

CINEMA ST. LOUIS PRESENTS
THE 24TH ANNUAL

ST. LOUIS
FILM
FESTIVAL
@
HI-POINTE
THEATRE
JULY 19-21 & 26-28, 2024

CINEMA
ST. LOUIS

JULY 19-21 & 26-28, 2024

CINEMASTLOUIS.ORG

— The —
HI-POINTE
THEATRE
Since 1933

24TH ANNUAL ST. LOUIS FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE

VENUES

HI-POINTE THEATRE

1005 McCausland Ave., 63117
Corner of McCausland Ave. & Clayton Rd.

CAPES SOKOL

8182 Maryland Avenue, 15th Floor

TICKETS

Tickets for film programs from July 19-21 & 26-28 at the Hi-Pointe Theatre are \$15 each; \$12 for students with valid and current photo ID and Cinema St. Louis members. (All credit card and handling fees are incorporated into the ticket price.) All workshops are free, but registration is required. Tickets may be purchased in advance online at www.cinemastlouis.org. However, student discounts can only be obtained in person at the box office, where ID is required.

PASSES

Passes offer great value and flexibility!

An **All-Access Pass** costs \$300 (\$250 for CSL members), but this pass will save you \$30 or \$80 if you're a CSL member. This pass allows for two tickets per film.

VIP Passes are available for \$150 (\$125 for CSL members) and will save you \$15 or \$40 if you're a member. This pass only allows a single ticket per film.

CONCESSIONS

The concession stand offers candy, soda, bottled water, and the best popcorn in town. Beer, wine, and canned cocktails will also be available.

INFORMATION

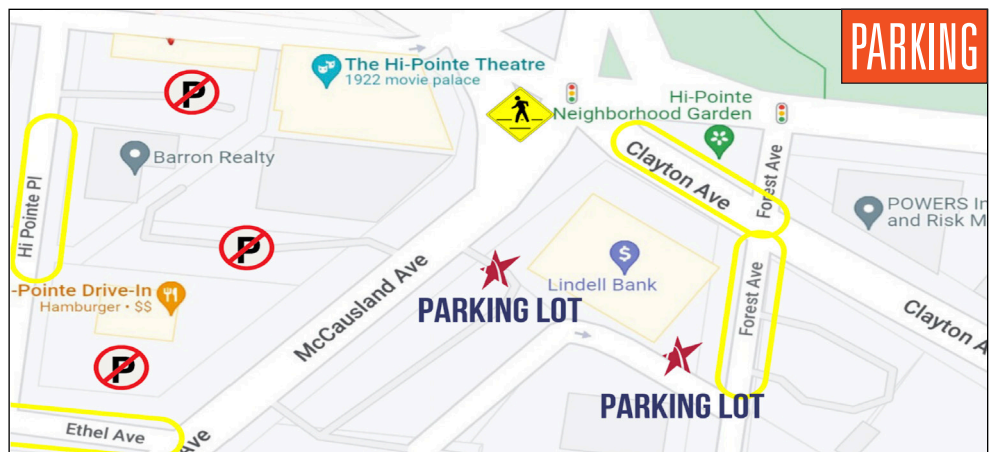
For more information, contact Emmett Williams (Director of Festival Curation & Education) at 314-200-5684 or emmett@cinemastlouis.org

Welcome to the 24th Annual St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase, an annual celebration of the area's current and future filmmaking community. Presented by Cinema St. Louis, this year's festival features 64 films spread out over ten programs. All of the works were written, edited, or produced by St. Louis natives or those with strong local ties.

In addition to the screenings, this year's festival includes four Masterclasses and one live podcast recording, which were created to continue our commitment to film education in the St. Louis region.

Our Closing Night Awards Party at the Hi-Pointe Theatre will celebrate the best of the festival and provide an opportunity for local filmmakers to network, ensuring connections that will last for years to come.

Finally, we're thrilled to announce that, in addition to our annual awards, the first-ever St. Louis City Mayor's Award will be presented to the best Student Film.



