

2016
Soo Film Festival
September 16-18



FESTIVAL GUIDE

SooFilmFestival.org

f **SooFilmFestival**

(906) 632-1930

Welcome!

Welcome to the third edition of the Soo Film Festival!

We have prepared a full weekend of features and shorts from around the world and especially the Great Lakes region. Once again, we are impressed by the talent and hard work we have seen in the submissions and it has been a pleasure to meet more filmmakers who have a connection to the Soo Theatre or to the Sault Ste. Marie area. We are excited to share our selections with everyone.

The selected features were all shot in or around the Great Lakes: Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Ontario, Canada. A good part of the documentary feature Graveyard of the Great Lakes: A Shipwreck Hunter's Quest to Discover the Past was actually shot in Lake Huron.

The short submissions were truly a global affair. Films came from as far away as Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

The films in this year's festival range from those by beginning filmmakers to films already in distribution. Many are already award-winning films. We are pleased to be part of the process by which films find a wider audience. For example, last year's feature winner and runner-up, Black Gold (formerly known as America Is Still the Place) and Superior, are now moving into limited theatre release as well as release on video and iTunes.

Even with all the changes in the film industry and technology, nothing beats the big screen. And what better venue for the true movie experience than here in the Soo Theatre, a place where movies were an event, right from the start!

Thanks for coming out and supporting the festival. We hope you enjoy the films!

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 the Soo Theatre entrance on Ashmun Street.

You may also park on Dawson or Court Streets or in the lots on those streets.

Please be aware that West Spruce Street between Ashmun Street and Osborn Boulevard will be closed during the Festival.

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 Date

Thursday, September 1

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 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

Bear with Us

Narrative Feature, United States, 2016, 1 hour 34 mins, Black & White



Website: bearwithusfilm.com

Bear with Us is a modern farce about a guy who attempts to propose to his girlfriend in the most romantic way possible, but his meticulous plan starts to fall apart when a ravenous bear stumbles upon their charming cabin in the woods. It's a total comedy of errors that takes a close look at just how far we'll go to preserve our relationships.

Great Lakes Connection: "We shot in Pennsylvania! (though not particularly close to a Great Lake...)"

Director: William J. Stribling

Writers: Russ Nickel, William J. Stribling

Producers: R.J. Lewis, Russ Nickel, William J. Stribling

Key Cast: Christy Carlson Romano, Cheyenne Jackson, Mark Jude Sullivan, Alex McKenna, Kevin Carolan

Director's Bio: William J. Stribling (director, screenwriter, producer) is a graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts, with degrees in Film & TV Production and Dramatic Literature and has an MFA in Screenwriting from Chapman University. In addition to Bear with Us, William has directed the feature film Lies I Told My Little Sister and award-winning short films Break a Leg, Down in Flames: The True Story of Tony "Volcano" Valenci, and Beyond Belief. William is currently in post-production for a web series called Edgar Allen Poe's Murder Mystery Dinner Party, produced by Shipwrecked Comedy.

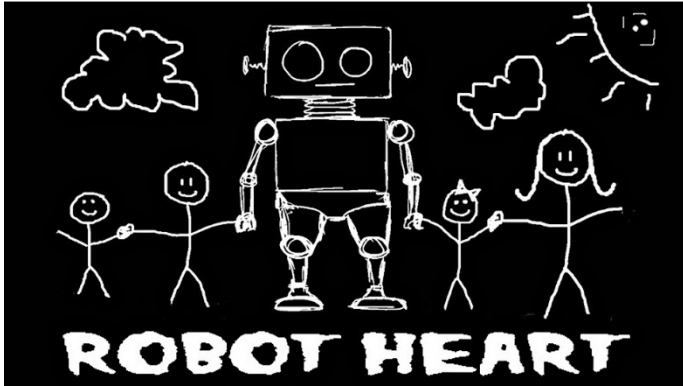
Screenings/Awards: 2016 Gasparilla International Film Festival (Tampa, FL) World Premiere, Audience Award: Best Narrative Feature, Jury Award: Best Female Performance; 2016 Hill Country Film Festival (Fredericksburg, TX), Best Feature Film; 2016 FilmQuest (Salt Lake City), Best Feature Film, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress.

Sunday, 6pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Narrative Features

Robot Heart

Narrative Feature, United States, 2016, 1 hour 24 mins, Black & White, Student Project (Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan)



Website: eyeintheskyfilms.wordpress.com

Adrian is a young scientist who has social acceptance issues, and just wants to fit in, so, the young boy combines his need for acceptance with his love of science to create a Robot, and that is when the fun begins. The film is a children's driven story that was created in homage to 1950s Robot films, French New Wave and Italian Neo-Realism with a budget of \$100.00, one camera, and only two lenses. This film also marks the first feature-length film for the writer/director.

Great Lakes Connection: "I am from Michigan and it was filmed in the region."

Director: R.E. Paris

Writer: R.E. Paris

Producer: Black Hat Productions

Key Cast: Adrian, Valentino, Raven, Patty, Dakota, London, Steve, Hayden, Aiden, Cameron, Jordan, Brandon

Director's Bio: R.E. (Angel) Paris is a writer/director currently attending Michigan State University's Fiction Film program. While in college he founded Eye in The Sky, and Outlaw Films. Robot Heart is his first feature film.

Saturday, 2pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Narrative Features

Scratch

Narrative Feature, Canada, 2016, 1 hour 35 mins, Color



Website: dragonbornfilms.com

A female rookie armoured truck guard is caught between her co-workers' plot to rob their own truck and greedy gangsters desperate to grab the loot.

Great Lakes Connection: "The filmmakers are from Toronto and Windsor, both have Great Lakes right by them."

