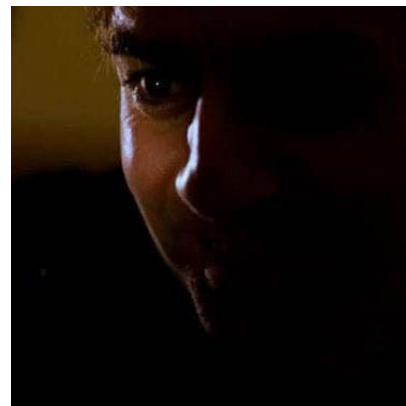


# ST LOUIS FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE

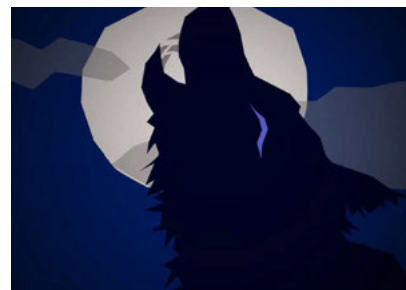
PRESENTED BY

## CINEMA ST LOUIS



THE 23RD ANNUAL  
WHITAKER ST. LOUIS  
FILMMAKERS  
SHOWCASE

**JULY  
21-30,  
2023**



HI-POINTE THEATRE &  
CAPES SOKOL



[CINEMASTLOUIS.ORG](http://CINEMASTLOUIS.ORG)





Proud to support local filmmakers through Master Classes and the annual Essy Award.

*The Chellappa-Vedavalli Foundation is dedicated to promoting global understanding and alleviating poverty through arts education and entrepreneurship.*

Learn more at [facebook.com/Chellappa-Vedavalli-Foundation](https://facebook.com/Chellappa-Vedavalli-Foundation).

# St. Louis

## CELEBRITY GUIDES

There's never been a better time to plan a trip to St. Louis and these familiar faces can be your guides to all of the best places to visit! From world-class attractions and museums to the best restaurants and stores, these native St. Louisans are the "experts" on all things St. Louis. To learn more about their favorite places, please visit [explorestlouis.com/intheknow](http://explorestlouis.com/intheknow).



explore **st.louis**





## 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WHITAKER ST. LOUIS FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE

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 written, directed, edited, or produced by St. Louis natives or films with strong local ties.

The 17 film programs that screen at the Hi-Pointe Theatre from July 21-23 and 28-30 serve as the Showcase's centerpiece. In addition, the event features a quartet of livestreamed master classes — the legal-issues class is available as an in-person event — and the Closing Night Awards Party at the Hi-Pointe Theatre.

The film programs range from full-length fiction and documentary features to multi-film compilations of fiction, documentary, and experimental shorts. The programs with feature films include post-screening Q&As with the filmmakers and/or subjects.

### VENUES

#### Hi-Pointe Theatre

1005 McCausland Ave., 63117

Corner of McCausland Ave. and Clayton Rd.

#### Capes Sokol

8182 Maryland Avenue, 15th Floor

Master Class: Legal Issues on July 27, 6:00 PM

### TICKETS

Tickets for film programs from July 21-23 & 28-30 at the Hi-Pointe Theatre are \$15 each; \$12 for students with valid and current photo ID and Cinema St. Louis members\*. (All credit-card and handling fees are incorporated into the ticket price.) Admission to the Closing-Night Awards Party at the Hi-Pointe is free, but a donation is requested. All master classes are free, but registration is required. \*Benefit varies based on membership level.

### ADVANCE TICKETS

Tickets may be purchased in advance online through [Eventive](#) on the Cinema St. Louis website. Student discounts can only be obtained in person at the box office because ID is required.

### PASSES

A Five-Film Pass is \$65, \$50 for CSL members. To purchase a pass, click [here](#). Passes offer great value and flexibility: A Five-Film Pass represents a savings of \$15, and it can be used to purchase multiple tickets for a single show. VIP passes are available for \$140, \$105 for CSL members.

### CONCESSIONS

Candy, soda, bottled water, and the best popcorn in town are available at the concession stand.

### INFORMATION

For more information, contact Chris Clark at 314-200-5623 or [chris@cinemastlouis.org](mailto:chris@cinemastlouis.org).

## SPONSORS

### WHITAKER FOUNDATION



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## SHOWCASE JURIES

### Documentary/Experimental Jury

**Gayle Gallagher**, producer, Pirate Pictures and Captain of Fun at online clothing retailer The Alley Clothing Co.; **Carl Middleman**, AKA "Carl the Intern," 30+ year radio career acting as producer, promotions director and on-air talent, member of the St. Louis Film Critics Association, co-host of the PopLifeSTL media podcast, and music coordinator and horn blower for the St. Louis Blues hockey team.; and **Aisha Sultan**, nationally syndicated columnist, award-winning filmmaker and features writer based at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

### Narrative Jury

**Cate Marquis**, film critic and historian, co-founder, past president, and current member of St. Louis Film Critics Association, member of the Alliance of Women Film Journalists, Rotten Tomatoes' TomatoMeter-Approved Critic, reviewer for We Are Movie Geeks, St. Louis Jewish Light, and Alliance of Women Film Journalists; **Alex McPherson**, unabashed pop culture nerd, member of the St. Louis Film Critics Association, and reviewer for Pop Life STL; and **Lynn Venhaus**, Rotten Tomatoes-certified film critic who reviews for the Webster-Kirkwood Times, KTRS Radio, and PopLifeSTL.com website. She is an approved member of Critics Choice Association, Alliance of Women Film Journalists, and St. Louis Film Critics Association.

## PROGRAM DESIGN

Grizzell & Co.

