

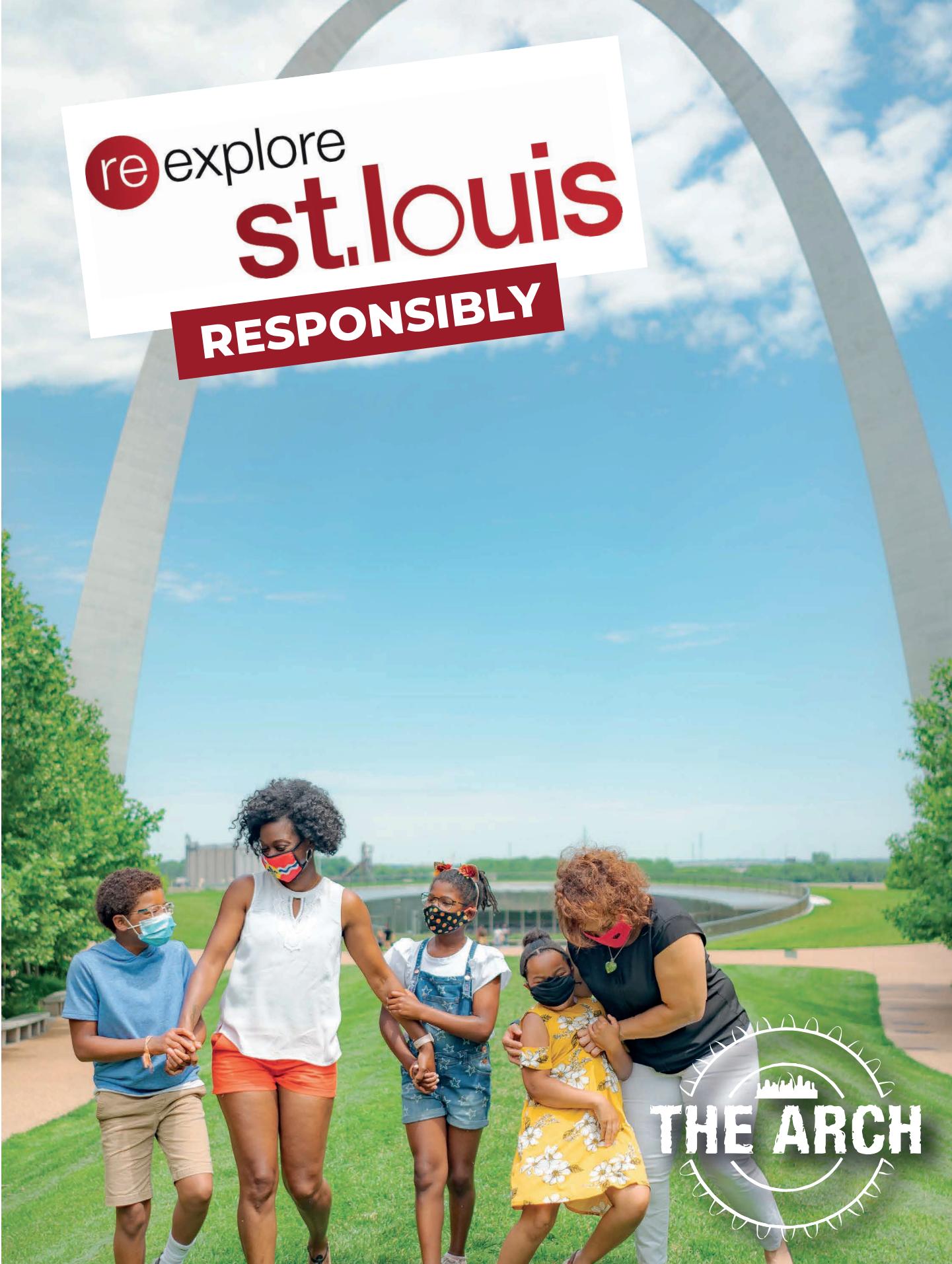


20TH ANNUAL WHITAKER
ST LOUIS
FILMMAKERS
SHOWCASE



July 10-19, 2020

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The Whitaker St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase, an annual presentation of the nonprofit Cinema St. Louis, serves as the area's primary venue for films made by local artists. The Showcase screens works that were shot in the St. Louis region or were written, directed, or produced by St. Louis-area residents or by filmmakers with strong local ties who are now working elsewhere.

Because of the Covid-19 health crisis, the Showcase will be presented virtually in 2020. This short [video](#) provides more information on CSL's decision to move its 2020 festivals and events online. CSL is partnering with Eventive, which also handles our ticketing, to present the Virtual Festival.

The Showcase's 15 film programs range from full-length fiction features and documentaries to multi-film compilations of fiction and documentary shorts.

