

15TH ANNUAL WHITAKER
ST★LOUIS
FILMMAKERS
SHOWCASE



JULY 19-23, 2015 - TIVOLI THEATRE - CINEMASTLOUIS.ORG



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15TH 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 15 film programs that screen at the Tivoli from July 19-23 serve as the Showcase's centerpiece. The programs range from full-length fiction features and documentaries to multi-film compilations of fiction and documentary shorts. Many of the programs with feature-length films include post-screening Q&As with filmmakers.

The Swallows' Tale: The Story of Ozark Airlines

VENUES

Tivoli Theatre - 6350 Delmar Blvd.

Blueberry Hill's Duck Room - 6504 Delmar Blvd.

TICKETS

Tickets: \$12

CSL Members: \$10 (with membership card)

Students: \$10 (with valid current photo ID)

Buy advance tickets at the Tivoli Theatre box office (4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday) or online at landmarktheatres.com/st-louis/tivoli-theatre/film-festivals. Online sales are limited to full-price tickets only with an additional \$1 per-ticket service charge. Bring the credit card used for purchase and confirmation number to the box office to receive tickets.

SCHEDULE

Shorts in multi-film programs are listed alphabetically, not in the order screened.

INFORMATION

For more info, visit cinemastlouis.org or contact Chris Clark at 314-289-4152 or chris@cinemastlouis.org

CINEMA ST. LOUIS STAFF

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Rob Levy (closing-night DJ)

JURY

Documentary - Dan Cross, Ben Scholle, Karl Sides, Kent Tentschert, Lynn Venhaus
Narrative - Jim Batts, Mary Cox, Tiffany Greenwood, Robert Hunt, Wolfgang Lemkuhl, Stacy Singh

THURSDAY, JULY 23



8 PM-MIDNIGHT
**CLOSING-NIGHT
AWARDS PARTY**

Blueberry Hill's Duck Room

Sponsored by Kräftig

Free (no ticket required), but donations will be accepted at the door

The Showcase concludes with a party: KDHX-FM DJ Rob Levy spins music, Cinema St. Louis announces the Showcase films chosen for inclusion in the Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival, and a jury gives awards to the best Showcase films.

Complimentary Kräftig beer is served, and a cash bar is available. Attendees must be 21 or older.

Cover image: Four Way Stop

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SUNDAY, JULY 19



1 PM

THE SAFE SIDE OF THE FENCE

Tony West, 108 min.

World War II's Manhattan Project required the refinement of massive amounts of uranium, and St. Louis-based Mallinckrodt took on the job. As a result, the chemical company's employees would become some of the most contaminated nuclear workers in history. This documentary both explores that legacy — St. Louis is still coping with the fallout of creating some of the world's first nuclear waste — and tells the story of nuclear workers both past and present.



4 PM

WELDONKRIEG

Chris Grega, 83 min.

The hobby of World War II re-enacting started in Weldon Spring, Mo., in the mid-1970s, and this documentary by "Rhineland" director Chris Grega takes a look at the origins of the event — called Weldonkreig — and chronicles its triumphant return in 2014.

Shown with:

Late War

Chris Grega, 5 min.

In the latter stages of World War II, a patrol of American soldiers encounters its German counterpart.



6:30 PM

SLEEP WITH ME

Brian Jun, 90 min.

"Sleep With Me" is a dark suburban drama focusing on Paul (Cliff Chamberlain) and Gabi (Danielle Camastra), a young couple unsuccessfully striving to start a family. Paul lives in the shadow of his overbearing father (played by veteran character actor Raymond J. Barry), and Gabi copes by engaging in risky activities that threaten to break

up their marriage. Helmed by acclaimed regional filmmaker Brian Jun — whose previous features include "Joint Body" and Sundance competition film "Steel City" — this ensemble drama explores themes of sex, infidelity, and black-market drug use.



9 PM

EXPERIMENTAL & MUSIC VIDEOS

79 min.

As Loucas

Addoley Dzegede, 3 min.

A chronicle of the small battles waged underfoot.

Ballet Art

Anna Bruno, 4 min.

A reminder that we should never give up on our dreams.