Director: Maninder Chana

Writer: Maninder Chana

Producer: Michael Dragnea

Key Cast: Julie Romaniuk, Craig Cyr, Romaine Waite

Director's Bio: Maninder Chana is a critically-acclaimed, award-winning writer and director. His feature films include Little Terrors, starring Bollywood legend Om Puri (Gandhi, East is East); supernatural thriller Cell 213; and Mystic. Other selected credits: his hit comedy troupe Mixed Nuts, directing the national television special Fade to Brown; an epic six-hour science-fiction series for radio, Sectarian Wave; and an award-winning action short, Fuku, with members of Jackie Chan's stunt team. He is also a published author with a short story collection, Gunga Din Lite & Other Delights (of Lust and Comedy).

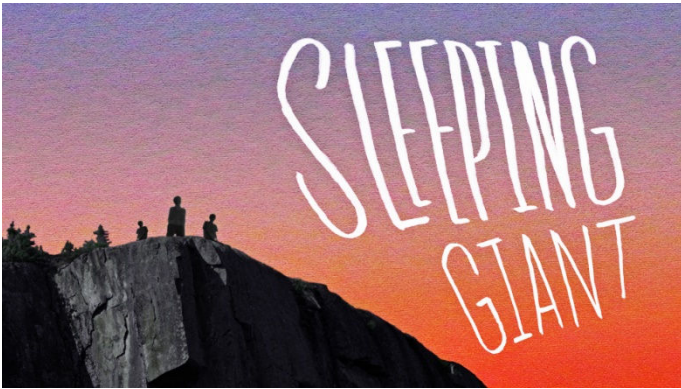
Screenings/Awards: 2016 Oakville Film Festival (Oakville, ON), World Premiere, Best Film; June 2016 Los Angeles (CA) Cinefest, Finalist Best Feature Film; July 2016 TMFF (Glasgow, UK), Best Feature - Third Place.

Saturday, 9:30pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Narrative Features

Sleeping Giant

Narrative Feature, Canada, 2015, 1 hour 29 mins, Color



Website: sleepinggiantfilm.com

While spending the summer in cottage country on the shores of Lake Superior, three teens cope with boredom by testing the limits of their experience.

Great Lakes Connection: "It was shot entirely in Shuniah, Ontario, Canada, just outside of Thunder Bay, in 2014."

Director: Andrew Cividino

Writers: Andrew Cividino, Blain Watters, Aaron Yeger

Producers: Karen Harnisch, Aaron Yeger, James Vandewater, Marc Swenker

Key Cast: Nick Serino, Reece Moffett, Jackson Martin, David Disher, Erika Brodzky

Director's Bio: Raised in Dundas, Ontario, the middle child of three boys, Andrew Cividino (Director/Co-Writer) spent summers on the north shore of Lake Superior where his mother grew up. His childhood "camp" (northern Ontario speak for "cottage"), and his grandparents' year-round home are on the beach where Sleeping Giant is set. Andrew went to film school at Ryerson University's School of Image Arts. Sleeping Giant is his feature film directorial debut.

Screenings/Awards: 2015 Semaine De La Critique, Festival du Cannes (France); 2015 Filmfest Munich (Germany), Cinevision Award; 2015 Toronto International Film Festival, City of Toronto Award for Best Canadian First Feature Film; 2015 Vancouver International Film Festival, Best Canadian Film; Toronto International Film Festival, Canada's Top Ten, January 2016.

Saturday, 4:30pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Narrative Features

The Pineville Heist

Narrative Feature, Canada, 2016, 1 hour 20 mins, Color



Website: pinevilleheist.com

A high school teen stumbles into the aftermath of a bank robbery gone wrong and finds himself locked inside his school trying to keep himself and his teacher alive as one of the psychotic robbers hunts them down.

Great Lakes Connection: "I was born in Soo, Canada. I made the film in Thunder Bay, Ontario."

Director: Lee Chambers

Writers: Lee Chambers, Todd Gordon

Producer: Lee Chambers

Key Cast: Basil Hoffman, Wayne V Johnson, Carl Bailey, Presley Massara, Priscilla-Anne Forder, Jacob Brown, Darryl Dougherty

Director's Bio: Lee Chambers, a native of Sault Ste. Marie, ON and a film production graduate of Leeds Metropolitan University in the UK, has worked in England and Los Angeles writing and directing drama shorts, music videos, and commercials. He produced and directed a series of films under his Make It Short Film Project banner that included Executive Producer support from David Cronenberg, Paul Haggis, and Roger Corman. His last short film snagged 14 awards and nominations including a Directors Guild of Canada Ontario nomination. Recent work includes Associate producing duties on The Reckoning and Cyborg X. The Pineville Heist marks his directorial debut in dramatic feature films.

Screenings/Awards: 2016 Illinois Int'l Film Festival (Aurora), World Film Festival Premiere, Best Dramatic Feature; 2016 Hoboken Int'l Film Festival (Middletown, NY), Best Director; 2016 Melbourne Indie Film Festival (Australia), Best Editing Award.

Saturday, 7pm
Soo Theatre

Films: Documentary Features

Graveyard of the Great Lakes: A Shipwreck Hunter's Quest to Discover the Past

Documentary Feature, United States, 2015, 50 mins, Color



Website: facebook.com/GraveyardoftheGreatLakes

Great Lakes historians say up to 10,000 shipwrecks are at the bottom. 74-year-old shipwreck hunter David Trotter has spent half his life hunting for them, exploring and telling their stories. This film is about three of the many shipwrecks he has found on Lake Huron. You'll learn about the life-and-death struggle aboard for the sailors, the heroic connection to the past, and the story of a lone survivor.

Great Lakes Connection: "It's about shipwrecks found in Lake Huron by a shipwreck hunter from Michigan."