In addition to the film programs, which will be available for streaming anytime during the July 10-19 run of the Showcase, this year's event features a series of free master classes focused on key aspects of making and distributing an independent narrative feature. These will be offered as live streams at specific times/dates during the Showcase, but recordings of the presentations will also be archived and available on Cinema St. Louis' YouTube channel.

The master classes are sponsored by the Chellappa-Vedavalli Foundation, which also is underwriting a \$500 juried prize, the Essy Award, for the Best Film at the Showcase.

A free live stream on the evening of July 19 will present the Showcase jury awards and announce the films that will move on to the Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival in November.

VIRTUAL FESTIVAL BASICS

- The Showcase's complete lineup of features and shorts programs will be available to view on demand anytime from July 10-19.
- The master classes and awards presentation will be offered as live streams at specific times/dates. These events will be free.
- Recorded Q&As with filmmakers and documentary subjects will accompany many of the programs.
- Once a ticket-holder begins watching a program, access to it remains available for 48 hours.
- Full information on access, including system requirements, is found in the [Virtual Fest FAQ](#).
- Help with playing films on your TV (through HDMI, casting/airplay, or apps) is found [here](#).

TICKETS

Individual tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$8 for Cinema St. Louis members and students with valid and current photo IDs. (There will be a credit-card/handling fee of \$1.50 for all tickets.) To obtain a student discount code, contact Brian Spath (brian@cinemastlouis.org) and provide an image of a currently valid student ID.

PASSES

Two forms of passes are available:

- Five-Film Passes are \$35, \$30 for CSL members. (There will be a credit-card/handling fee of \$2.83 for the \$35 pass and of \$2.56 for the \$30 member pass.)
- All-Access Passes are \$75, \$60 for CSL members. (There will be a credit-card/handling fee of \$4.89 for the \$75 pass and of \$4.11 for the \$60 member pass.)

If you're interested in seeing all Showcase programs, the pass offers great value: With a pass, the 15 paid programs — \$150 if purchased individually — cost only \$75, a savings of \$75. CSL members also receive a substantial discount: \$60 for a pass vs. \$120 for the individual programs.

CONTRIBUTIONS

CSL will gratefully accept contributions of any size to help with the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Click [here](#) for ways to support the organization.

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SHOWCASE JURIES

Documentary/Experimental Jury

Jun Bae, director of the feature documentary "Bob's Tour"
Alison Carrick, co-director of the feature documentary "The First Secret City"
Kathy Corley, director of the feature documentary "One Toke Over the Line and Still Smokin'" and professor emerita at Webster University
Kayla McCulloch, film critic for the Cinema St. Louis blog The Lens
Orlando Thompson, independent filmmaker and documentary-shorts programmer for St. Louis International Film Festival

Narrative Jury

Peter Bolte, director of the feature narratives "All Roads Lead" and "Dandelion Man"
Catherine Dudley-Rose, director of the feature narrative "Parallel Chords"
Paul Hibbard, director of the feature narrative "Tuesday Night and Wednesday Morning"
David Kirkman, director of the fan films "Static" and "Icon"
Michael Tilly Parks, cinematographer of "Static" and "The Boogie Man" and director of the short "Coup de Grace"

LIVE STREAMS

The Showcase will offer a series of four master classes focused on key aspects of **Making and Distributing an Independent Narrative Feature.** These will be offered as live streams, but recordings of the presentations will also be archived and available on Cinema St. Louis' YouTube channel. The master classes are sponsored by the Chellappa-Vedavalli Foundation, which also is underwriting a \$500 juried prize, the Essy Award, for the Best Showcase Film. That prize, the other juried awards, and the list of Showcase films that will screen at the Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival in November will be announced in a live stream on the evening of July 19, when the event concludes.

All live streams are free, but a ticket is required to participate.

1-2:30 PM SATURDAY, JULY 11

Master Class: Finding Financing

Moderated by **Cliff Froehlich**, executive director of Cinema St. Louis, and featuring the following panelists:



Srikant Chellappa: Srikant is an Indian-American director, producer, actor, and screenwriter based in St. Louis. His film credits include the action-comedy "Bad Grandmas" (2017), the drama "Sleep with Me" (2015), the thriller "Fatal Call" (2012), the horror film "Ghost Image" (2007), and the documentary "Running Against Dick" (2004). Srikant is also a tech entrepreneur and is the co-founder/president of Engagedly, an enterprise cloud software

platform. He is a board member of Cinema St. Louis.



David Johnson: An award-winning executive producer, David has experience in film, television, digital, mobile/tablet-based apps, social-media campaigns, and experiential marketing for some of the world's most recognized brands, including Budweiser, Maxwell House Coffee, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Build-A-Bear, and Chrysler. David launched his career producing television commercials before transitioning to feature-film production as a

development executive for Outlaw Productions and director of production for Mike Binder's Sunlight Productions. At Sunlight, David co-produced the films "Londinium" and "The Search for John Gissing." David then joined Coolfire Studios, and within two years he was made partner and named president. Coolfire's original entertainment endeavors include hit shows like "Welcome to Sweetie Pie's" (OWN), "Fast & Loud" (Discovery), "Resale Royalty" (Style), and the Emmy-winning docu-series "The Frontline for Hope." Over the past two years, David has returned to his filmmaking roots to executive-produce the narrative feature "The Ghost Who Walks" and the documentary "Walt & the Winter Olympics." David is vice chair of Cinema St. Louis.



