a fairy tale, but a nightmare.



## Emrys

USA – 7 minutes

**Director:** Nathan Romesser

**Writer:** Ken Yoho

**Producer:** Nathan Romesser, Katie Otten

**Cast:** Katie Otten, Jesse Millspaugh

After enduring death after death, an immortal witch meets an unlikely friend.

# MANN KIND FOUNDATION





## From the Dark

**Spain – 7 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Erika Sanz  
**Producer:** Erika Sanz, Brady Kirchberg  
**Cast:** Josephine Le Sourd, Zhannz Gomez, Erin Soler

Laura, a quite shy and introverted thirteen year old teen, embarks on a dark journey to get free from her worst enemy: Her own self.



## Father Figures

**USA – 14 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Alessandro Chille  
**Producer:** Wesleigh Sterrs  
**Cast:** Steven D Hauck, Matthew Delamater

Harold tragically lost his son years ago in a horrible accident. Unable to cope with the pain, he has taken on a life of pretend, spending the intervening years working as a father-for-hire for young men, standing in for their deceased dads at major life events and family functions. While struggling to help guide these lost souls he is forced to confront his own internal deception, and ultimately, come to terms with the loss he has experienced if he is ever to help his clients move on. Shot entirely in the state of Maine.



## Everything is Out To Get Me

**USA – 9 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Dustin Curtis Murphy  
**Cast:** Ailish Symons, Joshua Whincup, Katrin Larissa Kasper

A 1950's housewife, struggling with her mental health, reflects on her failed marriage and history of domestic abuse. Her depression is fuelled by the fact that her ex-husband now appears to be happily remarried with a new-born baby. But there's more to his happiness than meets the eye.



## Full Service

**USA – 10 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Soma Helmi  
**Producer:** Po Wei Su  
**Cast:** Michele Selene Ang, Yoshi Sudarso, Savira Windyani

An Indonesian woman gets more than she expects when she resorts to hiring an escort to bring to her cousin's engagement party.



## As You Are

**USA – 10 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Daisy Friedman  
**Producer:** Justine Sweetman, Eve Robitshek, Aspen Nelson, Daisy Friedman  
**Cast:** Bri Scalesse, Estefania Giraldo

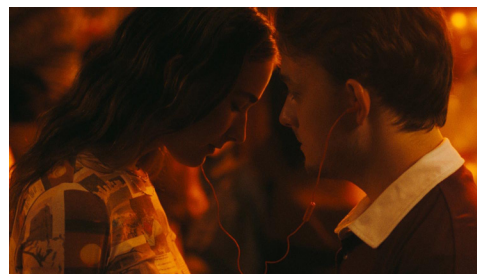
When an interabled queer couple spends the night together for the first time, they must confront their complex relationships with desire, sexuality, bodily autonomy, and what it means truly to love another person.



## Nisei

**USA – 21 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Darren Haruo Rae  
**Producer:** Jessica Olthof, Nick Martinez  
**Cast:** Jonathan Tanigaki, Brent Yoshida, Matt McTighe, Darin Cooper

Inspired by stories from my grandfather, Nisei follows the journey of two Japanese-American brothers through World War II, Minoru and John Miyasaki. Stripped of their citizenship and placed in internment camps, they volunteer for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, an all Japanese-American unit that sacrificed everything, to prove their loyalty to a country that doesn't want them. Torn between country and family, they must face the enemy overseas along with adversity back home.



## Tacenda

**USA – 16 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Rita Konopasky, Luke Konopasky  
**Producer:** Kevin Maxwell, Luke and Rita Konopasky  
**Cast:** Matt Davies-Morris, Grace Johnson

Tacenda (noun): what's better left unsaid, matters to be passed over in silence. "Tacenda" follows the profound friendship shared between Noah and Dillion. As Dillion stands on the cusp of graduation and moving across the country, Noah finds himself not only having to let go of this friendship but also of "what could have been." They both have feelings for each other, but are unable to express it, due to the external circumstances. Noah has to come to the realization that sometimes, it's okay to let a good thing die.