Theatre patrons have multiple parking options! Patrons may park on the streets in the surrounding neighborhoods. In addition, Lindell Bank is partnering with Cinema St. Louis to offer our patrons free parking in their lots outside of banking hours. This lot is located just across McCausland from the main house and is open to our guests after 6 pm M-F, after 12 pm on Saturday, and all day on Sunday. Please use the crosswalk at the intersection to cross to the theatre safely. DO NOT PARK at the former Backlot Theatre, Chinese Express, the Dispensary, or the Hi-Pointe Drive-In. We also encourage individuals to explore the Hi-Pointe Theatre, honoring its historical significance when walking and community transportation were more common. Please consider carpooling, using public transit, choosing a ride service, or walking to enjoy the movie experience.

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Sam Tarter

AWARDS

On Sunday, July 28, our Closing Night Awards Party sponsored by Capes Sokol, will occur at the Hi-Pointe Theatre from 6:30 - 8:30pm and will kick off with a reception sponsored by Parker's Table. In addition to several Jury Awards and the Essy Award, funded by the Chellappa-Vedavalli Foundation - a \$1,000 prize given to the overall Best Showcase film - for the first time, we are partnering with the St. Louis City Mayor's Office to give out the Mayor's Award to the Best Student Film.

Cinema St. Louis staff will also announce the films moving on to the 33rd Annual Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival in November.

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Masterclasses

ALL CLASSES WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HISTORIC HI-POINTE THEATRE

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 12:30 PM

FILM SCHOOL VS NO FILM SCHOOL DEBATE

Gear up for a cinematic showdown! The first ever Film School/No Film School Debate is a lively back and forth between four filmmakers: two film school veterans and two rebels who clawed their way up from the trenches. It's textbooks and thesis films versus hustle and guerilla filmmaking. Buckle up for flying popcorn and a fun, insightful brawl about the ultimate question: film school - friend or foe?

MODERATORS

Ria Ruthsatz & Emmett Williams



RIA RUTHSATZ

Ria Ruthsatz is an Emmy award-winning Director, and the Co-Founder and CEO of Tree9 Films, a St. Louis-based commercial film production company. She has produced and directed films for a diverse clientele, ranging from nationally recognized brands to local businesses, schools, and non-profits.

Ria's work has garnered recognition through various awards, and she's proud to have produced fundraising films that have successfully raised millions for vital causes on a global scale. However, her roots remain in St. Louis. An advocate for small businesses, Ria is also a recent graduate of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program. She is dedicated to expanding creative career opportunities and reintroduced the 48-Hour Film Project to St. Louis to celebrate and recognize the immense talent in our own backyard.



EMMETT WILLIAMS

After nearly two decades as a filmmaker, producing documentaries, web series and television programs around the world, in January 2024 Emmett Williams became the Director of Festival Curation and Education at Cinema St. Louis.

DEBATE PANELISTS

Ben Scholle, Alex Rafi, Cami Thomas & Catherine Dudley-Rose



BEN SCHOLLE

Ben Scholle's first feature documentary, HairKuTT, followed a heroin addict struggling to kick his addiction. In 2005, it was named Best Feature Documentary at the St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase, Best Social Documentary at the New York International Independent Film Festival, and it won the Director's Award at the Hearts and Minds Film Festival. The film went on to be selected for MoMA's Documentary Fortnight and air on BET and the Documentary Channel. It also played theatrically in Boston and screened in schools and universities nationwide.

The documentary, Silver Spurs, which Scholle edited and co-produced in 2006, portrayed a year in the lives of the residents at a group home for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled in St. Louis, MO. Scholle's recently completed third feature film, The Worst Crime, covers the story of a capital murder case from 2002, provoking questions about the death penalty and mental illness. The film was named Best Feature Documentary in the 2019 St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase. Ben Scholle is a senior professor of cinema arts at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO.



ALEX RAFI

Alex H. Rafi is a St. Louis based documentary filmmaker and educator. His short documentaries have screened at festivals around the United States including Brooklyn Film Festival, BlackStar Film Festival, New Orleans Film Festival, and the St. Louis International Film Festival. His most recent short, a door away (2021), is also the recipient of three best documentary

awards from AfroComicCon International Film Festival, Con Nooga Film Festival, and PensaCon Short Film Festival. He earned an MFA in Documentary Film from Stanford University, and he is currently the Program Coordinator for the Film & Media Studies minor and an Assistant Professor in the department of Communication at Saint Louis University.