## MASTER CLASSES

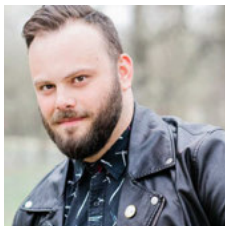
The Showcase will offer a series of three master classes on various aspects of filmmaking. The master classes are sponsored by the Chellappa-Vedavalli Foundation.

**All master classes are free, but online registration is required to participate.**

### 10:30 AM SUNDAY, JULY 23 HI-POINTE THEATRE

#### Master Class: Film Criticism in Flyover Country

When most film fans think about film criticism, there are likely a few cultural hubs that spring to mind: New York, Chicago, L.A., Paris, etc. However, like a lot of “flyover country,” St. Louis has a decades-strong film criticism community that’s quietly become even stronger as the pandemic subsidies and audiences return to the big-screen. As the Internet overshadows print publications and critics find new mediums to work within, how has this community adapted? Are there challenges unique to “regional” critics? As St. Louis’ filmmakers struggle and thrive, what role do their critical cohorts play? Join some of the key St. Louis film critics to get answers to these questions and the inside scoop on what it’s like to make work out of watching and talking movies. Moderated by Joshua Ray.



**Joshua Ray, moderator:** Joshua Ray is a St. Louis film critic and programmer. He is a co-founder and editor for The Take-Up website and serves as its podcast’s host and producer. His reviews can also be seen on KMOV-4 News at 4. Currently, he programs for the Cinema St. Louis events St. Louis International Festival and QFest St. Louis, as well as the Counter Program series at the Arkadin Cinema & Bar. Joshua has spoken at numerous St. Louis film events held at Webster University, Washington University, the St. Louis Public Library, and more.

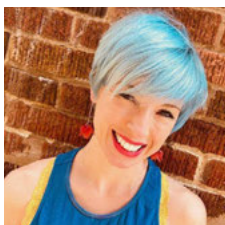


**Elliott Collins:** Elliott Collins is the host of “Movie Files” and a member of the St. Louis Film Critics Association. He loves watching and discussing the latest movies and great television shows on a daily basis. He tries his best to provide his audience with insightful thoughts and opinions but he also loves having fun conversations with people who love movies and shows just as much as he does.



**Cliff Froehlich:** Cliff Froehlich is the retired executive director of Cinema St. Louis. Before CSL, Froehlich worked in journalism, beginning in 1983 as a freelance film critic for The Riverfront Times, where he served in a variety of editorial positions, including executive editor. He also worked as the arts-and-entertainment editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and managing editor of St. Louis Magazine.

Froehlich continues to freelance, writing film reviews for the RFT and occasional essays for Washington U.’s The Common Reader. Since 1984, he has taught courses in film history as an adjunct faculty member at Webster University.



**Eileen G'Sell:** Eileen G'Sell received an MA in English and Film studies at the University of Rochester and an MFA in poetry at Washington University in St. Louis. A poet and culture critic with regular contributions to *The Riverfront Times*, *Hyperallergic*, *Reverse Shot*, *MUBI Notebook*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Salon*, *VICE*, and other outlets, she has served as film critic for *The Hopkins Review* since 2021. In 2018, she published her first full-length

volume of poetry, *Life After Rugby*, with Gold Wake Press. In 2019 and 2023, she was nominated for the national Rabkin Foundation award in arts journalism. She teaches at Washington University.



**Diane Carson:** Diane Carson is professor emerita at St. Louis Community College-Meramec where she taught film studies and production for over three decades. She contributes weekly film reviews to KDHX (88.1 FM) and the Alliance of Women Film Journalists and is Past-President of the University Film and Video Association. She co-directed two documentaries: *Other People's Footage: Copyright & Fair Use* and *Other People's*

*Footage: Fair Use* in Scripted Films. She has published articles in recent anthologies on Preston Sturges, John Barrymore, and Clint Eastwood, and co-written/co-edited books on acting, John Sayles, and food in film.

### 6:00 PM THURSDAY, JULY 27 CAPES SOKOL

#### Master Class: Legal Issues

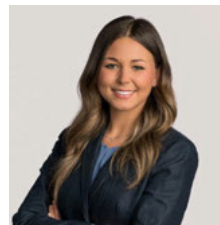
Capes Sokol, 8182 Maryland Ave., 15th Floor  
During this master class — which will be held in person at the Capes Sokol law offices but also available as a live stream — the firm’s Entertainment & Media attorneys will share their insights into the legal needs of filmmakers, including business formation, deal structure, network and distribution contracts, talent agreements, production legal, rights acquisition and clearance, licensing, and copyright and trademark protection. Check-in begins at 5:30 PM, and the class is followed by a happy hour from 7-8 PM.

**Directions:** There is paid parking at the garage of 8182 Maryland Ave. and metered parking on the street. To reach the Capes Sokol offices, enter the lobby, follow the sign pointing to the Regions Centre, and go up the stone steps or ramp; enter the building marked Regions Centre and go up the elevator to the 15th floor.



**Pete Salsich III:** Known as The Screen Lawyer, Pete is an experienced intellectual-property attorney whose practice is focused on advising large and small companies and entrepreneurs regarding the creation, protection, and use of intellectual property, in both litigation and transactional counseling, particularly in the media, technology, and entertainment industries. Pete has represented television production companies, independent film

projects, and independent producers in connection with their business formation, deal structure, network contracts, publishing contracts, rights acquisition, IP licensing, and copyright and trademark protection.



