

**2015
Soo Film Festival
September 11-13**



**Great Lakes,
Great Movies!**

FESTIVAL GUIDE

SooFilmFestival.org

f SooFilmFestival

(906) 632-1930

Welcome!

Welcome to this year's Soo Film Festival!

From the beginning with its stage and fly space, the Soo Theatre was a place for live shows. For most people, though, it was a place to go to the movies. Many people still want that movie experience in their beloved old theatre, and that's where we and you come in. In this second festival we hope to help the Soo Theatre begin to reclaim that part of her heritage and re-emerge as a movie theatre in the 21st century.

Silent films, "talkies," Technicolor, and even celluloid film itself have all come and gone. First-run movies are now released exclusively in digital format. While many mourn the passing of the 35mm format, digital technology has been a boon to indie filmmakers. YouTube has changed the way we look at ourselves. In the digital age people everywhere can now afford to tell their stories to a worldwide audience. Film festivals have proliferated so that people can share the experience of those stories together. We are pleased to be a part of it and we are excited to have you join us.

We are in awe of the response to this year's call for entries and wish to thank all of the submitters. Our Great Lakes region is very well represented this year. We also have films from all over the world (15 countries!), truly making this an international festival. Keep an eye on these up-and-coming filmmakers. We suspect you will be seeing more of their work in the future.

And what better venue for the true movie experience than here in Soo Theatre, a place where movies were an event, right from the start!

Sit back and enjoy the ride!

The Venue

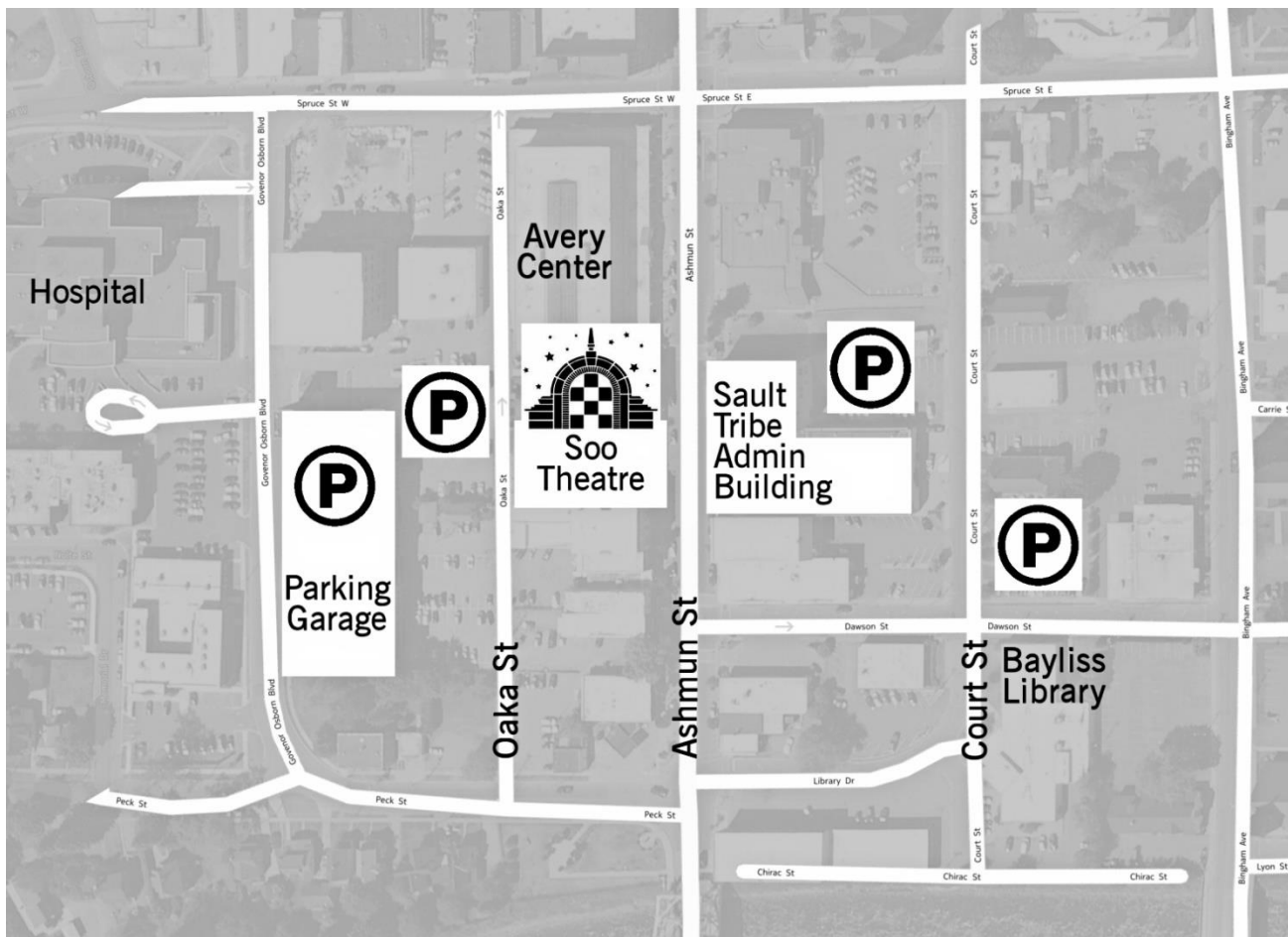
All films will be screened at the Soo Theatre, located at 534 Ashmun Street in downtown Sault Ste. Marie.

Parking

You may park on Ashmun Street, behind the theatre in the lots along Oaka Street, or in the Parking Garage. Use the walkway next to the Avery Center to get to Ashmun Street.

Depending on construction in the area, festival goers may also be to park on Court Street and walk next to the Sault Tribe Administration Building to get to Ashmun Street. Please be aware that there is construction along Spruce Street between Ashmun and Court Street.

Map of Sault Ste. Marie



Ratings

Many of these films have not yet been rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. Please read the full descriptions online and choose responsibly.

Tickets

Tickets and Passes

Single Film Ticket	\$7 General Admission (per block)
	\$5 Seniors and Students (per block)
Daily Pass	\$20 (admission to all blocks on a single day)
Festival Pass	\$50 (admission to all films and shorts programs, all days)

Ticket On-Sale Dates

Monday, August 31

How to Purchase Tickets

You can purchase all Soo Film Festival tickets and passes online by clicking on the “Add to Cart” buttons on the Tickets page or on the individual film pages. You can also charge by phone by calling the Soo Theatre Box Office at (906) 632-1930.

Individual film tickets at will call will be available at the Soo Theatre beginning 30 minutes before the film start time. You may pick up festival passes at the Soo Theatre box office Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or 30 minutes before the first screening you wish to attend.

Ticket FAQ

If I purchase a single film ticket, do I have a reserved seat?

Single film tickets are reserved for a screening of a specific film with a specific screening time and date; however, having a ticket does not guarantee you a seat. You must arrive at the Soo Theatre at least 15 minutes before the scheduled screening start time.

Are festival passes good for any screening?

Yes; however, please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the screening you wish to attend to assure yourself the opportunity to secure a seat.

If a screening sells out online, will tickets still be available?

Potentially – advance ticket sales do not cover 100% of the seating for a screening. To check on availability of tickets the day of a screening, simply show up at the venue 30 minutes before the screening begins and ask!

