

21ST ANNUAL WHITAKER ST. LOUIS FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE

JULY 16-25, 2021



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

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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 continuing impact of the Covid-19 health crisis, the Showcase will again be presented virtually in 2021. CSL once more will partner with Eventive to present the virtual festival. However, the Closing-Night Awards Presentation on July 25 will be an in-person event.

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 16-25 run of the Showcase, the event features four free master classes focused on various aspects of filmmaking. These will be offered as livestreams 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 for the Best Film at the Showcase.

The Showcase will conclude on July 25 with a free in-person Closing-Night Awards Presentation — presented by the law firm Capes Sokol — at the Centene Center for the Arts. We'll announce the Showcase films chosen for inclusion in the Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival, and the juries will present an array of awards. In addition, guests will enjoy special performances by Circus Harmony and rappers Yc Bey and Lacey Turner, and complimentary beer provided by 4 Hands Brewing Co.

VIRTUAL FESTIVAL BASICS

- The Showcase's complete lineup of features and shorts programs will be available to view on demand anytime from July 16-25.
- The master classes will be offered as livestreams at specific times/dates. These events will be free.
- Recorded Q&As with filmmakers and documentary subjects will accompany feature-length films.
- Once a ticket-holder begins watching a program, access to it will remain available for 48 hours.
- Programs can be accessed worldwide.
- Our [How to Fest](#) section provides brief instructional videos for signing up with our virtual-festival partner, Eventive, and for buying tickets and passes. The videos reference the 2020 SLIFF, but the simple step-by-step instructions remain the same.
- The same [How to Fest](#) section gives information on how to play films on a TV (through HDMI, casting/airplay, or apps).
- Eventive's [Help FAQ](#) provides full information on other aspects of the virtual festival, including system requirements.

TICKETS

Individual tickets are \$14 for general admission, \$12 for Cinema St. Louis members and students with valid and current photo IDs. (All credit card and handling fees are incorporated into the ticket price.) To obtain a student discount code, contact Brian Spath (brian@cinemastlouis.org) and provide an image of a currently valid student ID.

PASSES

Two types of passes are available:

- **Five-Film Passes** are \$60, \$50 for CSL members.
- **All-Access Passes** are \$135, \$105 for CSL members.

To purchase passes, click [here](#).

Passes offer great value: A Five-Film Pass represents a savings of \$10, and an All-Access Pass provides a \$75 discount if you were to view all 15 of the film 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"
Cait Lore, film critic for the Cinema St. Louis blog The Lens and co-programmer for QFest St. Louis
Kayla McCulloch, film critic for the Cinema St. Louis blog The Lens and documentary-shorts programmer for the St. Louis International Film Festival
Joshua Ray, film critic for the Cinema St. Louis blog The Lens and co-programmer for QFest St. Louis

Narrative Jury

Peter Bolte, director of the feature narratives "All Roads Lead" and "Dandelion Man"
Kathy Corley, director of the feature documentary "One Toke Over the Line and Still Smokin'" and professor emerita at Webster University
Catherine Dudley-Rose, director of the feature narrative "Parallel Chords"
Brent Jaimes, attorney and member of the SLIFF narrative-feature program committee
Mariah Richardson, adjunct professor at St. Louis Community College, playwright, and filmmaker

MASTER CLASSES

The Showcase will offer a series of four master classes on various aspects of filmmaking. These will be offered as livestreams, 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 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 on the evening of July 25, when the event concludes.

All master classes are free, but a ticket is required to participate.

1-2:30 PM SATURDAY, JULY 17

Master Class: Special and Visual Effects

The class will survey effects in all forms, both practical and digital, from miniatures and models to squibs and pyro to green screen and CGI.



Wyatt Weed, moderator: Wyatt is an actor, FX technician, and filmmaker from Springfield, Ill. He spent 20 years in Los Angeles working as a jack-of-all-trades in the film industry before moving to St. Louis and joining Pirate Pictures, a local production company. Wyatt's visual-effects-related credits include "Flight of the Intruder," "Star Trek: Voyager," "Necronomicon," "Species," "Dark Shadows," "Tales from the Crypt," "Predator 2," "Lord of Illusions," "Mission: Impossible 2," and "Red Planet." He has worked as a model maker, sculptor, prop maker, puppeteer, and creature-suit performer. Wyatt moved into second-unit directing and visual-effects supervision on the features "Kung Fu Rascals," "The Guyver," "Guyver: Dark Hero," "Guardian of the Realm," and "Drive." He directed "Star Runners," a science-fiction television pilot, and the feature films "Shadowland" and "Four Color Eulogy." In 2016, Wyatt completed work on "The Dark Knight Returns," an epic Batman fan film that has been a passion project for 30 years. His FX-driven short "Neo 421" can be seen at this year's Showcase.



Josh Johnson: Josh is a St. Louis-based director, visual-effects supervisor, and VFX artist with more than 13 years of experience in the film and television industry. His feature-film credits include "Rich Hill" (The Orchard, 2014 Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner), a documentary that required complex invisible visual effects; "A Ghost Story" (A24, 2017 Sundance premiere); "The Long Dumb Road" (Universal Pictures, 2018 Sundance premiere); "Native Son" (HBO Films, 2019 Sundance premiere and Critics' Choice nominee); and "Omniboat: A Fast Boat Fantasia" (2020 Sundance premiere). He also worked on the Emmy-nominated HBO documentary "Abortion: Stories Women Tell." Most recently, he worked on "The Birthday Cake" starring Ewan McGregor. Josh's commercial credits include work for Samsung, Converse, Taco Bell, MTV, and Smithsonian, and music videos for Lil Nas X and Sia.