**Kara Lambert:** As an attorney at Capes Sokol, she represents production companies, independent film projects, digital entertainment companies, artists, and social media content creators in connection with their business formation, deal structure, and network contracts. She also assists them with brand contracts, rights acquisition, IP licensing, and copyright/trademark protection. Kara joined the firm as a Capes Sokol’s 2020 Summer

Associate Class member. Before joining the firm, she was a research assistant for the University of Arkansas Professor Howard Brill, a former Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justice. In 2019, Kara was a judicial extern for Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Courtney Hudson.

### 10:30 AM SUNDAY, JULY 30 HI-POINTE THEATRE

#### Master Class: Missouri Stories Production Lab’s Short Films Showcase

The Missouri Film Office’s new Missouri Stories Production Lab brings to life short films set in the world of winning scripts from the Missouri Stories Scriptwriting Fellowship. The writers participate as producers and experience all aspects of production. Completed films will be submitted to film festivals across the country to shine a spotlight on Missouri locations and talent. Andrea Sporic Klund, head of the Missouri Film Office, will host a panel discussion with the writer/producers of the first



three finished projects: **"Boy Mom"** (based on "No Man's Land," the winning screenplay in the 2016 Missouri Stories; filmed in Kansas City in October 2021), and **"Lights"** (based on "Flyover," the winning pilot script in the 2018 Missouri Stories; filmed in Columbia in December 2021), and **"Assumption"** (based on "Cloister," the winning feature film in the 2015 Missouri Stories; shot in St. Louis in July 2022). The program includes the three films and a short behind-the-scenes video about the Production Lab project.



**Andrea Sporcic Klund, moderator:** Andrea has been representing Missouri to the film industry for over 20 years. She has helped coordinate production logistics for 30-plus feature films and hundreds of television segments and series, including the feature films "Up in the Air," "Winter's Bone," and "Gone Girl," and the TV series "Sharp Objects" and "Ozark." In 2014, she launched the Missouri Stories Scriptwriting Fellowship program and

then in 2021 the Missouri Stories Production Lab. Before joining the film office, she spent eight years with Cinema St. Louis, the producers of the St. Louis International Film Festival.



**Meg Phillips Crespy, "Lights" writer/producer:** Meg is a Missouri-based writer and composer. In addition to numerous plays and musicals, she has authored a book and a web series. Her full-length play "Mostly Sweet" was selected as part of Cherry Lane Theatre's "Tongues" series in 2013, and she was named a Fellow in the 2018 Missouri Stories International Screenwriting Competition with a TV pilot she wrote based on that play.



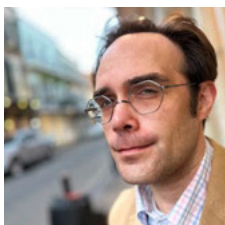
**Michelle Davidson, "Boy Mom" co-writer/producer:** Michelle is a five-time regional Emmy Award-winning writer, director, producer, TV host, and actor. Her film work includes co-writing with director Patrick Rea the feature film "Arbor Demon," which starred Fiona Dourif and Jake Busey. The thriller had a limited North American theatrical release through Gravitas Ventures. Michelle was a writer on Seasons 3 and 4 of the CBS family-friendly TV show "The

Inspectors."



**Jeffrey Field, "Boy Mom" co-writer/producer:** Jeffrey is a six-time Academy Nicholl Fellowship semifinalist for his solo scripts "Don't Go There" (2019), "Waiting Games" (2018), "Jacksonville" (2014), "Bobby da Bomb and the Short Putts" (2013), and "Pop Hit" (2012) and for "No Man's Land," co-written with Michelle Davidson. He was the 2015 ScreenCraft Fellowship winner, the 2012 PAGE International Screenwriting Awards Bronze Prize winner for

Drama, a 2015 Slamdance Screenplay Competition finalist, and the first-ever winner of the PAGE Fellowship to the Stowe Story Labs in Stowe, VT.



**Peter Hanrahan, "Assumption" writer:** Peter Hanrahan received his MFA in Playwriting from Rutgers University and graduated with a BA in English from Washington University in St. Louis (Phi Beta Kappa). As a working screenwriter, he has several original screenplay projects in development, including The Lowlands, which is in pre-production with actors John Leguizamo and Alfred Molina attached. He placed among the top 30 entrants

in the Nicholl Fellowship Competition, and he has written for television for NBC and the Discovery Channel. He continues to serve as a consultant for UTA, as well as for Village Roadshow Entertainment. He writes for Script Magazine and serves on the Advisory Board of Script Hop, an innovative software platform for screenwriters. He currently lives with his wife and two daughters in Saint Louis, Missouri, where he facilitates the Scriptwriting Program at Webster University.

## AWARDS

**7:30-10:30 PM SUNDAY, JULY 30**  
**HI-POINTE THEATRE**

### Closing-Night Awards Party

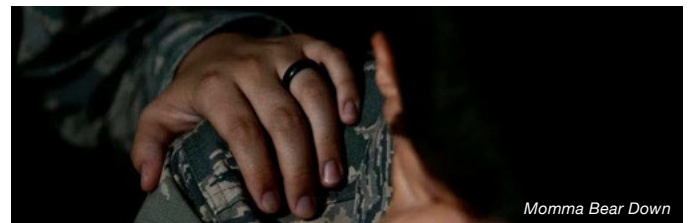
#### \$5 General Admission

Cinema St. Louis announces the Showcase films chosen for inclusion in the Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival, and juries give awards to the best Showcase films, including the Essy Award, a \$500 prize — underwritten by the Chellappa-Vedavalli Foundation — to the Best Showcase Film in the categories of Documentaries/Experimental and Narratives. A cash bar will be available (beer and wine only) for attendees who are 21 or older. The awards ceremony itself will begin at 8:30 PM.