Blameless

Robert T. Herrera, 6 min.

A music video of the song "Blameless" by dub-wave band CaveofwordS.

Color Me

Jason Contini, 6 min.

A music video for the single from St. Louis artist Taylor Pietz, whose song "Color Me" was featured in the locally produced feature film "Four Color Eulogy."

Daddy I Cut My Hair

Matt Amato, 3 min.

The film tracks the movements of an 11-year-old girl as she navigates the rugged terrain of a nearly abandoned American landscape.

Dissolving Boundaries

Young-Ah Jung, 7 min.

This conceptual film dissolves the boundaries between inside and outside, between nature and human.

Grow

Matthew Bryan, 1 min.

An animated film depicting the growth stages of various organisms.

Landscape

Dave Rocco, 3 min.

A videographer's shot of the sunset turns into a battle of man versus nature.

Madeleine

Peter Engelsmann, 8 min.

A prostitute helps a man reconnect with his former life.

Manhole

Alexandra Newman, 5 min.

Buried in dirt to her neck, a woman is surrounded by suburban sounds and landscape.

Mexican Dream

Van McElwee, 11 min.

A dream of coming and going, of a world deep in time.

Nature Imagined

Tim Kraft, 1 min.

Inspired by St. Louis' own T.S. Eliot, the film encourages an imaginative view of nature that reflects a child's curiosity.

Rudyard Kipling

Patrick Clark & Wes Murrell, 5 min.

A music video for Patrick Clark's song "Rudyard Kipling."

Watercolor

Young-Ah Jung, 5 min.

A visualization of the immateriality of water waves.

Zero Degree Overlap

Zlatko Cosic, 3 min.

Walking around Lake Celina one cold, sunny day, a distinct sound brought me closer to the edge. The sun did the rest.



Experimental & Music Videos — Nature Imagined

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First Rule Director's Lab is an invitational program for feature film directors. This new lab puts first time directors in collaboration with experienced directors of independent films. The Film Lab opens our facilities at First Rule for the participating director's use during pre-production, production, and post.

Directors working in the lab will have access to First Rule studios, edit suites, camera department, meeting rooms and more.

We are excited to announce Brian Jun as our lab's resident director for 2015 and 2016 and our first class of directors in 2015, Johnny Xeno (writer/director of "No Good Heroes") and Mike Dorsey (writer/director of "Coming up Open"). Both films are shooting in the region in the fall of 2015.

First Rule began working in narrative filmmaking in 2014 with indie film support packages, financing and incentives for films including Nate Townsend's short "Under the Grove," Brian Jun's feature "Sleep with Me" and Jay Kanzler's children's film "Marshall the Miracle Dog."

The First Rule Director's Lab is a continuation of that support and a desire to promote independent cinema in St. Louis and the Midwest. Although the program is invitational, you can't be invited if you don't say hi and submit your script today.

Visit firstrule.com/film

COMING 2016

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DIRECTED BY JOHNNY XENO

"COMING UP OPEN"
DIRECTED BY MIKE DORSEY

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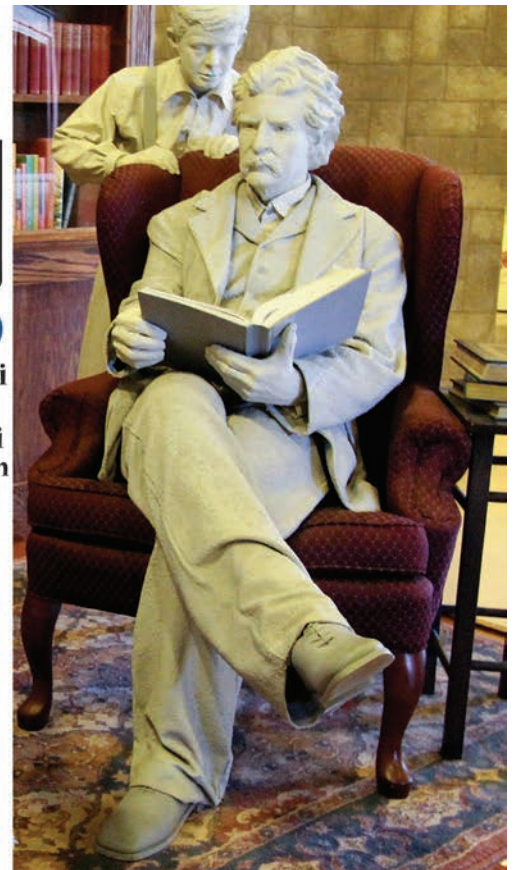
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Learn more at MoFilm.org