Kristin Pratt: Kristin is a St. Louis native living in Vancouver, Canada. She has nearly 10 years of experience working in the VFX industry, specializing in layout. She's worked on 25 major motion pictures from all the top production studios, including Fox, Disney, Warner Bros., Paramount, Sony, and Universal. In 2010, Kristin earned her bachelor's degree from Webster University's animation program.

While interning at AniMagic Inc., a local animation studio, Kristin realized she wanted to specialize in visual effects and CG animation, and in 2011 she moved to Canada to study at Vancouver Film School. After a one-year intensive program, she completed their 3D animation and VFX course in 2012. After graduation, Kristin cut her teeth in the industry at Moving Picture Company (MPC), working her way up from runner to layout technical director (TD) during her first six months at the studio. As a layout TD, she worked on such projects as "Godzilla," "Maleficent," "Night at the Museum 3," and "Game of Thrones." After nearly three years at MPC, Kristin joined the team at Double Negative (now DNEG). She was DNEG's first layout hire at their newly formed Vancouver branch. During their first show, "Alice Through the Looking Glass," she helped to define the layout department

and grow the team, and Kristin was promoted to lead in recognition of her efforts on the project. As a lead, she completed films such as "Star Trek Beyond," "Fast and Furious 8," and "The Meg." In 2017, she was promoted to CG layout supervisor and has since worked on numerous films, including "Deadpool 2," "Venom," "Hobbs and Shaw," and the upcoming "Dune." In 2019, Kristin was admitted as a member into the Visual Effects Society, an esteemed organization in the film and VFX industry.



Tom Seymour: Born and raised in Alton, Ill., Tom lived in St. Louis as an adult, working for five years as an architectural draftsman before making an abrupt career change in 1987. Entering the local film and video industry, he did a little of everything — set construction, props, grip, camera, sound, whatever needed doing. In 1992, Tom made the move to Los Angeles during the height of the music-video era, which provided him with abundant work

and opportunities. Tom's career reached a critical turning point in 1996, when he was hired on the miniature FX crew for "Dante's Peak": As a result of that shoot, he met an array of SFX professionals, obtained his first pyro license, and entered the union. For the last 25 years, Tom has done nothing but practical effects and pyrotechnics for commercials, TV shows, video games, and movies, including "Titanic," "Godzilla," "Lethal Weapon 4," "Virus," "Spartan," "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang," and a pair of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" sequels. He served as the longtime SFX foreman on the TV series "Criminal Minds." A reel of his SFX work can be found on [YouTube](#).

1-2:30 PM SUNDAY, JULY 18

Master Class: Cinematography

The class will discuss the art of cinematography, from lighting to lenses, digital vs. film, and the relationships between director and DP and between DP and crew.



Cody Stokes, moderator: Cody Stokes 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 Ghost Who Walks," won the Jury Award at the 2018 US in Progress section of the Champs-Élysées Film Festival and Best Narrative 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.



Chris Benson: Chris is a creative professional filmmaker with more than two decades of experience as an director, editor, producer, and cinematographer. Over the past 20 years, he has served as director of photography on films, commercials, documentaries, and other productions for entertainment-industry giants such as Paramount Pictures and the Syfy Channel. Chris has worked on a wide range of feature films, including the Oscar-nominated

feature "Up in the Air" and such independent movies as "Tonight She Comes," "Bad Grandmas," "We Need to Talk," and "The Makings of You" (aka "Never My Love"). Chris has also produced, filmed, and edited dozens of TV and digital advertising campaigns for major corporations and influential political clients around the country. Throughout his career, he has lectured on the topic of film production at festivals, corporations, and schools, including Webster University, his alma mater. Among his other accomplishments, Chris has filmed music videos for iconic artists such as Nelly, Chingy, Murphy Lee, Lil Wil, Yo Gotti, and Richard Marx.



Kamau Bilal: Kamau, a graduate of Webster University, is a Black American filmmaker based in Central Missouri. Kamau was named one of 25 New Faces of Independent Film in 2018 by Filmmaker Magazine. His documentary short "Baby Brother" had its world premiere at Sundance in 2018 and its international premiere at Sheffield DocFest. The film was selected as

one of seven shorts to participate in the Sundance Short Film Theatrical Tour, where it was shown in four countries and more than 70 cities. His doc short "Crown Candy," co-directed with David Wilson, premiered at DOC NYC and won a jury prize at the St. Louis International Film Festival. In 2016, he photographed the Emmy-nominated documentary "Stories Women Tell," directed by Tracy Droz Tragos ("Rich Hill"), which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and aired on HBO. As an editor, he cut the New York Times Critic's Pick "A Stray," directed by Musa Syeed ("Valley of Saints"), which premiered at SXSW in 2016. He served as the director of photography for the "30 for 30" film "Long Gone Summer," directed by AJ Schnack, which premiered at Tribeca Film Festival and aired on ESPN; and for the doc feature "Where the Pavement Ends," directed by Jane Giloolly, which screened at SLiFF in 2013. He teaches production classes at the University of Missouri and is currently writing his first feature film, to be set and filmed in the city of St. Louis.



Peter Bolte: Peter, a native of the St. Louis area who's now back in the city after many years in Brooklyn, is an award-winning filmmaker and artist. His cinematography credits include the "The Booksellers," which premiered at the New York Film Festival and screened at the St. Louis International Film Festival (SLIFF) in 2019; the Emmy-nominated HBO documentary "Casting By" (SLIFF 2012); and the 2015 documentary "Thank You for

Your Service." Bolte both directed and shot the features "All Roads Lead" (SLIFF 2013) and "Dandelion Man." He's also directed and shot short films, music videos, and commercials. Other credits include being in the Artist Academy at Lincoln Center as part of the 2013 New York Film Festival. Films that he's shot have screened at such venues as the Toronto International Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival, and DOC NYC.



