

GREAT LAKES, GREAT MOVIES

SOO FILM FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 12-15, 2019
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

AT SOO THEATRE &
BAYLISS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Festival Guide



**Congratulations on
Six Years of
Great Lakes and
Great Movies!**

2019 Soo Film Festival Schedule Grid

Sep 12 to 15

Block	Block Title	Venue	Day	Date	Time
1	Farmer's Market (FREE)	Bayliss Library	Thu	12	5:30 - 7:00p
2	Voices from Afar (FREE)	Bayliss Library	Thu	12	7:30 - 9:30p
3	Mixed Shorts 1	Soo Theatre	Fri	13	1:00 - 2:30p
4	Mixed Shorts 2	Soo Theatre	Fri	13	3:00 - 5:00p
	DINNER BREAK				5:00 - 6:00p
5	Fright Night	Soo Theatre	Fri	13	6:00 - 8:00p
6	Fright Night Part 2	Soo Theatre	Fri	13	8:30 - 10:30p
7	Never Forget	Soo Theatre	Sat	14	10:30a - Noon
	LUNCH BREAK				Noon - 1:00p
8	Student Films	Soo Theatre	Sat	14	1:00 - 3:00p
9	The Michigan Connection	Soo Theatre	Sat	14	3:30 - 5:30p
	DINNER BREAK				5:30 - 6:30p
10	Near Future	Soo Theatre	Sat	14	6:30 - 8:30p
	MEET&GREET	Soo Theatre	Sat	14	8:30 - 10:30p
11	Sound Tracks	Soo Theatre	Sun	15	10:00 - 11:00a
	LUNCH BREAK				11:00 - 11:30a
12	Mixed Shorts 3	Soo Theatre	Sun	15	11:30a-1:30p
13	Native Voices	Soo Theatre	Sun	15	2:00 - 4:00p
14	Journeys by Water	Soo Theatre	Sun	15	4:30 - 6:30p
	DINNER BREAK				6:30 - 7:00p
15	Finding Direction	Soo Theatre	Sun	15	7:00 - 8:30p

Bayliss Public Library, a Superior District Library, is located at 541 Library Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Admission to all films at this venue is free.

For more information, call the Festival office at (906) 440-6086 or the library at (906) 632-9331. Program is subject to change.

The Soo Theatre is located at 534 Ashmun St., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Tickets go on sale August 19. Festival Pass \$50; Daily Pass \$20;

Single Tickets \$7/\$5 per block; Buy tickets online at SooFilmFestival.org or call (906) 440-6086. Program is subject to change.

Film List

Block 1 - Farmer's Market

From Seed to Seed

Block 2 - Voices from Afar

Light in the Dark

Block 3 - Mixed Shorts 1

The Genocide Project

The Gift

Balance

Adulthood

Load

FEAR

On the Roof

Like and Follow

Ember

Too Hard to Love

Block 4 - Mixed Shorts 2

Kenya

Hadidance

Spike

A Tinsel Township Christmas Tale

Condolences

Objects with Stories

Sex Planet - Lacie

Monsters Walking

Accident de Personne

Shogani

Reminiscing

Even in the Silence

Taken Home

Shadows of a Radio in the East

Two Down

Pronounced: North London Darby

Harper

Block 5 - Fright Night

Verso

Under the Blade

We Hired a Clown

Tell Me About Yourself

Bi Polaroid

Breaking Wheel

Blood Orange

Framed

All Things Beautiful

Silence the Vampyr

In the Mind's Eye
Copenhagen Road

Block 6 - Fright Night Part 2

The Very Last Day

Block 7 - Never Forget

An Edited Life

An Armenian Trilogy

Block 8 - Student Films

Things We Carry

Embrace Where You Come From

Reggie

Alexa

Flow

Crime and Punishment

Multiply

Dance Ditchers

Private Barry

Block 9 - The Michigan Connection

BrowBeat

AMERICA

FOUR-NINETY

Foreword

Lear

Outcome Not So Good

Ever After

One Shot

Therapeutic Thievery

The Ballad of Jack & Vi

Double Take

Love Is Wild

Bunny!

Block 10 - Near Future

Enigma

Empty Metal

Block 11 - Sound Tracks

Scars Left Behind

Urban Jungle

Detroit, Diamond

Film List *(continued)*

Block 12 - Mixed Shorts 3

Respect Your Elders, Chum

Undone

Rocks

And She Rode Forth....

Her Water Drum

Rob Nance - Motion Sickness

Little Cosmic Shore

First Light

Potion: Dark Matter

As One

Things Were Better Before

The Quit

Block 13 - Native Voices

The Dawes Act

The Seventh Fire

Block 14 - Journeys by Water

Canada C3 - Coast to Coast to Coast

Crossing Superior

Block 15 - Finding Direction

Bonsai Dream

Need a Lift

Bleed American

Welcome!

Welcome to the sixth annual Soo Film Festival!

This year we continue to screen films at two downtown venues, giving us an opportunity to show more films and reach more people. Kicking off the festival are two evening programs at Bayliss Public Library, just a block away from the Soo Theatre. Admission to the films at the library is free. The festival continues Friday to Sunday at the Soo Theatre.

Soo Film Festival places an emphasis on Great Lakes films and filmmakers but, as in previous years, entry was open worldwide. Festival programming will feature international submissions from 19 countries.

Returning programs include a late-night horror feature (Fright Night Part 2); a feature-length foreign film; and a sci-fi feature, sometimes accompanied by one or more short films at the beginning of the block.

Other blocks address various themes such as finding direction in life, what happens when family history meets world history, and the importance of natural resources - something critical in the Great Lakes.

This year we decided to mix it up with our shorts programs. In each of these, you will see a combination of short narrative and documentary films, as well as animation and music videos. We're excited to show you the wide range of student work and remind you this could be your first look at your favorite filmmakers of tomorrow.

We would like to see you at Saturday night's reception. This will be an opportunity to meet and greet filmmakers and fellow film fans while enjoying great food catered by local restaurant The Wicked Sister.

All films in every category are eligible for an Audience Award. Judging takes place during the festival and filmgoers are encouraged to vote for their favorites.

Thank you for coming out and supporting Soo Film Festival. We hope you enjoy the films!

Thank You to Our Amazing Sponsors!



ROBERTS P.
& ELLA B.
HUDSON
FOUNDATION

Tickets and Passes

A Festival Pass is \$50 and gives you admission to all blocks on all days of the festival. A Daily Pass is \$20 and gives you admission to all blocks on a single day (Friday, Saturday, or Sunday). Tickets to a single block are \$7 for general admission and \$5 for students and seniors.

Tickets and passes for the 2019 Soo Film Festival go on sale Monday, August 19. You may purchase all tickets and passes online at the Soo Film Festival ticket page at FilmFreeway. If you purchase tickets or passes online, please bring your receipt (printed or viewable on your phone).

No tickets are required for films shown at Bayliss Public Library. Admission is free to all films at that venue.

Starting September 13, you may purchase tickets and passes at the door. We accept cash, credit cards, and debit cards.

Tickets to individual films will be available at the Soo Theatre 30 minutes before the film start time. You may pick up festival passes at the Soo Theatre 30 minutes before the first screening you wish to attend. If you purchase tickets or passes online, please bring your receipt (printed or viewable on your phone).

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.

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?

If you have misplaced your Soo Film Festival tickets, please arrive 30 minutes before the screening begins and ask for assistance.

Films: Narrative Features

Bleed American

Narrative Feature, Drama, USA, 2018, 75 min, Color



A bold portrait of misguided teens as they learn the cruelties of life and love in the American Midwest.

Great Lakes connection: From the producers: “Our film was developed and produced by Northwest Indiana/Chicagoland residents. The story was inspired by growing up in our region of the Midwest.”