Can ticket purchases be refunded or exchanged?

We regret that tickets cannot be refunded except in the case of a cancelled screening. Exchanges, when possible, will be subject to a \$1.00 processing fee per order.

I lost my tickets. What should I do?

In the event that you have misplaced your Soo Film Festival tickets, please contact the Soo Theatre Office at (906) 632-1930. Soo Film Festival personnel will locate your ticket order in our system by order number or the last name of the purchaser.

Films: Narrative Features

All Hallows Eve: October 30th

Narrative Feature, 2015, 1 hour 44 minutes, English, Canada



A group of adults on a film excursion in the woods are systematically hunted by a maniac and his family of cult-like followers.

Great Lakes connection: The director and most of the cast are from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Directors: Ryan Byrne

Writers: Ryan Byrne

Producers: Adam Whitton

Key Cast: Ariella Arbus, Adrian Gabrylewicz, Dylan Cook, Ryan Byrne, Aidan Bass

Director's Bio: Ryan Byrne is an independent film director, writer, producer, and actor from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. He is the creator of the October 30th Horror franchise, and also wrote The Long Road, a romance novel released in 2007. Byrne has directed over 10 short films for agencies in and around the Northern Ontario Region and has produced over 30 commercial spots and public announcements. All Hallows Eve: October 30th, his first feature film, was released in May 2015 by Gravitas Ventures & MVD Distribution. Gravitas is one of North America's top VOD distributors.

Sunday, September 13, 10:00pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Narrative Features

America Is Still the Place

Narrative Feature, 2015, 1 hour 42 minutes, English, U.S.



1971 post-civil rights San Francisco seemed like the perfect place for a black Korean War veteran and his family to realize their dream of economic independence. A catastrophic oil spill would not only poison the town, but expose the institutional racism that permeated the world we lived in then.

Great Lakes connection: Steven Wiig (actor) who plays the role of Dan Wallace in the film was instrumental in the creation of the script and subsequent film. He and the Director are close friends and collaborators. Steven is a native of Negaunee, Michigan, and a member of the Soo Film Festival advisory board.

Directors: Patrick Gilles

Writers: Patrick Gilles

Producers: Bill O'Keeffe

Cinematographers: Bill Holshevnikoff

Composers: Jim Hawthorne, Monophonics

Key Cast: Mike Colter, Dylan Baker, Willie Brown, Steven Wiig, Mark Ford, Emma Caulfield, Mark West, Safiya Fredericks, Lyle Kanouse

Director's Bio: "America is Still the Place" is Patrick Gilles's second feature film. After working with Gena Rowlands on "Olive" in 2011, he set his sights on the epic adventure of Mr. Charlie Walker.

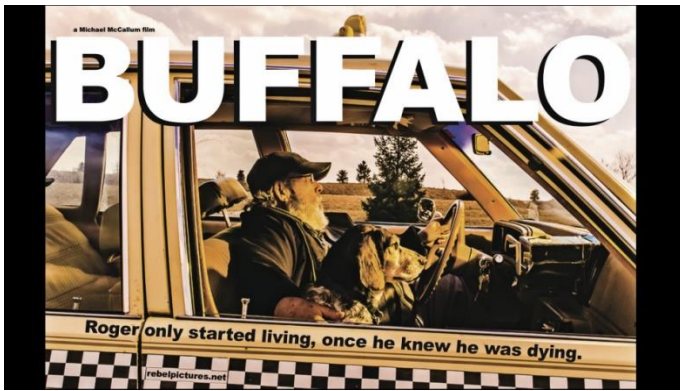
Screenings and Awards: San Francisco Black Film Festival (San Francisco, CA), Opening Night Screening and Winner, Best Feature and Winner, Local Film (June 2015); Accolade Global Film Awards (June 2015), Winner, Best African-American Feature; Capital City Black Film Festival (Austin, TX), Winner, Best Feature Film (August 2015).

Sunday, September 13, 4:30 pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Narrative Features

Buffalo

Narrative Feature, 2014, 1 hour 18 minutes, English, U.S.



Roger, a lonely cab driver, is diagnosed with a terminal disease. He is shaken by the sudden death of his ex-wife, steals a cab from his job, and sets out to find the son he hasn't seen in more than thirty years.

Great Lakes connection: "The film was shot and made in Lansing, MI"

Directors: Michael McCallum

Writers: Michael McCallum, William C. McCallum

Producers: Michael McCallum, William C. McCallum, Jonathan Worful

Key Cast: William C. McCallum, Barb Dalman, Erik Keener, Mackenzie Beckmann, Sineh Wurie, Denis Link

Director's Bio: Michael McCallum is an award-winning director/writer/actor/editor who was born in Lansing, MI where he currently resides. He started acting in 1997 and started his film company, Rebel Pictures, in 1999. Nine films by Rebel Pictures have won 44 major awards, been nominated for 32 other major awards, and have been accepted to 84 film festivals internationally. He was excited to work, again, with his talented father, William C. McCallum, who plays the lead role in Buffalo. They also wrote the film together. McCallum had two official selections in the 2014 Soo Film Festival.

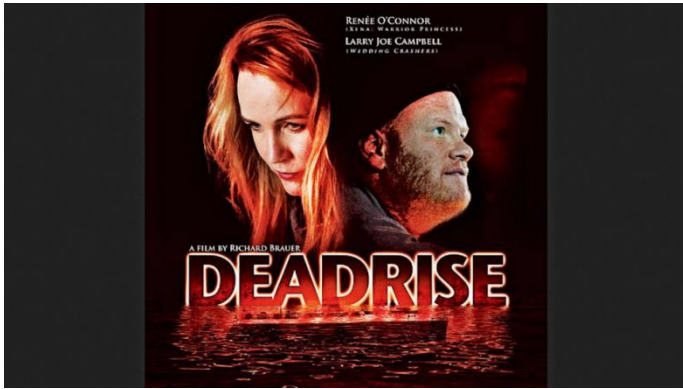
Screenings and Awards: 2013 Garden State Film Festival (Atlantic City, NJ), Best Country Song - "Sugar High" - Jen Sygit.

Sunday, September 13, 2:30pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Narrative Features

Deadrise

Narrative Feature, 2015, 1 hour 33 minutes, English, U.S.



An inspector for the Historic Trust visits an abandoned ship on a desolate waterfront. Moments after her arrival, her car is seriously disabled and her life is about to change forever. In the chaos that follows, she meets up with the self-appointed caretaker who is the odd caretaker on the ship. Without any particular option, she takes him up on his offer to spend the night. Indeed, her life will never be the same...

Great Lakes connection: "Was filmed aboard the Great Lakes historic car ferry SS City of Milwaukee."

Directors: Rich Brauer

Writers: Rich Brauer

Producers: Rich Brauer

Key Cast: Larry Joe Campbell, Renee O'Connor

Director's Bio: Rich Brauer is president of Brauer Productions, Inc., an independent film and video production company he founded in 1977 after graduating with a B.A. in Motion Picture Production and Undersea Photographic Technology from Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, CA. After many years of making films for a wide variety of clients, Brauer received the Michigan Filmmaker of the Year award at the 2009 Traverse City Film Festival, presented by filmmaker Michael Moore. Past recipients have been actor Jeff Daniels, writer Kurt Luedtke, and actress Christine Lahti. Brauer has directed 10 feature films and hundreds of other projects.

