21ST ANNUAL WHITAKER ST. LOUIS FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE

JULY 16–25, 2021

CINEMASTLOUIS.ORG
Our community needs local journalism that listens as intently as it informs, that uplifts voices and builds a more engaged, empathetic, and empowered society. For audiences across our region, understanding starts with the news and programs they hear on St. Louis Public Radio.

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.
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 juiced 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 recordings of the presentations will also be archived and available on Cinema St. Louis’ YouTube channel.
- 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 prices.) 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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Master Classes:
The Showcase will offer a series of four master classes on various aspects of filmmaking. These will be offered at no charge and recordings of the presentations will be archived and available on Cinema St. Louis’ YouTube channel. The first master class, “The Chalcedon-Weedmark Foundation,” will also be made available online.

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

11:30 AM SATURDAY, JULY 9
Master Class: Cinematography
This master class will cover the art and science 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 St. Louis-based cinematographer, director, and producer. He has directed and produced shorts and worked on features such as “Flight of the Conchords” and “Never My Love.” His filmography includes work for companies such as BMW, Toyota, GMC, and Apple.

Chris Benson: Chris is a creative professional with more than 10 years of experience as an editor, producer, and director. He has worked on a variety of projects, including music videos, documentaries, and corporate videos. He has served as director of photography on films, commercials, and other projects. His work includes projects such as Paramount Pictures and T-Mobile’s “The Keypads of Feature World,” the Oscar-nominated documentary “The West,” and independent films such as “Bolt.”

Peter Bolter: Peter is a native of the St. Louis area who has worked in television and film for over 30 years. He directed the short film “Nao 421” and has directed and produced work for companies such as Yahoo!, AT&T, Google, and Nike SB.

11:30 AM – 1 PM SATURDAY, JULY 9
Master Class: Special and Visual Effects
This master class will cover effects in all forms, both practical and digital, and the relationships of filmmaking. These will be offered as livestreams, but recordings will be available online. The class will be taught by Wyatt Weed, moderator; Wyatt is an actor, screenwriter, and visual-effects supervisor. He has worked on films such as “Flight of the Conchords” and “Never My Love.”

Josh Johnson: Josh is a St. Louis-based special-effects supervisor, and VFX artist with more than 15 years of experience in the film and television industry. His work includes the Emmy-nominated documentary “Baby Brother.”

St. Louis’ YouTube channel. The master classes are sponsored by the Visual Effects Society, an esteemed organization in the film and VFX industry.

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1:20 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, scoring, and editing. The class will be led by Chad Freidrichs, an independent documentary filmmaker. Chad has directed and produced four feature-length documentary films, including "The Experimental City" (2017), "A New Leaf: Reimagining Henry Shaw’s Museum" (2016), and "The Pruitt-Igoe Myth" (2011), and "Jandek - Last of the Last." Chad has been honored with the Mid-America Emmy Award for his work with KTVI-TV (Fox), KETC-TV (PBS), and KSDK. Chad 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.

Friday, July 23

6:30-10 PM, SUNDAY, JULY 25

CLOSING-NIGHT AWARDS PRESENTATION
Centene Center for the Arts, 3547 Olive St.

Free

During this free livestream, CSL artist-director Chris Clark will announce the winners in the categories of the Showcase's 2021 Screening Award and Closing-Night Award. The Closing Night Award is presented by Capes Sokol.

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
Debbie Bradford & Sean Bradford, 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 dog appears in darkness as your final destined visions blink before you.

By the Sea
Zlatko Covic, 2021, 5 min.
Minimal explorations of rain and sound.

The Balancing Act: Walking the Pandemic Tightrope
Van McElwee, 2021, 10 min.
This unique and hopeful documentary gives the pandemic perspective of students, staff, and alumni from Circuit Harmony. It's a story about 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, backyards, and bedrooms, Circuit Harmony participants reflect on their new acts and tells the stories of how its members are keeping their balance in this unbalanced time.

Showed
Castle Hill
Alexandra Farguion, 2019, 18 min.
Told after saying her older brother and his friends to an abandoned neighborhood.

Sound Off
Michelle Davison, 2021, 10 min.
Ten-year-old Bella must take a language to check-up when she loses her hearing ears 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 boy with superhero abilities.

COMEDY SHORTS
96 min.

Bad Boy
Kaitlin Gant, 2020, 3 min.
A visionary dreams "bad boy" at the park: a boy who's bad at everything he does.

Beartrap
Ryan M. Knaese, 2021, 6 min.
A vagrant is held captive by a lonely girl luring in the woods dressed as a bear.

Conspiracy-182
Tanner Richard Craft, 2021, 10 min.
After months of online dating, a wannabe social-media influencer plans his most important meeting, but things don't go down with her real estate-agent boyfriend. By now, he's not even everything she thinks he is.

Ghostbusters: South-Side (A Fan Film)
Patrik Lawler
"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.

The Balancing Act: Walking the Pandemic Tightrope
Jessica Hentoff, 2020, 59 min., documentary feature
The unique and hopeful documentary gives the pandemic perspective of students, staff, and alumni from Circuit Harmony. It's a story about 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, backyards, and local parks Circuit Harmony participants reflect on their new acts and tells the stories of how its members are keeping their balance in this unbalanced time.

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Peru — to unlock a climate mystery.

Sacred Sediments: A Climate Journey in Peru

Travis Spitznagle, a Washington University professor of physical therapy, travels to Mekelle, Ethiopia, with her team to teach a women’s health workshop.

Daniel Neville, 2021, 12 min.