Ryan Samul: Ryan, a graduate of Webster University, is a director of photography with experience in features, television, music videos, and commercials. Most recently, Ryan has shot episodes of the CBS show "FBI"; the thriller "Hide & Seek," directed by Joel David Moore; "Haunt," directed by Beck & Woods; "Strangers: Prey at Night," directed by Johannes Roberts; "Experimenter," directed by Michael Almereyda; and "Cold in July,"

"We Are What We Are," and season 1 of "Hap and Leonard," all directed by frequent collaborator Jim Mickle. Additionally, he has shot music videos such as Big Sean's "Fire" and Animal Collective's "Summertime Clothes," and multiple commercials for clients that include Kia, Lexus, Beats by Dre, Canon Pixima, Google, H&M, LG, and BMW.

1-2:30 PM SATURDAY, JULY 24

Master Class: Sound

The class will explore three components of sound in film: capturing sound on set, post-production sound (foley/effects, dubbing, general sound design), and scoring.



Srikanth Chellappa, moderator: Srikanth 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). Srikanth is also a tech entrepreneur and is the co-founder/

president of Engagedly, an enterprise cloud software platform, and president of Kalinga Productions, a recording studio and film-production company based in St. Louis. He also makes music with his band Manchester Underground. He is a board member of Cinema St. Louis.



Jamie Christopherson: A multi-award-winning composer, Jamie has built a reputation for consistently delivering unique, fresh, and unexpected scores. Whether writing evocative orchestral music, recording world instruments on location in exotic places, or programming cutting-edge modern synths, he constantly experiments with new ways to create music that gets to the heart of a project, while always

infusing his signature style into the vision of the director and producers. Known for his interest and expertise in multiple media and genres, Jamie's music can be heard in feature films, video games, television shows, documentaries, theatrical trailers, commercial spots, webisodes, and theme parks. Jamie's most notable works include feature films such as "California Christmas" (Netflix), "Bennett's War," "Dirt," "The Crow: Wicked Prayer," and interactive scores to bestselling video games such as Fortnite, Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance, The Lord of the Rings: Battle for Middle Earth series, Lost Planet 1 & 2, and Lineage II. He has also scored additional music for many TV shows, most notably Showtime Channel's "Homeland," "Ray Donovan," and "The Affair," and the J.J. Abrams-produced NBC hit "Revolution." For more information, visit Jamie's [website](#) and [IMDb](#) page.



Adam Frick-Verdine: Adam is a sound designer, composer, and sound artist in St. Louis. He maintains an active career of client work producing sound for independent film (including such local productions as "Bad Grandmas," "Four Color Eulogy," "Marshall's Miracle," "23 Minutes to Sunrise," "Fatal Call," and "Shadowland"), television, advertising, podcasts, museums, and more. His work has been shown on NBC, Qubo, PBS, Nickelodeon,

and Noggin, in national theatrical releases, at film festivals, on DVD, and more. His museum and interactive work includes music production and sound design for festivals and museums in Missouri, Mississippi, Tennessee, and New Jersey. In 2016, he began pursuing artistic projects of his own creation, beginning with "Pear Blossom," a children's podcast he wrote, directed, produced and released in 2018 ([fablist-stories.com](#)). He also has co-written, edited, and produced interactive audio maps: [UnHeardOfCherokeeStreet.com](#), a flagship map at [www.UnHeardOfSTL.org](#), and a map of St. Louis cemeteries. Adam studied music performance and sound recording technology at DePaul University and received a B.S. in music. He is the recipient of the Miller Prize for Audio from the Missouri Review, Best Sound Design at the Midwest Filmmakers Festival, and a Silver Telly for Sound. Adam has taught in the Audio Aesthetics and Technology department at Webster University since 2011.



Colton Jackson: Colton's scores and sound design have been featured in television series (AHC's "Against the Odds"), films, and ads. Born and raised on the East Coast, he found a connection with the guitar and piano at age 12, but his passion for music and sound gained momentum after high school. After being awarded a music scholarship to Evangel University in Springfield, Mo., Colton earned a B.S. in music and creative arts. Other

experience includes work as a studio guitarist and as a member of a band that opened for artists such as Gavin DeGraw. Based in Springfield, Colton and his wife run Invent Audio and Design, which specializes in composing and sound design.



Matthew Oliva: Matt is a production sound mixer with more than 15 years of experience in Chicago and the Midwest area. He has helped design the sound for independent films, documentaries, and commercials. Matt's production work includes corporate videos for United Airlines, TV commercials for Kwik Trip, and feature films such as Brian Jun's "Sleep with Me," which was made in the St. Louis area during 2015.

1-2:30 PM SUNDAY, JULY 25

Master Class: Historical Documentary

The class will address making historical documentaries from multiple perspectives, including conducting the research, finding archival footage and images, securing rights, and using re-creations.



Diane Carson, moderator: Diane, who holds a Ph.D., is professor emerita at St. Louis Community College at Meramec. She is co-director/producer of the documentaries "Other People's Footage 1.5: Copyright & Fair Use" ("OPF 1.0" received the Dallas Video Festival Meta Media Award) and "Other People's Footage 2.0: Fair Use in Scripted Films." Diane is past president of the University Film and Video Association and served as film specialist for the UFVA American Documentary Showcase to Indonesia, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Kazakhstan. She contributes weekly film reviews to KDHX (88.1 FM) and the Alliance of Women Film Journalists. She's the co-author of "Appetites and Anxieties: Food, Film and the Politics of Representation" (Wayne State U. Press, 2014) and contributed to anthologies on Clint Eastwood, Preston Sturges, John Sayles, and South Korean film.



