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*22nd Annual Whitaker*  
**St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase**



**CINEMA  
ST. LOUIS**  
cinemastlouis.org

**July 15-17 & 22-24, 2022 | Washington University's Brown Hall Auditorium**

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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.*

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# 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).

## JOHN GOODMAN

*The Dining & Nightlife Expert*

Did you know that beloved actor John Goodman grew up in the Afton area of St. Louis? John will help you discover the great St. Louis dishes you have to try and the amazing live music scene.



## STERLING K. BROWN

*The Adventure Expert*

You may know him as Randal Pearson on NBC's *This is Us*, but Emmy award-winning actor Sterling K. Brown grew up in St. Louis. From the Gateway Arch to The Magic House, Sterling knows all the best places for fun-filled adventures in St. Louis.



## JENNA FISCHER

*The Culture Expert*

Best known as Pam on the hit show *The Office*, Jenna Fischer is proud to call St. Louis home. From the stunning Cathedral Basilica to the renowned Saint Louis Art Museum, Jenna is the perfect guide to all the best in arts and culture.



## ANDY COHEN

*The Shopping Expert*

The host of Bravo's *Watch What Happens Live* grew up in the Clayton area of St. Louis and is an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan. Andy is your guide to great shopping from outlets to boutiques in quaint neighborhoods.



## JENIFER LEWIS

*The Theatre Expert*

Broadway, film and tv star Jenifer Lewis calls St. Louis her hometown and she will help you discover the amazing theatre and performing arts scene in St. Louis. From the Fabulous Fox to the Black Rep, Jenifer knows where to catch the hottest shows.

"Ethan and Edna,"  
see Comedy  
Shorts, p. 12



## 22nd 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 14 film programs that screen at Washington University's Brown Hall Auditorium from July 15-17 and 22-24 serve as the Showcase's centerpiece. In addition, the event features a quartet of livestreamed master classes — the legal-issues class is also available as an in-person event — and the Closing-Night Awards Party at Blueberry Hill's Duck Room.

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

#### Washington University's Brown Hall Auditorium

Forsyth & Skinker boulevards  
(see map for details)

Film Programs from July 15-17 & 22-24

#### Blueberry Hill's Duck Room

6504 Delmar Blvd.

Closing-Night Awards Party  
on July 24, 7-11 PM

#### Capes Sokol

8182 Maryland Avenue, 15th Floor

Master Class: Legal Issues on July 21,  
5:30 PM

### Covid-19 Policies

Cinema St. Louis is not requiring proof of vaccination during the Showcase. We continue to recommend masks, especially

for those who are not vaccinated and boosted, but they are not required, so guests should take the precautions that make them feel most comfortable. **All policies may be adjusted in response to changing conditions.**

### Tickets

Tickets for film programs from July 15-17 & 22-24 at Washington U.'s Brown Hall Auditorium 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 Blueberry Hill's Duck Room is free, but a donation is requested. All master classes are free, but registration is required.

### 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 \$60, \$50 for CSL members. To purchase a pass, visit [cinemastlouis.org](http://cinemastlouis.org). 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.

### Livestreams

The master classes will be offered as livestreams at specific times/dates. These events will be free, but registration at our website is required. [Cinemastlouis.org](http://Cinemastlouis.org) provides a brief instructional video for signing up with our virtual-streaming and ticketing partner, Eventive.

### Concessions

Cinema St. Louis will sell popcorn, snacks, and candy at Brown Hall. There are also two vending machines near the auditorium. No drinks are available for purchase, so please feel free to bring your own water or soft drinks (in cans or plastic bottles only). Absolutely NO alcoholic beverages are allowed. Please help keep the space tidy for our other guests by cleaning up after yourselves.

### Information

For more information, contact Chris Clark at 314-289-4152 or [chris@cinemastlouis.org](mailto:chris@cinemastlouis.org).