Director: Tre Manchester

Writer: Tre Manchester

Producers: Tre Manchester, John Metzler

Key Cast: Jarrett Maier, Emily Eruraviel, Dane Valerio, Elizabeth Stam, Austin Holloway

Awards:

Lindsey Film Festival (Florence, AL), Mar. 3, 2019, Best Narrative Feature

Website: tremanchester.com/resume/bleed-american

Trailer: vimeo.com/281648043

Facebook: facebook.com/bleedamericanfilm

Sunday, Sept. 15, 7:00pm

Soo Theatre

Block 15 - Finding Direction

Films: Narrative Features

Empty Metal

Narrative Feature, Sci-Fi, Thriller, USA, 2018, 77 min, Color



Set in the abusive police state of the contemporary United States, *Empty Metal* follows five groups of characters, each emblematic of a different extreme political ideology, as they attempt insurrection against the status quo: A punk band is coerced into a dangerous assassination plot by a family of militant Native Americans who are aided by a Rastafarian computer hacker who is old friends with a Buddhist hermit whose son is a local militia leader.

This tangled web of marginalized voices is as diverse and contradictory as the nation that spun it, but there is a common thread: All the characters teeter on the dull knife blade that is contemporary American politics, but they refuse to fall right or left. Instead, they lash out from the soul, and under the radar, in an attempt to achieve what their mainstream predecessors have yet to accomplish.

And all the while, the drones are watching...

Great Lakes connection: One of the co-directors is originally from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Directors: Adam Khalil, Bayley Sweitzer

Writers: Adam Khalil, Bayley Sweitzer

Producers: Andrew Fierberg, Steve Holmgren, Tiffany Sia, Alex Lazarowich

Key Cast: Rose Mori, Austin Sley Julian, Sam Richardson

Awards:

Tacoma Film Festival (Tacoma, WA), Oct. 8, 2018, Best Director - Narrative Feature

Website: emptymetal.com

Trailer: emptymetal.com/trailer

Saturday, Sept. 14, 6:30pm

Soo Theatre

Block 10 - Near Future

Films: Narrative Features

Light in the Dark

Narrative Feature, Drama, Thriller, Nigeria, 2019, 104 min, Color

Free Admission



Emeka and Jumoke, married for 11 years, have a 10-year-old daughter whom they love dearly. They have been trying hard to have another child and hope it will be a boy to appease Emeka's family's desire for a male child. One night a gang attacks them and the gang leader makes Emeka decide who will get raped, his wife or his daughter. This puts a huge strain on their relationship as their worlds start to fall apart afterwards.

Great Lakes connection: None.

Director: Ekene Som Mekwunye

Writers: Babatunde Ojo, Ekene Som Mekwunye

Producers: Ekene Som Mekwunye, Chidinma Nwadike

Key Cast: Rita Dominic, Joke Silva, Kalu Ikeagwu, Ngozi Nwosu, Saidi Balogun, Kiki Omeili, Emmanuel 'Mannie' Essien, Bimbo Ademoye

Website: lightinthedarkmovie.com

Trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=I_vxv0hTvfA

Thursday, Sept. 12, 7:30pm

Bayliss Library

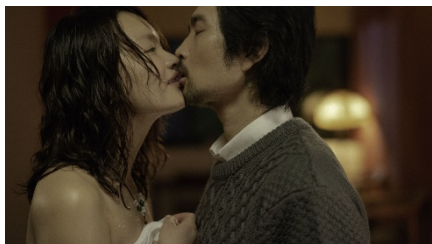
Block 2 - Voices from Afar

Free Admission

Films: Narrative Features

The Very Last Day

Narrative Feature, Drama, Thriller, Taiwan, 2018, 120 min, Color



A best-selling writer is seduced, then kidnapped by an admirer, who accuses him of raping her 20 years ago and exploiting her personal tragedy as a plot of his latest book. While the author insists that his novel is strictly a work of fiction, the erratic woman relentlessly tries to rip a confession from him.

Great Lakes connection: None.

Director: Cédric Jouarie

Writer: Cédric Jouarie

Producers: Cédric Jouarie, Dan Kee Chuang

Key Cast: Wei-Yi Lin, Lawrence Ong, Heng-Yin Chou

Awards:

Retro Avant Garde Film Festival 2018 (Venice, Italy), Dec. 8, 2018, Best Drama-Feature, Best Male Director-Feature

Diamond Film Awards (Rome, Italy), Feb. 28, 2019, Best Feature

Website: kamomeintl.com/the-very-last-day

Trailer: vimeo.com/306622367

Facebook: facebook.com/kamomeintl

Twitter: twitter.com/kamomeintl

Friday, Sept. 13, 8:30pm

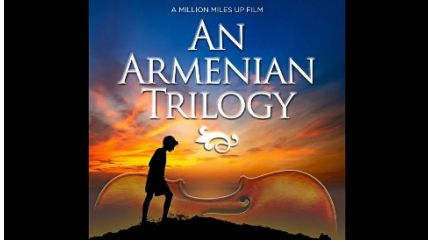
Soo Theatre

Block 6 - Fright Night Part 2

Films: Documentary Features

An Armenian Trilogy

Documentary Feature, USA, 2018, 48 min, Color



An Armenian Trilogy was created by metro Detroit jingle writer Dan Yessian. The film tracks Dan's life from budding musician to creator of some of America's most recognized advertising tunes such as Whirlpool's "We're Making Your World a Little Easier" and Dodge Boys "Have More Fun."

Dan's life took a dramatic turn in 2014 when he was asked by his church to write a composition to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the murder of 1.5 million Armenians. It continues with Dan's visit to his ancestral homeland and the triumphant debut of his music performed there by the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra in 2017.

Great Lakes connection: Dan Yessian is an award-winning composer, producer, musician, and founder of Yessian Music Inc., a Metro Detroit-based music, production and sound design company.

Director: Dan Yessian

Producer: Ohad Wilner

Screenings/Awards:

Freep Film Festival (Detroit, Michigan), Apr. 13, 2019, World Premiere

Northwest Ohio Historic Film Festival (Fostoria, OH), Aug. 17, 2019, Best Original Film Score

Website: armeniantrilogy.com

Trailer: vimeo.com/326843402

Facebook: facebook.com/armeniantrilogy

Twitter: twitter.com/ArmenianTrilogy

Saturday, Sept. 14, 10:30am

Soo Theatre

Block 7 - Never Forget

Films: Documentary Features

Canada C3 - Coast to Coast to Coast

Documentary Feature, Canada, 2018, 46 min, Color



Canada C3 was a Canada 150 Signature Project that connected Canadians from coast to coast to coast. At the center of this project was a 150-day ship-based expedition that began in Lunenburg, NS where the ship was based and prepped for this incredible journey. The expedition then left Toronto on June 1st, 2017 and travelled over 25,000 kilometers along Canada's coastline, the longest of any country in the world, arriving in Victoria on October 28th, 2017.

A diverse group of over 400 expedition participants, thousands of citizens living in the over 75 coastal (and mostly Indigenous) communities that Canada C3 visited, and millions who engaged virtually through various social media and digital learning platforms, acknowledged and learned about the real history of Canada, to discuss current challenges and opportunities, and to look ahead to building a better Canada.

Great Lakes connection: From the directors: "We sailed an icebreaker through the Great Lakes up the East Coast through the Northwest Passage and down the West Coast to Victoria."

Directors: Lèonie Tremblay-Clavette, Claudine Bergeron

Writer: Kate Harris

Producers: Geoff Green, Tammy Quinn

Key Cast: Sarain Fox, Maxime Le Flaguais

Website: canadac3.ca

Trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=kGsAY_Y1Apg

Facebook: facebook.com/CanadaC3

Twitter: twitter.com/canada_c3

Sunday, Sept. 15, 4:30pm

Soo Theatre

Block 14 - Journeys by Water

Films: Documentary Features

Crossing Superior

Documentary Feature, USA, 2018, 50 min, Color



Crossing Lake Superior follows a riveting 60-mile journey three men took with their paddle boards across a lake that is often a force to be reckoned with.