Jay Kanzler: Jay is a lawyer and a filmmaker. He has written, directed, and produced films, including "Marshall's Miracle," starring Lauren Holly, Elizabeth Shannon, and Bill Chott, and "23 Minutes to Sunrise," starring Eric Roberts. His narrative and documentary films have shown in theaters and on television around the world, winning multiple awards along the way. As a lawyer, he has represented actors, writers, and producers in all entertainment-related

matters. Jay is the former board chair of Cinema St. Louis.



Andrea Sporcic Klund: Andrea is the film commissioner for Missouri and runs the Missouri Film Office, which is a part of the Missouri Division of Tourism. She has been in the film biz representing Missouri for more than 20 years. Since 2005, she has worked to market Missouri to the film and television industry nationwide. Andrea has helped coordinate production logistics for more than 30 feature films and hundreds of television

segments and series filmed all over the state, including the feature films "Up in the Air," "Winter's Bone," and "Gone Girl" and the TV series "Sharp Objects" and "Ozark." Before joining the film office, she spent eight years with Cinema St. Louis as director of operations. She holds B.A. degrees

in theater and corporate communications from Lindenwood University. She has also acted, written, directed, and produced for the stage and screen.

1-2:30 PM SUNDAY, JULY 12

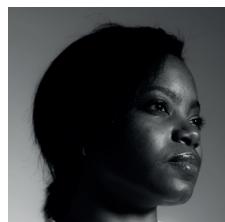
Master Class: Developing a Budget

Moderated by **Srikant Chellappa**, board member of Cinema St. Louis and writer-director of "Bad Grandmas," and featuring the following panelists:



Michael Beugg: A former St. Louisan, Michael is a producer and line producer of more than 45 film and television projects, including "Up in the Air," "La La Land," "Little Miss Sunshine," "Dolemite Is My Name," "Thank You for Smoking," "Wonder," the upcoming "Ghostbusters: Afterlife," and his current Paramount Pictures project, "Babylon." His frequent collaborators include directors Jason and Ivan Reitman, Damien Chazelle, and St. Louisans Ken Kwapis and the late George Hickenlooper.

Before he started budgeting feature films, he worked in energy and environmental policy at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where his budgets had considerably more digits. Michael has an M.B.A. in public management from Stanford University and a B.A. from Yale University. He is a member of the Directors and Producers Guilds of America. A frequent SLIFF panelist, Michael and his family live in Los Angeles.



Efi da Silva: By day, Efi is a multimedia designer who works within sports media. At other times, Efi is a writer and producer who has created award-winning video content for the Condé Nast brands Wired and GQ. Efi is also the writer and director of the film "Four-Way Stop," which played the festival circuit in 2015-16. "Four-Way Stop" was nominated for Best Film at the San Francisco Black Film Festival, and Efi won the Best New Filmmaker

prize. The film premiered at the Kansas City FilmFest International and screened at the St. Louis International Film Festival, where it was part of the New Filmmakers Forum. Efi is a graduate of Webster University.



Catherine Dudley-Rose: Catherine is an award-winning writer, director, actor, and musician. She has taught at the New York Stage & Film Company and the Broadway Theater Institute and served as a guest artist, director, and performer internationally. She is the writer-director of the feature film "Parallel Chords," which won the Best Feature Writer award (sponsored by the Writers Guild of America West) at the LA Femme International

Film Festival. The film won Best Cinematography, Best Production Design, and Best Narrative Feature awards at the St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase in 2018 and was selected for the New Filmmakers Forum at the 2018 St. Louis International Film Festival. The film was released theatrically in 2019 and has international distribution. Catherine is a winner of the National Film Challenge and a recipient of a Curators Pick cash prize from Women in Film Seattle. She has received grants from the Regional Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Dan Mirvish: Dan is a director, screenwriter, producer, and author. He graduated from Washington University and received a master's degree from USC film school. Dan was mentored by Robert Altman on his first film, "Omaha (the movie)," which led him to co-found the upstart Slamdance Film Festival. His film "Open House" prompted the Academy Awards® to controversially rewrite their rules for the Best Original Music category. His film

"Between Us," an award-winning feature starring Julia Stiles and Taye Diggs, played in 23 festivals in seven countries. Dan is the author of the bestselling nonfiction book "The Cheerful Subversive's Guide to Independent Filmmaking" from Focal Press/Routledge, and he co-wrote the bestselling, critically acclaimed novel "I Am Martin Eisenstadt." Dan is also a former speechwriter for U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin. His most recent film is "Bernard and Huey," scripted by Oscar®- and Pulitzer-winning Jules Feiffer and starring Jim Rash and David Koechner.