# CINEMA ST. LOUIS

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## Showcase Juries

### Documentaries/Experimental Films

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Stephen Tronicek

### Narratives

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Joseph Tronicek  
Lynn Venhaus  
Wyatt Weed

## Showcase Program

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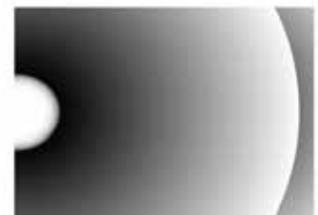
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Film & Media Studies  
Washington University in St. Louis

**EDITMENTÖR**





Netflix, and Starz. They were nominated together for an American Cinema Editors Award for their work on “Glee.” In the class, they will discuss how to be effective and efficient visual storytellers and creative problem-solvers. They will share extensive knowledge about editing and how it informs decision-making in many other aspects of filmmaking, including writing and directing. Whether you are a seasoned filmmaker or just starting out, this session will provide you with useful advice, theories, anecdotes, clips, demonstrations, and insight. Raw footage donated by our co-sponsor will be edited and used as part of the presentation.

**Co-sponsored by EditMentor and EditStock**



**DOC CROTZER** A filmmaking Swiss Army knife, Doc has directed, produced, and edited studio feature films, award-winning television series, and immersive documentaries. He draws

from his wide-ranging experience in production and postproduction to tell cinematic stories that remain grounded in human emotion, regardless of the medium. His encyclopedic knowledge of editing allows him to shoot efficiently and creatively while inspiring confidence from collaborators on both sides of the camera. His favorite part of filmmaking is collaborating with actors and crew members to create something in which the sum is truly greater than any of its parts. Doc’s instincts and work ethic are trusted at the highest levels, and he often quietly works as a “fixer” on studio films and TV shows that need fresh eyes to reach their fullest potential. A musician himself, Doc has edited more than 100 music videos and excels in bringing stories to life that incorporate music and visual effects. Doc was nominated for an Emmy for his work directing a web series and nominated for ACE and HPA awards for his work on the TV show “Glee.” He is a proud member of the Directors Guild of America, American Cinema Editors, and the Television Academy of Arts & Sciences.



**JOE LEONARD** Joe Leonard is a St. Louis native currently living in Los Angeles. He went to John Burroughs School and is a graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts film and television program. Joe wrote

and directed the independent feature “How I Got Lost,” shot in New York and his hometown of Kirkwood, which screened in the New Filmmakers Forum at the St. Louis International Film Festival in

2009. As a union television editor in Hollywood, Joe has cut shows such as “Glee,” “Empire,” “The Man in the High Castle,” “Star,” “Chambers,” “Mr. Robot,” “Briarpatch,” and most recently the Watergate drama “Gaslit,” starring Julia Roberts and Sean Penn, on Starz. He cut the independent film “3 Days of Normal” and the Blumhouse meta-horror flick “The Town That Dreaded Sundown.” Joe has also directed numerous short films and an episode of “Star” with Queen Latifah. He is a member of the American Cinema Editors (ACE) and the Directors Guild of America (DGA).

**1-2 PM, SUNDAY, JULY 17**

**Master Class: Development**

You have a great idea for a film. Now what? The development stage is the first step in any film production, whether a student project, an indie film, or studio blockbuster. In development, your story will take shape and influence your decisions regarding budget, principal photography, and eventually distribution. In a discussion moderated by Cinema St. Louis artistic director Chris Clark, Shayna Cohen — the development supervisor for DreamWorks — will discuss the development process and focus on how to turn your great idea into a great film.



**SHAYNA COHEN** Shayna is a filmmaker from St. Louis. She fell in love with movies at the age of 10 when her father snuck her into a midnight showing of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.” Blanketed in

the cool, dark air of the Shady Oak, she knew something magical was happening. “Rocky Horror” managed to bring different types of people together: It could make people laugh and dance and throw things at the screen in mass hysteria. As her brain synapses fired all at once, she knew this is what films were meant to do: to inspire your senses to feel hunger, frenzy, love, or lust. Attending American University for her undergraduate degree, Shayna focused on documentary filmmaking. Her documentary work was largely influenced by the 2008 presidential election and local subcultures. Moving to the West Coast, she went to Chapman University’s graduate film-production program and won a Student DGA award in November 2014 for her thesis film, “Gefilte Fish.” Since then, Shayna has written and directed multiple projects that have taken her around the world, including India, China, and Israel. After working at Nickelodeon for the TV shows “iCarly” and “Victorious,” Shayna moved over to DreamWorks Animation in the story/edit

department. Almost a decade later, Shayna is the development supervisor for theatrical feature films. While Shayna helps develop films for DreamWorks, she continues to write and develop her own personal projects.