## Court Ordered

USA – 5 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Paul Christian Glenn

**Producer:** Kate Robertson Pryor

**Cast:** Kate Robertson Pryor, Sherry Leigh

Alyssa, a woman who seems to have it all together, struggles to accept her court ordered therapy and the reasons that landed her there.



## The Nightmare Paradox

USA – 20 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Benjamin Kadaffi

**Cast:** Nick Vodicka, Samantha Johnson, Wren Soryn

When the body of his missing father turns up, Sebastian begins seeing repressed memories within his dreams. Trying to find solace in his friends, he begins to question reality, finding himself unable to tell truth from nightmare.



## The Dying Sensation

USA – 15 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Isabel Pineda

**Producer:** J.B. Tyson, Nick Burkhardt

**Cast:** Samuel Phillips, Zachary Tideman, Donte McKinney, Michael Jaroh, Evan Manivong, Alec Yoder, Chuck Chmelka

From over 200 programs to a mere 15, Men's Collegiate Gymnastics seems to be on its last leg. Follow five gymnasts in the NCAA, starting with Nebraska and their journey through the dwindling sport and what the future holds for the Olympic hopefuls.



## Danger-Closed:

### Omaha's Flora Apartments

USA – 19 minutes

**Director:** Anna Reed

**Additional reporting by:** Christopher Burbach

On January 24, 2022, the City of Omaha vacated a downtown apartment building because of dangerous disrepair. Nearly two dozen people were displaced immediately. Watch "Danger-Closed", a documentary by the Omaha World-Herald, that looks back at what went wrong at the Flora Apartments.



## The Dutch Angle

Netherlands – 10 minutes

**Director:** Michaela Galeski

**Producer:** Michaela Galeski

**Cast:** Frank Kempkes, Wouter Van Eck, Jeroen Balemans

A greenhouse scientist and forest farmer offer an informative glance into the revolutionary world of Dutch horticulture—both working towards a common goal in distinctly divergent ways. Greenhouse scientist Frank Kempkes introduces us to his high-tech demo greenhouses, in which crops are precisely controlled and monitored, while Wouter Van Eck introduces us to his food forest, an environment that requires little to no human input. This film explores larger themes of food security amidst the rising threat of the climate crisis.



## Please Eat This Sloppy Joe

USA – 6 minutes

**Director/Producer:** Mark Gao

**Writers:** Mark Gao, Noah Turner, Luke Krings

**Cast:** Nicklaus Knipe, Rachel Williamson, Michael Brewer

A man eating at a diner during closing hours encounters someone that offers him a deal he can't turn down.







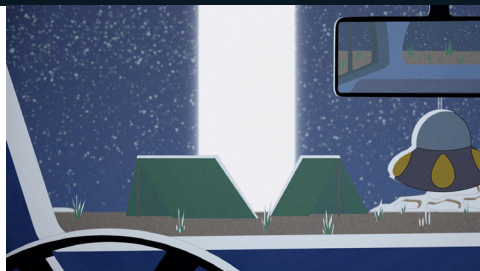
## In Your Dreams

USA – 3 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Mike Krohn

**Producer/Cast:** Linda Krohn, Mike Krohn

In the future, a sentient robot finds that his dreams intrude on his waking life.



## North of Nowhere

USA – 4 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Kaylea Halstead

**Cast:** Caitlyn Dreher

South of Vegas, north of nowhere, east of the I-15, a young woman revisits her mysterious hometown which has a long history involving aliens.



## Dragonfly

USA – 14 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Julia Morizawa

**Producer:** Julia Morizawa, James Babb, Brian Sturges

**Cast:** Miya Kodama, Erika Ishii, Thomas Isao Morinaka

A young girl learns of her mother's survival of the Tokyo Firebombing on March 9-10, 1945 through the eyes of her brother's spirit.