1-2:30 PM SATURDAY, JULY 18

Master Class: Casting

Moderated by **Cliff Froehlich**, executive director of Cinema St. Louis, and featuring the following panelists:



David Martyn Conley: A former St. Louisan now based in Atlanta, David is a writer, director, and actor. David co-starred on the Lifetime Television series "Army Wives," "Drop Dead Diva," and "Star." He had a recurring role on Tyler Perry's "House of Payne" and has been featured in such movies as Disney's "Let It Shine." David's film "Tapestry of Shadows" — which he wrote, directed, and starred in — won several awards across the country, including Best Ensemble Acting at the 2006 St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase. David developed a television series entitled "D.N.R.," whose pilot episode won several awards as a short. His short film "Timing" has received nearly 100,000 YouTube views. David's screenplay "Raising Izzie" won UPtv's Faith and Family Screenplay Competition and served as the directorial debut of Roger M. Bobb. "Raising Izzie" was nominated for two NAACP Image Awards, five Black Reel Awards, and the Movieguide Epiphany Prize for Most Inspiring TV Program. David is currently writing screenplays for hire, teaching/coaching actors, and developing several films, including "The Blues on Maple Avenue" and the thriller "Tooth and Nail."



Brian Jun: A regional filmmaker based in the Midwest, Brian started his career with the working-class drama "Steel City," which starred John Heard, America Ferrara, and frequent collaborator Raymond J. Barry. The film was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival and was the winner of the New Filmmakers Forum at the St. Louis International Film Festival. His other features include "The Coverup," "The Bandit" (formerly "Joint Body"), and "Sleep with Me," and he directed two segments of the three-part "She Loves Me Not." Brian is also a professor of film and video, a construction worker, and an avid St. Louis Blues fan. His website is brianjun.com.



Cody Stokes: Cody is a director of films, documentaries, and commercials. Recipient of the Princess Grace Film Award, Cody's film work has received a number of accolades from festivals and screened around the world. His first narrative feature film, the St. Louis-shot "The Ghost Who Walks," won the Jury Award at the 2018 US in Progress section of the Champs-Elysées Film Festival and the Best Narrative award at the 2019 Bushwick

Film Festival. "The Ghost Who Walks" is currently available on Netflix. Commercially, Cody has directed work for companies such as BMW, Toyota, GMC, Yahoo!, AT&T, American Express, Federal Express, Nike SB, Jack in the Box, and ESPN.



Joni Tackette: A casting director, Joni has more than 30 years of experience working in the motion- and digital-media industry. Her diverse casting experience includes principal casting for hundreds of commercial, corporate-film, digital, and print projects. In addition, she's worked on more than 25 feature films, providing principal, day-player, extras, and promotional-crowd casting in St. Louis and on location throughout the U.S. and Canada. She is a member of Casting Society of America (CSA), the past president of the Missouri Motion Media Association, and a 10-year board member for Cinema St. Louis. Her website is jonitackettecasting.net.

1-2:30 PM SUNDAY, JULY 19

Master Class: Securing Distribution

Moderated by **Srikant Chellappa**, board member of Cinema St. Louis and writer-director of "Bad Grandmas," and featuring the following panelists:



Gayle Gallagher: Gayle is an award-winning film producer and film distributor based in St. Louis. Before she had even graduated from high school, Gayle began to pursue what would become a lifelong passion for music by working at radio station KYMC (89.7 FM), where she would spend the next seven years as on-air talent, music director, program director, and station manager. After graduating from Webster University, Gayle began writing, lighting, shooting, and editing training videos and documentaries for a variety of clients while continuing her career in radio, including work as producer on the show "Brainstorm," which was distributed on National Public Radio. In 2005, Gayle left the corporate world and started her own company, partnering a short time later with Wyatt Weed and Pirate Pictures. She has since produced several award-winning short films and the feature films "Shadowland," "Contamination," "23 Minutes to Sunrise," and "Four Color Eulogy." Gayle also served as the producer and sound recordist for "Streetscape," a monthly magazine-style TV show that aired on the local ABC affiliate. In 2010, unhappy with the way independent films were treated in the industry, Gayle and Wyatt launched Pirate Media Group, a film-distribution company that helps quality independent films get the attention they deserve. The Pirate Pictures website is piratepictures.net.