CAMI THOMAS

Over the years, Thomas has utilized the arts as a form of advocacy and a conduit of social momentum. Her efforts and talent have been recognized by NPR, Teen Vogue and the Huffington Post and have led to nominations and awards from various organizations. Cami currently provides freelancing services as a film and video producer and director throughout

the Midwest and Los Angeles. She is also the founder of the video production company, My Friends and I.



CATHERINE DUDLEY-ROSE

Catherine is an award-winning writer/director, actress, and musician. She has taught at the New York Stage and Film Program, and the Broadway Theatre Institute, helping 90 kids in the Bronx write their own stories, and been a guest artist, and performer internationally. She won "Best Feature Writer" in LA sponsored by the Writers Guild of America,

West for her first feature film, *Parallel Chords*. The film also won Best Cinematography, Production Design, and Best Narrative Feature in Saint Louis and was selected for the Emerging Director/New Filmmaker's Forum at the Saint Louis International Film Festival. She has received Regional Arts Commission grants and a grant funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 12:30PM

MISSOURI STORIES SCREENWRITING EVENT

Sponsored By MOFILM

The Missouri Stories Scriptwriting Fellowship is hosting a live script reading event featuring excerpts from multiple winning

scripts from the past decade. Local St. Louis actors will bring to life what's on the page, while the writers of those scripts will be on hand to answer your questions about their craft.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 6:00 PM

FILMMAKERS NETWORKING EVENT

+ Live Podcast Recording W/ Pete Salsich

Join us for a live recording of *The Screen Lawyer* podcast hosted by Pete Salsich, focusing on the ever-evolving world of independent film distribution. Hear from industry experts and filmmakers on the ground as they dissect the latest trends, from navigating streaming platforms to finding new audiences. This is a must-listen for anyone passionate about the future of indie cinema



PETE SALSICH, III

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.

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SATURDAY, JULY 27 - 12:30 PM

ANIMATION AND THE PATHWAY TO WORKING FOR APPLE

In this workshop, Yang will sketch out her incredible path from her days as a one-woman animation studio to working for top-secret project. Get ready for anecdotes, industry secrets, and a sneak peek at some top-secret projects. Bring your questions, animation dreams, and favorite drawing tablet - Yang is here to show you how to turn your squiggles into a career!



FU YANG

Fu Yang is a Taiwanese stop-motion filmmaker. She graduated with an Animation & Visual Effects MFA from the Academy of Art University. Since 2017, she has directed and collaborated on award-winning indie animated shorts in the SF Bay Area. Her latest film, "Fortune Cookie," won the 2023 St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase Juried Awards for

"Best Narrative Film Under 20 Minutes" and "Best Animated Documentary or Experimental Film." The film was screened at Academy Award-qualifying film festivals such as the St. Louis International Film Festival '23, American Documentary and Animation Film Festival and Film Fund '24, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival '24, and more globally.

"Fortune Cookie" was the first production created in her St. Louis-based animation studio, CafeLaBobo LLC, which she operates with her husband, Ben Ellebracht. The studio has worked with Apple TV+, Pixar Co-op, DreamWorks TV, and indie film productions. In addition to filmmaking, Fu is an Adjunct Professor at Webster University School of Communications, where she teaches animated film production in the spring of 2024.

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 12:30 PM

THE WORLD OF ST. LOUIS COMMERCIAL WORK

This panel discussion will be your one-stop shop for navigating the competitive world of TV commercials filmed in St. Louis and beyond. Seasoned actors will share their secrets on how to nail that emotional yogurt monologue. At the same time, directors will unpack the magic of cramming a high-speed chase into a ten-second deodorant ad. And producers will be on hand to shed light on the realities of commercial budgets. It's the perfect panel for anyone curious about the sometimes glamorous (but usually not) world of working in commercials!