Director: Eric Seals

Writer: Eric Seals

Producer: Kathy Kieliszewski

Director's Bio: A photojournalist for the Detroit Free Press, Eric Seals has covered many assignments in the U.S and around the world. In 2008 Seals was given a new challenge: make the transition from telling stories with still cameras to doing the same with video. He has been recognized for his video storytelling with the 2012 & 2016 Mich. Press Photographer Association's "Multimedia Photographer of the Year", a 2016 national Edward R. Murrow & national Webby Award & nine Michigan Emmys. Graveyard of the Great Lakes is his feature documentary debut.

Screenings/Awards: 2016 Freep Film Festival (Detroit, MI); 2016 Myrtle Beach International Film Festival (SC) 1st Runner Up, Best Documentary; 2016 Glass City Film Festival (Toledo, OH) Best Cinematography; Montreal CineFest 2016 (Montreal, QC), Best Documentary.

Saturday, 10am
Soo Theatre

Films: Documentary Features

Graveyard of the Great Lakes: A Shipwreck Hunter's Quest to Discover the Past *(continued)*

Graveyard of the Great Lakes will be preceded by a short documentary. Together the two films will run 65 minutes.

Boat Builder



DIRECTOR: Lloyd Walton

Documentary Short, Canada, 2015, 15 mins, English

On a quiet tributary of the Georgian Bay we see the step-by-step processes, trials, and tribulations of Stan Hunter building a classic 23-foot wooden boat from scratch. It's a unique industry here with craftsmen displaying the skill, diligence, and intricacies of building and repairing classic wooden boats. (The film chronicles the building of a classic wooden boat and shows other boats and boat builders living on the Muskoka watershed, a tributary of the Georgian Bay. Many of the boats built here also ply the waters of the Great Lakes.)

Saturday, 10am
Soo Theatre

Films: Documentary Features

UP a River

Documentary Feature, United States, 2015, 1 hour 50 mins, Color



Website: upariver.net

Over 100 hunting/recreational camps in the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan's U.P. have to be removed or destroyed by January 1, 2017. UP a River is a cultural documentary about the people who built decades of traditions around these camps. Laughs are shared, tears are shed, and all agree that "goin' to camp" is something that everyone should experience in their lifetime. UP a River documents what may be the end of an era for many people with ties to these U.P. camps.

Great Lakes Connection: Filmed in the Upper Peninsula

Director: Kristin L Ojaniemi

Producer: Kristin L Ojaniemi

Director's Bio: My name is Kristin Ojaniemi. I was born and raised in and still live in Paynesville, Michigan. I live in a cozy little house with my boyfriend and two dogs, surrounded by Mother Nature at her best and family and friends nearby. Five days a week I commute 75 miles south to Rhinelander, Wisconsin where for the past nine years I've worked at a small NBC affiliate, currently as the Creative Services Director. I am told I am crazy for commuting such a distance. There is nowhere else I would rather live and it's the closest place I can work at a job I enjoy. I also teach a Digital Video course at Nicolet College. I graduated from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan (near Grand Rapids) with a Bachelor's degree in Communications Film and Video Production. My senior thesis, a short film titled "Family Portrait" won Best of Student Showcase at the Waterfront Film Festival in 2004 and was an official selection at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival that same year.

I know I am late to this fight to save the hunting camps along the rivers in the Ottawa National Forest. If nothing else I hope to preserve the memories.

Saturday, 11:30am
Soo Theatre

Films: Short Blocks

Shorts Block 1 – Tunes and 'Toons (95min)

Friday, 5:30 pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from Cuerdas

Welcome to the Festival! We're starting off with a selection of music videos and short animations from around the world. Come downtown to the Soo Theatre and help us kick off the festival!

Sight of the Sound

DIRECTOR: Arvin Bautista

Music Video, United States, 2014, 4 mins, English

An original 1980s-style music video tribute to Alison Blaire, the mutant pop-star ally of Marvel Comics' X-Men.

I Will Steal Your Heart (Lila Cheney)

DIRECTOR: Arvin Bautista

Music Video, United States, 2016, 6 mins, English

A music video tribute to X-Men comics' Lila Cheney and the New Mutants, "I Will Steal Your Heart" is the rockin' sequel to 2014's Dazzler video "I Will Steal Your Heart."

Little Party Queen (Next is Best)

DIRECTOR: Etienne Fu-Le Saulnier

Music Video, France, 2016, 3 mins, English

In a world of glitter and skin-tight Lycra, will Travis regain his honour during this final and reckless Chinese Finger Wrestling duel against Hogan, his sworn enemy?

Singing through the Storm

DIRECTOR: Johanna Mateo

Music Video, United States, 2016, 4 mins, English

This is a daring story, one that involves the human connection of experiencing a love loss. You see, she didn't get to see her man make it big because her life was cut short by a senseless act of violence. A mass shooting has occurred and she was innocently caught in the cross-fire.

Shorts Block 1 – Tunes and 'Toons *(continued)*

The Life We Had

DIRECTOR: Zoran Maslic

Music Video, Canada, 2014, 2 mins, English

An intimate and regretful ballad about love that disappeared in “substance abuse.” Music video of singer-songwriter Chad Fontaine. (From the filmmaker: “The music video takes place in Toronto.”)

The Band Breakfast (El Desayuno de los Gauchos)

DIRECTORS: Antonella Guido, Piero Schirinzi

Music Video, Italy, 2015, 7 mins

It's morning in the big city and someone sings and prepares breakfast, but someone else is spying on this scene.

A Single Life

DIRECTORS: Job Roggeveen, Joris Oprins, Marieke Blaauw

Animation, Netherlands, 2014, 2 mins

When playing a mysterious vinyl single, Pia is suddenly able to travel through her life.