Saturday, September 12, 10:00pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Narrative Features

Lovestruck! The Musical

Narrative Feature, 2015, 53 minutes, English, U.S., Student Project (Brigham Young University, Provo, UT)



A musical that follows Noah, a boy with a song in his heart and dreams to share messages of love with the vile Knawkemoutville, a city obsessed with violence and boxing

Great Lakes connection: None, but we love a story of bringing a theatre back to life! And you will too!

Directors: Gary Groth

Writers: Lauren Laws

Key Cast: Jacob Swain, Carolyn Keller, Andy Fernuik, Wes Wright

Producers: Lauren Laws, Gary Groth

Director of Photography: Willem Kampenhout

Dance Choreographer: Kimberly Mullen Johnson

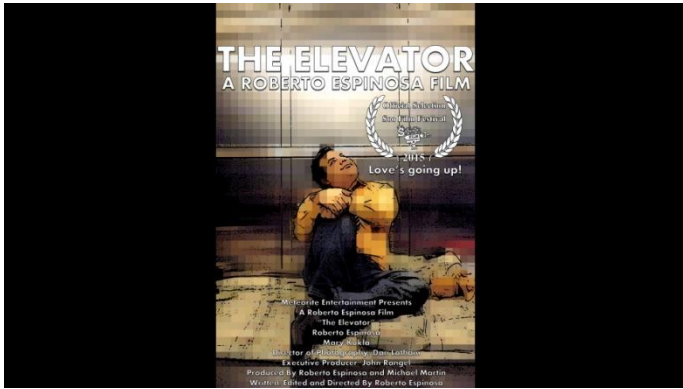
Director's Bio: With a lifelong reverence for the art of storytelling, Gary Groth graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in Media Arts Studies with an emphasis on directing and cinematography. While at BYU, Gary directed several short films. "Lovestruck! The Musical" marks new territory for both Gary and the university as it is a feature-length musical. Applying the film theories studied in school, while pulling from examples of musicals from contemporary back to the 1950's, he and his team sought to make "Lovestruck! The Musical" a film that employs structures and cues of the traditional musical genre, while still maintaining a unique flavor. Gary married his sweetheart and filmmaking partner, April, in 2013. They are planning to move to Los Angeles in August 2015 to tell stories together.

Films: Narrative Features

Lovestruck! The Musical *(continued)*

Lovestruck! The Musical will be preceded by a short romantic comedy. Together the two films will run about 68 minutes.

The Elevator



DIRECTOR: Roberto Espinosa

United States, 2014, Narrative, 15 min, English, Student Project (College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois)

A man who lives in an elevator attempts to ask the girl of his dreams out on a date. (The director is from Des Plaines, in the Great Lakes State of Illinois.)

Saturday, September 12, 8:00pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Narrative Features

Other Madnesses

Narrative Feature, 2014, 1 hour 45 minutes, English, U.S.



A reclusive tour guide becomes an unlikely vigilante when the dark underbelly of New York City is revealed through his dreams.

"This '70s-era-inspired psychological thriller feels like a fever dream. Other Madnesses is a film that effectively gets under your skin." - *The Hollywood Reporter*

Great Lakes connection: "'Our lead actor James Moles hails from Jackson, MI.'" The film is set in New York City in the Great Lakes State of New York.

Directors: Jeremy Carr

Writers: Jeremy Carr

Producers: Jeremy Carr, Dawn Fidrick

Key Cast: James Moles, Natia Dune, Ilya Slovesnik, Sheilah Smiley, William Farrow

Composer: Stephen Light

Director's Bio: Jeremy Carr is a Los Angeles-based writer/director who *The Hollywood Reporter* described as "someone to watch." He makes his feature length debut with the psychological thriller *Other Madnesses*, which was developed through The New York IFP. His award-winning short films include *Nuclear Winter*, *The Dirtiest Racket in Town*, *Portraits of a Nightmare*, and *Ice Cream Ants* (featuring Tom Noonan). He is a graduate of the film program at Boston University and has been a guest lecturer at The University of Southern California.

Screenings and Awards: 2015 First Time Fest (New York City), World Premiere, "Outstanding Achievement in Acting" - James Moles

Friday, September 11, 10:00pm
Soo Theatre

BUY TICKETS AND PASSES AT SOOFILMFESTIVAL.ORG *Program subject to change.

Films: Narrative Features

Superior

Narrative Feature, 2013, 1 hour 24 minutes, English, U.S.



In the summer of 1969, Derek Suntila is weeks away from the Vietnam War and Charlie Eskola is weeks away from his first days at Michigan Tech University. Before the two best friends go their separate ways, they leave their small hometown in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on one final adventure: a two-week, 1,300 mile bike ride around the massive and unforgiving Lake Superior.

Great Lakes connection: "Lake Superior is the focal point of the film!"

Directors: Edd Benda

Writers: Edd Benda

Producers: Edd Benda, Alex Bell, Stephen Helstad

Key Cast: Paul Stanko, Thatcher Robinson

Director's Bio: Edd Benda makes up half of the Beyond the Porch production tandem along with Alex Bell. While mainly a Michigan native, Edd also spent time living in Germany, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Florida, Colorado, and most recently California. Much like the rest of the Superior team, Edd attended the USC School of Cinematic Arts where he focused on directing under instruction from notable directors Barnet Kellman, Peter Sollett, and Jennifer Warren among many others. Edd comes from a massive Midwestern family, and he found his calling as a filmmaker around the family dining room table where storytelling reigned supreme. Superior is Edd Benda's debut feature film as a Writer, Director, and Producer.

Screenings and Awards: Dances with Films (Hollywood, CA), World Premiere, June 5, 2015; Calumet Theatre (Calumet, MI), Official Michigan Premiere, July 30, 2015

Friday, September 11, 8:00pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Narrative Features

The Road to Tophet

Narrative Feature, 2014, 1 hour 26 minutes, English, Canada



Charlie is a young guy involved in the cross-border drug trade in Northern Ontario. After he decides he wants to leave the industry, his boss sets him up in order to force him to keep working.

Great Lakes connection: "The film was shot and set in Northern Ontario with Sault, Ontario actor Matt Connors."

Directors: Steve Schmidt

Writers: Steve Schmidt

Producers: Axel Green

Key Cast: Adam Beach, Samuel Thivierge, Axel Green, Matt Connors

Director's Bio: Steve Schmidt is an award-winning filmmaker and Leo-nominated editor of the highly acclaimed Showtime feature documentary *Beyond Gay* which won eight Best Documentary awards. He wrote, produced and directed the award-winning short film *Dead Simple*. *The Road to Tophet* - which won Best Micro-Budget Feature at the Toronto Independent Film Festival (2014) and Best Director at the Green Bay Film Festival - is his feature film directorial debut.

Screenings and Awards: Toronto Independent Film Festival (Toronto, Ontario), Best Micro-Budget Feature, September 5, 2014; 2015 Green Bay Film Festival (Green Bay, Wisconsin), Best Director; 2015 Queens World Film Festival (New York)

Films: Narrative Features

The Road to Tophet *(continued)*

The Road to Tophet will be preceded by a short narrative. Together the two films will run about 1 hour 41 minutes.