Eleven-time Emmy award winner Corey Adkins tagged along to document the 22-hour journey with Stand Up for Great Lakes, including humored encounters with other freighters, a permit to do something special over waters restricted by the Canadian government, and the emotional landing at Whitefish Point.

Learn why they chose this kind of adventure to raise money for the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum in this special documentary.

Great Lakes connection: The film is a documentary about three men who paddled 60 miles across Lake Superior on Stand Up for Great Lakes to raise money for the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society. The adventure included centuries-old pictographs, an emotional visit to the site of the Edmund Fitzgerald, and a tear-filled (happy) landing at Whitefish Point.

Director: Corey Adkins

Writer: Corey Adkins

Producer: Corey Adkins

Website: standupforgreatlakes.com

Trailer: youtube.com/watch?v=_6zuZExON3o&t=37s

Sunday, Sept. 15, 4:30pm

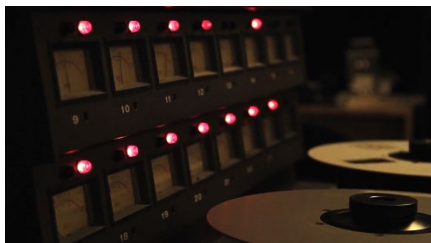
Soo Theatre

Block 14 - Journeys by Water

Films: Documentary Features

Detroit, Diamond

Documentary Feature, USA, 2018, 50 min, Color



Record producer Jim Diamond, owner of Detroit-based Ghetto Recorders, was at the forefront of the 1990s/2000s rock revival, but as Detroit tries to revitalize its image, he finds himself getting forced out of his iconic studio.

Great Lakes connection: The subject is a Michigan record producer. Also, the director is originally from Michigan.

Director: Lucas Ostrowski

Sunday, Sept. 15, 10:00am

Soo Theatre

Block 11 - Sound Tracks

Films: Documentary Features

From Seed to Seed

Documentary Feature, Canada, 2018, 87 min, Color

Free admission



Terry and Monique left their opera careers in Europe to pursue their passion for ecological farming and to build a food community in the heart of Canada. We follow their young family and a diverse group of farmers and scientists as they blend age-old traditions with cutting-edge science to grow food ecologically in a changing climate. The film tells a hopeful story and provides a Canadian perspective on a global social movement that regenerates the land, farming, and communities to create a healthier and truly sustainable future for all of us.

Great Lakes connection: None.

Director: Katharina Stieffenhofer

Writer: Katharina Stieffenhofer

Producer: Katharina Stieffenhofer

Key Cast: Terry Mierau & Monique Scholte, Jonah Langelotz, Dr. Martin Entz, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Dr. Ian Mauro

Awards:

Ridgefield Independent Film Festival (Ridgefield, CT) Oct. 19, 2018, Best Environmental Film

Seneca Film Festival (Watkins Glen, NY), Oct. 20, 2018, Best Feature Documentary

Colorado Environmental Film Festival (Golden, CO), Feb. 21, 2019, Best of the Fest

Website: fromseedtoseed.com

Trailer: vimeo.com/242633372

Facebook: facebook.com/fromseedtoseed

Thursday, Sept. 12, 5:30pm

Bayliss Library

Block 1 - Farmer's Market

Free admission

Films: Documentary Features

The Seventh Fire

Subtitle: UP Michigan Natives Reclaim Their Past to Save Their Future

Documentary Feature, USA, 2019, 71 min, Color



Reclaiming, growing, and preserving cultural practices nearly lost to assimilation is part of daily life for this generation of native Michiganders.

Great Lakes connection: The documentary centers on the Bay Mills Indian Community located twenty minutes west of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and the Eastern Upper Peninsula Ojibwe/Anishinaabeg. It features Lake Superior and the native people who live on its shores. The documentary is about how these native people are fighting daily to save and grow their native culture after generations of assimilation. The director is a Flint area resident/journalist.

Director: Timothy Jagielo

Website: theseventhfire.tumblr.com/

Trailer: vimeo.com/343785094

Sunday, Sept. 15, 2:00pm

Soo Theatre

Block 13 - Native Voices

Block 1 - Farmer's Market

Feature program, 87 min, Not rated

Free admission

Thursday, Sept. 12, 5:30pm - Bayliss Library



Still photo from *From Seed to Seed*

From Seed to Seed

Documentary Feature, Canada, 2018, 87 min, Color

Terry and Monique left their opera careers in Europe to pursue their passion for ecological farming and to build a food community in the heart of Canada. We follow their young family and a diverse group of farmers and scientists as they blend age-old traditions with cutting-edge science to grow food ecologically in a changing climate. The film tells a hopeful story and provides a Canadian perspective on a global social movement that regenerates the land, farming, and communities to create a healthier and truly sustainable future for all of us.

Great Lakes connection: None

For more information, see page 16 in the Documentary Features section.

Block 2 - Voices from Afar

Feature program, 104 min, Not rated, Mature subject matter

Free Admission

Thursday, September. 12, 7:30pm - Bayliss Library



Still photo from *Light in the Dark*

Light in the Dark

Narrative Feature, Drama, Thriller, Nigeria, 2019, 104 min, Color, Mature Subject Matter

Emeka and Jumoke, married for 11 years, have a 10-year-old daughter whom they love dearly. They have been trying hard to have another child and hope it will be a boy to appease Emeka's family's desire for a male child. One night a gang attacks them and the gang leader makes Emeka decide who will get raped, his wife or his daughter. This puts a huge strain on their relationship as their worlds start to fall apart afterwards.

Great Lakes connection: None.

For more information, see page 10 in the Narrative Features section.

Block 3 - Mixed Shorts 1

Shorts program, 91 min, Not rated

Friday, Sept. 13, 1:00pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *The Genocide Project*

This program presents a mixed group of short films, from animations and music videos to narratives and a short documentary.

The Genocide Project

Director: Rachel Goodman

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 15 min, Color, Student Project (Troy Athens High School, Troy, MI, US)

Nick must overcome his useless group to complete a 6,000-point Genocide Project in his World History class in order to get the grades necessary to get into the University of Michigan.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot at Troy Athens High School by Athens TV students.

The Gift

Director: Lorelei E. Miller

Narrative Short, Canada, 2019, 16 min, Color

A young man struggling with depression embarks on a journey back into the world he withdrew from. The film is a journey to find out what really motivates us as we navigate through the challenges in our lives.

Balance

Director: Raymond Limantara Sutisna

Animation, Singapore, 2018, 4 min, Color, Student Project (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

A boy and a girl fight for painting space, each refusing to give in until the mess they create gets out of control.

Adulthood

Director: Daniel Kiwacka

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 8 min, Color

A young girl finds out on her thirteenth birthday that the monster under the bed isn't just a tall tale made up by parents.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot and edited in Ohio mainly by people living and working in Ohio.

Load

Director: Stefan Teofilovic

Narrative Short, Serbia, 2017, 8 min, Color

The 21st century. The era of neoliberalism, consumerism and virtual reality – blank stares, absent minds, and dead souls. Far from this world communities that haven't said farewell to the old-fashioned values can still be found. In one of those districts lives a truck driver who just wants to put an end to a long and tiring day.

Inspired by Italian neorealism, shot in natural surroundings, with equipment far behind today's standards, this project is an attempt to pave the way for a different kind of film in a society burdened with expensive technology.