Tom Malloy: The roster of films produced by Tom over the years includes the upcoming "Lanksy," starring Harvey Keitel, Sam Worthington, and Minka Kelly (with the producers of "The Hurt Locker"); "Love N' Dancing," directed by Rob Iscové ("She's All That") and starring Amy Smart and Betty White; "The Alphabet Killer," directed by Rob Schmidt ("Wrong Turn") and starring Eliza Dushku, Cary Elwes, and Tim Hutton; and "The Attic," a thriller directed by Mary Lambert ("Pet Sematary") and starring Elisabeth Moss. In 2016, Tom co-founded the sales and distribution company Glass House Distribution. Glass House maintains a presence at AFM, EFM, and Cannes, and has grown from two people to a seven-person operation, recently adding a TV-sales department. Tom's bestselling book about independent film financing, "Bankroll," which had two editions, was considered the gold-standard guide to indie film financing. In 2019, Tom co-founded FilmMakingStuffHQ, the premier online training platform for filmmakers.



Daniel Blake Smith: Dan is a writer and producer based in St. Louis. He wrote and produced "Texas Heart," a crime thriller starring John Savage ("The Deer Hunter") and Lin Shaye ("Insidious"), which was distributed by Indie Rights and is available on Amazon Prime. His thriller "Blood Born," starring Ed Asner ("The Mary Tyler Moore Show") and Jeremy Sumpter ("Peter Pan," "Friday Night Lights") and distributed by Hollywood Media Bridge (HMB), goes into production in September. "Proof," a true-crime thriller about the St. Louis-based story of Pamela Hupp, has been picked up by Atlas Entertainment ("Suicide Squad," "Justice League") and is being pitched to Warner Bros., Netflix, and Amazon. "Dark Roots," a sci-fi thriller produced by Dan and written by Mark Keavney, goes into production in early spring of 2021. Dan's short films "Safe & Happy" and "Memory Box" played in dozens of festivals in 2018-20, including the St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase.

7 PM SUNDAY, JULY 19

Awards Presentation

Cinema St. Louis artistic director Chris Clark announces the Showcase films chosen for inclusion in the Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival, and the juries present an array of awards, including the Essy Award, a \$500 juried prize for the Best Showcase Film.

FILM PROGRAMS



America's Last Little Italy: The Hill

Joseph Puleo, 2020, 71 min., documentary feature

This documentary explores the deep historic roots of the Hill, St. Louis' iconic Italian neighborhood. Italians who immigrated to St. Louis in search of the American Dream built a "Little Italy" in the city's heart that still flourishes to this day. Similar neighborhoods in other urban areas have long ago lost their specifically Italian character, making the Hill the last of a dying breed. This is the first feature by Showcase alum Joseph Puleo, whose short "Top Son" won Best Comedy at the 2016 event.



The Ballad of John Henry

Matthew Rice, 2019, 50 min., documentary feature

This ambitious documentary analyzes how an ex-slave became one of America's greatest tall-tale heroes: John Henry. Based on Scott Reynolds Nelson's book "Steel Drivin' Man," the film provides a fresh perspective on the song and folk tale by exploring a myriad of related subjects, including the convict-lease program, an unjust legal system developed after the Civil War as a replacement for slavery. Director Matthew Rice worked as an intern on Ken Burns' "The Vietnam War" series, and his film shares some of that master documentarian's sensibility. Rice's debut film, the short "The Yodel Within," played the 2011 Showcase.

Shown with:

Wild Bill: In Search of Fool's Gold

(Nate Carroll & Don Leggans, 2020, 30 min.):

A biopic that follows Wild Bill Hickok's journey from his hometown in Troy Grove, Ill., to his untimely assassination in Deadwood, S.D.



College Bound: The Journey to College from Ritenour High School

Jenna Gandalfo, 2019, 49 min., feature documentary

"College Bound" chronicles a diverse group of Ritenour High School students as they overcome poverty, cultural and language barriers, and other obstacles to be accepted into some of the top universities in the country. With the help of their families and Ritenour counselor Julie Kampschroeder, the dedicated students must juggle work, school, and college prep in their pursuit of higher education.

Shown with:

Don't Start

(Joe Couri & Warith Muhammad, 2017, 28 min.):

An exploration of the Don't Start program, which helps at-risk children and teens avoid heading down the wrong path (e.g., gangs, drugs, guns) by encouraging them to stay in school and become leaders.



DOC SHORTS 1: FOOD, WINE & NATURE

51 min.

Goat Yoga

(Cory Byers, 2019, 4 min.):

Cute animals make everything better — including yoga.

Growing for Good

(Vân Nguyễn & Morgan Paar, 2020, 15 min.):

A look at urban farmers Arthur and Nancy Culbert, who planted the initial seed that became the Central West End Farm in St. Louis.

The Honest Work of Farming

(Rickie Ross, 2020, 15 min.):

A chronicle of the life of a Missouri farmer and his family as they learn the art of regenerative agriculture.

Missouri Wine: The Lost Years

(Juliana Doyle, 2020, 17 min.):

With the arrival of German and Italian immigrants, Missouri became the second-largest wine producer in the country. Prohibition abruptly halted that growth, but the state's wine industry is newly resurgent.



DOC SHORTS 2: LENDING A VOICE

88 min.