## In Your Orbit

USA – 7 minutes

**Directors:** Jules Vostrejs, Luka Brown

A celestial painter wants to emulate the artistic successes of his inspiration, but struggles when he finds he just can't measure up to her.



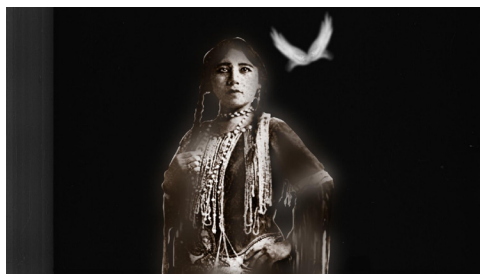
## Nubbinwood

USA – 8 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Tim Granberg

**Cast:** Ben Krueger

A beaver recounts his experiences as an actor following his dream to be in the movies.



## Lost Bird (Zintkála Nuni)

USA – 6 minutes

**Director:** Scott Feldmann, Brad Colerick

**Writer:** Brad Colerick

**Producer:** Scott Feldmann, Brad Colerick

A tale of "found & lost" reveals the troubled life of a Lakota baby who survived the 1890 Massacre at Wounded Knee, only to struggle with identity and acceptance in white high-society circles, along with the loss of her own people, culture and heritage. Told in a montage of animated Ledger Art, vintage silent movie clips and historic photographs, to an original song by Brad Colerick.



## My Vagina

USA – 4 minutes

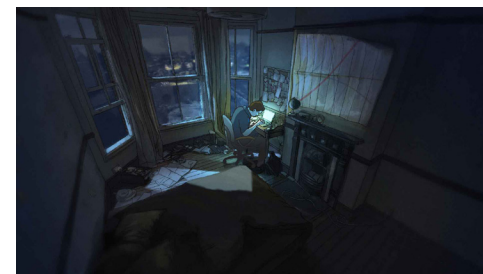
**Director:** Shannon Burkett, Neil Burns

**Writer:** Shannon Burkett, Danny K. Bernstein

**Producer:** Shannon Burkett, Neil Burns

**Cast:** Dee Roscioli

PTA Prez Keli Pam Convoy is the perfect mother who does everything perfectly except this one little thing... she accidentally sent a picture of her vagina to her nanny (male nanny), who also happens to be an assistant teacher at the school. Can Keli come back from this disastrous faux pas? Will she be able to show her puss (her face!) at the next bake sale?



## Scale

Czech – 15 minutes

**Director:** Joseph Pierce

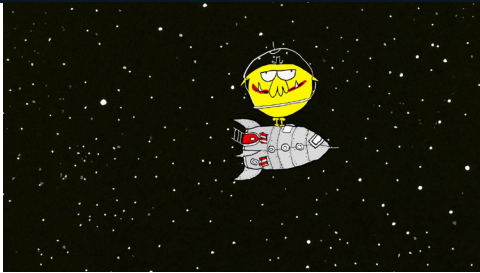
**Writer:** Joseph Pierce, Nicolas Pleskof

**Producer:** Hélène Mitjavile

**Cast:** Sam Spruell

Driving along the motorway, Will loses his sense of scale. As his crippling drug addiction deepens, he struggles to unpick the sequence of events that led to his predicament, before he's lost forever.

# Short Films (Block 6 - Continued)



## Mr Chicken Goes to Mars

Australia – 3 minutes

**Directors:** Katrina Mathers, Leigh Hobbs

**Writer:** Leigh Hobbs

**Producers:** Katrina Mathers, Leigh Hobbs

Mr Chicken goes to Mars. It's a big day.



## Back to Normal

USA – 11 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Cecilia De Jesus

**Producer:** Jaena Sta. Ana, Donnie McCormick

**Cast:** Angel Stafford

Two little blobs named Red and Orange make their way through a global pandemic that completely upends their lives. The isolation of lockdown takes a heavy toll on Red whose mental health deteriorates as Orange tries to find ways to show her love and support.