FEAR

Directors: Lu Pulici, Josep Piris

Music Video, Italy, 2018, 5 min, Black & White and Color

A music video of the song "Fear" by Jorge da Rocha.

On the Roof

Director: Marie Dupont

Documentary Short, USA, 2018, 25 min, Color, Student Project (New York University, New York City, US)

Old-school pigeon flyer Frank spends every day up on a roof in Brooklyn where he finds company but also faces a changing city that seems to care less and less for a long-standing tradition.

Great Lakes connection: The director is a student in New York City.

Like and Follow

Directors: Tobias Schlage, Brent Forrest

Animation, Japan, 2019, 2 min, Color

When a kid starts spending time in the real world, it's up to his smartphone to bring his attention back to where it belongs.

Great Lakes connection: From the director: "I grew up around Lake Ontario and its scenery features prominently in the design of the second act of our film."

Ember

Directors: Caitlin Hoseck, Celeste Jamneck

Animation, South Africa, 2018, 4 min, Color

This animation tells a uniquely African fairytale, one set in the magical area of Cape Fynbos in South Africa where the plants are beautiful and strange. The area requires a large burn every twenty years or so to allow for the healthy growth of its plants. This is represented in the fairytale by the struggle of Mbali, a nature sprite, and Ember, a fire sprite. Though Ember burns the landscape completely, plants grow from the ashes to surround Mbali once again. The world of the Fynbos exists in perfect balance, as life and death, destruction and regrowth go hand in hand.

Too Hard to Love

Directors: Casey Zenner, Matt Ruby

Music Video, USA, 2018, 4 min, Color, Student Project (Scottsdale Community College, Scottsdale, AZ, US)

A music video of the band Good Boy Daisy for the song "Too Hard to Love."

Block 4 - Mixed Shorts 2

Shorts program, 113 min, Not rated

Friday, Sept. 13, 3:00pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *Kenya*

This program presents a mixed group of short films, from animations and music videos to narratives and a short documentary.

Kenya

Director: D. Gilliam

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 12 min, Color

Hip-hop head Kenya finds difficulties balancing her love life with her career.

Great Lakes connection: The actors live in Pennsylvania. The film was also shot in Pennsylvania.

Hadidance

Director: Luke Viljoen

Animation, South Africa, 2018, 4 min, Color

One night a female bird heads to a bar determined to find love. Outwardly she seems to be incredibly outgoing and popular, but underneath lies a dark layer of insecurity. A muscled seagull and a majestic peacock both catch her eye, and she thinks that one of them might be The One. Upon interacting with them, though, she realizes that there is more than good looks and charm and she is driven to confront her own insecurities.

Spike

Directors: Tyler Holme, Ben Fout

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 2 min, Color

A story about a dog, his human, and that jerk next door.

Great Lakes connection: The writer/co-director grew up in Redford, Michigan.

A Tinsel Township Christmas Tale

Director: Marion Wilson

Animation, South Africa, 2018, 4 min, Color

On the night before Christmas, Hobbs tells his daughter Lili a story about how he got presents for her and all of the township kids.

Condolences

Director: John C. Jones

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 6 min, Color

They came to pay their respects.

Objects with Stories

Director: Modesta Žemgulytė

Narrative Short, Lithuania, 2018, 5 min, Color

Which objects do we value most? Why do we get so attached to ordinary inanimate things? And why it is sometimes so hard to let go of them? This is a short film about losing and letting go of things that matter most to us.

Sex Planet - Lacie

Director: Zach Strum

Music Video, USA, 2018, 3 min, Color

A music video of the song “Lacie” by the duo Sex Planet. An exploration of identity through an androgynous male.

Monsters Walking

Director: Diego Porral Soldevilla

Animation, Spain, 2018, 1 min, Black & White, Student Project (Gobelins, L'École de L'Image, Paris, France)

This is a short film about monsters that walk.

Accident de Personne

Director: Alvaro Martin

Narrative Short, Italy, 2018, 4 min, Black & White, Student Project (University Carlos III de Madrid, Madrid, Spain)

We create metaphors to mention facts that we don't want to talk about.

Shogani

Director: Elena Horgan

Music Video, Ireland, 2019, 4 min, Color

A music video for the song “Shogani” by Kobina featuring vocals by Obskur Mond. Shot all in 35 mm stills, it tells the story of a relationship that grows between two women.

Reminiscing

Directors: Luke Grandmont, Dallas Varcoe

Narrative Short, Canada, 2018, 5 min, Color

An old duck hunter reflects on the past while finding his place in the future.

Great Lakes connection: This short was filmed in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario in the fall of 2017. Filmmakers Luke Grandmont and Dallas Varcoe are both Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario natives, and the writer and lead, Norris Pyette, has called Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario home for over 60 years.

Even in the Silence

Director: Jonathan Elliott

Narrative Short, Canada, 2019, 4 min, Color

This film is a visual poem told entirely in Kanien'keha (the Mohawk language) that examines the impacts of underage drinking in Indigenous communities and the struggle to overcome grief and past traumas through culture and traditional practices.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot at the Six Nations Reserve and in Toronto. Both locations are in the Great Lakes region and are in traditional Indigenous territory, a topic that is explored in the film.

Taken Home

Director: Jonathan Elliott

Narrative Short, Canada, 2019, 17 min, Color

Shortly after being placed with a new foster family, Tom and Claire, two young Indigenous siblings, are forced to confront the realities of their situation as a dark secret threatens to tear them apart forever. This is a film about the inability of Indigenous youth to maintain a connection to their culture and identity while in the foster care system and the effects this institution can have on the children forced into it.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot at the Six Nations Reserve and in Toronto. Both locations are in the Great Lakes region and are in traditional Indigenous territory, a topic that is explored in the film.

Shadows of a Radio in the East

Director: Nacho Recio

Music Video, Spain, 2016, 1 min, Black & White and Color

This music video, recorded with a mobile phone, is presented as an audiovisual experimentation in the context of a Berlin still overshadowed by a dense and uncertain past.

Two Down

Director: Rolfin Nyhus

Narrative Short, United Kingdom, 2019, 6 min, Color

Salt beef? Two feckless men attempt to complete a tabloid crossword in an old-school greasy spoon café in northeast London.

Pronounced: North London Darby

Director: Michael Zamanis

Narrative Short, Canada, 2018, 7 min, Color

In spite of their wildly differing opinions on the sport, a Toronto man and his visiting English drinking buddy enjoy a spirited male bonding session over a televised game of soccer at a bar.

Great Lakes connection: From the director: “The film was shot at York University in Toronto, Ontario (which of course is right on Lake Ontario). All cast and crew members live and work in the greater Toronto region. Thank you for this opportunity! I've made what I believe to be a wonderful little short film and I'm still looking for my first ever festival screening! Cheers!”

Harper

Director: Bradley Michael

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 28 min, Color

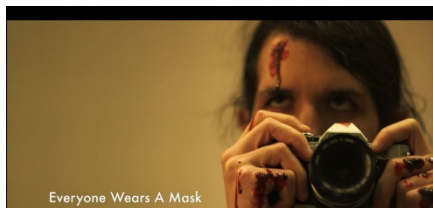
A stranded time traveler struggles to regain the courage to move forward in her journey without causing collateral damage.

Great Lakes connection: From the director: “All film personnel and cast are from the Mitten State. The director spends a lot of time in the Upper Peninsula and Great Lakes Regions. The director of photography on this project is a resident of Traverse City and frequently creates work inspired by the Great Lakes.”

Block 5 - Fright Night

Shorts program, 111 min, Not rated

Friday, Sept. 13, 6:00pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *Bi Polaroid*

If it's Friday night, and especially if it's Friday the 13th, it must be time for the Fright Fest. These short films take you from the merely eerie to the frankly terrifying. Not for the faint of heart.