**5:30-7 PM THURSDAY, JULY 21**

**Master Class: Legal Issues**

*Capes Sokol, 8182 Maryland Ave., 15th Floor*

During this master class — which will be held in person but also available as a livestream — Capes Sokol’s Entertainment & Media attorneys will share their insights on 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. The class will be led by Pete Salsich III and Kara L. Lambert. Check-in begins at 5 PM, and the class is followed by a happy hour from 6:30-7 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 L. LAMBERT** Kara focuses her practice on Entertainment and Media, including name, image, and likeness deals and production legal, as well as intellectual property and corporate

matters, including trademarks, commercial transactions, and business-entity formation.



**"Tim Hawkins:  
Professional Moron,"  
see Documentary  
Shorts**

# Awards

7-11 PM SUNDAY, JULY 24

## **Closing-Night Awards Party**

*Blueberry Hill's Duck Room,  
6504 Delmar Blvd.*

*Free (donations are requested at the door)*

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 a \$500 prize — underwritten by the **Chellappa-Vedavalli Foundation** — to the Best Showcase Film. Complimentary beer from **Urban Chestnut Brewing Company** and a cash bar are available for attendees who are 21 or older. A DJ and some surprise entertainment will be featured before the awards ceremony, which will begin at 9 PM.

**Sponsored by Capes Sokol**



# Film Programs

**All film programs are at Washington University's Brown Hall Auditorium.**

Shorts in multi-film programs are listed alphabetically, not in the order screened. Feature films will be followed by Q&As.

## *Friday, July 15*

**6 PM**

### **Documentary Shorts**

101 min.

#### **My Ozarks**

*Jason Brasier, Sean Loftin & Ian McGee, 44 min.*

A series of nine short documentaries offer intimate portraits of real people and places in the eastern Missouri Ozarks.

#### **The Outlander**

*Dominik Espey & Matthew Gargiula, 17 min.*

John and Toni are essentially homeless but eke out a thrifty and fulfilling life on the downtown riverfront.

#### **Tim Hawkins: Professional Moron**

*Christina Russell, 12 min.*

After getting swept up in the whirlwind of his career, local comedian Tim Hawkins had to slow his life down to learn the meaning of true success.

### **We Work for the Purple Space**

*Patrick Delhougne & Nyara Williams, 25 min.*

Overcoming social anxiety and a strong hatred for shoes, singer Zida Lioness sacrifices, suffers, and ultimately succeeds in her quest to reach "The Purple Space" with the support of family and friends.

#### **Who Is Syd?**

*Gabriel Hunter Sheets, 3 min.*

Syd discusses their experience with depression, derealization, and coming to terms with their gender identity and sexuality.

**8:45 PM**

### **Thriller Shorts**

114 min.

#### **Bootycall**

*Pelan Le, 7 min.*

Every online dater's worst nightmare: a booty call gone horribly and dangerously wrong.

#### **The Contract**

*Aaron McLaughlin, 10 min.*

A mysterious man attempts to reconcile with the consequences of his actions.











**Poetry in Motion: St. Louis Poets Take the Mic**



**The Journal of Aleksandr Kuzmich**

*Alexander Hernandez, 9 min.*

Aleksandr Kuzmich, who wants to understand why he's targeted by an evil presence, documents the encounters in his journal and soon realizes he might be plagued by more than one monster.

**Member's Mark**

*Marisa Adelina DeMarini, 10 min.*

A severe storm unearths the past and alternate lives of a Midwestern farmhand.

**Residual Alibi**

*Bo Sanders, 17 min.*

A nefarious man pads his alibi with a routine bike ride while entrusting his mistress to carry out a plot to kill his wife.

**Self-Exposure**

*Randy Shinn, 12 min.*

A woman struggles to connect with her partner.

**Viral**

*Michael Rich, 13 min.*

An overworked auto repairman fights to survive the night after hitting an unknown entity in the road.