Kathy Corley: Kathy is a St. Louis-based independent filmmaker and media educator. She is known primarily for her award-winning documentary films, which have screened at international festivals and on national cable and public television. Her documentaries often feature biographies of artists, including poet Howard Nemerov, blues musician Henry Townsend, and the folk-rock duo Brewer and Shipley. Kathy is professor emerita at Webster University and has taught media and filmmaking courses in the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, Cuba, and Brazil. She also serves on the board of Cinema St. Louis.



Chad Freidrichs: Chad is an independent documentary filmmaker. He has directed and produced four feature-length documentary films, including "The Experimental City" (2017), "The Pruitt-Igoe Myth" (2011), and "Jandek on Corwood" (2003). Capable, resourceful, and independent, Freidrichs performs nearly every production task on his films, but he specializes in editing and the creative aspects of post-production, which he loves most of all.

From 2007-12, he was a full-time faculty member at Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., where he taught a broad range of film-production courses. He is currently completing documentaries about the history of science and the psychology of film editing.



Larry Foley: Veteran broadcast journalist, educator and documentary filmmaker, Larry is professor and chair of the School of Journalism and Strategic Media at the University of Arkansas. In 2017, he was inducted into the Mid America Emmy Silver Circle for a distinguished career invested in teaching, reporting, writing, producing, and directing stories, mostly about his beloved home state of Arkansas. Larry was honored because he

personifies the spirit of innovation, passion, creativity and commitment that are hallmarks of excellence in television arts and sciences. Larry's films have earned seven Mid-America Emmys from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and 20 Emmy nominations in writing, journalistic enterprise, history, cultural history, special program, and community service. His films have also received four Best of Festival of Media Arts awards from the international Broadcast Education Association.



Paul Schankman: Paul has been a working broadcast journalist in Missouri and Illinois for more than 40 years. Paul has been honored with 28 Mid-America Emmy Awards for his work with KTVI-TV (Fox), KETC-TV (PBS), and HEC Media. In 2016, he was inducted by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences into its Silver Circle, a recognition given to those deemed to have made significant contributions to broadcasting and media.

Among his other honors, Paul is the recipient of the coveted Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio and Television News Directors Association, and his work has been recognized by the Greater St. Louis Association of Black Journalists, American Women in Radio and Television, and the Associated Press. Paul left KTVI-TV in 2016 to launch Paul Schankman Productions. In 2019, his documentary "A New Leaf: Reimagining Henry Shaw's Museum" won best direction and best editing at the St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase, and his new documentary, "House of Thunder," is featured at this year's Showcase.

CLOSING-NIGHT AWARDS PRESENTATION

6:30-10 PM, SUNDAY, JULY 25

Centene Center for the Arts, 3547 Olive St.

Free

During this free livestream, CSL artistic director Chris Clark will announce Join us in celebrating the local filmmaking scene at the Showcase's in-person Closing-Night Awards Presentation at the Centene Center for the Arts. Cinema St. Louis artistic director Chris Clark will announce the Showcase films chosen for inclusion in the Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival, and the juries will present an array of awards, including a \$500 prize — underwritten by the Chellappa-Vedavalli Foundation — to the Best Showcase Film. In addition, guests will enjoy special performances by Circus Harmony and by participating filmmakers, rappers, and real-life brothers Yc Bey and Lacey Turner. Complimentary beer will be provided by 4 Hands Brewing Co. for those 21 or older.

The Closing-Night Awards Presentation is presented by Capes Sokol. The entertainment and media attorneys at Capes Sokol help creators, producers, and distributors protect their works and realize their visions.

Tickets are free but required for entry, and there's a 150-person capacity limit. Masks are required for those who are not fully vaccinated and two weeks post final shot.

Sponsored by Capes Sokol

FILM PROGRAMS



ANIMATED & EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS

74 min.

The Barking Lot

Debi Bradshaw & Sean Bradshaw, 2020, 3 min.

A pet-store cashier reveals a special talent to a customer who would be happier just buying his cat food.

A Blinking Existence

Tim M. Sullivan, 2021, 2 min.

A door appears in darkness as your final distorted visions blink before you.

By the Sea

Zlatko Cosic, 2021, 5 min.

Minimal explorations of rain and sound.

Cave

Dan Rule, 2019, 5 min.

A video collage — both pastoral and unsettling — fabricated from

YouTube videos, online photos, nature desktop wallpapers, animation, and some "real life" shooting.

Coffee Breath

Eric Miranda, 2021, 3 min.

Breaking the never-ending everyday cycle just requires stopping...and taking a breath.

Come Home

Rachel Meister, 2021, 3 min.

A girl who died young tries to revisit the land of the living to communicate with her brother.

Deck the Halls

Andrew Frechette, 2021, 2 min.

It's Chuck's first Christmas and, for an ornament, that can be a very daunting time.

Duck Race

Matt Kujath, 2020, 3 min.

An unconfident duck participates in the biggest racing event of the year.

Ephemeral

Sabrina Urban, 2021, 2 min.

Image-manipulated nature footage is set to a soundtrack of two kids having a conversation.

every.single.one (karuna)

Cherie Sampson, 2019, 6 min.

The first 72 hours after a breast-cancer diagnosis is depicted through a montage of sound juxtaposed with close-ups of gestural expression and contrasting images of the natural world.

Feng Shui

Jerod Welker, 2020, 3 min.

The connection of a St. Louis musician's ambient sound to the ambiance of the filmmaker's home.

Goodbye

Luzala Tamrakar, 2021, 1 min.

An acknowledgement of the art of visual simplicity.

Just because!

Taylor Yocom, 2020, 4 min.

Animations of collages of flowers in vases are juxtaposed with video footage of flowers.

Kinda Kaleidoscopic — for Anna

Stephen Werner, 2021, 3 min.

Music composed by Stephen Werner — performed by the Pyroclastic Flow Orchestra — accompanies his art in motion.