Two Wolves



DIRECTOR: Jonathan Elliott

Canada, 2015, Narrative, 15 min, English, Student Project (York University, Toronto, Ontario)

Danny is a young and misguided Mohawk woman trying to find her way on the Six Nations Reserve. When her older sister Kim is brutally attacked and believed dead, Danny must come to terms with her past, her culture, and the haunting revelation that her sister has survived the attack and has become something far worse than anything she could have imagined. (The director was raised on the Six Nations Reserve in southern Ontario.)

Sunday, September 13, 7:30pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Documentary Feature

PROJECT: ICE

Documentary Feature, 2013, 1 hour 58 minutes, English, U.S.



Formed by ice, filled by ice, often covered by ice, the Great Lakes encapsulate human exploration, migration, development and where we're headed. PROJECT: ICE views North America's fresh water inland ocean through the prism of ice, from the crossroads of history, science and climate change.

Great Lakes connection: "PROJECT: ICE is about the Great Lakes region. The majority of production took place in and around the Great Lakes."

Directors: Bill Kleinert

Writers: Bill Kleinert, Brian Jaeschke

Producers: Bill Kleinert

Cinematographers: Jason Marlin, Henry Bourne Joy IV

Co-Producers: Kevin Kusina

Executive Producers: Leslie Johnson, Bill Kleinert

Director's Bio: William Kleinert is a committed environmentalist, avid student of history, and a 40-year veteran of the media business. Kleinert is the producer, director and/or writer of six documentaries, as well as 600 television commercials, dozens of corporate and association productions and music videos.

Screenings and Awards: Canada International Film Festival (Vancouver, British Columbia), Award of Excellence in Filmmaking; East Lansing Film Festival (East Lansing, MI), Best Documentary; Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital (Washington, DC); Freep Film Festival (Detroit, MI), North American Premiere, March 22, 2014; and others.

Saturday, September 12, 2:00pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Animated Feature

Battledream Chronicle

Narrative Feature, 2015, 1 hour 48 minutes, French (English subtitles), Martinique



In 2100, the empire of Mortemonde colonized almost all the nations of the Earth and reduced their populations to slavery. Every slave is forced to collect 1000XP every month in Battledream, a video game where they can die for real. Only those who succeed are granted the right to live until the following month. Syanna, a young Martinician slave, refuses to keep living in this condition and decides to fight for her freedom...

Great Lakes connection: None, but this is a great sci-fi, action/adventure, animated film!

Directors: Alain Bidard

Writers: Alain Bidard

Producers: José R. Nerain

Key Actors: Jacques Olivier Ensfielder, Yna Boulangé, Steffy Glissant, Célia Guitteaud

Director's Bio: Specialized in CG animation film production, Alain Bidard is an independent director who has worked in Martinique for 12 years. In 1996 he entered SUPINFOCOM (Valenciennes), one of the best Computer Graphics schools in Europe. There, he directed his first animation film, "Pixies", which entered many festivals including the prestigious Imagina festival in Monaco. Between 2000 and 2007, he directed a dozen of animated short films, including "Opale", a film which entered Cannes Festival and won the Best Film Award in the Cinema Meetings of CMAC in 2006, along with the Best director Award in FEMI in 2007. Battledream Chronicle is his first animated feature film.

Screenings and Awards: 2015 San Diego International Kids' Film Festival (San Diego, CA)

Sunday, September 13, noon
Soo Theatre

Films: Shorts Blocks

Shorts Block 1 - Welcome to the Festival (60min)

****FREE ADMISSION****

Friday, September 11, 4:30 pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from Hooks

Welcome to the Festival! To get us off to a good start, this shorts program has **FREE ADMISSION!** So come downtown to the Soo Theatre and help us kick off the festival. You'll get to see a preview of our feature films, as well as a sampling of great short films from around the world. And did we mention? It's **FREE!**

Preview of Coming Attractions

DIRECTORS: Various

15 min

Check out the trailers of the festival's feature films.

Only Wanna Party

DIRECTOR: Brian Kohne

United States, 2014, Music Video, 3 min, English

"Only Wanna Party" is the hit single on the award-winning soundtrack CD from the full feature comedy, Get a Job. The music video was directed on the last day of production during filming of Get a Job in the early morning hours just before the Maui sunrise. This project showcased the vast array of multicultural talent and creative support within the film community of Hawaii. (The producer and director are native sons of Michigan.)

The Deer Hunter

DIRECTOR: David Tietmeyer

United States, 2015, Documentary, 16 min, English

Follow as we chase down Dane Gussin in his pursuit of Whitetail deer. (Filmed in Michigan.)

Shorts Block 1 - Welcome to the Festival (60min) (continued)

****FREE ADMISSION****

Modern Man (An Animated Tribute to George Carlin)

DIRECTOR: Robert Lyons

United States, 2013, Animation, 4 min, English, Student Project (University of the Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

An animated tribute to one of the world's all-time great comedian philosophers, George Carlin, based on his relentlessly poignant and self-reflective monologue "I'm a Modern Man". This film is a cut-out style animation anijam and was created by students from my animation classes at Philadelphia's University of the Arts from 2009 to 2013. The inspiration for this project began when George Carlin was awarded the Mark Twain Prize for American humor in 2008. He did not live to attend this event in his honor and was the first person to receive this award posthumously. (Created in Philadelphia in the Great Lakes State of Pennsylvania.)

Black Flowers

DIRECTOR: Anna Damaskova

Bulgaria, 2015, Music Video, 5 min, English

Music video of "Black Flowers," by Pagliacci, a metal opera band from Sofia, Bulgaria.

Condemned to Failure

DIRECTOR: Jasmin Pivić

Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2013, Narrative, 10 min, Croatian, Serbian with English subtitles

A young man trains to become an Olympics swimmer. From the director: "This movie is a true story about young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina but it refers to all former Yugoslav republics. This story will help you better appreciate the things you take for granted. Filmed with a cell phone."

Girls Don't Cry Wolf

DIRECTORS: John Chigas, Anna Eva Kotyza

United States, 2015, Music Video, 4 min, English, Student Production (Interlochen Arts Academy, Interlochen, Michigan)

Girls Don't Cry Wolf is dedicated to survivors of sexual assault. Girls ages 16-19 are four times more likely to be victims of sexual violence than the general population. Together we can raise awareness to end this culture that perpetuates the objectification and oppression of young women. (Filmed on location in Interlochen, Michigan.)

Hooks

DIRECTOR: Erin Latimer

Australia, 2014, Music Video, 4 min, English, Student Production (Sydney Film School, Sydney, Australia)

Conceptualized and directed by Erin Latimer, 'Hooks' is the debut music video for emerging Australian singer/songwriter Daniel Tomalaris. Daniel is a young and upcoming indie artist with a passion for guitar strings and soulful folk sounds. Erin Latimer runs the film production company Permanent Ink Pictures in partnership with her brother Justin Latimer. Hooks was the first production to be released officially under the Permanent Ink name. Cinematography by Hannah Klassek; 1st Assistant Directing by Justin Latimer; makeup and hair by Kat Margarita.