Café Sultan Muhammad

DIRECTOR: Zohreh Shayestehfar

Animation, Iran, Islamic Republic of, 2015, 6 mins

A poor girl enters a mansion and is welcomed by the hostile greetings of the owner. However, she continues on her path, aided by the food that she got from the mansion's kitchen. When she comes to a little pool, her life is changed forever.

A Space in Time

DIRECTOR: Alexandre Athané

Animation, France, 2015, 14 mins, French

Claire, a little girl, and her grandfather share a dream - seeing a man walk on the moon - and their favorite pastime is playing astronaut. On the night of July 20, 1969, while the whole world is fixated on Neil Armstrong, Claire's thoughts are with her own personal hero.

Cuerdas

DIRECTOR: Pedro Solís

Animation, Spain, 2014, 11 mins, Spanish

María's routine at school is altered by the arrival of a very special child. Soon, they become close friends.

My Mother Only Had One Eye

DIRECTOR: Joseph Nason

Animation, Ireland, 2015, 3 mins, English, Student Project (Cork Institute of Technology, Cork, Ireland)

Short sad tale with a powerful moral.

Shorts Block 1 – Tunes and 'Toons *(continued)*

Hollow

DIRECTOR: Olivia Pecini

Animation, United States, 2016, 3 mins, Student Project (Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island)

A girl and her pet rooster grapple with starvation.

One Day in July

DIRECTOR: Hermes Mangialardo

Animation, Italy, 2015, 2 mins

A child plays on a sandy beach, but a soldier comes with his gun...

Light Sight

DIRECTOR: Seyed M. Tabatabaei

Animation, Iran, Islamic Republic of, 2016, 8 mins, Student Project (Tehran Art University, Tehran, Iran)

M.E., the character of the story, is born inside a room made of varied sized spheres and brightened by a floating light. While M.E. is greatly astonished by the light, the spheres start glittering with colorful displays and attract him to themselves. M.E. loses himself playing with the spheres.

Shades of Gray

DIRECTOR: Alexandra Averyanova

Animation, Russian Federation, 2014, 6 mins, English

Early 20th century Saint Petersburg. A boy and a girl meet at the Tsarskoselsky railway station, but get separated a few moments later. As they grow up, the two walk the same streets of Petersburg. However, twenty years later the mystical connection which emerged between them in childhood brings these young people back to the place where they had first met.

Lila

DIRECTOR: Carlos Lascano

Animation, Argentina, 2014, 9 mins

Armed with her sketchbook, Lila walks off into the world, convinced that she has the power to make it a better place. Sitting at a bar, hanging out at a park, or walking down a street, Lila draws the lines that fill in the magic lost by those around her.

The D in David

DIRECTORS: Michelle Yi, Yaron Farkash

Animation, United States, 2016, 2 mins, English, Student Project (Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota, Florida)

The comic adventures of Michelangelo's David.

Shorts Block 1 – Tunes and 'Toons *(continued)*

Mr Violet

DIRECTORS: Abbas Jalali Yekta, Mohammad Hossein Azam Pour

Animation, Iran, Islamic Republic of, 2015, 3 mins, English

Mr. Violet lives on a mug in a busy café. His life is boring and full of loneliness until a girl on another mug changes his life.

Films: Short Blocks

Shorts Block 2 – Mixed Shorts (123min)

Friday, 7:30 pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from The Reinvention of Normal

This program is a mix of short documentaries and narratives, some from far away from the Great Lakes. For this segment we were looking for beautiful cinematography and compelling or maybe just downright quirky stories. We think you'll agree we found them!

A Passion of Gold and Fire

DIRECTOR: Sébastien Pins

Documentary Short, Belgium, 2015, 6 mins, French

A beekeeper shares his worries about the future of his apiary school, a passion of gold and fire which definitely helps our environment to keep on living.

Predator / Prey: The Fight for Isle Royale Wolves

DIRECTOR: Brian Kaufman

Documentary Short, United States, 2016, 37 mins, English

The fragile ecosystem of Isle Royale National Park is dominated by the predator / prey relationship between wolves and moose. But on the biggest island in the biggest lake on Earth, things have unraveled. With wolves dwindling and moose booming, the National Park Service must decide how to manage these iconic species in a time when climate change threatens to undermine both. (Isle Royale National Park)

The Reinvention of Normal

DIRECTOR: Liam Saint-Pierre

Documentary Short, United Kingdom, 2015, 7 mins, English

"Go straight off the wall," said his dad and Dominic does just that. The film follows Dominic Wilcox, an artist / inventor / designer, on his quest for new ideas...taking the normal and turning it into something unique.

Shorts Block 2 – Mixed Shorts *(continued)*

Whale Valley

DIRECTOR: Guðmundur Arnar Guðmundsson

Narrative Short, Denmark, 2013, 15 mins, Icelandic

The film shows a pure love story between two brothers who live in a remote Icelandic fjord with their parents. When the younger brother, a little boy, witnesses a life-or-death moment involving his big brother, it sets in motion the possibility of either a great tragedy or a turning point to better times in the brothers' lives.

Striking a Chord: Instruments of Healing

DIRECTOR: Susan Rockefeller

Documentary Short, United States, 2015, 27 mins, English

Striking a Chord: Instruments of Healing shows how veterans with PTSD are finding their way back to themselves through music and art. This inspiring 30-minute documentary offers civilians insight into the trauma of war and the challenges of returning home and re-entering “reality.” Soldiers learn that, for those who can find the courage to speak their truths, there are unexpected paths to healing.

Call

DIRECTOR: Sam Lock

Narrative Short, Malaysia, 2015, 5 mins, English, Student Project (Limkokwing University, Cyberjaya, Malaysia)

An architect stole a design paper from his workplace and is on his way to sell it. Suddenly he receives a mysterious phone call...