Physical Therapy for Women: Ethiopia

Jacqueline Williams, a former resident of Kinloch — the first and largest all-black incorporated city in Missouri — shares her personal memories of growing up in the area. She talks about the lives of three nannies and the kids they look after.

I Am Kinloch

Daniel E. Williams, 2021, 20 min.

An introduction to the Orphan Train Movement through the experience of a former resident of St. Louis.

The Boy and the Train

Emma Stoddard, 2021, 4 min.

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

Alex Fuegner, 2021, 7 min.

Black therapists offering insight into the particular challenges that Black women and girls face.

Sharee Silerio, 2020, 30 min.

Postcards

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.

Merry May Ma, 2020, 10 min.

Super 8 Hockey

A woman who abandoned her family and the small Missouri town where she grew up returns to face an uncertain outcome.

Nicholas Roussea, 2021, 12 min.

A night of reckless choices leaves Nate lost in a vast city, and his journey attempts to keep music and business alive amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Justin May, 2020, 9 min.

Car Jack

Michael Wriningham, 2020, 10 min.

A basketball player shooting hoops experiences that ethereal, hypnotic, almost hypnotic, almost spiritual.

Patrick Delhougne, 2021, 5 min.

Drum Shorts 1

85 min.

A basketball player shooting hoops experiences the ethereal, hypnotic, almost spiritual.

Patrick Delhougne, 2021, 5 min.

Doctor and the Dog

Mason Beck, 2020, 10 min.

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

Joseph Tronicek, 2020, 10 min.

Max

Zi Nizami, 2021, 4 min.

Spending time with friends in a local coffee shop.

Perfect Strangers

Sydney Russell, 2020, 11 min.

A shy young woman who lives with the guilt of throwing an illegal rave.

Patrick Delhougne, 2021, 5 min.

Car Jack

Michael Wriningham, 2020, 10 min.

Wither

A swing dancer and a woman who has met his patient through a childhood trauma similar to one he experienced.

Gracie Simmonds, 2021, 4 min.

Found

Justin May, 2020, 9 min.

A night of reckless choices leaves Nate lost in a vast city, and his journey attempts to keep music and business alive amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Paul Hibbard, 2021, 19 min.

I’m Not a Racist

Stacey Nation, 2021, 6 min.

When I Die

Alan Griswold, 2021, 9 min.

Ivy League school and falls down a rabbit hole of college-admissions outcomes.

Emma Bright & Bethany Clemens, 2020, 6 min.

I’m Not a Racist

Stacey Nation, 2021, 10 min.

Happiness

Paul Hibbard, 2021, 19 min.

Ivy League school and falls down a rabbit hole of college-admissions outcomes.

Emma Bright & Bethany Clemens, 2020, 6 min.

3DRAMA SHORTS 1

92 min.

Car Jack

Michael Wriningham, 2020, 10 min.

David B. Johnson

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Mason Beck, 2020, 10 min.

Super 8 Hockey

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Paul Hibbard, 2021, 19 min.

4EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS

72 min.

An animated film that deals with aspects of resilience by creating a world of emotions in human beings.

Eby Strauss-Barrett, 2021, 7 min.

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Stacey Nation, 2021, 10 min.

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__HORROR SHORTS__

**95 min.**

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

**Death Scene**
Mando Franco, 2020, 6 min.
An entity possesses a television, making the evil characters aware of a Promethean monster. Hefel's riveting, 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 abandoned school while a deadly virus takes its toll on the outside world.

**Compulsion**
Daniele Ragazzi, 2021, 5 min.
A student’s OCD takes a new form as it torturates his right.

**The Doctor**
Michael Davis & Avery Meier, 2021, 9 min.
After a frightening encounter with a stranger, a teenage boy is plagued by 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.

**Indians, Outlaws, Marshals and the Hangin’ Judge**
Larry Foley, 2020, 80 min., documentary feature
An iteration of an astronaut struggles with his past while stranded on a deserted planet with only his robotic AI to accompany him.

**Death Scene**
Mando Franco, 2020, 12 min.
A woman is hunted in the snowy woods by a masked killer dressed as Santa Claus.

**XMASsacre**
Mando Franco, 2020, 12 min.
A party-giver’s attempt to make sasquatch is thwarted by ball peppers spawned by an agrochemical corporation’s mad experiments.

**The Final 19**
Timothy Breitbach, 2021, 108 min., documentary feature
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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 lingering, 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).

**Dealbreaker**
Demarcus Hawkins, 2020, 38 min.
In a story about the daily trials and tribulations that Black men face, Demarcus experiences an epic day, and makes a decision that will change his life.

**Hella Drove the Movie**
Yc-Bey, 2020, 40 min.
Two professional burglars attempt 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.

**Veg Out: A Horror Comedy**
Nate Carroll, 2020, 4 min.
A woman is hunted in the snowy woods by a masked killer dressed as Santa Claus.

**Interrogation**
Paige Feitman, 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 our grunting, ugly, O-face glory — and yet, as soon as it’s over, we suddenly put our masks on again. “Interrogatory” 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 …?”

**Once a Hero**
Tim Reichauer, 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/director Scott Jonas is a former Navy SEAL, global-response agent with the CIA, and author of the book “Prior: The Story of the First Openly Gay Navy SEAL.”

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**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**
Wyatt Waed, 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.

**Fatal Conflict**
Stephen Provence, 2021, 3 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.

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**Black Man**
Lacey “G Soulvid” Turner, 2021, 18 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/director Scott Jonas is a former Navy SEAL, global-response agent with the CIA, and author of the book “Prior: The Story of the First Openly Gay Navy SEAL.”

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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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