Films: Shorts Blocks

Shorts Block 2 - Mixed Shorts (83min)

Friday, September 11, 6:00 pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from Believe the Lie

This program is, well, mixed. There are short narratives, animations, and music videos from all over the world. We were looking for amazing animation, beautiful cinematography, great acting, and a variety of perspectives. We think you'll agree we found them.

One Thing

DIRECTOR: Michael McCallum

United States, 2014, Music Video, 5 min, English

A music video for talented musician, Jen Sygit. This music video is also a companion piece to the next feature film from Rebel Pictures and Writer/Director, Michael McCallum, Buffalo. (This music video, which is a companion piece to Buffalo, was entirely shot in Lansing, Michigan and features a talented Michigan musician, Jen Sygit.)

Believe the Lie

DIRECTOR: Javier Longobardo

Spain, 2013, Animation, 5 min, English

Corbu are an electronic, indie-rock band from Brooklyn, New York spearheaded by producer and multi-instrumentalist Jonathan Graves.

Son in the Barbershop

DIRECTOR: Nathan Douglas

Canada, 2015, Narrative, 7 min, English, Russian

A teenager overhears a phone call and inserts himself into the father-son story behind it. As this strange "conversation" develops, two separately wounded lives slowly wind into a double helix of pain, regret, and filial love. A one-shot short. (The director grew up along Lake Ontario.)

The Great Escape

DIRECTOR: Tommy Redolfi

France, 2014, Music Video, 9 min

Early 20th century. The first boy is seven. Bullied at school, he spends most of his time with his dog, Spidi. Together, they enjoy playing in the surrounding fields. What they like most is watching fireflies play in the dark. But one night, another boy, a bully, comes to make trouble...

The Cold One

DIRECTOR: Sandy Shelton

United States, 2015, Narrative, 6 min, English

Dean goes looking for his missing brother and finds more than he bargained for... (Filmed in Michigan.)

Shorts Block 2 - Mixed Shorts (83min) (continued)

Bless(e) You

DIRECTOR: Joris Favraud

France, 2014, Music Video, 4 min, French

Music video of "Bless(e) You" by the French group Babel.

Love and Badminton

DIRECTOR: Kenneth Maharaj

United States, 2015, Narrative, 18 min, English

Meldrick Whitaker is at a major cross-road in his life: Stay committed to his beleaguered marriage to Wilamina or succumb to his infatuation to Lisa who happens to be the only person that shares an interest in his favorite avocation, badminton. Aided by his logical best friend, Pernell Taylor, what path will Meldrick choose? (Filmed in New York City, in the Great Lakes State of New York.)

Fight Club

DIRECTOR: Andrzej Juraszczyk

Poland, 2015, Music Video, 5 min, English, Polish

"United States of Beta - Poles Jazz the World" album is the result of two years of searching, focusing and mutual discovering of each other and learning to accept each other. It is an album that made us aware of the fact that despite everything we are one, blended in time. It is this experience that we want to convey in our music video "Fight Club", hoping that, in our complex world heading in an uncertain direction, it will give you some reflection.

The Cat's Cradle

DIRECTOR: David Spaltro

United States, 2014, Narrative, 15 min, English

Jim and Amy are a young couple attempting to conceive. As these attempts become all-consuming in their lives, stress and tension build between them. A romantic evening turns into a night of confessions and betrayal that will forever change their relationship. (The director is from New York City, in the Great Lakes State of New York.)

Counsellor

DIRECTOR: Venetia Taylor

Australia, 2014, Narrative, 2 min, English

This woman needs help. A very short comedy about regret.

MEAT

DIRECTOR: Jordan Wippell

United States, 2015, Narrative, 5 min, English, Student Production (University of Advancing Technology, Tempe, Arizona)

"Meat is a rich and provocative stab at self-aware meta-drama..." - Cinema Craze (Felix Vasquez).

Influenced by the art of Barbara Kruger, noise rock and films like American Psycho (2000) and Little Children (2006), MEAT explores the raw, disturbed inner thoughts of a middle-aged man amidst an existential crisis. As his darkest introspective musings are exposed, you may come to realize you both have more in common than first "meats" the eye.

Who'd Cut the Lights

DIRECTOR: Amin Haghshenas

Iran, Islamic Republic of, 2015, Animation, 4 min, Persian with English subtitles

Humorous animated music video in the Jib Jab style.

Films: Shorts Blocks

Shorts Block 3 - For the Family (80 min)

Saturday, September 12, noon - Soo Theatre



Still photo from EmBarked

This program of family-friendly short films will be fun for kids of all ages. It is mostly animations of different styles with a few narrative shorts mixed in. It starts off with a few films made by kids: 4th and 5th graders from Houston!

Please note: although these films have been selected with the whole family in mind, they don't have official ratings, so please read the full descriptions and choose responsibly.

The K.D. Documentary

DIRECTORS: Aurora Picture Show, Reynolds Elementary

United States, 2015, Animation, 3 min, English, Student Project (4th Graders at Reynolds Elementary School, Houston, Texas)

Reynolds Elementary 4th and 5th graders Corey, Hezekiah, Jaevin and Jonathan discuss the life and basketball career of their hero, Oklahoma City Thunder star, Kevin Durant, and reveal why he inspires them. With original music by their classmates, Jaulavia, Daesha, and Diamond.

The Boxers

DIRECTORS: Aurora Picture Show, Reynolds Elementary

United States, 2015, Animation, 1min, English, Student Project (4th Graders at Reynolds Elementary School, Houston, Texas)

A song-film about a boxer, written, performed, animated and scored by Reynolds Elementary 4th graders Daesha, Diamond, Jaevin, and David.

Guitar Man

DIRECTORS: Aurora Picture Show, Reynolds Elementary

United States, 2015, Animation, 2 min, English, Student Project (A 3rd Grader at Reynolds Elementary School, Houston, Texas)

Jaulavia, a girl in the 3rd grade, discusses the things that are most important to her: drawing, music, and her family. With original score by the narrator herself.

Shorts Block 3 - For the Family (80 min) (continued)

EmBarked

DIRECTORS: Adele Hawkins, Mikel Mugica, Soo Kyung Kang

United States, 2015, Animation, 4 min, English, Student Project (Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota, Florida)

When Jimmy moves away from his old house, the tree house he left behind magically comes to life. With nothing else keeping him in the country, the tree house decides to follow to Jimmy to the city. (One of the directors is from Dearborn, Michigan.)

The First Monday of Summer

DIRECTOR: John Chigas

United States, 2013, Animation, 4 min, English, Student Project (Interlochen Arts Academy, Interlochen, Michigan)

A teenage boy wakes up one Monday morning thinking he is late for school. Foolishly unaware that it is the first day of summer vacation, he gets out of bed, hops on his bike, and starts the long trek to his abandoned high school, only to realize he has forgotten one thing... (This was filmed on location in Interlochen, Michigan.)

September Sketch Book

DIRECTOR: Ronnie Cramer

United States, 2014, Animation, 8 min, English

September Sketch Book is an experimental film created using old school animation; over 5,400 drawings made with pen and paper. The film is abstract in nature, with sequences based on flags from around the world.

Vitamin C

DIRECTOR: Serena Acosta

Mexico, 2014, Animation, 4 min, English, Student Project (Vancouver Film School, Vancouver, British Columbia)

A curious tale about two sisters who, while playing in the forest near their house, fell into the magic that hides deep at night.