Other

DIRECTOR: Rodrick Pocowatchit

Narrative Short, United States, 2015, 5 mins, English

A Native American man goes on a job interview and discovers a glaring omission on the job application.

CI: A TEDD Talkumentary

DIRECTOR: Martin Sweeney

Narrative Short, United States, 2015, 20 mins, English

Real-life Silicon Valley innovator Michael Fertik plays Michael Fertik, a start-up superstar attempting to top his past success with a game changing TEDD talk in this satirical mockumentary concert film. Fertik's revelatory TEDD talk explains the concept of CI or counterintuition, a simple trick that promises to help anyone unleash their inner-innovator and disrupt their conventional lives. (From the filmmaker: “I lived in the Soo from 1979-85. My family lived there until 1993. I went to grade school, junior high, and two years of high school there. My father worked at LSSU. I worked summer jobs at the Cisler Center, Abner's, and Vegas Kewadin, where I was one of the inaugural class of blackjack dealers who opened the casino.”)

Films: Short Blocks

Shorts Block 3 – Friday Night FrightFest (95min)

Friday, 10 pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from Normie

This program ranges from delightfully creepy to major weirdness to horrifying. Stay until the end if you dare!

The Unconventional Gourmet

DIRECTOR: Wendy Keeling

Narrative Short, United States, 2016, 12 mins, English

A dark comedy about a woman stuck in the '50s searching for the perfect ingredients in an unusual family recipe. The film tells an age-old tale with an added modern twist. (From the filmmaker: "I am from Illinois originally and lived in Chicago right on the lake for some time if that qualifies as a connection to the Great Lakes.")

Nowhere Man

DIRECTOR: SangJin Ko

Narrative Short, United States, 2015, 1 min

A gangster betrays his boss for money and enjoys the moment in their hideout but someone watches him.

Cryptid

DIRECTOR: Areum Han

Narrative Short, India, 2014, 5 mins, Student Project (Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata, India)

Areum comes across a door in the forest, which leads to the dark side within herself. Always curious about the darkness of human nature, she walks deeper and deeper into the shadowy world.

The Handbag

DIRECTOR: Becky Revesz

Narrative Short, United States, 2013, 9 mins, English, Student Project (Delta College, University Center, Michigan)

A woman finds a handbag...and trouble. (The film was made in Saginaw.)

Shorts Block 3 – Friday Night FrightFest *(continued)*

Dystopia

DIRECTORS: Justen Lambert, Matthew Simonis

Narrative Short, United States, 2016, 18 mins

Ellis, a lone survivor in a post-apocalyptic landscape struggles with loneliness, survival, and his desire for human connection. (The film was shot in Milwaukee, WI, near the shore of Lake Michigan.)

Normie

DIRECTOR: Daniel Ira Couchie

Narrative Short, Canada, 2016, 6 mins, English, Student Project (Canadore College, North Bay, Ontario)

Norman is a young man teetering on the edge of insanity. Will he accept help and put this dark chapter of his life behind him or embrace the blossoming madness inside? (From the filmmaker: “The producer / writer / director / editor grew up on the north shore of Lake Superior. The musician also grew up there.”)

#HELP

DIRECTOR: Peter Engelmann

Narrative Short, Hungary, 2015, 21 mins, Hungarian, Student Project (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary)

Virág, a young student, has lots of friends and suitors on the internet, but one night she gets into trouble and needs help in real life. But the most important question is: Have you recorded it?

Balloon

DIRECTOR: Vis Vitalis

Narrative Short, Russian Federation, 2016, 5 mins, Russian

On the roadside of a country road: a parked jeep with a broken balloon. A lonely man unsuccessfully tries to change a flat tire, refusing the help of passing drivers. Who is that man? And what does he want? But don't worry: he'll deal with it....

Candy Skin

DIRECTOR: Kyle Martellacci

Narrative Short, Canada, 2016, 18 mins, English

In a sudden moment, David is left alone in the world. Everyone but him has disappeared. As he searches for answers, he faces terrifying surprises and a malevolent force that hunts him until the horrifying truth is revealed.

Films: Short Blocks

Shorts Block 4 – Saturday Sci-Fi (119 min)

Saturday, 2 pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from Zero

Two shorts and a microbudget feature from an MSU student explore some what-ifs.

Default

DIRECTOR: E.M. Spairow

Narrative Short, United States, 2014, 5 mins, English

A destitute man defaults on his student loans and faces losing the only thing he has left. (From the filmmaker: “The writer-director is a Michigan native and currently resides in Michigan.”)

Zero

DIRECTOR: David Victori

Narrative Short, United States, 2015, 29 mins, English

Father and son are emotionally and physically separate on the day that Earth loses gravity intermittently. The child wanders the city obsessed with responding to the recent death of his mother, while his father tries to find him in a world that is collapsing around him. This was a sci-fi YouTube project written and directed by the YouTube Your Film Festival winner David Victori, executive produced by Ridley Scott and Michael Fassbender.

Robot Heart

DIRECTOR: R.E. (Angel) Paris

Narrative Feature, United States, 2016, 85 mins, English, Student Project (Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan)

Adrian is a young scientist who has social acceptance issues and just wants to fit in, so the young boy combines his need for acceptance with his love of science to create a Robot, and that is when the fun begins. The film is a children’s-driven story that was created in homage to 1950s Robot films, French New Wave, and Italian Neo-Realism with a budget of \$100, one camera, and only two lenses. This film also marks the first feature-length film for the writer/director as well. (From the filmmaker: “I am from Michigan and it was filmed in the region.”)

Films: Short Blocks

Shorts Block 5 – Local and Returning Filmmakers (84min)

Sunday, 12:30 pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from Together Is Home

This program showcases a diverse group of films by local and returning filmmakers. The program includes two documentary shorts from Soo, Ontario; the rest are narrative shorts of various lengths and genres. Several are student projects. A Q&A with attending filmmakers follows the block.