MONDAY, JULY 20



5 PM

AMERICA'S BLUES

Patrick Branson, 85 min.

Transcending generations and racial barriers, the blues laid the foundation for pop culture and virtually all American music. Through interviews with musicians, historians, professionals, and activists, "America's Blues" offers a new angle on an established narrative, focusing on the evolution of the blues and the music's impact on American society and culture.



7:15 PM

FERGUSON MATTERS

97 min.

#Plant4PeaceSTL

Corinne McAfee, 5 min.

Planting trees has long been a symbol of hope for the future, and that's reflected in new growth in Ferguson.

22minutes

Gerald Pisk, 19 min.

A short-form version of an upcoming feature-length documentary on Ferguson and the death of Michael Brown Jr.

The Colors of Crime: St. Louis Under Siege

Leah Simms, 13 min.

An examination of whether St. Louis actually qualifies as the most dangerous city in the U.S.

Fire This Time

Phillip Johnson, 48 min.

A look at the Ferguson protest movement through the eyes of protesters, activists, and reporters.

Rooted in Ferguson

Laura Caldie, 5 min.

An exploration of the impact made by the Earth-Dance Organic Farm School on the residents of Ferguson.

Speak

Howard Fields III & Annette Fields, 7 min.

A teen gives voice to the concerns of African-Americans after the grand-jury decision on the Ferguson shooting.



9:45 PM

COMEDY 1

114 min.

1-800-ESCAPE

Joshua McNew, 7 min.

Getting out of sticky situations requires only a simple call to 1-800-Escape for a wearable Escape Button (patent pending).

2 Typewriters and a Microphone

Tim Venhaus, 8 min.

Reggie battles himself in a deadly and hilarious game of writer's block.

Burger Shots

Jaysen Cryer, 6 min.

Six people end their binge-eating fast-food crawl at a local Food Bucket, leading Bryan to make a terrifying mistake.

Call to Darkness

Chris Ferguson, 8 min.

A man finds himself at the crossroads of light and darkness.

Dad Kiss

Joshua McNew, 5 min.

A fake movie trailer about a boy who has never been kissed by his dad.

Elusive Fruit

Holly Lafflin, 3 min.

A hungry little creature sets out in search of food in a forest and stumbles on a strange puzzle.

A Great First Impression

D. Fontaine, 12 min.

Two friends discuss a bizarre blind date.

Last Supper

Demond Love, 12 min.

Jason's life was full of complications — even his death.

Love What You Eat, Eat What You Love

Joe Bishop & Kurt Simpson, 7 min.

A down-on-his-luck writer finds inspiration in an unlikely place.

The Market

Taylor Bevirt, 9 min.

A young man attempts to ask out the girl of his dreams.

Moron Football: The Practice Field

Brian Cooksey, 10 min.

After a brutal 0-16 season, the Morons return to training camp with the hope of turning the struggling team around.

Pretty

Catherine Fearon, 8 min.

Steve, a kleptomaniac in denial, struggles with his guilty conscience when he moves in next to Edwin, a quirky guy with a prized golden flamingo.

Swedish Table Tennis

Patrick Delhougne, 4 min.

At the Swedish Table Tennis Hall of Fame, an American tourist becomes infatuated with a legendary player.

Toby McBeard

Mike Kearns, 3 min.

An epic beard can slam-dunk basketballs and bullies.

Work@Home

Jeremy Corray, 4 min.

As one of the 3.1 million American telecommuters, Jay Cordell is intent on working exceptionally hard to avoid working hard.



Documentary Shorts —
The Swallows' Tale

(Comedy 1 continued)

The Writer

AJ Meadows & Matt Sturtz, 8 min.