Chick+Chick

Ricardo Culebro d'Argence

Mexico, 2014, Animation, 5 min, English, Student Project (Vancouver Film School, Vancouver, British Columbia)

Young and lonely Pollyanna has lived for as long as she can remember in a desolate island in the Primordial Sea feeding on a coconut tree. But one day, her daily coconut came with a little surprise that would change her fate and the universe itself forever.

The Red Thunder

DIRECTOR: Alvaro Ron

United States, 2015, Narrative, 6min, English

Sarah (Allie Grant, "Weeds"), a nerdy teenager, needs her mom's brand new car to go on a date with Danny (Miles Heizer, "Parenthood"), the boy she is in love with. Her mom, Dr. Thun (Karen Strassman, "Silicon Valley"), an absent minded Podiatrist is concerned about Sarah driving by the dangerous streets of downtown Los Angeles. She tells her daughter she may need her car if one of her patients has an emergency, but Sarah doesn't buy it. After all Dr. Thun is just a Podiatrist... Sarah receives a message from Danny asking if she is going to pick him up and she decides to disobey her mom and steal the car. Little does she know the vehicle is actually part of a secret Dr. Thun keeps and this discovery will change Sarah's life forever... (Produced with the support of a Michigan company.)

Shorts Block 3 - For the Family (80 min) (continued)

Switch Man

DIRECTORS: Hsun-Chun Chuang, Shao-Kuei Tong

Taiwan, 2015, Animation, 4 min, English, Student Project (Taiwan Tech, Taipei, Taiwan)

On a normal quiet Sunday, Dr. Evil Mantis attacked K-City unexpectedly with his gigantic claw, sending the entire city into a panic. At the very critical moment, one young man stood out to fight the evil Dr. Mantis. This is the moment for the hidden superhero to reveal himself and his secret power is about to turn this chaos upside down. The Legend is about to begin... (This film has won many animation awards, for example, Best Animation at 7th New York Los Angeles International Film Festival 2015.)

Wallets

DIRECTOR: Thomas Butcher

United States, 2015, Narrative, 5 min, English

Wallets is a silent short film about a man who steals wallets and then returns them so he can profit from the reward. (This was filmed in Michigan. The director is from Troy, Michigan.)

R.P.M. 2

DIRECTOR: Ryan Fox

United States, 2014, Animation, 3 min, English, Student Project (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

A kaleidoscopic video experiment using the revolutions of a car tire. (The film was shot within a mile of Lake Michigan. The director is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.)

Touché Toupee

DIRECTOR: Chaz Bottoms

United States, 2015, Animation, 2 min, English, Student Project (DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois)

A man desperately tries to get his wig back from a stubborn armadillo. (The director is from Cleveland, Ohio and lives and goes to school in Chicago, Illinois, both on Great Lakes.)

Rosso Papavero

DIRECTOR: Martin Smatana

Slovakia, 2015, Animation, 5 min, 0:05:15, Student Project (Academy of Performing Arts, Bratislava, Slovakia)

Once upon a starry night, a small boy with the head full of fantasies witnesses dreamlike circus performances. Dazed by an endless chain of glittering attractions he realizes that the price of a ticket to the fantastic circus tent is too high and the gate between reality and dream is closing.

Wild Encounter

DIRECTORS: Phillip Brunson, Yadnee Kohok, Carlos Soler

United States, 2015, Animation, 3 min, English, Student Project (Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Georgia)

Wild Encounter is a short 2-D animation about a family's trip to a drive-through safari. While the kids want to feed the wild animals, the father only wants to keep his car safe from harm. It is all up to the father to put a stop to the oncoming slobber fest.

Shorts Block 3 - For the Family (80 min) (continued)

Volcano!

DIRECTOR: Marie Cheng

United States, 2015, Animation, 5 min, English, Student Project (Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, Chapman University, Orange, California)

A little girl can't seem to figure out why her volcano science project won't explode. Little does she know that her experiment has taken on a life of its own.

Hutong Meow

DIRECTOR: Kaide Wang

China, 2015, Animation, 3 min, Chinese, Student Project (Communication University of China, Beijing, China)

Stop-motion animation of a day in the life of a cat in a Northern Chinese alley.

L'ENVOL

DIRECTOR: Hajime Kimura

France, 2015, Animation, 4 min, English

The caged bird dreams of clouds. This unique film made by the Japanese director Hajime Kimura is composed of 2400 images created one by one with Photoshop only using the pen brush tool that gives a blurry hand-painted aesthetic.

Sirens Call

DIRECTOR: Paul Murphy

United Kingdom, 2015, Animation, 3 min, English, Student Project (Staffordshire University, Staffordshire, England)

A surreal 2D animated journey from earth, into space and back down to earth again. Sirens Call music is written and performed by Marc Kenny.

Alien Antics!

DIRECTOR: Terry L. Ernsberger

United States, 2015, Animation, 6 min, English

An alien and his little buddy get more than they bargained for when they try to steal a freezer full of ice cream treats from a backwater gas station near Roswell, New Mexico.

Films: Shorts Blocks

Shorts Block 4 - Local Short Films (144 min)

Saturday, September 12, 5:00pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from To Invoke Requiem

This program showcases a diverse group of films involving local filmmakers and actors. The program includes one short documentary (look for the Orange Crush sign); the rest are narrative shorts of various lengths and genres, including one that stars Steven Wiig, a native of Negaunee and a member of our advisory board. If you are from one of the twin Soos, watch carefully: you might see someone you know!

Snow Train

DIRECTOR: Bill Blanchard

United States, 2013, Narrative, 6 min, English

Take the Algoma RR Snow Train and watch for wildlife. (The Director is a Sault Tribe member who lives in Lansing, Michigan, and was 2014 Soo Film Festival Filmmaker.)

A Place Like Home

DIRECTOR: Adam Gualtieri

Canada, 2015, Documentary, 13 min, English, Student Project (Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario)

After 40 years of service, the Schultz family is forced to close the doors of their local neighborhood establishment. (This film was shot in and the filmmaker and subjects are from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.)

My Annoying Friend

DIRECTOR: Danial O'Brien

Canada, 2015, Narrative, 4 min, English

Feeling frustrated when Joe is late picking him up from work for the thousandth time, Caleb brings up an old agreement allowing him to annoy the living shit out of Joe for an entire minute as revenge for this latest betrayal. (This film was shot in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. All cast and crew are from the region.)

Driving to Nowhere

DIRECTOR: Danial O'Brien

Canada, 2015, Narrative, 3 min, English

When an unexpected phone call forces him to confront the man he's become, Elijah is surprised to learn what he finds. (This film was shot in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. All cast and crew are from the region.)

Shorts Block 4 - Local Short Films (144 min) (continued)

here we go

DIRECTOR: Danial O'Brien

Canada, 2014, Narrative, 3 min, English, Student Project (Sault College, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario)

In your 20's, relationships can be like Lego blocks. This film is for those people who are still searching for that perfect complementary piece. In this film, our hero tries to rush things in an effort to feel like life is happening to him. This comes at a price: He can't really enjoy the moments he finds himself living. There's a huge discrepancy between who he dreamed he would be and the person he is. Maybe all he needs to do to find happiness is bring those two versions of himself closer together. (This film was shot in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. All cast and crew are from the region.)