33 and Counting

(Aisha Sultan, 2020, 39 min.):

A true-crime story about a 70-year-old grandmother from rural Missouri serving a life sentence for a murder she says her rapist committed.

Bible Man

(Randy Shinn, 2020, 10 min.):

New Orleans street preacher Keith Sam shares the Gospel amid the chaos and debauchery of Mardi Gras.

Descend

(Zlatko Cosic, 2020, 4 min.):

A minimalist exploration of society as it heads toward an uncertain future.

Dirty Look

(Zlatko Cosic, 2019, 5 min.):

An oblique look at society's harmful effects on the environment.

Quarantine Through the Ages

(Molly Farrell, 2020, 4 min.):

A young filmmaker interviews different generations of her family about their experiences while living in quarantine.

Sankofa: Back to the Beginning

(Ben Scholle, 2020, 9 min.):

Darren Seals and the volunteers at the Sankofa Unity Center feel a duty to stop violence in their community by addressing one conflict at a time.

The Tenant's Lament

(Noeso, 2020, 3 min.):

A tenant struggles to convey the seriousness of a problem to management with humorous and horrific consequences.

Valley Relics

(Ashley Seering, 2019, 14 min.):

Tommy Gelinas has made it his mission to document and preserve the history and pop culture of the San Fernando Valley in Southern California.



Easy-Bake

Zoë Kennison, 2020, 94 min., narrative feature

In a story inspired by a real-life experience, 22-year-old college student Ivan (Zoë Kennison) is informed by her doctor that she is on an unexpected biological clock: Because of a medical issue, she has only one year to conceive a child. Though Ivan is a nanny and loves the kids in her care, until now she has given little thought to having a child of her own. But influenced by societal pressure — which assumes that all women want children — and the well-intentioned support of her roommate, Ivan begins to explore the possibility of motherhood. Writer-director-star Kennison is a former St. Louisan and recent Webster U. grad.



My Ireland

Anthony Monaghan, 2019, 90 min., documentary feature

Anthony Monaghan, a working-class immigrant now living in St. Louis, takes a hard look at the rampant emigration, mass evictions, and homeless crisis that plague his homeland of Ireland today. In search of answers, he travels the nation and interviews Irish people from all walks of life, from a homeless Dubliner to a member of the Irish Parliament. One thing is clear: Corruption has caused the displacement, if not the destruction, of countless lives in Ireland. Monaghan previously appeared in the Showcase with the documentary "Rednecks + Culchies."



Breakdown: Overload

NARRATIVE SHORTS 1: ALTERED PERSPECTIVES

96 min.

Are You Alright?

(Alessio Summerfield, 2020, 15 min.):

When a day job becomes an every-waking-moment job, Wallace reaches a melting point.

Boxes

(Mark McElwraith, 2020, 4 min.):

A depressed young man goes outside.

Breakdown: Overload

(Tanner Richard Craft, 2020, 2 min.):

A simulation of a mental breakdown through sensory overload.

Caged Bird

(Orestes Valdes, 2020, 7 min.):

A music video of Cacodyl's song "Caged Bird" is inspired by past and current events.

In Paris, I Tango for Maria (Take 2)

(Taylor Yocom, 2019, 9 min.):

In a first-person nonfiction narrative, an artist revisits a video piece in which she tangoed in butter in homage to Maria Schneider in "Last Tango in Paris."

The Lineman

(Jay Shipman, 2018, 4 min.):

Hearing a hypnotic tone traveling down a power line, a weary lineman falls asleep atop an electric pole and sees his life passing before his eyes.

The Man and the Purple Door

(Amos Hernandez, 2020, 20 min.):

A man enters through a mysterious purple door, changing his life forever.

New Pool

(Scotty Villhard, 2019, 7 min.):

A pool owner battles with one pesky leaf in a "man vs. nature" scenario reflective of our Covid-19 times.

Peeping Tom

(Ben Manhanke, 2020, 26 min.):

A young woman accidentally becomes the next target of a black-gloved killer in a film inspired by the work of Dario Argento.

Untitled

(Eby Strauss-Barrett, 2020, 2 min.):

An experimental short in which serenity meets destruction.



NARRATIVE SHORTS 2: COMEDY

109 min.

Boondax

(Jessie Klearman, 2020, 8 min.):

Dax, an 18-year-old cool girl, goes on an unexpected adventure when she becomes addicted to tagging.

Competitive Candy Land

(Adam Kelso, 2020, 6 min.):

Two opponents hash it out in the finals on the Board Game Programming Network's latest hit.

Dad Eat Dog

(Ryan Culbertson, Jon Robben, Charlie Venhaus & Zachary E. Wiegmann, 2019, 13 min.):

A man races against the clock to protect his family from finding out about a dark secret.

Four Day Delay

(Gavin Lewis, 2020, 13 min.):

When Patrick's girlfriend leaves town, he must avoid both temptation and spoilers as he waits to watch the newest hit superhero film with her.