Lake Loch Pond Monster

Carolina Diz & Brittany Zeinstra, 2020, 3 min.

A girl is determined to go to any extreme to catch the legendary Lake Loch Pond Monster, only to realize he may have feelings, too.

Manchester Rain

Jessica Adkins, 2020, 4 min.

A stop-motion video made out of construction paper follows a bee through the outdoors and indoors.

Outcry

Zlatko Cosic, 2020, 3 min.

A minimal exploration of society's harm to itself and the planet.

Poetry in Motion: Man's Crisis of Identity

Jen Sutherland, 2021, 3 min.

An audiovisual poetry adaptation.

to WORRY isn't love DOLL

Zlatko Cosic, 2021, 6 min.

A big firework of bright colors — an ebullient young love — soars through a sunrise sky, teetering on the verge of a new beginning.

Zig Zag: Handclaps in Alernity

Van McElwee, 2021, 10 min.

A series of claps, each creating a new space, echoes through anonymous worlds.



The Balancing Act: Walking the Pandemic Tightrope

Jessica Hentoff, 2020, 55 min., documentary feature

This unique and hopeful documentary gives the pandemic perspective of students, staff, and alumni from Circus Harmony, St. Louis' social circus school. The film also looks at the impact of the pandemic, Black Lives Matter movement, and presidential election on young people whose lives will be most affected. From their living rooms, bedrooms, backyards, and local parks, the Circus Harmony family creates new acts and tells the stories of how its members are keeping their balance in this unbalanced time.

Shown with:

Castle Hill

Alexandria Ferguson, 2019, 19 min.

After secretly following her older brother and his friends to an abandoned neighborhood, Myra encounters a mysterious girl who lives with a group that is preparing for "the reckoning."

Sound Off

Michelle Davidson, 2021, 10 min.

Ten-year-old Bella must relearn how to tap-dance when she loses her hearing weeks before her team's national competition.

Super George

George Thomas Dixon, 2020, 3 min.

In this trilogy of short films, 8-year-old writer, director, and actor George Thomas Dixon stars as Super George, a young boy with superhuman abilities.



COMEDY SHORTS

96 min.

Bad Boy

Kaitlin Gant, 2020, 3 min.

A girl meets her dream "bad boy" at the park: a boy who's bad at everything he does.

Beartrap

Ryan M. Kneezle, 2021, 6 min.

A vagrant is held captive by a lonely girl living in the woods dressed as a bear.

Conspiracy-182

Tanner Richard Craft, 2021, 6 min.

A young man who believes he's on the brink of discovering a global conspiracy tries to warn his friend of the impending danger.

The Contingency Date

Lupe Medina, 2021, 10 min.

After months of online dating, a wannabe social-media influencer has plans to lock it down with her real-estate-agent boyfriend, who may not be everything she thinks he is.

Ghostbusters: South-Side (A Fan Film)

Patrick Lawrence, 2021, 15 min.

"There's something strange in the neighborhood" when an underfunded team of paranormal exterminators is faced with a demonic entity summoned by a local street gang.

jk

Howie E. Kremer, 2020, 10 min.

An office argument gets settled on the baseball field.

Nosh

Gary Lobstein, 2021, 5 min.

A sugary-sweet short about a hook-up that goes horribly wrong.

The Rules of Golf

Aliki Raisis, 2020, 7 min.

Trying to impress her boss, Dana is caught illegally moving her ball by her incompetent caddy, who then attempts to blackmail his way into being hired at Dana's law firm.

Shut Up and Salute

Joseph Tronicek & Stephen V. Tronicek, 2021, 14 min.

Two "fixers" for a fascist government go through a day in the life.

Soundman

Debi Bradshaw, 2021, 13 min.

A timid ornithology professor experiences technical difficulties during her presentation of a rare bird, leading to emotional unraveling in front of a very impatient audience.

While You Were at the Office

Alex Fuegner, 2021, 7 min.

A mockumentary about the lives of three nannies and the kids they look after.



DOCUMENTARY SHORTS 1

81 min.

Black Girl, Bleu

Sharee Silerio, 2020, 30 min.

This candid short doc features interviews with Black women who have experienced or are currently coping with a mental-health crisis, with Black therapists offering insight into the particular challenges that Black women face.

The Boy and the Train

Emma Stoltzfus, 2021, 4 min.

An introduction to the Orphan Train Movement through the experience of one train rider, this film is shot in the style of the 1930s and uses actors and historical footage to depict real-life individuals and their stories.

I Am Kinloch

Daniel E. Williams, 2021, 20 min.

Jacqueline Williams, a former resident of Kinloch — the first and largest all-black incorporated city in Missouri — shares her personal memories of being raised in this suburb of St. Louis.

Physical Therapy for Women: Ethiopia

Daniel Neville, 2021, 12 min.

Tracy Spitznagle, a Washington University professor of physical therapy, travels to Mekelle, Ethiopia, with her team to teach a women's health course to local PT students.

Sacred Sediments: A Climate Journey in Peru

Thomas Malkowicz, 2021, 15 min.

Working with Washington University colleague Sarah Baitzel, an assistant professor of archeology, climate scientist Bronwen Konecky travels to one of the largest high-altitude lakes in the world — Lake Sibinacocha in Peru — to unlock a climate mystery.



DOCUMENTARY SHORTS 2

85 min.

The Damage of BSL

Tim M. Sullivan, 2020, 10 min.

An exploration of breed-specific legislation (BSL) and how it unfairly discriminates against certain breeds of dogs, particularly pitbulls and pitbull mixes.

The Film Journey of Professor Burnett

Merry May Ma, 2021, 17 min.

Colin Burnett — a knowledgeable, witty, and passionate film scholar at Washington University — recounts the experiences that transformed him into a cinephile.