Sponsored by **CAPE SOKOL**  
Attorneys at Law

## FILM PROGRAMS

**FRIDAY, JULY 21**



Momma Bear Down

**6:30 PM**  
**DOCUMENTARY SHORTS I**  
93 min.

### The Highland Incident

*Zia Nizami, 7 min.*

Melvyn Noll, of Highland, IL, saw something strange in the early morning of December 4th, 2000. He thought he was losing his mind, but others saw it too.

### Momma Bear Down: An Exposé about Women Veteran Suicides

*Michael Thomas Sandknop, 16 min.*

Why have thousands of women Veterans died by suicide since 9/11?

### Police Week

*Brian McClelland, 27 min.*

Follow the journey of the family and friends of a recently fallen officer as they experience the emotional highs and lows of attending National Police Week in Washington, D.C.

### Viktor Minkin: Artist, Survivor, Spy

*Michael Thomas Sandknop, 11 min.*

The true story of a Russian artist who escaped Siberia and immigrated to the US with the help of the C.I.A.

### Wheels of Thunder: Stories of Community and Courage

*Alex Turley, 31 min.*

From the dirt tracks of Missouri to the deserts of war-torn Iraq, this documentary honors the veterans and community members who took extraordinary action to help keep an Army Reserve unit safe in the war zones of Iraq. Ted Welschmeyer's mission has continued until today, where he races to honor his fellow veterans by raising awareness to help keep his troops safe and cared for.



9:00 PM

### The Monster in Their Eyes

Derek Price, 43 min.

A young woman is interrogated by local police after she's discovered walking, covered in blood.

Shown with:

### Some Visitors

Paul Hibbard, 28 min.

A woman mourning the loss of a child is home alone in an area that has been afflicted with recent home invasions receives a knock on the door from a mysterious man who wants to be let inside.

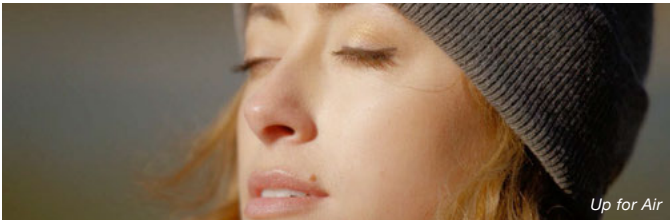
### What Happened to The Others?

Douglas Wicker, 8 min.

A grandfather, haunted by the traumatic arrival of mysterious creatures 50 years ago when he was a child, fears they may have returned.

Warning: This program contains scenes of violence which may be disturbing to some and unsuitable for younger viewers. Viewer discretion is advised

## SATURDAY, JULY 22



1:30 PM

### NARRATIVE SHORTS 1

82 min.

#### Finch

Shannon Johnston, 15 min.

Evan is a young queer hustler struggling with addiction, and his sponsor Alpine is desperate to help the boy rewrite his downward spiraling narrative.

#### Going to a Gig, In a Car, Alone

Jesse O'Freel, 10 min.

A musician fails to get his bandmates to come to a once in a life time gig and now has to travel alone.

#### Picking Up Chuck

Dominic Regazzi, 15 min.

Amidst a falling out, a group of estranged friends reunite to kidnap their old friend Chuck.

#### Processing...

Tanner Richard Craft, 6 min.

A man attempts to operate a mysterious device, but with each attempt comes a new set of problems.

#### Stripped

Ryland Jones, 14 min.

An emotionally-distant son returns home one more time to aid his ailing father, whose memory is fading with each passing day.

#### These Flowers Were for You

Taylor Yocom, 19 min.

After being matched to donate bone marrow to a stranger, an artist

documents her journey by creating artwork for the recipient and ruminating on the ethics and purpose of making work about a stranger.

#### Up for Air

Chase Norman, 3 min.

A woman, who spends the majority of her days consumed by technology, pauses to take a moment to reflect inward.



4:00 PM

### NARRATIVE SHORTS 2

85 min.

#### Broken Strings

Catherine Dudley-Rose, 12 min.

The shared dreams (and nightmares) of a conductor father, his harpist daughter, a painter, and a poet, all seeking to heal trauma through the arts.

#### Synthesize

Francisco Jimenez, 27 min.

An obsessed artist goes through an existential journey to try and find his love.

#### Tenuto

Meg Halski, 12 min.

A symphony violinist and her husband retreat to a quiet, historic country estate only to find that it's inhabited by something that has its own plans for their weekend.

#### Uninhabited

Krista Biggar, 21 min.

With the looming pressure from loan sharks, Henry takes his family on a weekend get-away trip to a distant farmhouse but suffers from increasingly frequent hallucinations.

#### Where Monsters Lurk

Beth Ashby, 13 min.

After weeks of withdrawing from the outside world, an isolated, depressed, and self-medicating woman wakes up late in her dingy apartment and attempts to survive the day.



6:30 PM

### NARRATIVE SHORTS 3

80 min.

#### Agents of Change, Project: Polymer

Jett Garrison, 16 min.

A rookie secret agent is on a take-along mission to expose the ringleader of an illegal plastic dumping scheme, but when the operation goes awry, he must earn the trust of his more experienced partner if they're going to bring an evil mastermind to justice.

#### Cheated!

Mike Rohlfing, 6 min.

A pair of magical headphones guide a high school boy through a moral, musical quandary - but should he admit to cheating on his test?



## Ed V. Bathrooms

*Jeremy Lee Corray, 11 min.*

Attorney Ed Herman gets animated on the trials and tribulations of restrooms.