Breaking Circles

DIRECTOR: Thomas Butcher

Narrative Short, United States, 2016, 14 mins, English

What does it take to break the circle of bad behavior? Max enters high school at a disadvantage because of his size and soon finds an enemy. But when he begins to trust a new friend, he learns that he isn't alone. It's up to Max to break the circle. (Filmed in Michigan by returning filmmaker Thomas Butcher, a Michigan resident.)

Tylwyth Teg & the Vial

DIRECTORS: Kishe Caelan Wallace, Michelle Hotaling

Narrative Short, United States, 2016, 24 mins, English

Secrets are contained in ancient trees. One cut...and all is lost. When a forester makes that cut, serious consequences befall and irrevocably prevail! (Shot in Sault Sainte Marie, MI by returning filmmaker Kishe Caelan Wallace.)

Self-Interest

DIRECTOR: Maha Ibrahim

Narrative Short, United States, 2016, 1 mins

A seasoned criminal finally admits to some of his most heinous crimes and devious secrets. (Filmed in Michigan by Michigan residents; produced and co-written by returning filmmaker Thomas Butcher.)

Shorts Block 5 – Local and Returning Filmmakers *(continued)*

Touché

DIRECTOR: Jennifer D. Hudson

Animation, United States, 2016, 2 mins, English, Student Project (College for Creative Studies, Detroit, Michigan)

A Princess decides to fight off her new evil stepmother but, as they fight, she realizes that stepmothers might not be that bad. (From the filmmaker: “My grandparents, the Whytes, live on Sugar Island. I visit them at least twice a year including my very well-known Aunt Jan Bailey and Uncle Harold Bailey. My mom, Jonna Hudson, was born and raised in Sault Saint Marie, and I live and go to school in the midtown Detroit area.”)

Stop

DIRECTOR: Brandon Beck

Narrative Short, United States, 2011, 1 min, English

A somewhat silent film (Shot in Sault Ste. Marie, MI)

An Interview with Jim McCarty of the Yardbirds

DIRECTOR: Michael Gingras

Documentary Short, Canada, 2016, 7 mins, English

I flew to London England and interviewed Jim McCarty of the Yardbirds. (Returning filmmaker Michael Gingras is from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.)

Together Is Home

DIRECTOR: Adam Gualtieri

Documentary Short, Canada, 2015, 25 mins, English, Student Project (Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario)

This documentary film follows the life of Meshawna and Kiona, twin sisters who grew up in the foster care system. Taking place one year after the twins' funds have been officially cut off by the Children's Aid Society, they reflect on their childhood—a mixture of loss and love. (Returning filmmaker Adam Gualtieri was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. His documentary short, A Place Like Home, won the Audience Choice Award for Best Documentary Short at the 2015 Soo Film Festival.)

Pow

DIRECTOR: Doug Lewis

Narrative Short, Canada, 2015, 9 mins, English, Student Project (Canadore College, North Bay, Ontario)

A young snowboarder, Sonny Noob, moves to a small Northern community from his Southern big city. He comes to find that snowboarding in Northern backcountry is much harder than the groomed hills that he's used to back home. (Filmmaker Doug Lewis is a student at Canadore College in North Bay, Ontario.)

Films: Short Blocks

Shorts Block 6 – Student Shorts Plus Waiting for Wiig (115min)

Sunday, 3 pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from His & Hers

We received a lot of great student entries from the Great Lakes region and elsewhere. In this sampling, you'll see the work of talented students from high school through graduate school. Following the student films is a film by Steven Wiig, a native of Negaunee and a member of our advisory board. A Q&A with the filmmakers follows the block.

Captain Jackson

DIRECTOR: Jacob Fisher

Documentary Short, United States, 2015, 6 mins, English, Student Project (Spring Arbor University, Spring Arbor, Michigan)

A documentary about Jackson, Michigan's very own crime fighter. (Filmed at Spring Arbor University by students in its video program.)

The 1%: Crisis in the Great Lakes

DIRECTOR: Griffin Olis

Documentary Short, United States, 2016, 7 mins, English, Student Project (Troy Athens High School, Troy, Michigan)

The 1% explores the dangerous future (and present) of our nation's most precious natural resource: The Great Lakes. (From the filmmaker: "The film's location, personnel, subjects, content, and interviews all have a Great Lakes connection.")

Rent a Car

DIRECTOR: Sebastian Schnabel

Narrative Short, United States, 2016, 4 mins, English, Student Project (Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis, Minnesota)

Two friends find a dead body in the trunk of their rented car. (The film was shot in Minneapolis, Minnesota and the cast and crew are from Minneapolis as well.)

Shorts Block 6 – Student Shorts Plus Waiting for Wiig *(continued)*

Bad Dog

DIRECTORS: Megan Escamilla, Jeremy Little

Narrative Short, United States, 2014, 12 mins, Student Project (Delta College, University Center, Michigan)

When Aaron goes to the park to talk to an old friend, he has a dark secret that's not so easy to share. (Filmed in Saginaw.)

My Friend

DIRECTOR: Sean Murphy

Narrative Short, United States, 2016, 13 mins, English, Student Project (College for Creative Studies, Detroit, Michigan)

A busy college student named Sean is stopped one day by an old man named Ahmed asking for a ride. Reluctantly he agrees and later halfheartedly agrees to do it again. Over time the two become friends until one day Ahmed must move. Though Ahmed may be gone, Sean won't forget him. (From the filmmaker: "The cast and crew all are from the Detroit area and the film was shot in the Detroit area as well.")