An Important Message About Doglove

(Gary Lobstein, 2019, 2 min.):

A faux drug-warning commercial about the very real dangers of Doglove.

The Journey

(Noel Fortman, 2020, 3 min.):

A young woman confronts an issue that sends her into a tailspin.

Momma's Boy

(Lily Kerns, 2020, 7 min.):

When 16-year-old Gordon, a socially awkward boy with a passion for disco, wins the annual dance competition and becomes a part of the high-school "it crowd," he discovers just how cruel teenagers can be.

One Brick Shy: Episode 1 ("Randy")

(CeCe O'Neill, 2020, 16 min.):

Drew and Murphy face a few of life's harsh realities and attempt to remedy their lack of preparedness.

One Brick Shy: Episode 2 ("Mia Hamm")

(CeCe O'Neill & Jessica Pierce, 2020, 13 min.): Drew and Murphy, in search of greater opportunities and a little money in the bank, meet Gus, who just may be the answer to their half-baked prayers.

Remotely Working

(Garrett Tripp, 2020, 11 min.):

Five quirky millennials who are working remotely for an international tech corporation must learn to cooperate with each other or everyone will be fired.

Three Bullets

(Cameron A. Williams, 2020, 5 min.):

Three adventurers are out for revenge against the cowboy that made fools of them.

A Tough Nut to Crack

(Chelsea Eichholz, 2019, 9 min.):

While trying to break the county's record for candy sales, a no-nonsense Wilderness Warrior meets her match when she knocks on the door of a tough customer.

Toy Truck

(James Hess, 2019, 3 min.):

Accidentally left behind at a park, a small toy truck has to run from a strange man to find his way back to his owner.



NARRATIVE SHORTS 3: FAMILY MATTERS

106 min.

Across the Lake

(Bryce Allen, 2020, 7 min.):

Amid a stay-at-home quarantine, a young gay man is forced to tell his parents about his sexuality and turns to a nearby friend for acceptance.

All That Remains

(James R. Compton Jr., 2019, 21 min.):

After losing their mother, three siblings must learn to overcome differences and come together.

Brothers

(Jacob Adams, 2020, 5 min.):

An exploration of a sibling relationship during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Encounters

(Ariana Nasi, 2020, 9 min.):

A Venezuelan college girl is stuck outside her country when the Covid-19 pandemic starts, and her mom attempts to help her from a distance.

The Final Act

(Rahul Menon, 2020, 5 min.):

An actor looking back at his past mistakes gets ready for his last performance.

FM Live

(Stephen Province, 2020, 8 min.):

Two school rivals are paired on a radio project, and drama ensues.

Forever Young

(Levi Gniotczynski, 2020, 15 min.):

Constantly bogged down by paperwork and not spending enough time with his family, Will begins to imagine what his life would be like if he had grown up to be a cowboy, king, or pirate.

The King and the Pawn

(Caleb Blue, 2020, 7 min.):

When an energetic boy attempts to connect with his busy and hardworking father over prolonged games of chess, his world is transformed.

Post-Graduate

(Charles Mahood, 2020, 13 min.):

A recent college graduate lives with her older sister as she tries to start her adult life.

Stable

(Mason Beck, 2020, 8 min.):

A brother and sister look to sell their family's land after their mother passes away, but after they find a buyer, the brother begins to question the decision to abandon their legacy.

Within the Silence

(Zack Beining, 2020, 8 min.):

During a global pandemic that terrorizes the world, an ill father realizes that life with his wife and daughter has come to an end.



NARRATIVE SHORTS 4: FATEFUL DECISIONS

98 min.

Augustus

(Jon Alston, 2019, 15 min.):

Augustus, a literate carpenter and family man who is living free as a fugitive slave, is faced with a decision to speak or die when denied the wages he's earned.

Driving Louise

(Isaac Knopf, 2019, 22 min.):

When 19-year-old Ezra drives widowed 70-year-old neighbor Louise to visit her husband's out-of-state grave, she confronts a newfound insecurity about her sexual identity while Louise silently recalls a hidden relationship with a woman 50 years before.

Mic Drop

(Oscar Mirabal, 2019, 12 min.):

Michael wants to win a rap battle but needs a partner. Monroe (Corey Piper, 2020, 12 min.): A stranger walks into a neighborhood bar and begins telling a story about one of the regulars.

Monroe

(Corey Piper, 2020, 12 min.):

A stranger walks into a neighborhood bar and begins telling a story about one of the regulars.

One Cold Morning

(Josh Herum, 2020, 18 min.):

When three young men are found dead in a suburban house, was it self-defense or a drug deal gone south?

Saturday the 15th

(Eric Chandler, 2020, 19 min.):

Two individuals find themselves in the middle of a lovers' quarrel.



NARRATIVE SHORTS 5: HARD CHOICES

88 min.