Garden Flow

Cory Byers, 2021, 5 min.

In fall 2020, the SIUE Department of Theater and Dance had to get creative in order to perform their fall dance showcase in an era of Covid-19.

Hammond's Books

Joshua Mullins, 2021, 10 min.

A look at the brother/sister duo who run an eclectic bookstore on Cherokee Street.

The Long Trip

Joseph Tronicek, 2020, 10 min.

The story of Jiri Tronicek, who escaped from Soviet Czechoslovakia in 1984.

Maxi

Zia Nizami, 2021, 4 min.

A profile of St. Louis activist Maxi Glamour, a nonbinary drag artist and self-described "Demon Queen of Polka and Baklava."

Perfect Strangers

Sydney Russell, 2020, 11 min.

In a small suburb of St. Louis, a local coffee shop and its faithful regulars attempt to keep music and business alive amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Postcards

Ashley Seering, 2021, 18 min.

An exploration of the history and modern-day importance of postcards.



DRAMA SHORTS 1

92 min.

Car Jack

Michael Winingham, 2020, 10 min.

Two women parked in a public garage are confronted by a violent stranger who holds them hostage in their vehicle.

Coming Out

James Hess, 2020, 12 min.

After a young man comes out as gay to his grandparents, they struggle to accept him.

Happiness

Paul Hibbard, 2021, 19 min.

While his wife and newborn child are away, a college film professor is confronted at his house by the student with whom he has been having an affair.

I'm Not a Racist

Lacey "G Souldier" Turner, 2021, 7 min.

Uncle Wyatt, who teaches at an inner-city school, walks in on his family having an unpleasant conversation and makes a shocking decision.

Liberty

Chris Lawing, 2021, 16 min.

A disgraced journalist flees to a small Midwestern town to rebuild her life but deadly corruption pursues her at every turn.

The Return

Stacey Nation, 2021, 6 min.

A man who abandoned his family and the small town where he grew up returns to face an uncertain outcome.

Super 8 Hockey

Nicholas Rousseau, 2021, 12 min.

An amateur hockey player who lives with the guilt of throwing an important game in his youth wrestles with how to deal with a rec-league teammate beginning to go down a similar path.

What's Inside

Noel Fortman, 2021, 10 min.

A girl copes with the loss of her mother through baking.



DRAMA SHORTS 2

92 min.

Bad Place

Joseph Tronicek & Stephen V. Tronicek, 2021, 4 min.

An experimentally edited short film recounts a young woman's visit to an inpatient psychiatrist.

The Duck and the Dragon

Mason Beck, 2020, 10 min.

A therapist helps his patient through a childhood trauma similar to one he experienced.

Everything

Gracie Simmonds, 2021, 4 min.

After the loss of her child, a grieving woman does what it takes to be reunited with her daughter.

Found

Justin May, 2020, 9 min.

A night of reckless choices leaves Nate lost in a vast city, and his journey home teaches him to be grateful for the things he has been given.

Monument

Joshua James Johnson & Tim Maupin, 2021, 6 min.

In a near-future world ravaged by climate change, a family takes a trip to an important historical monument.

Play Date

Scott Wisdom, 2021, 15 min.

A recent divorcé invites a young prostitute to his home with an odd request.

Replay

Stacey White, 2021, 17 min.

Kevin, who has dealt with mental illness all his life, makes a decision that will change his life forever.

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

Lacey "G Souldier" Turner, 2021, 4 min.

A man stands on the corner and sings "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" for mysterious reasons.

We Regret to Inform You

Sydney Russell, 2021, 7 min.

A woman becomes obsessed with getting her teenage son into an Ivy League school and falls down a rabbit hole of college-admissions schemes.

Wither

Keisha Cox, 2020, 8 min.

A story about finding light in darkness.



EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS

72 min.

10/31/2020

Jason Christ, 2021, 5 min.

On Oct. 31, 2020, against the backdrop of a global pandemic, a man reflects on his deep love for his husband during an afternoon hike through Forest Park.

Babes in the Woods

Leanna Kaiser, 2019, 34 min.

Filmed over the course of four years in 16mm, the film offers a portrait of a young woman and her two sons living on an agricultural commune founded in the early 1970s in rural Missouri.

Basketball Vortex

Patrick Delhougne, 2021, 5 min.

A basketball player shooting hoops experiences that ethereal, hypnotic, hyper-focused, ecstatic state that many folks refer to as "being in the zone."

Clarice

Jake DeNunzio & Eby Strauss-Barrett, 2020, 4 min.

Examine the rare species "blanca homo sapitus" and discover just what it is that makes their home so...perfect.

DesMotivaciones

Kelly Jimenez, 2020, 4 min.

An animated film that deals with aspects of resilience by creating a parallel between the world of emotions in human beings, metamorphosis, and the seasons in nature.

Parapineous

Eby Strauss-Barrett, 2021, 7 min.

An AI-generated tale of a handsome man going on a date with a woman he just met.

When I Die

Alan Griswold, 2021, 9 min.

Shot in St. Louis in 1995 and lost in a move to Los Angeles two years later, this non-narrative eulogy is set to the Magnetic Fields' song "The Dreaming Moon."

Woolgathering

Emma Bright & Bethany Clemens, 2020, 6 min.

An interpretation of a deep, dark, and intimate dream.



The Final 19

Timothy Breitbach, 2021, 108 min., documentary feature

The film tells the harrowing true story of Sgt. Dan Hefel, one of the final 19 prisoners of war to come home from Vietnam. Hefel's riveting, sometimes raucous first-person account is by turns intense, horrific, and blackly humorous. His Vietnam experiences included both a delirious bout with malaria and a broken back from the helicopter crash that led to his capture. The severely wounded Hefel managed to survive being carried through the jungle on a difficult journey, but during his subsequent imprisonment, he faced torture and exploitation as a propaganda pawn by the North Vietnamese Army (NVA).