His & Hers

DIRECTOR: Kaela Green

Narrative Short, United States, 2016, 17 mins, English, Student Project (Spring Arbor University, Spring Arbor, Michigan)

A short musical that asks the question: Can love overcome a troubled relationship? (Filmed at Spring Arbor University by students in its video program.)

Nestor Talbot

DIRECTOR: Craig Erpelding

Narrative Short, United States, 2015, 11 mins, English, Student Project (DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois)

Nestor Talbot has his hands full when his future self travels back to the present using a time travel app. His goal: to save a relationship that present-day Nestor has no interest in saving. Unfortunately, a clown and a quirky pet shop clerk get caught in the mix. This is an MFA Thesis Film for DePaul University School of Cinematic Arts. It was chosen as Best Short by the Audience at the FilmDayton festival (Dayton, OH) and won Best Student Film at the Alhambra Theatre Film Festival (Evansville, IN). Other screenings include: Los Angeles CineFest, Kansas City Film Festival, and TMFF. (Filmed in Chicago, IL.)

Onslaught of the Plant People

DIRECTOR: Anders Gatten

Narrative Short, Canada, 2016, 4 mins, English, Student Project (Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario)

It's the early 1950s and the American Blacklist is in full swing. Writers are being divided between their politics and their paychecks, including a young newcomer commie by the name of Alton. When Alton is threatened to be put out of work for the rest of his days, he is given the chance to clear his name by

Shorts Block 6 – Student Shorts Plus Waiting for Wiig *(continued)*

Onslaught of the Plant People *(continued)*

finishing a pro-capitalist B-movie script. Which will he give up: the job he loves or the ideals he holds dear? This is a 2nd-year film for Sheridan College's Bachelor of Film and Television program. (Shot in Oakville, Ontario on the shore of Lake Ontario.)

In Search Of

DIRECTOR: Paul Dombrovskis

Narrative Short, Canada, 2015, 16 mins, English, Korean, Student Project (Vancouver Film School, Vancouver, BC)

Heon Soo (Eric), a Korean comic book artist, moves to Canada to pursue his dream, leaving family and friends behind. Facing isolation, language differences, and cultural differences is a price we often have to pay in order to achieve success. The character's journey emphasizes that nothing in life is free, but if you love what you do, work hard, believe in yourself, and are persistent, then with time and a fair amount of luck, life will eventually take you where you want go.

Waiting for Wiig

DIRECTOR: Steven Wiig

Narrative Short, United States, 2016, 25 mins, English

Destiny is the last thing on the mind of a group of unsuspecting strangers as they await the arrival of a small-town film star, but Fate rarely plays by the rules. (Made in the U.P. by people from the U.P. Shot in Negaunee & Ishpeming in July 2016. Director, producer, and key cast member Steven Wiig is a native of Negaunee and a member of the Soo Film Festival Advisory Board. Steven currently resides in the San Francisco Bay Area where he dedicates his life to film, art, music & family (not necessarily in that order)).

2016 Soo Film Festival Schedule Grid

2016 Soo Film Festival Schedule Grid			
Friday September 16	Saturday September 17	Sunday September 18	
	10 - 11am Boat Builder (15 min) 65 min Graveyard of the Great Lakes	12:30 to 2:30pm Shorts 5 - Local, Returning 114 min Filmmakers (84 min) Reserved for Q&A (30 min)	
	11:30am - 1:30pm UP a River 110 min	3 - 5:30pm Shorts 6 - Student (90 min) 144 min Waiting for Wiig (25 min) Reserved for Q&A (30 min)	
	2 - 4 pm Shorts 4 119 min Saturday Sci-Fi	6:00 - 7:30pm Bear with Us 94 min	
5:30 - 7pm Shorts 1 95 min Tunes and 'Toons	4:30 - 6pm Sleeping Giant 90 min	7:30 - 11pm After Party at 1668 Winery & Lockside Brewery 100 W Portage Ave.	
7:30 - 9:30pm Shorts 2 123 min Mixed Shorts	7 - 9pm The Pineville Heist (80 min) 110 min Reserved for Q&A (30 min)		
10 - 11:30pm Shorts 3 95 min Friday Night FrightFest	9:30 - 11:30pm Scratch (95 min) 125 min Reserved for Q&A (30 min)		

All films will be shown at the Soo Theatre, 534 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Tickets go on sale September 1. Festival Pass \$50; Daily Pass \$20; Single Tickets \$7/\$5 per block; Buy tickets online at SooFilmFestival.org or call (906) 632-1930. Program is subject to change.

Shorts Blocks

Shorts 1: Tunes and 'Toons

Sight of the Sound
I Will Steal Your Heart (Lila Cheney)
Little Party Queen (Next is Best)
Singing through the Storm
The Life We Had
The Band Breakfast
A Single Life
Café Sultan Muhammad
A Space in Time
Cuerdas
My Mother Only Had One Eye
Hollow
One Day in July
Light Sight

Shades of Gray
Lila
The D in David
Mr Violet

Shorts 2: Mixed Shorts

A Passion of Gold and Fire
Predator / Prey: The Fight for Isle Royale Wolves
The Reinvention of Normal
Whale Valley
Striking a Chord: Instruments of Healing
Call
Other
CI: A TEDD Talkumentary

Shorts 3: Friday Night FrightFest

The Unconventional Gourmet
Nowhere Man
Cryptid
The Handbag
Dystopia
Normie
#HELP
Balloon
Candy Skin

Shorts 4: Saturday Sci-Fi

Default
Zero
Robot Heart

Shorts 5: Local & Returning Filmmakers

Breaking Circles
Tylwyth Teg & the Vial
Self-Interest
Touché
Stop
An Interview with Jim McCarty of the Yardbirds
Together Is Home
Pow