**Saturday, March 2, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Aksarben Cinema - Theatre #6**

Directed by Jennifer Morgan  
Script Competition Director Mark Albracht

Hear live reads from selected excerpts from some of this year's screenplay finalists. A Q&A with attending screenwriters will follow immediately after the readings.

**Mia and the Muse** by Christine Burright and Jeffrey Koterba

When a YA author finds herself unable to complete the followup to her best-selling debut novel, she's visited by her annoying muse-come-to-life and must learn to work alongside him or risk missing her deadline and losing her already-spent advance.

**High Performance** by Jessica Wei

A burned-out doctor resorts to the latest AI to keep up in life.

**Waiting Games** by Jeffrey R Field

A damaged, charismatic liar who spins stories to strangers in hospital waiting rooms helps a grieving mom deal with the loss of her twins.

**Sue** by Hayden Joseph Howe

A father discovers an unlikely means to cope with his daughter's sudden passing.

**A Lost Lady** by Holly Swenson

Maddy Forester struggles to retain the power of her vibrance and spirit while trapped in a world where she doesn't belong under the weight of the secrets of the men who love her.

**Yours In Murder** by Anthony Rainone

When a young woman survives as the first victim of the Son of Sam serial killer, she confronts her haunted past and tracks the depraved killer down, after the police fail her and the Son of Sam vows to come back and kill her, in 1970s New York City.

**Werewolves Can Suck It!** by Leah Simmons

Just like your dog, werewolves are terrified of vacuum cleaners. So when a pack of werewolves invade a rural town, it's up to the owner of a failing vacuum repair business and her stoner friend to save the day with their arsenal of Hoovers and a plucky Roomba.

**The Candle Maker** by Jeanne Schieffer

Running from an abusive relationship, Sendra Edding secretly moves to a small Nebraska town within miles of the mental institution where her mother lives - a mother she has not seen since she was nine years old.



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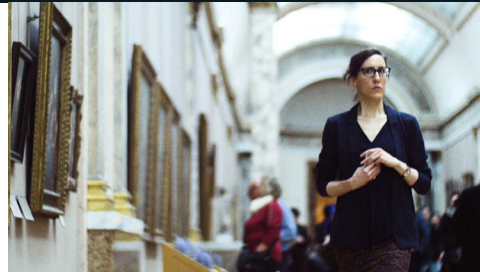




## [subtext]

**USA – 11 minutes**  
**Director:** Erin Brown Thomas  
**Writer:** Olivia Haller  
**Producer:** Olivia Haller  
**Cast:** Olivia Haller, Hunter Stiebel, Ciarra Krohne

Two people on a first date mask and ignore their insecurities until an event forces them to say what they're really thinking.



## #MESSYKIDNAPPING

**France – 13 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Greg Emetaz  
**Producers:** Sarah Arlen, Greg Emetaz  
**Cast:** Sarah Arlen, Philip Schurer, Nancy Bently, Soren Riehl, Charlotte Bloomsbury

A curator at the Louvre is convinced her new boyfriend has kidnapped her child, the ransom: The Mona Lisa.



## Barefoot

**USA – 6 minutes**  
**Directors:** Julia Knox, Kasey Orthmann  
**Writer:** Julia Knox  
**Producer:** Julia Knox  
**Cast:** Julia Knox, Janna Cardia, Harriet Rose, Paige Annette

What should have been a routine appointment at the OBGYN for Molly Manzel spirals out of control when the doctor can't get to her vagina because she is so distracted by her ugly feet.



## Caught on Tape

**USA – 13 minutes**  
**Directors:** Alexander Jeffery, Chris Alan Evans  
**Writers:** Chris Alan Evans, Alexander Jeffery  
**Producers:** Chris Alan Evans, Brittany Fallow  
**Cast:** Finnegan Collins, Carolanne Adams, Chris Alan Evans, AmberDawn Landrum

When Finn can't get a word out in front of his high school crush, his playground pals convince him that watching a porno tape will solve all his problems.