Eggs

(J.J. Miller, 2020, 3 min.):

A 30-year-old woman must decide if her noncommittal boyfriend is worth it.

Goodbye

(Scott McEntire, 2019, 14 min.):

A young wife in the midst of dying suspects her husband is moving on from her too early.

Mise en Abyme

(*Mason Beck*, 2020, 10 min.):

A high-school actor must meet the expectations of his stern drama director.

Nights Without Stars

(*Joyce V. Techá*, 2019, 15 min.):

A filmmaker asks other young artists what it's like for them to follow their dreams.

Not Suitable

(*Cooper Shaw*, 2020, 21 min.):

Ben is trying — to connect, to laugh, to love — but his friends just don't get it.

One Wish

(*Adam Kelso*, 2019, 15 min.):

Fed up with his routine life, Matt meets a magical genie and drunkenly wishes away his ability to relax.

Two Sides

(*Tom Reynolds*, 2019, 10 min.):

A struggling writer is visited by an unwelcome friend and must find a way to get rid of him.



Tin Box

NARRATIVE SHORTS 6: THRILLERS

101 min.

Alone

(*Jack Villhard*, 2020, 9 min.):

A man scares himself in an empty house.

Blurs

(*Alexander Hernandez*, 2020, 7 min.):

A young man desperately tries to recall what happened when he lost track of time in the woods.

Consent

(*Scott L. Wisdom II*, 2020, 10 min.):

In a world where consensual murder is legal, a desperate family man can't seem to convince an eager thrill-seeker to kill him.

Dangerous Isolation

(*Nathan Storm*, 2020, 13 min.):

Dr. Raymond is dangerous and unsettled as he explores mind-body connections.

Dead Air

(*Jamie Grigsby & Rahul Menon*, 2020, 5 min.):

An ex-news anchor isn't ready to leave the station or vacate her chair.

Gone Squatching

(*Bianca Esparza-Burr*, 2019, 15 min.):

A young Internet influencer attempts to go viral by following around a local team of sasquatch hunters.



(*Daniel Neville*, 2019, 7 min.):

A man meets up with his old friend to get help with his mental-health issues.

Tin Box

(*Andy Compton*, 2020, 18 min.):

A homeless addict breaks into a home and discovers a person being held captive behind a locked door.

Twenty Four Hours

(*Matthew Weeke*, 2019, 8 min.):

A look at the first 24 hours after a man is changed into a vampire.

Victim #17: A Scream Fan Film

(*Andrew Berger*, 2018, 9 min.):

A masked serial killer is enraged when his attempts at terrifying his next victim are met with utter indifference.



Resolution

(*Jacob T. Martin*, 2019, 84 min., narrative feature)

What's your New Year's resolution? To get a job? To move to a new city? To finish your novel? To get cast in a show? To take the next step in your relationship? To finally confess your love? To get divorced? A group of friends are grappling with these issues as they gather for a New Year's Eve party at Diana and Joel's apartment, but when the host couple breaks up, a night of celebration descends into chaos. The formerly tightknit group begins to crack under the stress, with philosophical drug dealers, unruly ravers, secret affairs, and last-minute confessions making a strange night even stranger. As the party continues, the question arises: Will the bonds that tie these friends together hold or will the group dissolve into just a collection of people who once knew each other? The brother-sister team who co-produced the film — Loren Martin Goudreau and writer-director Jacob T. Martin — hail from St. Louis and are equally passionate about filmmaking and their Midwestern roots.



Wake Up

(*Nate Townsend*, 2019, 89 min., documentary feature)

In June 2014, Ryan Candice, a high-achieving student at the University of Missouri, took his life days before his 21st birthday. Shocked and saddened, his friends set out to learn and educate others about one of the fastest-growing causes of death in the United States. "Wake Up" weaves together stories from four different frontlines of suicide prevention across the country, highlighting some of the communities most affected by the epidemic. In Philadelphia, an LGBTQ activist photographs suicide-attempt survivors. In the Intermountain West, veterans from Iraq and Vietnam receive treatment at a renowned clinic. A Louisiana couple loses their only son — a standout student at LSU — and decides to tour the country educating college students of the risks and signs of suicide. Finally, a seemingly disparate group of politicians, gun lobbyists, and Harvard researchers take steps to combat firearm suicide in Utah.



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The winning shorts will be selected by a jury of film professionals and will be featured as part of a program that will screen on Citygarden's video wall starting **Friday, May 28, 2021**. In addition, other submissions will be chosen to be part of the video-wall program that will screen through **Sunday, June 27, 2021**.

No entry fee is required.

Filmmakers must live within a 120-mile radius of St. Louis. Films must be a maximum of 5 minutes. There is no minimum running time. Films must be submitted using FilmFreeway with a secure online screener link.

For full rules and an entry form, please visit:
cinemastlouis.org/cinema-citygarden

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