A journey through understanding and fellowship, where fear can hold you prisoner and hope can set you free.

TUESDAY, JULY 21



5 PM

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

90 min.

Feeding the Future

Matthew Rice, 18 min.

A revolutionary therapy involving a diet of nutrient-rich peanut-butter paste has been described as a silver bullet in treating malnourished children.

Feeling Wanted

Yasmin Mistry, 13 min.

With a dad incarcerated for murder and a mom on drugs, 6-year-old Charell wakes up to find herself alone. Forced to cope on her own, she makes breakfast, drops her baby sister off with a neighbor, and walks to school.

Hand Delivering Hope

Jacqui Poor, 10 min.

During a school-rebuilding project in Rwanda, four volunteers are inspired to form a not-for-profit organization for building schools in remote communities of developing-world countries.

Shakedown

Jerod Welker, 18 min.

The story of the federal raid on Camp Zoe, a campground in Southern Missouri where Jimmy Tebeau hosted the nationally known Schwagstock music festival.

Show Them What Is Possible

Kaylen Kress, 10 min.

A portrait of former wheelchair-tennis Paralympian Paul Moran.

The Swallows' Tale: The Story of Ozark Airlines

Jim Dreyer, 21 min.

The story of a beloved, locally based airline from the time when flying was anything but routine.



7:15 PM

DRAMA 1

98 min.

26.2

Patrick Murray, 20 min.

The son of an abusive, alcoholic father, 18-year-old Sonny dreamed of running the Boston Marathon but was always told that he wasn't good enough. Twenty-six years later, he needs 26 miles to get his dream back.

Achilles

Jack Bugee, Spencer Kates & Alex

Bowles, 18 min.

A boy is bullied because of his disability.

Booking Church and State

Chris Bruemmer, 20 min.

The general manager of a small independent movie theater books a controversial film.

Conversations Over Dinner

Kristen Weber, 13 min.

Dinner conversations over a year trace a couple's relationship from joyful beginning to ultimate demise.

Dog Days

Robert Alveran, 6 min.

Two junkyard dogs gear up for the dirt-track competition in the summer ahead.

Witness 11

Sean Mitchell, 21 min.

Called before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), famed German playwright Bertolt Brecht must choose between betraying his friends and imprisonment.



9:30 PM

HORROR FILMS & THRILLERS

112 min.

3:00 AM

Evan Rein, 3 min.

A man receives a strange envelope.

The Audition

Kristen Summerfield, 10 min.

A young woman's upbringing hinders her from really connecting with those around her.

The Basement

Bart Elfrink, 3 min.

A young boy makes a trek through his basement to retrieve an item for his mother. But at what cost?

The Burial Queen

Ricky Ortiz, 11 min.

A wannabe actress finds herself in a deep hole when she lets a little fame go to her head.

Incursion

David Whatley, 8 min.

A man discovers the frightening consequences of inter-dimensional travel.

The Last Job

Taylor Bevirt, 12 min.

A hit man is given one last job.

The Man Above the Floorboards

Jeffrey A. Erickson, 7 min.

Three old friends reunite under difficult circumstances.

Out of the Basement

Benjamin Dewhurst, 14 min.

Weeks after the funeral, Owen listens to his brother's final words on a tape recording and begins to wonder what really happened in the basement.

Sophie

Alvaro Aro, 21 min.

Young Sophie must find a way to escape her captors before time runs out.

There's Something Under the Bed

Dale Ward, 6 min.

Praying before bed is supposed to bring comfort, but Buddy isn't so sure.

Whisper

Alec Wild, 7 min.

Samantha is asked by a school to help with the sudden and mysterious silence of a student.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 22



5 PM

THE HEROIN PROJECT

Ashley Seering & Cory Byers, 54 min.

"The Heroin Project" raises awareness about the devastating impact of heroin. Although focused on events in Madison County, Ill., the film documents a widespread but underdiscussed problem that affects not just the St. Louis metro area but the entire country. Beyond the monetary cost of increased law-enforcement efforts and goods stolen from businesses, the negative effects of heroin are more accurately measured in the ever-growing number of young lives lost.