Shorts 6: Student Shorts Plus Waiting for Wiig

Captain Jackson
The 1%: Crisis in the Great Lakes
Rent a Car
Bad Dog
My Friend
His & Hers
Nestor Talbot
Onslaught of the Plant People
In Search Of
Waiting for Wiig

Index to Films

#HELP	20	Friday Night FrightFest	Friday, 10pm
A Passion of Gold and Fire	17	Mixed Shorts	Friday, 7:30pm
A Single Life	14	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
A Space in Time	14	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
An Interview with Jim McCarty of the Yardbirds	23	Local ... Filmmakers	Sunday, 12:30pm
Bad Dog	25	Student Shorts Plus	Sunday, 3pm
Balloon	20	Friday Night FrightFest	Friday, 10pm
Bear with Us	5	Bear with Us	Sunday, 6pm
Boat Builder	11	Graveyard of the Great Lakes	Saturday, 10am
Breaking Circles	22	Local ... Filmmakers	Sunday, 12:30pm
Café Sultan Muhammad	14	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
Call	18	Mixed Shorts	Friday, 7:30pm
Candy Skin	20	Friday Night FrightFest	Friday, 10pm
Captain Jackson	24	Student Shorts Plus	Sunday, 3pm
CI: A TEDD Talkumentary	18	Mixed Shorts	Friday, 7:30pm
Cryptid	19	Friday Night FrightFest	Friday, 10pm
Cuerdas	14	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
Default	21	Saturday Sci-Fi	Saturday, 2pm
Dystopia	20	Friday Night FrightFest	Friday, 10pm
Graveyard of the Great Lakes	10	Graveyard of the Great Lakes	Saturday, 10am
His & Hers	25	Student Shorts Plus	Sunday, 3pm
Hollow	15	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
I Will Steal Your Heart (Lila Cheney)	13	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
In Search Of	26	Student Shorts Plus	Sunday, 3pm
Light Sight	15	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
Lila	15	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
Little Party Queen (Next is Best)	13	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
Mr Violet	16	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
My Friend	25	Student Shorts Plus	Sunday, 3pm
My Mother Only Had One Eye	14	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
Nestor Talbot	25	Student Shorts Plus	Sunday, 3pm
Normie	20	Friday Night FrightFest	Friday, 10pm
Nowhere Man	19	Friday Night FrightFest	Friday, 10pm
One Day in July	15	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
Onslaught of the Plant People	25, 26	Student Shorts Plus	Sunday, 3pm
Other	18	Mixed Shorts	Friday, 7:30pm
Pow	23	Local ... Filmmakers	Sunday, 12:30pm
Predator / Prey: The Fight for Isle Royale Wolves	17	Mixed Shorts	Friday, 7:30pm
Rent a Car	24	Student Shorts Plus	Sunday, 3pm
Robot Heart	6, 21	Saturday Sci-Fi	Saturday, 2pm

Index to Films (continued)

Scratch	7	Scratch	Saturday, 9:30pm
Self-Interest	22	Local ... Filmmakers	Sunday, 12:30pm
Shades of Gray	15	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
Sight of the Sound	13	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
Singing through the Storm	13	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
Sleeping Giant	8	Sleeping Giant	Saturday, 4:30pm
Stop	23	Local ... Filmmakers	Sunday, 12:30pm
Striking a Chord: Instruments of Healing	18	Mixed Shorts	Friday, 7:30pm
The 1%: Crisis in the Great Lakes	24	Student Shorts Plus	Sunday, 3pm
The Band Breakfast	14	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
The D in David	15	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
The Handbag	19	Friday Night FrightFest	Friday, 10pm
The Life We Had	14	Tunes & 'Toons	Friday, 5:30pm
The Pineville Heist	9	The Pineville Heist	Saturday, 7pm
The Reinvention of Normal	17	Mixed Shorts	Friday, 7:30pm
The Unconventional Gourmet	19	Friday Night FrightFest	Friday, 10pm
Together Is Home	23	Local ... Filmmakers	Sunday, 12:30pm
Touché	23	Local ... Filmmakers	Sunday, 12:30pm
Tylwyth Teg & the Vial	22	Local ... Filmmakers	Sunday, 12:30pm
UP a River	12	UP a River	Saturday, 11:30am
Waiting for Wiig	26	Student Shorts Plus	Sunday, 3pm
Whale Valley	18	Mixed Shorts	Friday, 7:30pm
Zero	21	Saturday Sci-Fi	Saturday, 2pm

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, Rich Brauer, 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.

Ray Bauer and the 1668 Winery & Lockside Brewery

Ann Kessinger, Kathleen Maine, and everyone at the Soo Theatre Project

Kevin Pomeroy, Pat Dougherty, and everyone at National Office Products.

The hotels and restaurants who provided a festival discount: America's Best Value Inn,

The Last Resort, Long Ships Motel, Super 8 Hotel, and Moloney's Alley

The Superior Café, for providing a comfortable meeting space for the Festival Committee

Thunder Nanie, logo designer extraordinaire!

Tom Ewing, graphics consultant

Linda Hoath and the Sault Ste. Marie Convention & Visitors Bureau

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

Michigan Digital Imaging

Brenda Weber-Rigotti and the Sault News

Jean Jones and the Sault Area Arts Council

A special thanks to all of our movie reviewers who spent countless hours watching nearly 400 submissions to the festival. We could not do it without you!

Our tireless Festival Committee - Allison Youngs, Jason Markstrom,

Liz Brugman, Pat Egan, Susan James, Taylor Brugman

Liz Brugman, webmaster and program guide

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
(906) 248-5947 SooFilmFest@gmail.com
SooFilmFestival.org On Facebook at [SooFilmFestival](https://www.facebook.com/SooFilmFestival)

September 16-18, 2016
Soo Theatre, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

About Us

Soo Film Festival, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) 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!