Verso

Directors: Joseph Victor, Ryan Russell Steele

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 4 min, Color

This is a short film about the dangers of a resentful mind following a horrific night at an artist mixer and the desire for revenge. Have we become passive voyeurs of the violence of the world? Are we able to empathize as if the circumstances were reversed? How are we poisoned by the context of our own perception?

Great Lakes connection: The cast and crew are from Michigan and the film was shot in Michigan.

Under the Blade

Director: Javid Farahani

Narrative Short, Iran, Islamic Republic of, 2019, 15 min, Color

A woman director wants to make a film with a rape scene, but social and religious red lines in Iran mean no actress is willing to play the role.

We Hired a Clown

Director: Daniel Hagler

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 5 min, Color

Inattentive parents hire a clown for Timmy's birthday, but there are dire consequences.

Great Lakes connection: One of the producers is from Michigan.

Tell Me About Yourself

Director: Scott Franchuk

Narrative Short, Canada, 2019, 6 min, Color, Student Project (University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada)

Ruth and Michael are on a date. Ruth is quiet at first, but as she and Michael start to get along, she is struck by violent thoughts of harming him. As Michael asks personal questions, the violent thoughts get worse. She must either confront the thoughts or give up on a potential relationship.

Bi Polaroid

Director: Douglas A. Ewen

Narrative Short, Canada, 2018, 4 min, Color, Student Project (Sault College, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada)

A photographer struggles with the illusion of beauty and sees people for who they truly are through his lens.

Great Lakes connection: The director is a student in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

Breaking Wheel

Director: Michael McCallum

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 11 min, Color

A grieving woman desperately hunts for her fiancé, who vanished under abrupt and mysterious circumstances.

Great Lakes connection: The film was 100% created and made in Michigan.

Blood Orange

Director: Vladimir Sokolskyy

Narrative Short, Canada, 2018, 10 min, Color, Student Project (Sault College, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada)

A group of friends gets an ominous message that makes them become afraid for their lives. Strong violence and language throughout.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Several actors and crew personnel were from the area.

Framed

Director: Marco Jemolo

Animation, Italy, 2017, 7 min, Color

This noir animation explores the sensitive subject of alienation in society.

All Things Beautiful

Directors: Ava Torres, Helmann Wilhelm

Narrative Short, Canada, 2017, 15 min, Color

Sam tries to win the affection of a talented actress named Claire despite a crippling speech disorder. When his best friend shows interest in the same woman, Sam becomes dangerously obsessed, breaking into her apartment to learn everything there is to know about his one true love.

Great Lakes connection: The film includes a cast and crew from Ontario and was shot in the same province.

Silence the Vampyr

Director: Kishe Caelan Wallace

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 10 min, Color

Silence the Vampyr, while based on various Serbian news events, is fictional. Folkloric and Orthodoxian, it reveals a hunt for vampyr, or the corpse of what villagers believe to be vampyr. Aleksandar, a young child, is indoctrinated into the ritual of staking in this chilling tale.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

In the Mind's Eye

Director: Kellen Gibbs

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 17 min, Color

Gifted with the ability to extract and inhabit other people's memories, Greer Thompson is an example of how incredible powers come at a price. She isolates herself and tries to live a very simple life, but when she is confronted by a man who has been affected by her abilities, she is forced to question her own reality.

Copenhagen Road

Director: Lee Chambers

Narrative Short, Canada, 2019, 8 min, Color

Late one night, Craig, a mechanic, reluctantly agrees to help Nicole, a desperate young woman with a flat tire, in a car all too familiar to him. Nicole's mysterious incident on the old Copenhagen Road slowly strikes an eerie note for Craig and brings his own shady past rushing forward.

Great Lakes connection: The director was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. His Pineville Heist feature was screened at the 2016 Soo Film Festival.

Block 6 - Fright Night Part 2

Feature program, 120 min, Not rated

Friday, Sept. 13, 8:30pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *The Very Last Day*

If it's Friday night, and especially if it's Friday the 13th, it must be time for the Fright Fest. Welcome to Fright Night Part 2!

The Very Last Day

Narrative Feature, Drama, Thriller, Taiwan, 2018, 120 min, Color

A best-selling writer is seduced, then kidnapped by an admirer, who accuses him of raping her 20 years ago and exploiting her personal tragedy as a plot of his latest book. While the author insists that his novel is strictly a work of fiction, the erratic woman relentlessly tries to rip a confession from him.

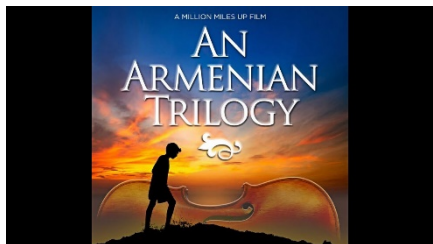
Great Lakes connection: None.

For more information, see page11 in the Narrative Features section.

Block 7 - Never Forget

Feature and short program, 88 min, Not rated

Saturday, Sept. 14, 10:30am - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *An Armenian Trilogy*

Two documentaries, a short and a feature, treat a similar theme: some things should not be forgotten.

An Edited Life

Director: Faure Mat

Documentary Short, USA, 2018, 40 min, Color, Student Project (New York University, New York City, US)

From the director: “At 79 years old, former film editor Jocelyne Bourgeois is goaded, coaxed, challenged by me, her persistent filmmaker grandson, to face her true identity, because it is my story too. We embark together to the places she has avoided since WWII, putting back the scenes she edited out. Facing this deleted past is painful but a life-changing gift for us both.”

Great Lakes connection: The director is a student in New York City.

Feature Presentation - An Armenian Trilogy

Documentary Feature, USA, 2018, 48 min, Color

An Armenian Trilogy was created by metro Detroit jingle writer Dan Yessian. The film tracks Dan’s life from budding musician to creator of some of America’s most recognized advertising tunes such as Whirlpool’s “We’re Making Your World a Little Easier” and Dodge Boys “Have More Fun.”

Dan’s life took a dramatic turn in 2014 when he was asked by his church to write a composition to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the murder of 1.5 million Armenians. It continues with Dan’s visit to his ancestral homeland and the triumphant debut of his music performed there by the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra in 2017.

Great Lakes connection: Dan Yessian is an award-winning composer, producer, musician, and founder of Yessian Music Inc., a Metro Detroit-based music, production and sound design company

For more information, see page 12 in the Documentary Features section.

Block 8 - Student Films

Shorts program, 111 min, Not rated

Saturday, Sept. 14, 1:00pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *Things We Carry*

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 college students in all short categories. Most of our selections are from Michigan or Ontario.

Things We Carry

Director: Paul Morisette

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 19 min, Color, Student Project (Compass College of Cinematic Arts, Grand Rapids, MI, US)

A woman with a dark past hitchhikes a ride from a mysterious stranger. Growing uneasy, she discovers suspicious findings in his car as things spiral out of control.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area.

Embrace Where You Come From

Director: Chris Yang

Documentary Short, USA, 2019, 4 min, Color, Student Project (Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI, US)

This short documentary interviews two young people about the Hmong heritage that they were born into while living in the United States.

Great Lakes connection: The director is a student in Marquette, Michigan.

Reggie

Director: Devin Durocher

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 18 min, Color, Student Project (Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, US)

What happens when a robot gets fired and had his memory chip wiped, erasing all knowledge of what he used to do, or what he's meant to do?

Great Lakes connection: All the cast, crew, actors, and donors are from the areas of Lansing and Metro Detroit/Downriver, Michigan.

Alexa

Director: Alexa Range

Documentary Short, USA, 2019, 5 min, Color, Student Project (Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI, US)

A comedic and reflective documentary expressing the struggles of being named Alexa in a society where the Amazon Echo has come into existence.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot in Michigan.