## Muppet Hugs

*Jay A Kelley, 8 min.*

Three guys dealing with pain, hope, and a bad soccer practice.

## Sheena's Secret

*Joseph Vrenick, 23 min.*

A punk rock loving high school girl with superpowers is in danger of having them revealed to the public unless she bows to the demand of two of the schools most notorious bullies.

## Space War!: Ep. 29

*Stephen Province, 5 in.*

The epic battle between the Sockulars and the Shoevians continue! Can the heroic Sockulars survive?

## Three Shorts

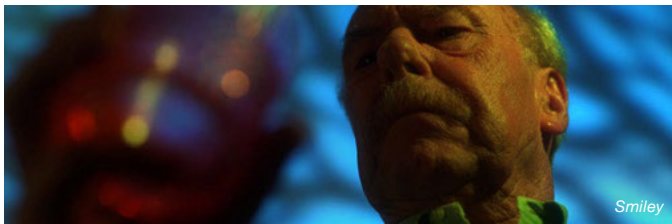
*Rick Petty, 4 min.*

Davo ruins Carl's life in these three shorts.

## The Treadmill Switcher

*LeeAnne Lowry, 7 min.*

A woman who walks on the same treadmill every day is fascinated by a person with a unique workout routine, but when that person switches treadmills and runs directly next to her, she begins questioning their destiny in her life and the monotony of her own routine.



Smiley

**9:00 PM**

## NARRATIVE SHORTS 4

85 min.

## Broken Vessels

*Larry Michael Ziegelman, Terry Michael Ziegelman, 21 min.*

An isolated woman caught in an abusive relationship must fight for her life against an aggressive cancer, but it is only through her new friendship with another cancer patient that she finds the strength that she never thought possible.

## The Candy Crucible

*Micah Deeken, 11 min.*

A group of rambunctious trick-or-treaters attempt to summon and kill an urban legend who is rumored to eat naughty children on Halloween night, until a mysterious child turns up to the ritual and everything begins to take a turn for the worse.

## Captcha

*Andy Compton, 9 min.*

When his roommate struggles to complete an internet captcha, a paranoid man begins to suspect he may be living with a robot.

## Copy That

*Cory Byers, 6 min.*

On the remote farm of a reclusive scientist, an insurance salesperson tries to figure out what's going on when things go horribly awry.

## Immersion

*Mitch Stetson, 17 min.*

In a class for beginning actors studying character immersion, a new class member unnerves the other students and teacher as he performs a dark monologue that makes them question if it is truly fiction or not.

## Smiley

*Ben Manhanke, 20 min.*

A retired judge crosses paths with a young woman with an obsession with teeth.

## SUNDAY, JULY 23



Anthem

**1:00 PM**

## Anthem

*Payton Ware, 95 min.*

The incredible story of a rock 'n roll dream that just wouldn't die. High school cover band Anthem, composed of musicians from Chaminade and DeSmet high schools, played many gigs for several years at clubs, parties, and school dances in the late 70's around the St. Louis area. By their own admission they weren't the best of bands, but the relationships made along the way have created a vast network of community of friends and family across the country. The band (Jim Carlton, Tim Robert, Rich Tlappek, and Bud Corrubia) decides to reunite after more than four decades to create an album and put on a live show.



Bring Dat Mono Back

**4:00 PM**

## Bring Dat Mono Back

*Edward T. Thornton, 57 min.*

In the early 2000s, the nightclub Monastery was the place to be and where the dance the "Mono" (or the "Monastery") originated, which The Riverfront Times called the "Best Dance Craze" in 2002. In this documentary, we look at how the Monastery changed the history of St. Louis music and dance culture.

## Shown with:

### clusterluck

*Cami Thomas, 23 min.*

The film unpacks the experiences of Black faculty recruited to a historically white institution (HWI), what community means to them, and what it looks like when Black scholars have supportive communities within their departments/programs at HWIs.



Penitencia

**7:00 PM**

## Penitencia

*Chris Lawing, 99 min.*

Alejandro 'Ale' Villacaño is a young associate lawyer who has landed a job at a prestigious law firm. Even though he was top of his class, he is also a former convict and an acquitted felon, which makes him an unlikely pick for this firm. Intent on forgetting his past and forging a new identity, he dedicates himself to being the top associate at the firm. He is reluctant to take on a pro bono case to help an old friend, but ultimately does so at the prodding of his mentor. For Ale, it's filing a few grievances against the local prison and then back to his new life. But for his client, it's a matter of life and death. No matter how much Ale tries to resist, the pull to do the right thing, to fight the good fight is too strong. Ensnared now in a case rife with corruption, corporate negligence, and abuse of power, Ale must decide what kind of lawyer he is really meant to be.

## FRIDAY, JULY 28



### 6:30 PM DOCUMENTARY SHORTS 2 100 min.

#### BABYFACE

*Andy Perez, 7 min.*

Edu 'Pedrolo' Pedrol, a rising star in Spain's struggling pro wrestling scene, reaches a turning point in his career and weighs the pain and instability of his industry against the relationships he's built and the dreams he's kept since childhood.

#### Cabinet of Curiosity

*Jerod Michael Welker, 9 min.*

A look into Gordon Harrison's antique shop in downtown Hannibal, Missouri highlighting a rare painting he acquired by Sir Anthony Van Dyck and his restoration of that painting.

#### Guardians

*Kelsey Rightnowar, 22 min.*

This poignant film is about love, memory and what it looks like to advocate for an aging parent living in a nursing home in the United States in 2023. Blending present footage with family photos and Hi8 tapes, filmmaker Kelsey Rightnowar details the roles she and her sister play as their mother's legal guardians, using their 27-year-old horse Prince as the anchor.