## Detox

**USA – 9 minutes**  
**Director:** Alex Hanno  
**Writer:** Wes Hopper  
**Producer:** Wes Hopper, Alex Hanno  
**Cast:** Caitlin Morris

While away on a technology detox in the northern reaches of Maine, an impressionable social media addict becomes the target of an unexpected visitor.



## Clownfish

**USA – 11 minutes**  
**Writer/Director:** Clayton Henderson  
**Producer:** Tamra Corley Davis  
**Cast:** Josh Munds, Melissa Munds, Christopher Allen Evans, Sheilava

Frank and Elle decide to meet in real life after connecting on a dating app... That's when things get weird!



## A Conversation in Passing

**USA – 13 minutes**  
**Writer/Director/Producer:** Matthew Segal  
**Cast:** Konstantina Mantelos, Margarita Valderrama, Andrea Massoud

Judith didn't technically die... Sort of... Well, not yet; but she finds herself in a room full of odd items with Susan, a bizarre woman who says that she's here to send Judith to the afterlife. Except she doesn't know what the after life is... In fact she has no idea what anything is. She can't give Judith any concrete answers, but maybe she can bring her comfort as she prepares to face the unknown.



## Somewhere in Between

**USA – 15 minutes**  
**Director:** Kyle Vorbach  
**Writer:** John Horan, Kyle Vorbach  
**Producer:** John Horan  
**Cast:** Taylor Misiak, Ryan O'Flanagan, John Horan

Two will-they-won't-they friends are just keeping it simple this New Year's Eve — until their house is crashed by a man from the future who tells them that the fate of the universe rests in their hands!





## The Heart of Texas

USA – 15 minutes

**Director:** Gregory JM Kasunich

**Writer:** Gregory JM Kasunich, Lauren Noll

**Producer:** Jordan Ochel, Soldad Bautista, Andy Racoti, Trey Chamness

**Cast:** Lauren Noll, Carlos Moreno Cravioto, Eduardo Zambrana, Peggy Schott

Janie May, an aspiring country singer stuck in the paycheck-to-paycheck grind, gets big news that she's a radio contest finalist while finishing her overnight shift at a local diner in Waco, TX. She must race to the station to sing for hometown country music hero Harlan Thompson in hopes of winning the opening act spot on his upcoming tour. In a chaotic dash to the studio, she collides her car into Jesús, an undocumented worker who refuses medical care or police assistance out of fear of being discovered and deported. The two engage in a struggle, each in pursuit of their own American dreams. In the end, they do the only thing they know how to do: fend for themselves.



## I Can't Be Sorry

USA – 17 minutes

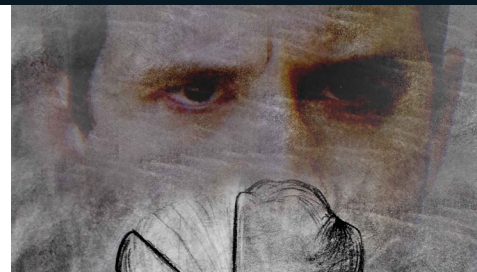
**Director:** Robert Machoian

**Writer:** Robert Machoian, Elizabeth Overton

**Producer:** Raquel Horton

**Cast:** Lauren Cohan, Siobhan Fallon Hogan, Mackenzie Muzar

A woman waits at a dinner to meet someone she's been waiting a long time to meet.



## Stalking the Bogeyman

USA – 10 minutes

**Director:** Markus Potter, Jack Dorfman

**Writer:** Markus Potter

**Producer:** Frederik Ehrhardt, Fabrizio Ellis

**Cast:** Santino Fontana, Thomas Sadoski, David Holthouse

The true story of investigative journalist David Holthouse who plots to kill the man who sexually abused him when he was seven years old. A reconstruction of the intended murder and outcome, blending live-action, animation, and documentary elements. Based on the Outer Critics Circle Award nominated Off-Broadway play.