Shown with:

Inner Demons

Eric Lauck, 10 min.

A commentary on suicide from a different angle.

and

Pedaling to Stop Pushing

Ken Calcaterra, 6 min.

After losing his son to a heroin overdose, Keith Dickerson decided to help others through the nonprofit Pedaling to Stop Pushing.



7 PM

COMEDY 2

89 min.

Future Wars

Chris Grega, 4 min.

Mike Tidwell and Ron McGovney are re-enactors of conflicts of the future.

John Finster Vs. Bobo the Clown

Matt Heckman, 12 min.

As John Finster contemplates his recent inheritance of the championship ring of his legendary boxer grandfather, a terrifying intruder confronts him.

Murder?

Adam Hall, 26 min.

"Big Brother" meets Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None."

Party Animals

Will Morris, 7 min.

Animals at a dinner party partake in a game of bloodsport.

The Terror Twins

Adam Baugher & Todd Roth, 4 min.

The Terror Twins try out a cunning scheme at a Star Clipper costume contest.

Trinity

Wyatt Weed, 16 min.

Three aging actors reunite at a diner to discuss a desperate last grab at fame.

Urban Archer

AJ Meadows, 20 min.

After the murder of his brother, Kit turns to a life of crime-fighting, but he makes for a poor vigilante.



9:15 PM

DRAMA 2

114 min.

About That ...

Damien Smith, 16 min.

Summer and Jonathan are in love — their relationship can only be described as pure bliss — but a series of events calls Jonathan's mental stability into question.

El Tio

Michael Rich, 9 min.

In a story inspired by real-life Mexican drug lord El Chapo Guzmán, a young waiter is forced to confront a violent cartel leader who wronged him.

Please Hold

Jonathan D. Mabee, 25 min.

A veteran with PTSD struggles to find the help he so desperately needs.



The Resurrection of St. James

Lori Potts, 14 min.

A man goes looking for justice in the rolling hills of Missouri.

Right Hand Man

Lacey Turner, 10 min.

When a man suspects his girlfriend is cheating on him with his best friend, he takes drastic action.

Splatter

Hieronymus Cole, 24 min.

A couple attempts to stay connected through technology, but the distance remains.

The Truth Lies

Michael D. Francis & Dion Lack, 16 min.

Dave goes on a downward spiral when the love of his life begins dating someone else.

THURSDAY, JULY 23



5 PM

DRAMA 3

97 min.

Broke Juke

Anthony E. Cabral, 5 min.

A bartender struggles to comfort a regular who's trying to cope with the loss of her husband by playing their song on a jukebox that no longer works.

Chasing Hope

Patrick Mahoney, 10 min.

On the day of his son's wedding, an Alzheimer's-afflicted father gets lost before the ceremony.

Comedy 2 — Urban Archer

(Drama 3 continued)

Jeremy's World

Igor Stevanovic, 45 min.

A thug, a serial killer, and a beautiful girl force a mad and reclusive writer to face a hidden part of his inner self.

Parallel Chords (Overture)

Catherine Dudley-Rose, 14 min.

The true story of a young violinist struggling to assert her individuality despite the intense pressure of her pianist father.

The Waste Land

Peter James, 23 min.

A woman searches the lonely countryside for her lost love.



Shown with:

Abhita

Lacey Turner, 10 min.

A 13-year-old girl dealing with the hardships of bullying makes a decision that will change her life forever.

7:15 PM

FOUR WAY STOP

Efi da Silva, 85 min.

A 17-year-old inner-city African-American, Allen (Paul Craig) is desperately trying to improve his life but lacks essential support from family: His absent father is a needy drug addict, and his seriously ill mother offers only relentless criticism. Although offered illegal work by childhood friend Tay, Allen resists the lure of the street and instead seeks legitimate employment. But in his hunt for a better job, Allen ends up jeopardizing his current fast-food position by chronically arriving late or simply failing to show. Angry at the racism he confronts and the limited options he's given, Allen all too often engages in self-sabotage, thwarting his attempts to do the right thing.

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