MODERATOR

Kelley Hiatt



KELLEY HIATT

Kelley Hiatt is an experienced location manager who has worked on popular TV shows such as Station 19, This Is Us, and Chicago Fire. She has managed a wide range of on-location filming. Kelley has produced an award-winning documentary Breaking and Entering, which follows everyday people as they try to break world records. Kelley

is currently the St. Louis Film Office Manager for Explore St. Louis, where she is committed to maintaining high standards of excellence in her work. She is passionate about her job and hopes to achieve great things in this new position.



JONI TACKETTE

Joni is based in St. Louis, and has enjoyed being a Casting Director for over 30 years. Credits include hundreds of Commercial, Corporate Film, Digital, & Print projects. In addition, she's worked on over twenty-five feature films handling either Principal, Day Player, Extras, or Promotional Crowd Casting. She is a member of Casting Society

of America - CSA. Past-President of Missouri Motion Media Association (now Film in Mo) and is on the Board of Directors for Cinema St Louis. www.Jonitackettecasting.net



JESSICA AMBUEHL

Jessica Ambuehl is a professional storyteller with decades of experience on both sides of the camera. Through her company Under The Tree Designs she has over 100 projects across several countries under her belt representing companies and nonprofits from all over the nation such as NBC Universal, Hayden5, GQ, Amazon, HGTV, and Turner Entertainment. Her work

encompasses producing, directing, casting, location management, second assistant directing, and more. Her Master's Degree in Media Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations from Webster University expands her skillset to branding, event coordination, and web and graphic design. She produces and teaches media production workshops for the St. Louis nonprofit Continuity where she resides on the board as well as serves the local film community as an advisory board member for both Film In MO and St. Louis Filmworks.

As an actor/model, Jessica has representation in eight states across the Midwest with over 185 jobs on her resume that boasts films, TV, commercials, voice overs, print work, and more. She teaches the business side of acting at workshops and virtually for an acting school in L.A. But, one of her favorite story forms and passions is photojournalism which she does pro bono for nonprofits around the world, giving her the honor of visiting over 16 countries, experiencing diverse cultures, and capturing life in developing nations. Jessica believes "the difference you make for one can impact the future for many."

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LIONS OF MESOPOTAMIA

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 7:00 PM

Lucian Read, 86 min

Debuting at this year's SXSW, this film tells the remarkable story of the Iraqi national soccer team's journey to become Asian Cup champions in 2007 during the bloodiest days of their country's civil war. In victory, the national team, made up of Sunni, Shia and Kurdish players, the sons of sworn enemies battling in a bloody war, united their country in its darkest hour.

A post film discussion will include the post-production team from St. Louis, Bruton Stroube.



NARRATIVE SHORTS (A)

SATURDAY, JULY 20 2:30 PM

81 min

HIT THE MARK

Keith Kennedy, United States, 8 min

The ups and downs and trials and travails of the audition process

DOLLY

Peter Carlos, United States, 13 min

A grieving mother copes with her daughter's death by buying a doll in her memory.

DOWN THE CUBICLE

Stephen M. Province, United States, 29 min

Ally navigates the strange world of her office building, all the while wondering where she should go.

CONFESSIONAL

Gabe Sheets, United States, 15 min

A Catholic man goes to confession and confides in a priest about how he can reconcile with a cardinal sin that he has recently committed.

VERISIMILLITUDE

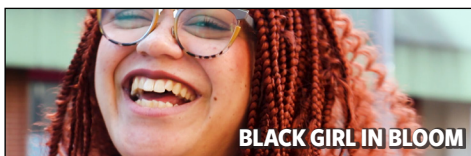
Keith Kennedy, United States, 6 min

Two detectives encounter an unlikely crime scene.

US + ONE

Andy Compton, United States, 10 min

Things get weird for a lonely single when he unknowingly swipes right on a married couple's attempt to spice up their shaky relationship.



BLACK GIRL IN BLOOM

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS (A)

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 5:00 PM

79min

MINAMI'S METHOD

Cata Corredor, United States, 6 min

A brief look into Lindenwood University's Dance program, through a Japanese Dancer's perspective.