HORROR SHORTS

95 min.

Chimera

Christian Wood, 2021, 9 min.

An amoral and sick homeless man finds himself trapped inside an abandoned school while a deadly virus takes its toll on the outside world.

Compulsion

Dominic Regazzi, 2021, 5 min.

A student's OCD takes a new form as it torments his night.

Death Scene

Mando Franco, 2020, 6 min.

An entity possesses a television, making the evil characters aware of a sleeping viewer.

The Doctor

Michael Dahl & Avery Meier, 2021, 9 min.

After a frightening encounter with a stranger, a teenage boy is plagued with nightmares of a malicious entity called The Doctor.

Earsie

Erin Greenwell, 2021, 6 min.

When Mary's ears won't stop ringing, she buys an ear-cleaning kit to investigate.

EneMe

Lacey "G Souldier" Turner, 2020, 2 min.

Jason wakes up and desperately tries to run away from something.

Khakis

Scott L. Wisdom, 2020, 10 min.

After an attack by raving cannibals, an amputee must retell his story to two wary detectives.

Last Bite

Ashley Seering, 2020, 2 min.

In the midst of a global pandemic, a very paranoid vampire orders contactless food delivery.

One Nice Thing

Cory Byers, 2020, 6 min.

A guy meets a girl on a blind date and makes plans to attend a costume party, but what is her costume hiding?

Sleepwalker

Ben Manhanke, 2021, 24 min.

Guided by a strange dream, a young man believes he's found a way to bring the dead back to life.

Veg Out: A Horror Comedy

Nate Carroll, 2020, 4 min.

A party-giver's attempt to make salsa is thwarted by bell peppers spawned by an agrochemical corporation's mad experiments.

XMASsacre

Mando Franco, 2020, 12 min.

A woman is hunted in the snowy woods by a masked killer dressed as Santa Claus.



House of Thunder

Paul Schankman, 2021, 59 min., documentary feature

Even if you live in St. Louis, you've probably never heard of the Battle of St. Louis, but some historians believe it was a major inflection point in the American Revolutionary War and helped save the American West. In this new documentary, the battle — fought near the site of present-day Busch Stadium — is brought to life. The film includes new information about the sequence of events leading up to the British-led attack on St. Louis on May 26, 1780, and the strategy and lucky breaks that allowed the town's defenders to prevail even though they were outnumbered 3-to-1.

Shown with:

La Guignolee

Lea Konczal, 2021, 12 min.

In a small Missouri town, one man strives to keep an ancient French tradition alive.



Indians, Outlaws, Marshals and the Hangin' Judge

Larry Foley, 2020, 80 min., documentary feature

Although this film is set in the late 19th century, the issues it addresses — gun violence, racial strife, police brutality, and Native American rights — continue to resonate today. The documentary recounts a tale of Indian removal, crime, and capital punishment through the figure of the charismatic Isaac Parker, the infamous "hangin' judge" who sentenced scores of felons to "hang by the neck until you are dead." Told in a first-person re-creation using the actual words written by St. Louis Republic newspaper reporter Ada Patterson in September 1896, this real-life story is set in and around Fort Smith, Ark., in the same time and place as the fictional Western novel and film "True Grit."

Shown with:

Keen v. Keen: All That Father Giveth

Jeff Heinle, 2020, 14 min.

This documentary revisits a 1904 Missouri Supreme Court decision about a contested will that took inherited farmland and economic livelihood away from Black farm families.



Interrobang

Paige Feldman, 2020, 53 min., narrative feature

This short-form comedy anthology explores the moments after sex — a time when being emotionally stripped bare is way more terrifying than being physically naked. Sex creates a safe space to be ourselves — in all our grunting, ugly-O-face glory — and yet, as soon as it's over, we suddenly put our masks on again. "Interrobang" looks at how our insecurities surface even after being completely physically uninhibited with someone — insecurities that can make you wonder: "Am I lovable even if ...?"

Shown with:

Hella Drove the Movie

Yc-Bey, 2020, 40 min.

After a man boastfully flashes a bunch of cash on social media, his wife is kidnapped for ransom, but in reality he lacks the money to pay and must call on two stoner buddies for help.



Once a Hero

Tim Reischauer, 2020, 90 min.

A decorated Navy SEAL and a loving husband and father, Bradley battles the demons of PTSD and addiction, leading to isolation, self-destruction, and ultimately homelessness. He encounters pain and heartache while searching for redemption and control through an improbable journey. Will the nightmares of his past be too difficult to overcome or will Bradley succeed in regaining control of his life? Writer/producer/lead actor Brett Jones is a former Navy SEAL, global-response agent with the CIA, and author of the book "Pride: The Story of the First Openly Gay Navy SEAL."



THRILLER SHORTS

96 min.

Black Man

Lacey "G Souldier" Turner, 2021, 18 min.

In a story about the daily trials and tribulations that Black men face, Demarcus experiences an epically awful day and makes a decision that will change his life.

Dealbreaker

Dustin Hawkins, 2020, 38 min.

A young man struggling with several mental handicaps considers suicide and meets a demon who gives him a supposedly easy way out.

Face Mask

Daniel Allen & Adam Huber, 2020, 6 min.

In the middle of a pandemic, an encounter between a man and his strange neighbor quickly becomes tense.

Fatal Conflict

Stephen Province, 2021, 3 min.

Two men with no reason to fight each other are stuck in a fighting game.

The Heist

Adam Flowers, 2021, 7 min.

Two professional burglars accept what they are told is an easy job but soon learn it will be anything but easy and may even be deadly.