## There's Always Time To Say It

USA – 15 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Jen Kuhn

**Producer:** Jen Kuhn, Neal Tyler, Georgia Reed

**Cast:** Matthew Jacobs, Jen Kuhn, Megan Duffy, Georgia Reed, David Goryl

A man calls the same people every day to say goodbye.



## Red, White and Blue

USA – 23 minutes

**Writers/Directors:** Nazrin Choudhury

**Producer:** Nazrin Choudhury, Sara McFarlane

**Cast:** Brittany Snow, Juliet Donenfeld, Redding Munsell

Rachel (Brittany Snow) is a single parent living paycheck to paycheck. When an unexpected pregnancy threatens to unravel her already precarious position, she's forced to cross state lines in search of an abortion. As Rachel contemplates the series of events that necessitated this journey and the obstacles placed in her path, we learn a heartbreaking truth that means her life will never be the same again.



## Last Call

United Kingdom – 20 minutes

**Director:** Harry Holland

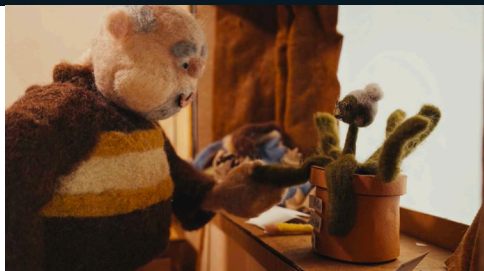
**Writer:** Harry Holland, Will South

**Producer:** Marie-Elena Dyche

**Cast:** Lindsay Duncan, Tom Holland, Trevor Murphy, Nicola Harrison

*Last Call* follows Kate, a desperate mother needing to reconnect with her son. Navigating an obvious void, Kate will finally have the chance to ask the questions that have haunted her past, and will decide her future.





## Take Care

USA – 9 minutes

**Director:** Kaylee Hatfield

**Writer:** Kaylee Anne Hatfield

**Producer:** Benjamin Neal Reichle, Kaylee Anne Hatfield

A bereaved elderly man has let his life fall apart - until his deceased botanist wife reincarnates as a sickly plant. The two listen to each other's needs and help however they can.



## Protect Her

USA – 7 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Paul Christian Glenn

**Producers:** Kate Robertson Pryor, Jameon Rush, Paul Christian Glenn

**Cast:** Kate Robertson Pryor, Pride Asobo, Megan Mills, Mark Popejoy

In a post apocalyptic world, three siblings are forced to fight for their survival and humanity.



## Damned If You Do

USA – 11 minutes

**Director:** Dans Karagannis

**Writer:** Liz Renner

**Producer:** Maher Jafari

**Cast:** Olivia Grace Applegate, Brian Rooney, Natalie Hanson, Nacho the Dog

After her friend is assaulted by a powerful man, Jen launches a one-night vigilante mission that leads to a twisted version of justice.



## Laboratories of Democracy: Nebraska's Unicameral

USA – 8 minutes

**Writer/Director/Producer:** Ann Hartley

**Cast:** Charlyne Berens, Jeffrey Sutton, Brandon Metzler

Laboratories of Democracy: Nebraska's Unicameral examines the history of Nebraska's Unicameral - How it came to be and how it is considered today.



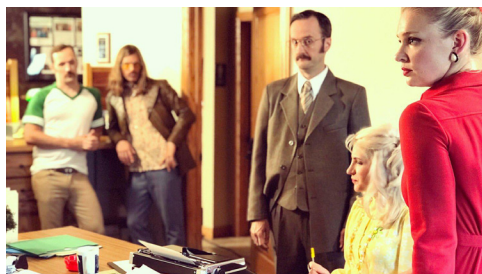
## Truth Detector

USA – 6 minutes

**Writer/Director/Producer:** William Reliford

**Cast:** Timothy Mantil, Katie Otten, Cassandra Schomer

A high school science teacher finds a device that changes his life forever.