THE SOFT SPOT

Jerod Welker, United States, 11 min

A friend of the filmmaker discusses her relationship with her mother who died of cirrhosis of the liver.

THE CAREIST

Matthew Boyd Williams, United States, 10 min

Max Hutchison is a naturalist, ecologist,

zoologist, and lifelong voice for preserving the wetlands he also calls home.

The Careist is an ode to Max, a way of life, and a natural area long overlooked and daring to disappear forever.

YOU ARE ENOUGH

Jessica Ambuehl, United States, 3 min

A young boy finds an abandoned egg and goes to great lengths across the island to return it to its home all while remembering the positive difference one person can make.

BLACK GIRL IN BLOOM

Joshua Matejka, United States, 13 min

St. Louis florist Darien Burress launches her small business while preparing to compete at Art in Bloom, the St. Louis Art Museum's annual festival celebrating floral design and the fine arts.

PRIDE OF TEXAS

Ashley Seering, 2023, United States, 7 min

A look at the Texas Gay Rodeo Association and its participants who prove that rodeo, and Texas, is a place for everyone.

PEPAA

Carlos Mendoza, United States, 11 min

In dedication to St. Louis and its lustrous and bustling music scene, 'PEPAA' centers the viewer, from beginning to end of the event, what it's like to experience the experimental and globally influenced music, food, and rich history of one of St. Louis's last-standing jazz jams.

NOBODY WANTS TO LEAVE HOME


Miguel Angel Orjuela Chapeton, United States, 17 min

In the backdrop of a country's pressing needs, people envision improving their quality of life, leading them to contemplate crossing borders due to the scarcity within their own country.

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HORROR SHORTS

SATURDAY JULY 20 - 7:30PM

105 min

BRUJA

Mando Franco, United States, 12 min

An FBI profiler evaluates a murder suspect who believes she is a 600 year old witch from Mexico

LOCKED IN

Christina DeSalvo, United States, 2 min

Based off of a recurring dream that I have where there is someone or something dangerous trying to get inside and I'm unable to keep all of the doors and windows locked.

BLOWN VEIN

Sophie Weiss, United States, 7 min

Emile, a mid-20s individual, takes solace in an elusive, surreal landscape. There, he finds a manor - but its doors are mysteriously locked.

INCUBUS

Ben Herrell, United States, 10 min

An insomniac teenage girl receives a mysterious box. Strange things begin happening.

CATSKILL MANOR

Kristen Boren, United States, 8 min

A "haunted Airbnb" host decides to take matters into his own hands when his ghostly gimmicks aren't making the cut

BEETLEMANIA

Nate Carroll, United States, 5 min

A mischievous boy opens a mysterious parcel from Chernobyl, Russia, advertising that children can raise their own insect family.

THE BETWEEN PLACE

Joe Taylor, United States, 5 min

A video diary of life since the pandemic.

FORTUNE FAVORS THE DEAD

Joshua Rodriguez, United States, 18 min

A greedy and exploitive fake-psyhic bites off more than she can chew when she takes on a strange new client with curious motives.

PHANTASMIC

Andy Compton, United States, 16 min

Deprived of her anxiety medication, a distressed woman's panic attacks send her spiraling into a sensory driven nightmare.

CHOPPED CHIVES

Ryan Budd, United States, 6 min

Jennifer plans to cook a new meal for her and her fiancé Cris. Turns out he is not a big fan of carrots and chopped chives

FLESH AND BLOOD

Thuan Thien Vo Le, United States 16 min

An anxious young man approaching adulthood must choose between forging his own path or the path of his parents - the country's most notorious serial killers.



FREAKOUT

NARRATIVE SHORTS (B)

SUNDAY, JULY 21 2:30PM

94 min

ART 101

Mike Rohlfing, United States, 5 min

Two models vie for the attention of the woman across the room. But will she notice them?

GARBAGE MAN

Ava Farrar, United States, 16 min

Roger, a man in his mid 70s, struggles with loneliness and depression as the anniversary of his late wife's birthday rolls around.