Flow

Director: Lari Wendt

Animation, USA, 2019, 1 min, Color, Student Project (Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI, US)

This animation combines visual art and dance through a process of choreographing a dance, shooting and editing video, rotoscoping, digital painting, and creating audio. The rotoscoping style used is a combination of meticulously drawn frames taken directly from sections of video and sketchier frames drawn more loosely that were created using the video as a reference, but with some interpretation of the dancer's movement.

Great Lakes connection: The animator lives in Marquette County, Michigan and is a recent graduate of Northern Michigan University.

Crime and Punishment

Director: Vladimir Sokolskyy

Narrative Short, Canada, 2019, 13 min, Color, Student Project (Sault College, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada)

An adaptation of Dostoyevsky's classic novel about a young student, Rodion Raskolnikov, and his moral dilemmas.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and most of the crew was from the area.

Multiply

Director: Jermaine Davis

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 15 min, Color, Student Project (Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, US)

Blame starts to fall upon a young graphic designer for trouble that she does not remember causing.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot and takes place in Flint, Michigan.

Dance Ditchers

Director: Jon Mayer

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 11 min, Color, Student Project (Huntington University, Huntington, IN, US)

Three students decide to ditch their school dance and have their own “party” in the halls of the school, but they encounter trouble when they run into a no-nonsense teacher who wants to keep the halls quiet and the ex-girlfriend of one of the students.

Great Lakes connection: The director is a student in Huntington, Indiana.

Private Barry

Director: Tyler Szuch

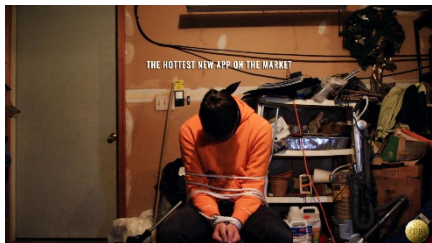
Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 25 min, Color, Student Project (Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY, US)

A newly assigned Casualty Notification Officer for the United States Army struggles to cope with the horror of visiting families on the worst day of their lives.

Block 9 - The Michigan Connection

Shorts program, 85 min, Not rated

Saturday, Sept. 14, 3:30pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *BrowBeat*

This program presents a mixed group of short narratives and music videos, all of which have a Michigan connection.

BrowBeat

Director: Thomas Butcher

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 5 min, Color

The hottest new app on the market will let you kidnap annoying people and teach them a lesson.

Great Lakes connection: The film was produced in Michigan with a 100% Michigan cast & crew.

AMERICA

Directors: George ve Gänæaard, Horia Cucută

Narrative Short, Romania, 2019, 2 min, Color

Frederik's attempts to create the safest place possible, where he is protected by his lovely walls in a room filled with guns. A story of uNRaveling.

Great Lakes connection: The film was written and produced by Ron Riecki, who hails from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

FOUR-NINETY

Director: Scott A. Magie

Narrative Short, USA, 2017, 13 min, Color

A pardoned ex-con reluctantly returns to prison as a visitor because an inmate keeps sending him postcards. "The hardest prison to escape is a hateful heart."

Great Lakes connection: The film was 100% made in Michigan.

Foreword

Director: Michael McCallum

Narrative Short, USA, 2017, 8 min, Color

A famous author who struggles to finish his next novel discovers a postcard that he has mailed to himself from the future that warns of an upcoming danger.

Great Lakes connection: The film was 100% created and made in Michigan.

Lear

Director: Carlyle Stewart

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 3 min, Black & White

In this recently discovered silent film, lost for many years, a defeated old man wanders the beach, ranting and raving at the waves, cursing his fate.

Great Lakes connection: The director lives in Traverse City, Michigan. The film was shot on Lake Michigan at the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore.

Outcome Not So Good

Director: Jackie Jorgenson

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 1 min, Color

A comedic take on Shakespeare's classic line, "To be or not to be."

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot in Grand Rapids, Michigan with Grand Rapids locals.

Ever After

Director: Jeff Kapp

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 13 min, Color

As Jacob is about to enter into fatherhood, he revisits his past and tries to make things right before taking on this new responsibility.

Great Lakes connection: From the director: "Everyone involved with the film is native to Michigan. The film was shot at Nancy Moore Park, east of Lansing, Michigan. Every year since I was in 6th grade my family has traveled to Mackinaw City for four days and always on the second day we'd go to the Soo Locks. It has been a tradition in the family for a long time so being able to take my family up to see my film in this festival would be an honor. Thank you!"

One Shot

Directors: Joseph Victor, Ryan Steele

Narrative Short, USA, 2017, 11 min, Color

Jack has a chance encounter at the grocery store with Amanda, his Tinder match from the night before.

Great Lakes connection: The cast and crew are from Michigan and the film was shot in Michigan.

Therapeutic Thievery

Director: Graham Hall

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 7 min, Color

An engaged couple's love is questioned while they are being robbed at an Airbnb.

Great Lakes connection: All cast and crew members live in or around Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The Ballad of Jack & Vi

Director: Annie Engman

Music Video, USA, 2018, 6 min, Color

A dramatization of a fictitious murder ballad written by Daniel "DK" Kwiatkowski about the undying love between his grandparents, Jack & Violet Perry. Performed by Kwiatkowski's band The Hollows.

Great Lakes connection: From the director: "Daniel Kwiatkowski is from Cheboygan, Michigan, his band The Hollows regularly tours in Michigan, and he has the Great Lakes tattooed on his arm. He has quite the following in the state!"

Double Take

Director: Ben Friedman

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 5 min, Color, Student Project (Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI, US)

When they come across a lost wallet, Sam and his reluctant friend Steven go on a journey to return the item to its rightful owner. Some clues along the way point them in unexpected directions.

Great Lakes connection: The film was made by students of Grand Valley State University in Allendale and shot in Grand Rapids, both in Michigan. All cast and crew members live in either Michigan or Wisconsin.

Love Is Wild

Director: Michael McCallum

Music Video, USA, 2018, 2 min, Color

A music video for singer/songwriter, Jen Sygit, by award-winning writer/actor/director Michael McCallum about the different faces of love.

Great Lakes connection: The film was 100% created and made in Michigan.

*Program subject to change.

Bunny!

Director: Thomas Butcher

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 9 min, Color

A Bunny wreaks havoc on an unsuspecting neighborhood.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot in Michigan with a 100% Michigan cast & crew.

Block 10 - Near Future

Feature and short program, 84 min, Not rated

Saturday, Sept. 14, 6:30pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *Empty Metal*

Sci-fi is the theme of this block's short and feature.

Join Us for a Meet & Greet Reception

After the screening of *Empty Metal* stay for a chance to meet and greet the filmmakers in the lobby of the Soo Theatre. Mingle with friends old and new, get your picture taken, and enjoy some great food. Catering for the free event will be provided by The Wicked Sister restaurant.

Enigma

Director: Michael Washington

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 7 min, Color, Student Project (Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, US)

A young woman is torn between good and evil in a never-ending struggle.

Great Lakes connection: The director is a student in Detroit, Michigan.

Feature Presentation - Empty Metal

Narrative Feature, Sci-Fi, Thriller, USA, 2018, 77 min, Color

Set in the abusive police state of the contemporary United States, *Empty Metal* follows five groups of characters, each emblematic of a different extreme political ideology, as they attempt insurrection against the status quo: A punk band is coerced into a dangerous assassination plot by a family of militant Native Americans who are aided by a Rastafarian computer hacker who is old friends with a Buddhist hermit whose son is a local militia leader.

This tangled web of marginalized voices is as diverse and contradictory as the nation that spun it, but there is a common thread: All the characters teeter on the dull knife blade that is contemporary American politics, but they refuse to

*Program subject to change.

fall right or left. Instead, they lash out from the soul, and under the radar, in an attempt to achieve what their mainstream predecessors have yet to accomplish.