## May

USA – 14 minutes

**Director:** Mike Montgomery

**Writer:** Misty Madden-Warren

**Producer:** Jordan Warren, Kattie Roewert, Andy McEntee

**Cast:** Misty Madden, Timothy Hornor, Kattie Roewert, Krystal Wilwerding, Jenna Freyenberger, Meredith Wachter, Virginia Smith, Doc Chaves, Jordan Warren, A.J. Bohac, Jenna Pehriz

May is reliving the same year over and over again. She's unable to escape the minutiae of her office job and the loneliness of her marriage. That is until a kind moment is caught on camera that changes her fate forever.



## The Artist

USA – 9 minutes

**Writer/Director:** David Michael Long

**Producer:** David Lonh, Alexander Jeffery, Paul Petersen

**Cast:** David Michael Long, Paul Petersen

After meeting a fan, a surly street mime is forced to confront an ever-looming threat that could destroy the only life he knows.







## Angels

USA – 8 minutes

**Director:** Samantha Aldana

**Writer:** Parsons Twisten

**Producer:** Fabiola Andrade

**Cast:** Betsy Borrego

A farmer caring for her dying mother has an unexpected visitor.



## Coward

USA – 15 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Merlin Camozzi

**Cast:** Cameron Gellman, Michael Sean Tighe

Matty drives cross country to track down his estranged father, bringing the only thing his dad left him: a treasured collection of Kenny Rogers cassette tapes. Things do not go as planned, and Matty must choose between remaining stuck in the past—and the anger that resides there—or struggling forward into something new.



## Hedgehog

USA – 17 minutes

**Writer/Director:** D. Mistry

**Producers:** Citlalli A. Ruiz, Glen Reynolds, Dave Messick

**Cast:** Emma Pearson, Elina Golde, Vladimir Varakossov, Nadia Lupiwok

As the war starts in Ukraine, six years old Nina is sent to her grandma's remote village. In the shack outside, Nina discovers a badly wounded Russian soldier.



## Layaway

USA – 13 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Kaitlyn T. Busbee

**Producer:** Kaitlyn T. Busbee, Hanna Gray Organschi, Kai Swanson

**Cast:** Bridget Frances Harris, Simon Val, Aaron Smith, Frances Paterik

Left by their mother to fend for themselves, two siblings in Iowa learn to live by their own code, until a choice becomes a secret that tests their trust in each other.



## Loons

USA – 12 minutes

**Director:** Grace Potter

**Writer:** Laura Dooling, Jake Levitt

**Producer:** Harrison Biggs, Laura Dooling, Jake Levitt

**Cast:** Laura Dooling, Jake Levitt

After eight years of not speaking, two estranged siblings run into each other at their family's lake cabin.



## A Man for the Job

USA – 16 minutes

**Writer/Director:** Lyn Elliot

**Producer:** Chris Blunk

**Cast:** Alec Bridges, Harvey Williams, Michelle Davidson, Jeffrey Robertson, Denniel Correa

When a young hospital parking valet befriends a middle-aged patient, he discovers that she wants something he may not be able to give.