MERIDIEN

Nathan White, United States, 16 min

A pharmaceutical executive sits down for an after-hours meeting with a politician up for re-election.

TEARS OF THE CLOWNS

Brendan Bickel, United States, 16min

A standup comedian struggles to balance a career and life's harsh realities.

GREEN FROG CAFE

Brent Jaimes, United States, 25 min

A young man tries to keep himself and his band together as he faces the reality of losing his mentor and father figure.

YOUR LAST WISHES

Mason Beck, United States, 20 min

Following the death of his best friend, Sammy (Sam Sweere) must take their last words to heart and complete the list.

FREAKOUT

Zach Hearst, United States, 6 min

The smoke sesh was chill and all... until it wasn't.



SYLVIE WHO?

NARRATIVE SHORTS (C)

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 5:00PM

98 min

THIEVES

Brendan Bickel, 2023, United States, 19 min

A filmmaker tries to produce a film to honor his father's legacy and chaos ensues.

ROLLER GIRL

Alicia Wolf, 2024, United States, 5 min

Roller Girl is the story of one woman who seeks to reconnect with her lost, inner child by roller skating.

THICKER THAN BLOOD

Ava Farrar, 2022, Czech Republic, 9 min,

Czech w English subtitles

SYLVIE WHO?

Meg Halski, United States, 32 min

Sylvie Who? tells the story of a 21 year-old divorcée forced to move back home to St. Louis to reassess her dreams, direction and identity



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BURNT

Zach Xanders, 2024, United States, 14 min
A severely sunburnt man goes on a first date.

VISION

Dan Parris, 2024, United States, 19 min
Louis, a 17-year-old visual artist from North St. Louis, meets Elijah, an elusive blind older mentor. Elijah gifts his rose-colored glasses to Louis to help him see the potential all around him.



ST. LOUIS: AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW

FRIDAY, JULY 26 at 7:30PM
85 min

ARCHITECTURE & ACROBATS

Jessica Hentoff, United States, 32 min
This is the first in a series of films and focuses on the history of Fairground and O'Fallon Parks in north St. Louis.

FLOTSAM RIVER CIRCUS

Cory Byers, United States, United States, 7 min
In the summer of 2023, the Flotsam! River

Circus traveled over 650 miles down the Mississippi River, making more than 35 stops to give free performances.

PAINT IT BLACK

James T. Dierker, United States, 46 min
Narrated by award-winning actor, John Goodman, this documentary film dives into the rugged subculture of rugby union football in St. Louis with focus on a perennial powerhouse, the Bombers Rugby Football Club, the current USA Rugby National Champion.

A post screening Q&A with the filmmakers will follow.



EXPERIMENTAL / ANIMATED SHORTS

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2:00PM
72 min

THE ISLAND

Cameron Richards, United States, 5 min
A man finds himself stranded on a desert island and must find a way to escape before he goes crazy.

I'D LIKE TO BE MIDNIGHT/ I WOULD LIKE TO BE SKY

Amelia Winger-Bearskin, United States, 10 min
Who determines the protocol for looking at the sky? Like moss and fungi, animals and plants, and indeed most living beings, the sky does not have borders.

CYLINDER SEAL

Van McElwee, 5 min
An ancient rolling stamp that impresses a virtually endless pattern into clay or other soft material.

ELATION

Carlos Mendoza, United States, 6 min
Elation is more than a visual and auditory experience; it's a symphonic journey that intertwines the primal beats of a drum solo with a kaleidoscope of visuals.

ORPHEUS

Harsh Jaswal, United States, 6 min
A young man looks back at his relationship with his father and tries to move on from his regrets

CARRY ME OUT

Raizel Lieb, United States, 4 min
A boy and his cat gather strength to travel the world to discover their true selves and values

CONTINUED PAGE 12

St. Louis Public Radio

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.

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GOLDEN GHOSTS

Matt Amato, United States, 5 min
Singer/songwriter Steven Deeds stars in an experimental music video featuring film from family archives.

PICTURE PURR-FECT

Ryan Wells, United States, 2 min
Kindel and Hadley's cat Jasper tries to ruin their birthday party.