*Sunday, July 24*



**Poetry in Motion: St. Louis Poets Take the Mic**

*Dana Christian, 87 min.*

Filmed in 2020 and 2021, during the height of the pandemic, this documentary features riveting spoken-word perfor-



**Un-resolved**

mances from 36 of the most dynamic poets of the St. Louis region. The film includes tributes to late St. Louis poet laureates Shirley Bradley Price LeFlore and Dr. Michael Castro and performances by current St. Louis poet laureate Jane Ibur, East St. Louis poet laureate Dr. Eugene Redmond, and past youth poet laureates Grace Ruo and Sarah Abbas. Jabari Asim, Paul Stroble, Pacia Elaine, Jason Vasser-Elong, Marsha Cann, and Olajuwon Davis are among the other poets featured, and the film includes appearances by visual artist DL Warfield, dancer Alicia "Sunshine" Gbaho, and such local musicians as Stanley Coleman and Darrell Mixon. The film's collection of intergenerational voices crosses color lines, cultures, religious backgrounds, and gender and sexual orientations, with the poets delivering provocative messages about the pandemic, social justice, police brutality, race, and mental health.

**With director Christian, producer/narrator Lyah LeFlore-Ituen, and various subjects.**



**Un-resolved**

*Bruce Carlton Cunningham, 167 min.*

A gritty, sprawling tale of revenge, "Un-resolved" plays like a Shakespearean drama. An ex-convict, just released from prison, attempts to make up for the lost time with his youngest daughter, who is dying, and to reconnect with his oldest daughter, who has befriended a deadly enemy from his past. But as he attempts to do right by his children and start a new, quieter life, the pull of the streets and fate have other plans, with multiple storylines intersecting to create a powder keg with a dangerously short fuse. The longest work ever featured in the Showcase, the film earns every second of its screen time and will have audiences riveted. Multi-talented director Cunningham also serves as writer, producer, editor, and co-star.

**With director Cunningham and members of the cast and crew.**



**"Viral" see Supernatural Shorts**

a demon as payback for a mother's punishment.

**Ta-Da!**

*Jeffrey Howe, 3 min.*

A mediocre magician saves the best trick for last.

**Unseen Wager**

*Stephen Province & Jessica Stamper, 10 min.*

An angel and a demon make a bet on who will accomplish their goal: save a bar full of patrons or have them die in a fire.



**Supernatural Shorts**

96 min.

**The Estate**

*Josh Thurm, 15 min.*

Howard, looking to start a life with his fiancée and unborn child, attempts to sell his deceased father's estate and learns the secret behind his disappearance.

**Follow Me**

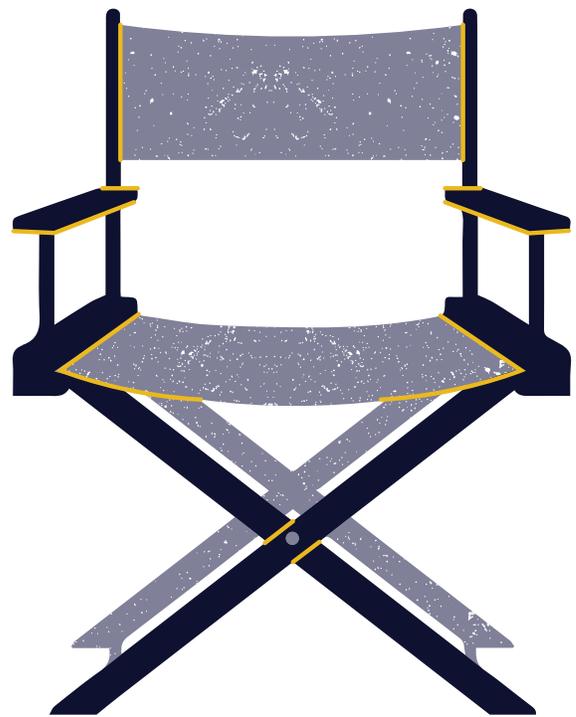
*Jordan Hageman & Sam Rozier, 20 min.*

Sal lost his older brother Marcus to a mysterious portal in the woods, and he remains haunted by the unexplained loss.

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