Iteration

Luke Davis, 2021, 9 min.

An iteration of an astronaut struggles with his past while stranded on a deserted planet with only his robotic AI to accompany him.

N.E.O. 421

Wyatt Weed, 2020, 4 min.

Two astronauts intercept an asteroid on a collision course with Earth but discover that it may not be an asteroid after all.

The Race

Masahiro Ishizuka, 2020, 11 min.

Teenage Josh lives in a world where all people have to compete in a foot race to earn the chance to have a better life, but the race is rigged.

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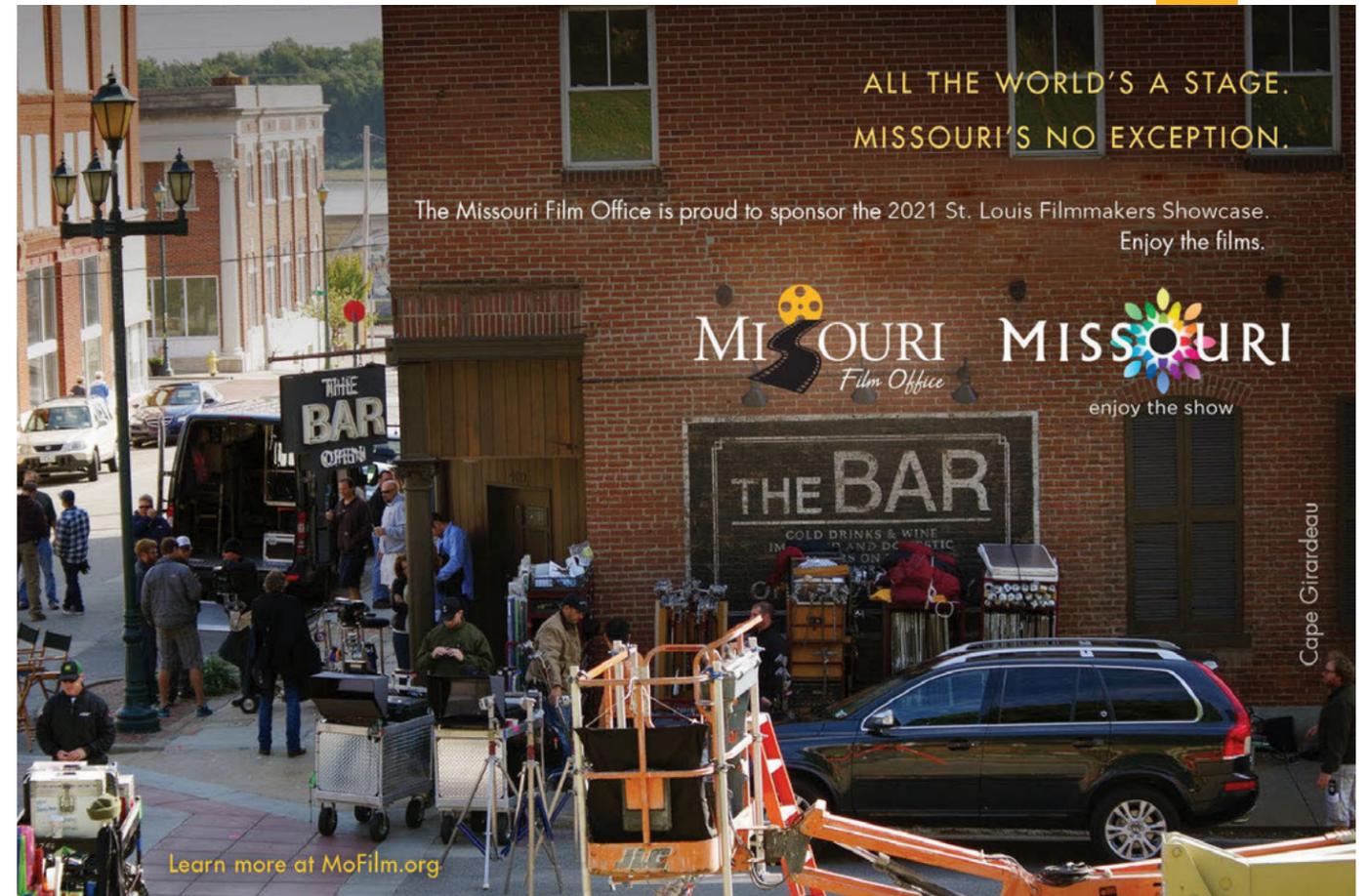
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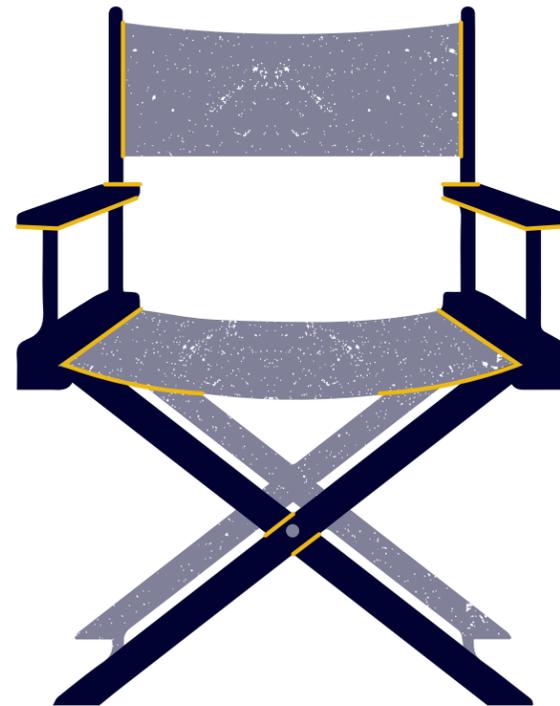
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