To Invoke Requiem

DIRECTOR: Kishe Caelan Wallace

United States, 2015, Narrative, 36 min, English

Amanda meets Jack, a missionary from Africa and Nepal. They fall in love and marry. One week after the wedding, Jack turns back to Africa to finish up work in the missions when his helicopter crashes into a cane field, leaving Amanda a newlywed widow. She must find out how to embrace the faith that Jack gave her and find peace during this time of purgatory. She resolves that it is better to embrace love (both Jack's and God's) than to writhe alone in the earthly hell that we create for ourselves. (This film was shot in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The director is from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and was 2014 Soo Film Festival Filmmaker.)

Ghost Detectives 2

DIRECTOR: Michael Dotson

United States, 2015, Narrative, 23 min, English

The Ghost Detective team is working on the pilot episode of the revised television series and investigate a haunted house with a rival ghost hunting team. (This film was shot in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The director is from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and was 2014 Soo Film Festival Filmmaker.)

Dead Metaphors

Patrick Ford

United States, 2014, Narrative, 25 min, English, Student Project (Art Institute of California - Sacramento, California)

A short film about a self-destructive, reclusive novelist who hasn't published in decades and the prying journalist who hopes to find out why. (The lead actor is Steven Wiig, a native of Negaunee, Michigan and a member of the Soo Film Festival Advisory Board.)

2015 Soo Film Festival Schedule Grid

2015 Soo Film Festival Schedule Grid				
Friday September 11		Saturday September 12		Sunday September 13
		12 - 1:30pm Shorts 3 For the Family Family-friendly short films	12 - 2:00pm Battledream Chronicle	108 min
4:30 - 5:30pm **FREE** Shorts 1 Welcome to the Festival Trailers and mixed shorts 60 min		2 - 4:30pm PROJECT: ICE (118 min) Reserved for Q&A (30 min) 148 min	2:30 -4:00pm Buffalo	78 min
6:00 - 7:30pm Shorts 2 Mixed Shorts 83min		5 - 7:30 pm Shorts 4 Local Short Films (115min) Reserved for Q&A (30min) 145 min	4 :30-7:00 America is Still the Place (90 min) Reserved for Q&A (60 min)	150min
8 - 9:30pm Superior 84min		8 - 9:30pm The Elevator (15 min) Lovestruck! The Musical (53 min) 68 min	7:30 - 9:30pm Two Wolves (15 min) The Road to Tophet (87min) 102min	
10pm - midnight Other Madnnesses 105min		10pm - midnight Deadrise (94 min) Reserved for Q&A (30 min) 124 min	10:00 - midnight All Hallows Eve: Oct. 30th	104min
<div><div>All films will be shown at the Soo Theatre, 534 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.</div><div>Buy tickets online or call (906) 632-1930. Program is subject to change.</div></div> <div><div>Ticket info - Tickets go on sale August 31</div><div>Single Film Ticket \$7 General Admission (per block) \$5 Seniors and Students (per block) Daily Pass \$20 (admission to all blocks on a single day) Festival Pass \$50 (admission to all programs, all days)</div><div>On Facebook at SooFilmFestival</div><div>SooFilmFestival.org</div></div>				

Shorts Blocks

Shorts 1: Welcome to the Festival

Fri, Sep 11, 4:30pm

Only Wanna Party
The Deer Hunter
Modern Man (An Animated
Tribute to George Carlin)
Black Flowers
Condemned to Failure
Girls Don't Cry Wolf
Hooks

Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts

Fri, Sep 11, 6pm

One Thing
Believe the Lie
Son in the Barbershop
The Great Escape
The Cold One
Bless(e) You
Love and Badminton
Fight Club
The Cat's Cradle
Counsellor
MEAT
Who'd Cut the Lights

Shorts 3: For the Family

Sat, Sep 12, noon

The K.D. Documentary
The Boxers
Guitar Man
EmBarked
The First Monday of Summer
September Sketch Book
Vitamin C
Chick+Chick
The Red Thunder
Switch Man
Wallets
R.P.M. 2
Touché Toupee
Rosso Papavero
Wild Encounter
Volcano!
Hutong Meow
L'ENVOL
Sirens Call
Alien Antics!

Shorts 4: Local Short Films

Sat, Sep 12, 5pm

Snow Train
A Place Like Home
My Annoying Friend
Driving to Nowhere
here we go
To Invoke Requiem
Ghost Detectives 2
Dead Metaphors

Index to Films

Film Title	Page	Block Name	Block Date and Time
A Place Like Home	25	Shorts 4: Local Short Films	Sat, Sep 12, 5pm
Alien Antics!	24	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
All Hallows Eve: Oct. 30th	5	All Hallows Eve: Oct. 30th	Sun, Sep 13, 10pm
America Is Still the Place	6	America Is Still the Place	Sun, Sep 13, 4:30pm
Battledream Chronicle	16	Battledream Chronicle	Sun, Sep 13, noon
Believe the Lie	19	Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts	Fri, Sep 11, 6pm
Black Flowers	17	Shorts 1: Welcome to the Festival	Fri, Sep 11, 4:30pm
Bless(e) You	20	Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts	Fri, Sep 11, 6pm
Buffalo	7	Buffalo	Sun, Sep 13, 2:30pm
Chick+Chick	22	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
Condemned to Failure	18	Shorts 1: Welcome to the Festival	Fri, Sep 11, 4:30pm
Counsellor	20	Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts	Fri, Sep 11, 6pm
Dead Metaphors	26	Shorts 4: Local Short Films	Sat, Sep 12, 5pm
Deadrise	8	Deadrise	Sat, Sep 12, 10pm
Driving to Nowhere	25	Shorts 4: Local Short Films	Sat, Sep 12, 5pm
EmBarked	21	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
Fight Club	20	Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts	Fri, Sep 11, 6pm
Ghost Detectives 2	26	Shorts 4: Local Short Films	Sat, Sep 12, 5pm
Girls Don't Cry Wolf	18	Shorts 1: Welcome to the Festival	Fri, Sep 11, 4:30pm
Guitar Man	21	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
here we go	25	Shorts 4: Local Short Films	Sat, Sep 12, 5pm
Hooks	18	Shorts 1: Welcome to the Festival	Fri, Sep 11, 4:30pm
Hutong Meow	23	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
L'ENVOL	24	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
Love and Badminton	20	Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts	Fri, Sep 11, 6pm
Lovestruck! The Musical	9	Lovestruck! The Musical	Sat, Sep 12, 8pm
MEAT	20	Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts	Fri, Sep 11, 6pm
Modern Man (An Animated Tribute to George Carlin)	17	Shorts 1: Welcome to the Festival	Fri, Sep 11, 4:30pm
My Annoying Friend	25	Shorts 4: Local Short Films	Sat, Sep 12, 5pm
One Thing	19	Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts	Fri, Sep 11, 6pm
Only Wanna Party	17	Shorts 1: Welcome to the Festival	Fri, Sep 11, 4:30pm
Other Madnesses	11	Other Madnesses	Fri, Sep 11, 10pm
PROJECT: ICE	15	PROJECT: ICE	Sat, Sep 12, 2pm
R.P.M. 2	23	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
Rosso Papavero	23	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
September Sketch Book	22	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
Sirens Call	24	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
Snow Train	25	Shorts 4: Local Short Films	Sat, Sep 12, 5pm
Son in the Barbershop	19	Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts	Fri, Sep 11, 6pm