And all the while, the drones are watching...

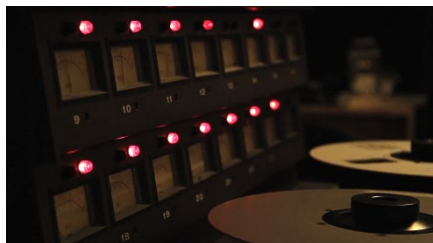
Great Lakes connection: One of the co-directors is originally from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

For more information, see page 9 in the Narrative Features section.

Block 11 - Sound Tracks

Feature and shorts program, 58 min, Not rated

Sunday, Sept. 15, 10:00am - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *Detroit, Diamond*

Music is the theme of this block's shorts and feature presentation.

Scars Left Behind

Director: Eren Ozsan

Music Video, Turkey, 2019, 5 min, Color

A young girl comes across her long-lost mother while she is wandering in an abandoned city. A Turkish music video filmed in Chernobyl.

Urban Jungle

Directors: Kévin Payet, Charlotte Poncin

Music Video, France, 2019, 3 min, Color

A music video of the instrumental “Jungle Urbaine (Urban Jungle)” by Trafic. In an urban jungle of concrete and lights, two young people keep roaming, without really knowing that they’re actually looking for each other. They wander, explore the nocturnal urban, they end up meeting, discovering each other, confronting each other, recognizing one another, and finally taming each other. An inexplicable dance.

Feature Presentation - Detroit, Diamond

Documentary Feature, USA, 2018, 50 min, Color

Record producer Jim Diamond, owner of Detroit-based Ghetto Recorders, was at the forefront of the 1990s/2000s rock revival, but as Detroit tries to revitalize its image, he finds himself getting forced out of his iconic studio.

Great Lakes connection: The subject is a Michigan record producer. Also, the director is originally from Michigan.

Director: Lucas Ostrowski

Block 12 - Mixed Shorts 3

Shorts program, 115 min, Not rated

Sunday, Sept. 15, 11:30am - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *Respect Your Elders,*

Chum

This program presents a mixed group of short films: narratives, animations and music videos.

Respect Your Elders, Chum

Director: Jack Belhumeur

Narrative Short, Canada, 2018, 7 min, Color

Chum learns a lesson about respecting his elders.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot in Thunder Bay, Ontario on Lake Superior by a First Nation youth film crew.

Undone

Directors: Sara Laubscher, Saira George

Animation, South Africa, 2018, 4 min, Color

This short film follows Dotty who must fight to protect her memories from the effects of Alzheimer's disease. Ultimately, she is faced with a decision - either she continues to knit everything back together or accepts that she is losing her memories and should enjoy what is left of them.

Rocks

Director: Vincent Gagliardi

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 10 min, Color, Student Project (City College of NY, New York City, US)

A lonely geologist finds companionship in the form of a rock-worshipping cult.

Great Lakes connection: The director is a student in New York City.

And She Rode Forth....

Director: Deb Ethier

Animation, Canada, 2018, 3 min, Color

A Bard recounts the tale of the Archetypal Heroine, called forth by necessity to begin her journey and fulfill her destiny. A silhouette animation, this is a “song without words,” the tale being told solely through visuals and instrumental music.

Great Lakes connection: From the director: “I live where the Detroit River flows into Lake Erie.”

Her Water Drum

Director: Jonathan Elliott

Narrative Short, Canada, 2018, 16 min, Color

In the wake of her daughter's disappearance, Jolene, a single Mohawk mother, is forced to pick up the pieces of her life and navigate an increasingly strained relationship with her troubled son David. As secrets emerge, their relationship faces its toughest challenge yet as they confront the reality of their situation.

This film deals with the topic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada, highlighting the impact it has on individual families and their communities.

Great Lakes connection: The film was shot at the Six Nations Reserve and in Toronto. Both locations are in the Great Lakes region and are in traditional Indigenous territory, a topic that is explored in the film.

Rob Nance - Motion Sickness

Directors: Zach Strum, Gen Liu

Music Video, USA, 2018, 3 min, Color

A music video for the song “Motion Sickness” by Rob Nance and the Lost Souls that employs hand-drawn rotoscope animation.

Little Cosmic Shore

Director: Pavel Kungurov

Animation, Russian Federation, 2019, 4 min, Color

A spaceship lands on a lonely island. The pilot and his toddler emerge. Each explores the island in his own way. Is there life on this planet?

First Light

Director: Jonas Thielcke

Narrative Short, Germany, 2019, 14 min, Color

Malie, a young forensic pathologist, prefers to work nights to avoid her coworkers. One night, however, she encounters the open and warm-hearted Taha, one of the hospital's janitors, who manages to pull her out of her shell.

The German title of this film is Taupunkt.

Potion: Dark Matter

Director: Annie Maley

Music Video, USA, 2019, 5 min, Color

A music video of the song “Dark Matter” by Potion that presents a mock “ad” in retro style for the Exoplanet Travel Bureau, a space travel agency, offering package tours of our galaxy and beyond.

As One

Director: David Spaltro

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 15 min, Color

Jill must put one foot in front of the other to move through her grief, and with connection she discovers that every mile has a story.

Great Lakes connection: From the director: “Our film is dedicated to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and every person involved in this organization. A peer from my graduate school is from Lansing and lives in Grand Rapids and she and her son were a giant inspiration to me.”

Things Were Better Before

Director: Lu Pulici

Music Video, Italy, 2018, 6 min, Color

A music video of the song “Things Were Better Before” by Tankus the Henge. Using puppets from the Trukitrek Puppet Company, the animation is both beautiful in its design and poignant in its message dealing as it does with environmental issues, specifically the death of our oceans. The film, made entirely using found or recycled materials, is a “Wake-up Machine” to those who view it, encouraging green and sustainable thinking to a society that needs to pay attention and affect real change before it’s too late.

The Quit

Director: Todd Lillethun

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 28 min, Color

Roger's smoking habit has bugged his partner Sam for years. When Roger finally decides to quit, Sam is thrilled to support him and engages in a campaign for a cure. After the campaign fails, Sam is bitterly disappointed. He then sees a dangerous new idea that may save his life even though it might cost them their relationship.

Great Lakes connection: Writer/Director Todd Lillithun was from Wisconsin and lived in Chicago. Producer Josef Steiff lives in southeast Wisconsin. The film was shot in northern Illinois.

Block 13 - Native Voices

Feature program, 80 min, Not rated

Sunday, Sept. 15, 2:00pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *The Seventh Fire*

Two documentaries feature interviews with members of tribes of the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Dawes Act

Director: Frederick Dakota

Documentary Short, USA, 2019, 9 min, Color, Student Project (Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI, US)

Three individuals reflect on the negative impacts the Dawes Act had, and continues to have, on the lives and communities of Native Americans.

Great Lakes connection: From the director: "My film is about Native American history and talks specifically about the history of the Tribes in the Upper Peninsula."

Feature Presentation - The Seventh Fire

Subtitle: UP Michigan Natives Reclaim Their Past to Save Their Future

Documentary Feature, USA, 2019, 71 min, Color

Reclaiming, growing, and preserving cultural practices nearly lost to assimilation is part of daily life for this generation of native Michiganders.

Great Lakes connection: The documentary centers on the Bay Mills Indian Community located twenty minutes west of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and the Eastern Upper Peninsula Ojibwe/Anishinaabeg. It features Lake Superior and the native people who live on its shores. The documentary is about how these native people are fighting daily to save and grow their native culture after generations of assimilation. The director is a Flint area resident/journalist.

Director: Timothy Jagielo

Block 14 - Journeys by Water

Feature program, 96 min, Not rated

Sunday, Sept. 15, 4:30pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *Canada C3*

Two feature documentaries describe two very different journeys by water in the Great Lakes region and beyond.