#### Raising Spirits I The Big Muddy Dance Company

*Ria Ruthsatz, Chadwell Ruthsatz, 13 min.*

This film was originally intended to be a documentary about the creation of The Big Muddy Dance Company's stage production "Lemp Legends" until their production came to an abrupt halt in 2020, but they prove that art can't be stopped.

#### Shark Brained

*Monica Cox, 19 min.*

The story of six women who came to race in the Gateway Cup bicycle race putting everything on the line to do what it is that they love - professional bicycle road racing.

#### Uncle Bully's Surf Skool

*Leah Warshawski, 30 min.*

Surf instructor Uncle Bully uses his unique approach to life in and out of the water along with his power of simply being present to reach and teach the minds of at-risk youth by sharing surf culture, ocean respect, and kindness with them.



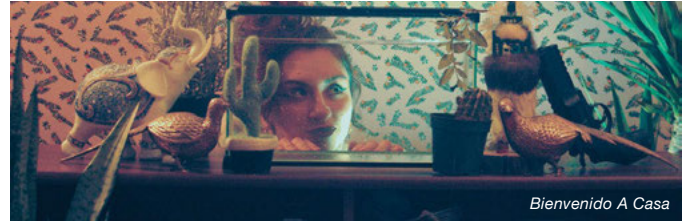
### 9:00 PM

#### The Box

*Doveed Linder, 80 min.*

Four stories connected to a mysterious box that serves as a gateway to another dimension. Aliens who travel through light arrive in St. Louis through a portal that only opens at the very specific, cosmically relevant time of 11:11 pm. 11 is the key that opens the door. Government scientists and agents study these visitors while desperately searching for the box that hides their mystical portal. This ambitious sci-fi project was over 11 years in the making and directed by Doveed Linder, whose feature film "Defiance" screened in the very first Showcase in 2001.

## SATURDAY, JULY 29



### 1:30 PM NARRATIVE SHORTS 5 78 min.

#### Behind You

*Beth Ashby, 5 min.*

An awkward woman gets caught in her obsessive-compulsive habit of staring at people's butts and has to prove to an indignant stranger that her compulsion gives her valuable insights into the humanity of those around her.

#### Bienvenido A Casa

*Richard Louis Ulrich, Miranda Esperanza, 5 min.*

A young woman attempts to buy an Axolotl.

#### Birdie

*Shana Gagnon, 13 min.*

Birdie struggles with depression as she raises her two-year-old son and works a dead-end job in rural Missouri outside of St. Louis, often wondering what would have happened had she stayed in LA and continued to pursue acting.

#### Casually (Not) Dating

*Tim Mosley, 14 min.*

A woman on a date sees her soon to be ex-husband enjoying himself at the same restaurant, and seeing him happy doesn't sit well with her.

#### Getting Through

*Mason Beck, 12 min.*

A deaf woman feels her life's mishaps and mistakes are due to her inability to hear while her devoted boyfriend does his best to communicate with her and show her the truth of how he feels.

#### Olive Oil

*Tobi Owolabi, 4 min.*

While helping her friend cook, a woman inadvertently insults her friend's special recipe.

#### Patient #47

*Mike Sneden, 25 min.*

An old man in a senior care center surprises one of his caregivers with a gift, then shocks her with the story behind it.



### 4:00 PM NARRATIVE SHORTS 6 84 min.

#### Allin's At Two

*Adam Eller, 12 min.*

In the summer of 1994, Vance and Tom enjoy a night together at their favorite diner.

#### An Anthology of Moments

*Suzan Elizabeth Georges, 25 min.*

A collection of short stories that depict the various types of love in the world.

## A Course Of Action

Jay A Kelley, 6 min.

A reinterpretation of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" Act III, Scene I.

## Interiors

Ryan Hung, 9 min.

Seventeen and a half year old Esther attempts to convince her older sister to emancipate her after the death of their mother, simultaneously dealing with an unforeseen pregnancy.

## Me & Mr. Craig

Bobbie Wright, 15 min.

A reclusive, depressed recent widower reluctantly agrees to give a neighborhood boy violin lessons, which leads to an unlikely friendship that will unexpectedly change both lives.

## Nova

Gabe Sheets, 8 min.

A transgender teenager, still reeling from his parents' recent divorce, attempts to reconnect with his estranged father by taking it upon himself to fix the Chevy Nova his dad keeps in the garage.

## Thanks Mr. Beckmann

Lucy McKinnis, 9 min.

After struggling with classes Leslie comes across a new teacher wanting to help her.



## 6:30 PM

### Somewhere In Old Missouri

Tom Boyer, 63 min.

A wandering singer returns from elsewhere and tries to get the old band back together in this supernatural, mid-western musical.

### Shown with:

#### Loup Garou - a French Canadian Werewolf Fable

Erin Caldwell, 4 min.

Gather around the campfire for story time about the Loup Garou, the French Canadian werewolf who steals Jean Pierre's wife, Sophie, until the next full moon when she will come back to get her man.

## The Night

Brian McClelland, 5 min.

Be careful in the company you keep, or strange things may occur!

## This Town

Matt Amato, 3 min.

Including vocals by drag star Trixie Mattel and beloved folk musician Shakey Graves, this haunting music video is a powerful reflection on small town life and what we leave behind (both good and bad) when we depart.



## 9:00 PM

### NARRATIVE SHORTS 7

87 min.

## Food Poisoning

Sam Rozier, 17 min.

Maddened by ravenous hunger and impending death, James gets help from a mysterious box and an unexpected guest in this dark comedy about survival, friendship, and culinary prowess.