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Film Title	Page	Block Name	Block Date and Time
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Switch Man	22	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
The Boxers	21	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
The Cat's Cradle	20	Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts	Fri, Sep 11, 6pm
The Cold One	19	Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts	Fri, Sep 11, 6pm
The Deer Hunter	17	Shorts 1: Welcome to the Festival	Fri, Sep 11, 4:30pm
The Elevator	10	Lovestruck! The Musical	Sat, Sep 12, 8pm
The First Monday of Summer	22	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
The Great Escape	19	Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts	Fri, Sep 11, 6pm
The K.D. Documentary	21	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
The Red Thunder	22	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
The Road to Tophet	13	The Road to Tophet	Sun, Sep 13, 7:30pm
To Invoke Requiem	26	Shorts 4: Local Short Films	Sat, Sep 12, 5pm
Touché Toupee	23	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
Two Wolves	14	The Road to Tophet	Sun, Sep 13, 7:30pm
Vitamin C	22	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
Volcano!	23	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
Wallets	23	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon
Who'd Cut the Lights	20	Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts	Fri, Sep 11, 6pm
Wild Encounter	23	Shorts 3: For the Family	Sat, Sep 12, noon

Roll the Credits!

**A huge thanks to all of the people who
helped to make this year's Soo Film Festival happen!**

The dedicated and talented filmmakers who shared their films,
without whom this festival would not exist!

The filmmakers and cast members who traveled to the Soo
for Q&A sessions about their films. You make it a real film festival.
Our advisory board, for sharing their time, works, expertise, and enthusiasm:

Helen Cho Anthos, Nick Childs, Steve Hamilton, John Regan,
Steven Wiig, and Allison Youngs. We're in awe.

The artists (labels) who allowed their music videos to be screened at the Festival.

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians

The Bay Mills Indian Community

Louise Francis, Morgan Laundry, and everyone at the Soo Theatre Project
Kevin Pomeroy, Pat Dougherty, and everyone at National Office Products.

Thunder Nanie, logo designer extraordinaire!

Tom Ewing, graphics consultant

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Justin Knepper and the Sault Ste. Marie Downtown Development Authority

The City of Sault Ste. Marie

Mark San Angelo and Sovereign Communications

Susan James and the Bayliss Public Library, a Superior District Library

Steve Welch and the Soo Locks Boat Tours

Michigan Digital Imaging

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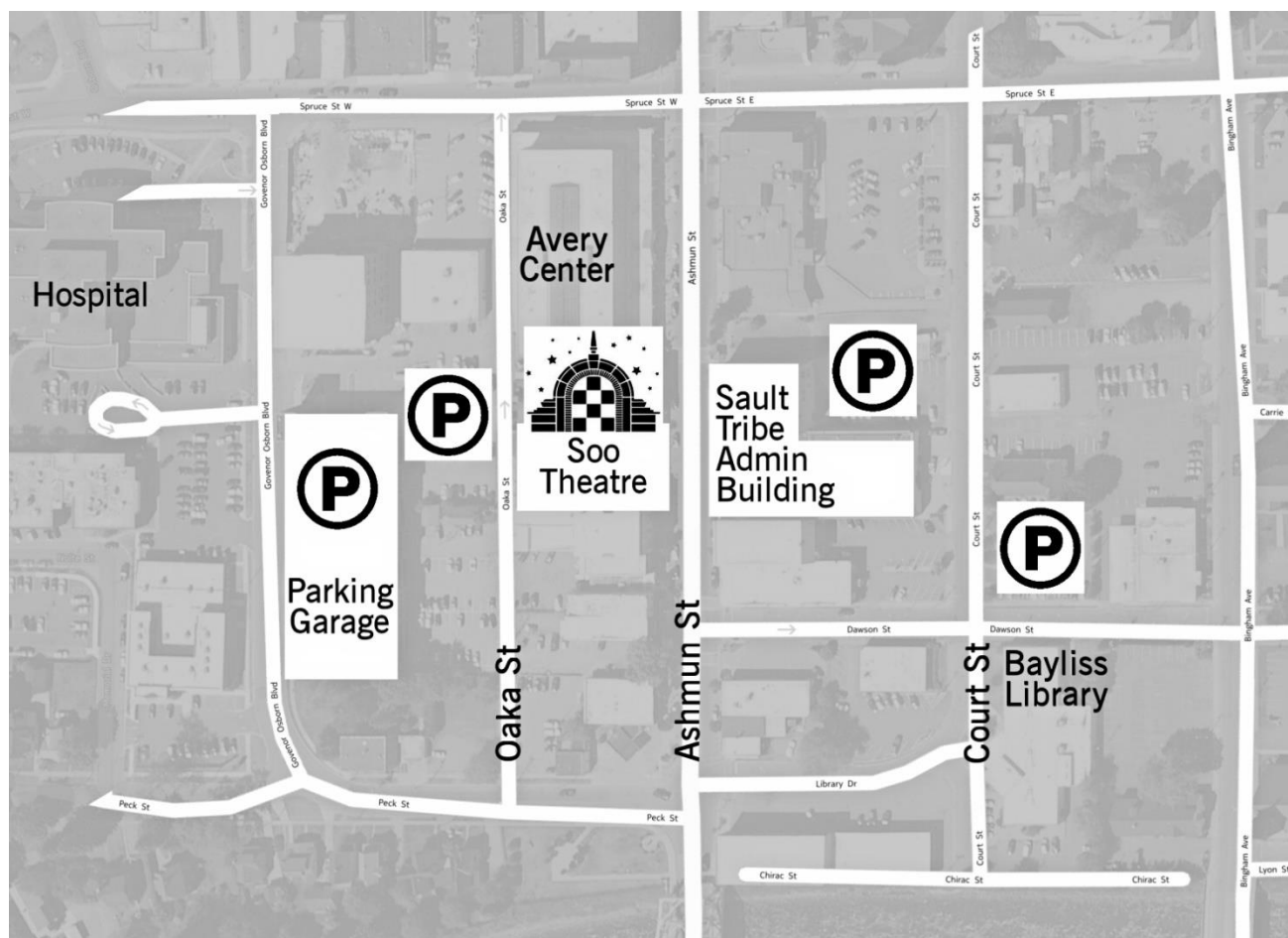
Everyone who helped after this guide went to press.

Everyone who volunteered to help, came to a movie, created a buzz on social media,
or wished us well. Thanks for your energy and enthusiasm!

The Soo Theatre

We see your potential and are working as hard as we can to bring you back to full glory.

Map of Sault Ste. Marie



Soo Film Festival
P.O. Box 1596, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
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SooFilmFestival.org On Facebook at [SooFilmFestival](https://www.facebook.com/SooFilmFestival)

September 11-13, 2015
Soo Theatre, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

About Us

Soo Film Festival, Inc. is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and host film and allied arts festivals in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Soo Film Festival, Inc. seeks to showcase the work of independent and emerging filmmakers from the Great Lakes of North America while bringing movies back to downtown Sault Ste. Marie and the historic Soo Theatre.

Our Mission: Great Lakes, Great Movies!