## Car Sick

United Kingdom – 16 minutes

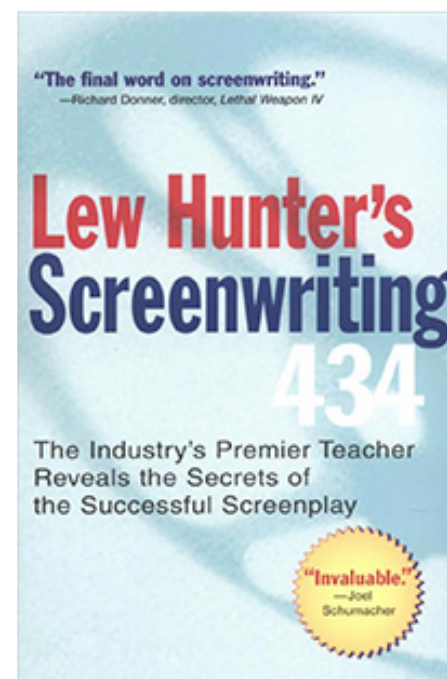
**Director:** David Hayman Jr

**Writer:** Marcus McPeake

**Producer:** Joseph McLean, Isabella Bassett

**Cast:** Jamie Leary, Kathryn Howden, Sarah McCardie, Eoin Sweeney

Inspired by true events - A woman living in her car on hospital grounds during the coldest Scottish winter in years ignores the growing concerns of others, but she must come to accept what is holding her there or face the inevitable consequences.





EDUCATE | ENTERTAIN | INSPIRE



OFF ACADEMY

**Welcome to the Ninth Annual OFF Academy  
Thursday and Friday, February 29 - March 1  
Held at the Jewish Community Center**

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 panels 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 Jewish Community Center in the Goldstein Venue.

In addition to the Academy, students are invited to participate in everything the Omaha Film Festival has to offer including the Writers Theatre and the 98 films screening at Aksarben Cinema from February 27-March 3rd.

Made possible in part by grants and support provided by  
**Mann Kind Foundation • Weitz Family Foundation • Kevin Keplar  
Torchwerks • DM Weiss Productions • Aaron Smith**

Hosted by  
**The Jewish Community Center**

Schools Previously Attending Include:

Ashland-Greenwood High School	NGL Academy
Bellevue West High School	Northwest High School
Benson High School Magnet	Omaha Career Center
Brownell Talbot	Omaha Central High School
Bryan Senior High School	Omaha South High School Magnet
Burke High School	Omaha North High School Magnet
Creighton Prep High School	Papillion-La Vista High School
Dakota Valley High School (South Dakota)	Papillion-La Vista South High School
Elkhorn High School	Russell Middle School
Elkhorn South High School	Waverly High School
Gretna High School	Westside High School
Heartland Academy High School	Waukee High School (Iowa)
Jefferson County North High School (Kansas)	Westside Middle School
Lincoln North Star High School	Leavenworth High School (Kansas)
Marian High School	Various Homeschoolers
Marshall High School (Minnesota)	Millard West High School

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024 / DAY 1

8:00am - 8:30am	<b>Participant Check-in</b> Light breakfast
8:30am - 9:00am	<b>Welcome from OFF Staff / Ice Breakers</b>
9:00am - 9:30am	<b>Production Meeting</b> <b>Cinematography / Lighting</b> Ben Drickey / Jameon Rush / Aaron Smith <b>Live Production Sound</b> Kevin Keplar <b>DIT and Color</b> Cody Jones <b>Screenwriting</b> Christine Burright
9:30am - 11:30am	<b>Live Production</b>
11:30am - Noon	<b>Craft Services</b> Beverages and lunch will be provided. Gluten free & vegetarian options available. Please notify us of your special dietary need.
Noon - 2:00pm	<b>Live Production</b>
2:00pm - 2:30pm	<b>Wrap Session</b>

## FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024 / DAY 2

8:00am - 8:30am	<b>Participant Check-in</b> Light breakfast
8:30am - 9:00am	<b>Welcome from OFF Staff</b>
9:00am - 10:00am	<b>Rough Cut Screening and Discussion</b> Dave Weiss
10:00am - 11:00am	<b>Post-Production Sound</b> Kevin Keplar
11:00am - Noon	<b>Pitch Pit</b>
Noon - 1:00pm	<b>Lunch and Learn with Filmmakers</b> Beverages and lunch will be provided. Gluten free & Vegetarian options available. Please notify us of your special dietary need.
1:00pm - 2:00pm	<b>Visiting Filmmaker Roundtable</b>
2:00pm - 2:30pm	<b>Wrap Session and Goodbye</b>



[omahafilmfestival.org](http://omahafilmfestival.org)