## Marley

Avery Sanchez-Meier, Michael S Dahl, 28 min.

A delusional grandmother, set in her old-fashioned methods, keeps her psychopathic granddaughter hostage while trying to cure her mentality with her own home remedies.

## No Rest For The Wicked

Scott Wisdom, 20 min.

A recovering alcoholic must confront the family he destroyed, when he meets a stranger from his past

## The Queue

Michael Rich, 11 min.

An internet content moderator confronts the darkness within the videos he screens.

## Savior

Province, 1 min.

A woman is rescued from a horde of flesh-eating zombies by a brave hero.

## Winter's Bite

Ben Herrell, 10 min.

Set on a midwestern farm in 1962 America, a man meets a young girl with a dark past and violent intentions.

## SUNDAY, JULY 30



## 1:00 PM

### ANIMATED & EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS

96 min.

## Belles of St Louis

Jessica Adkins, 3 min.

A papercut stop motion video for St. Louis musician Kevin Buckley based on Big Spring Park in Missouri.

## Boundaries

Tsering Wangmo, 4 min.

An intense dream breaks away from the forces of physical boundaries to create an alternative way of being, connecting the body and soul to nature.



## Chapstick

*Raizel Lieb, 3 min.*

An animated look at the effects of consumerism.

## Conclusions

*Zlatko Cosic, 8 min.*

An angry and hopeful expression of our desire to hoard enough life and love for the oncoming, uncertain future.

## Down

*Emmett Charles Mitchell, 4 min.*

An animated piece exploring the topics of burnout and isolation.

## Flight

*David Chappell, 1 min.*

A boy rides his bike through hillsides on an early autumn morning and discovers the thrill of flight.

## For Now

*Stephen Vita Tronicek, 5 min.*

Garrett's sad life is examined through a series of surreal chapters.

## Fortune Cookie

*Fu Yang, 4 min.*

A fortune-cookie-head crumbles himself, piece by piece in order to keep devouring creatures out of his way.

## Gorilla Tactics

*Michael Long, 4 min.*

An animated memoir of a boy's wish to obtain a gorilla suit—and a lesson in loopholes.

## Incarnation

*Van McElwee, 7 min.*

Embodied avatars mingle in free-space.

## Lanes

*Joe Johnson, 4 min.*

Follow the flow of the subconscious.

## Louder

*Jorge Martinez, 7 min.*

A dancer learns to embrace the beauty of movement and own her true voice through dance.

## Music from a Farther Room

*David Allen Moore, 3 min.*

A T.S. Eliot inspired visual poem using manipulated photographs.

## Score in Variation Space

*Van McElwee, 11 min.*

Pitch, duration, choice and chance are determined by mutating flow charts that drive their sounds into multiple streams of novelty and chaos.

## Where Have You Gone?

*Tyler Puszkur, 11 min.*

In this exploration of time within the realities that govern the mind, a young woman must explore her presence in the lives that surround her.

## Wrap in a Dress

*Julius Takmajian, 17 min.*

An experimental short film set to the music of Julius Takmajian.



**4:30 PM**

## NARRATIVE SHORTS 8

**84 min.**

### Eliza

*Delisa Richardson, Dan Steadman, 28 min.*

Based upon a true story, this is the story of Eliza Rone, an enslaved woman who, in 1856, worked for the richest family in St. Louis - the Campbells.

### Honorable

*Zachary Scott Clark, Mariah L. Richardson, 16 min.*

In the summer of 1964, a fractured brotherhood hangs in the balance. Nine months before his assassination, Malcolm X Shabazz has a chance encounter with his estranged mentee and brother, Muhammad Ali, in the heart of Ghana.

### Pretty Boy

*Kevin Coleman-Cohen, 18 min.*

After years of abuse, a homeless Black teenage boy navigates the dangerous world of survival sex on the streets of St. Louis.

### Sip

*Jeffrey Carl Woodson, 19 min.*

As a couple gets set for a nice quiet evening at home, their plans are interrupted by an unexpected guest - the head of the medical group responsible for the death of their son, who tells them that his death wasn't exactly an accident.

### Something Clear Unseen

*Cameron Jamarr Davis, Bradford Lewis Rolan, 20 min.*

Living in isolation amidst the modern pandemic, a man soon finds himself vexed by an unknown presence after making a chilling discovery while waiting for a train.

### Tough Skin

*Elijah Brewer, 3 min.*

After an accident in the woods, a boy discovers his repressed emotions have strange physical manifestations.



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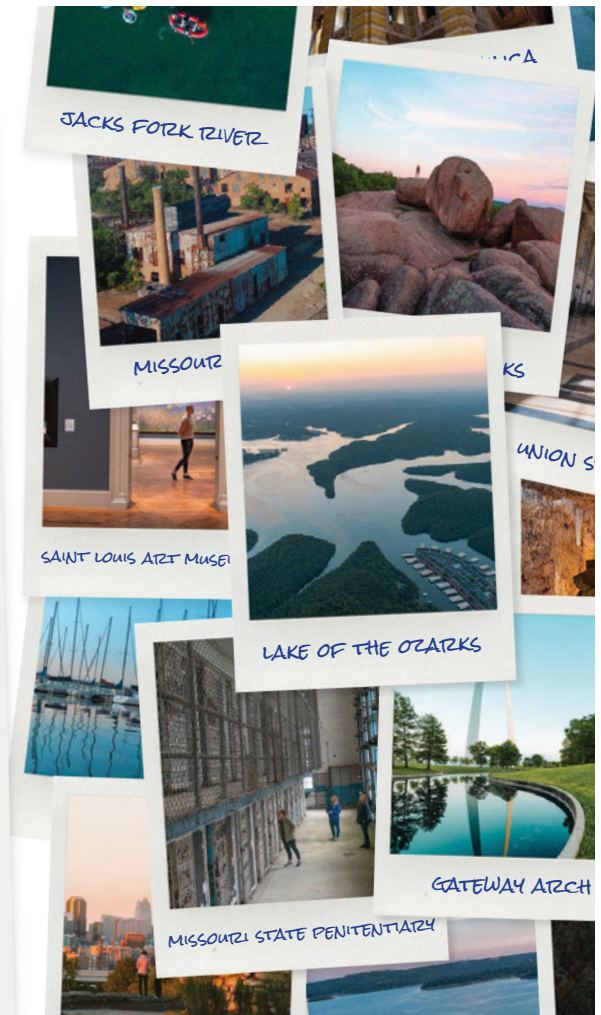