MADE

Miguel Angel Orjuela Chapeton, United States, 3 min
The movie in which we all live.

ROUGH WATERS

Emily Knoppe, United States 3 min
The siren Tethys Aigéan, disguised as a human, seeks revenge on the notorious pirate Captain Whitlock after he destroys everything she holds dear.

THE AUTOMATON

Taylor Carter, United States, 10 min
A lonely inventor creates a robot to be his new companion. Unaware of its own capabilities, the robot gets the inventor into serious trouble.

SUBSTANCE OF VENOM

Cherie Sampson, United States, 9 min
The home gardens, prairies, orchard, woodlands where the artist, Cherie Sampson, lives set the mise-en-scène for a series of self-administered honeybee "stinging rituals" over a period of several months in 2021.

OUR LITTLE WORLDS

Davy Stoces, United States, 4 min
A young man receives a complicated text before traveling home.



DOCUMENTARY SHORTS (B)

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 5:00PM
77 min

BEHIND THE CROWN

Nicolas Hotop, 2024, United States 11 min
Ms. World America 2023 (Elizabeth Gibbar) reveals her battles with mental health and her suicide attempt.

CLASSROOM 230

Ava Farrar, 2024, United States, 8 min
In an era where American educators are underpaid, overworked, and constantly at risk of gun violence, what keeps teachers teaching?

CONTINUED PAGE 13

St. Louis

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From iconic sights like the Gateway Arch and Route 66, to unique neighborhoods, parks and buildings, St. Louis has a wide variety of locations and spaces to choose from. Contact Kelley Hiatt at the St. Louis Film Office today to learn more about what this amazing destination has to offer.

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314.992.0625

ANIMAL CAMP

Annie Mitnick, 2024, United States 12 min
Animal Camp takes you to the only residential summer camp in the US that is home to over 300 animals across 100 species, where children are encouraged to interact with and learn about animals.

MY OZARKS

Gabe Sheets, 2024, United States 10 min
My Ozarks is a collection of short, intimate portraits of real people, places and experiences in The Ozarks. This episode is a love story between an archeology and her hometown in rural Missouri. The film follows Erin Whitson as she researches the Trail Of Tears route that the Cherokee took through Missouri and wrestles with her hometown's complicated relationship with the past.

UNCOMMITTED

Aisha Sultan, 2024, United States, 3 min
A young, first-time voter struggles with her election choices and seeks guidance from a community elder.

LETTER TO MY DAUGHTER

Jess T. Dugan, 2023, United States, 16 min
An autobiographical video about the filmmakers' journey to become a parent and their experiences throughout the first five years of their daughter's life.

BUT YOU'D BE A GREAT MOM

Hollie Brubaker, 2023, United States, 17 min
The pressure to become a mom is everywhere. Experience the infertility journey of a woman, Hollie, who has decided to come out as childfree.



GATEWAY TO A NEW LIFE

SATURDAY JULY 27, 7:30PM
Kathy Bratkowski, United States, 54 min

The population of St. Louis is on a downward spiral. Are immigrants the solution? In "Gateway to A New Life," meet the people behind the Afghan Support Program and the resilient Afghans who are building new lives in St. Louis.

In partnership with The International Institute, a panel discussion will follow about the state of refugees in St. Louis.



CATCHING BULLETS

SUNDAY JULY 28, 3:00PM
Ben Scholle, 2024, United States, 84m

Back in the day, Darren sold dope. Behind a gun and a bullet-proof vest, he once made a name for himself in Walnut Park, one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in St. Louis — a city itself haunted by a perennially high murder rate. Now in his 50s and marked with the scars of 13 bullets, Darren buys a condemned church building in his old neighborhood and channels his energy into establishing a youth mentoring center, dedicated to breaking the cycle of violence he once perpetuated. When Preston, the 18-year-old son of Darren's late friend, is tempted by the allure of street-level drug dealing, Darren pledges to save Preston from winding up in a jail cell or worse.

This film is part of the Cinema St. Louis series RACE IN AMERICA. Post film there will be a Q&A about the state of gun violence in St. Louis.

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