Feature Presentation - Canada C3 - Coast to Coast

Documentary Feature, Canada, 2018, 46 min, Color

Canada C3 was a Canada 150 Signature Project that connected Canadians from coast to coast to coast. At the center of this project was a 150-day ship-based expedition that began in Lunenburg, NS where the ship was based and prepped for this incredible journey. The expedition then left Toronto on June 1st, 2017 and travelled over 25,000 kilometers along Canada's coastline, the longest of any country in the world, arriving in Victoria on October 28th, 2017.

A diverse group of over 400 expedition participants, thousands of citizens living in the over 75 coastal (and mostly Indigenous) communities that Canada C3 visited, and millions who engaged virtually through various social media and digital learning platforms, acknowledged and learned about the real history of Canada, to discuss current challenges and opportunities, and to look ahead to building a better Canada.

Great Lakes connection: From the directors: "We sailed an icebreaker through the Great Lakes up the East Coast through the Northwest Passage and down the West Coast to Victoria."

For more information, see page 13 in the Documentary Features section.

Feature Presentation - Crossing Superior

Documentary Feature, USA, 2018, 50 min, Color

Crossing Lake Superior follows a riveting 60-mile journey three men took with their paddle boards across a lake that is often a force to be reckoned with.

Eleven-time Emmy award winner Corey Adkins tagged along to document the 22-hour journey with Stand Up for Great Lakes, including humored encounters

with other freighters, a permit to do something special over waters restricted by the Canadian government, and the emotional landing at Whitefish Point.

Learn why they chose this kind of adventure to raise money for the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum in this special documentary.

Great Lakes connection: The film is a documentary about three men who paddled 60 miles across Lake Superior on Stand Up for Great Lakes to raise money for the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society. The adventure included centuries-old pictographs, an emotional visit to the site of the Edmund Fitzgerald, and a tear-filled (happy) landing at Whitefish Point.

For more information, see page 14 in the Documentary Features section.

Block 15 – Finding Direction

Feature and shorts program, 90 min, Not rated

Sunday, Sept. 15, 7:00pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *Bleed American*

Three stories of people trying to find their way wind up our final block.

Bonsai Dream

Director: Jimmie Chiverelli

Narrative Short, Canada, 2018, 10 min, Color

The film is the recounting of the greatest summer of your life and how we celebrate those fleeting memories while also grieving their disappearance and longing for their euphoria.

Great Lakes connection: The film was written, shot, and edited in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and all of the film personnel were from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Also, the film contains shots of the Great Lakes and the International Bridge joining the twin Saults.

Need a Lift

Director: Wren Barnes

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 5 min, Color, Student Project (New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts in Film, New York City, US)

When a man offers to pick up a woman hitchhiking through a small rural town, neither one would expect how things would end.

Great Lakes connection: New York City is the hometown of a crew member.

Feature Presentation - Bleed American

Narrative Feature, Drama, USA, 2018, 75 min, Color

A bold portrait of misguided teens as they learn the cruelties of life and love in the American Midwest.

Great Lakes connection: From the producers: “Our film was developed and produced by Northwest Indiana/Chicagoland residents. The story was inspired by growing up in our region of the Midwest.”

For more information, see page 8 in the Narrative Features section.

The Venues

All films will be screened at Bayliss Public Library, a Superior District Library, located at 541 Library Drive, and the Soo Theatre, located at 534 Ashmun Street, both 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. See the map of Sault Ste. Marie on the back page.

Ratings

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

How to Fest

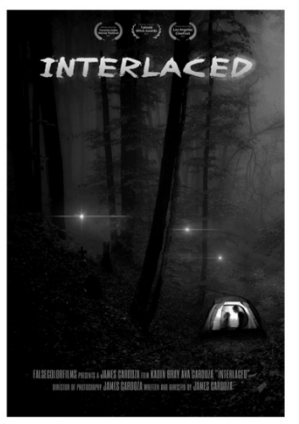
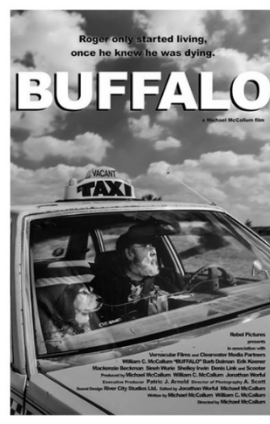
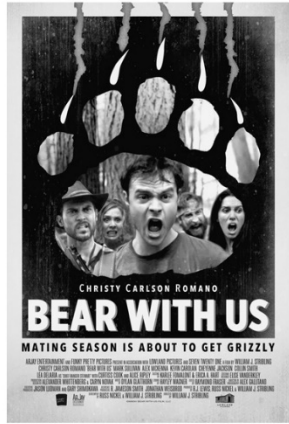
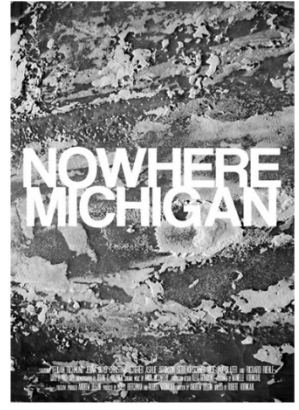
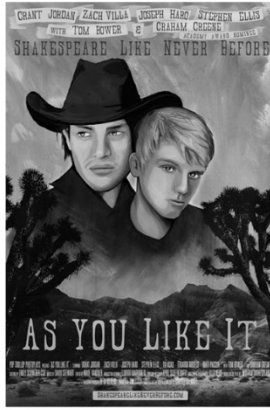
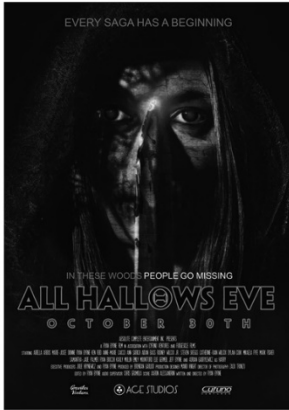
Where to Stay

For information about hotels and motels that are offering discounted lodging to Soo Film Festival-goers, please see the Soo Film festival website at soofilmfestival.org.

Where to Eat

For information about restaurants that are offering discounts to Soo Film Festival-goers, please see the Soo Film festival website at soofilmfestival.org.

For more information about the area, visit the Sault Ste. Marie Pure Michigan website at saultstemarie.com (operated by the Sault Ste. Marie Convention & Visitors Bureau).



Order these and other previous selections at smile.amazon.com to donate to Soo Film Festival at no extra charge



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Roll the Credits!

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

Our Sponsors

Roberts P. and Ella B. Hudson Foundation

Our media sponsor, **Eagle 95.1 FM**

The Wicked Sister restaurant

for catering our Meet & Greet reception

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

The filmmakers, cast members, and panelists 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.

Everyone at the Soo Theatre Project

David Kars and Craig Flickinger for technical assistance at the Soo Theatre

Michael Furr and LSSU for technical assistance with equipment

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

The hotels and restaurants who provided a festival discount

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

Thunder Nanie, logo designer extraordinaire!

Roll the Credits!

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

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

Bayliss Public Library, a Superior District Library

Michigan Digital Imaging

The Sault News

Jean Jones and the Sault Area Arts Council

A special thanks to all of our film judges who spent countless hours reviewing more than 400 submissions to the festival.

We could not do it without you!

Our tireless Festival Committee - Jason Markstrom, Allison Youngs, Pat Egan, Susan James, and Liz Brugman

Sabrina Neveu for social media assistance

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

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SooFilmFestival.org On Facebook at [SooFilmFestival](https://www.facebook.com/SooFilmFestival)

September 12-16, 2019

Soo Theatre and Bayliss Public Library
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!