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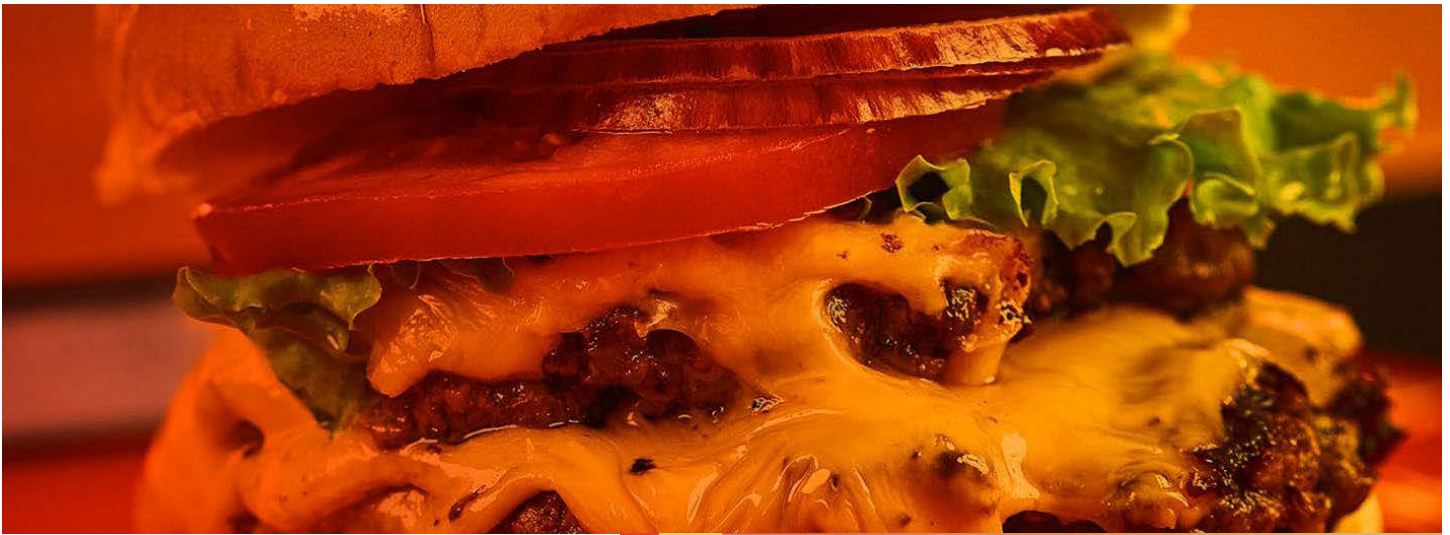
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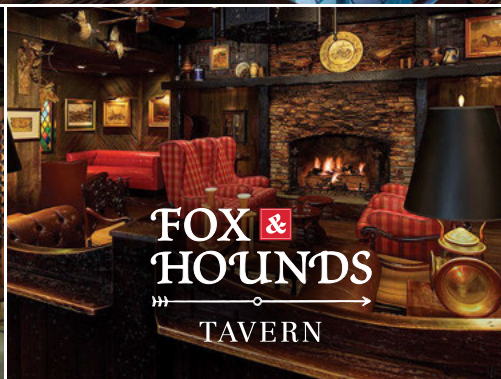
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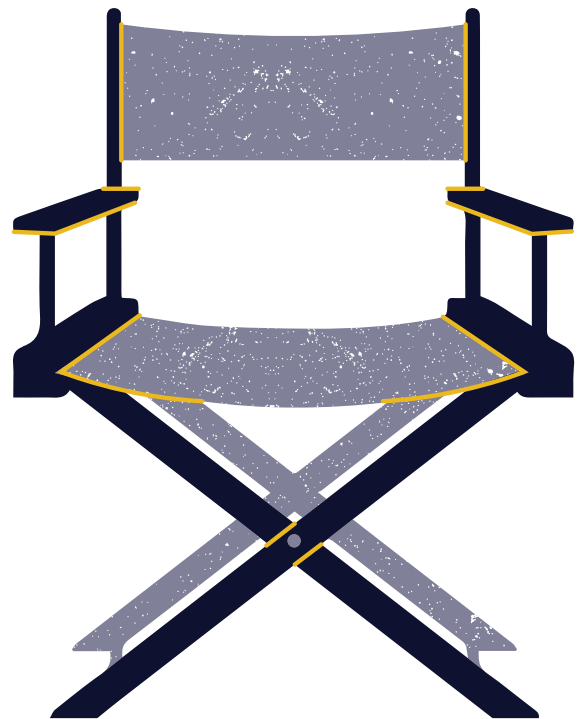
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