

GREAT LAKES, GREAT MOVIES

# SOO FILM FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 15-19, 2021  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
DATES AND VENUES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SOO THEATRE &  
BAYLISS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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***Festival Guide***



Great Lakes and  
Great Movies!  
Welcome Back!

## 2021 Soo Film Festival Schedule Grid

Sep 15 to 19

Block	Block Title	Venue	Day	Date	Time
1	Father Tries Best (FREE)	Bayliss Library	Wed	15	6:30p
2	Life Lessons (FREE)	Bayliss Library	Thu	16	6:30p
3	These Times	Soo Theatre	Fri	17	3p
	DINNER BREAK		Fri	17	4:40p
4	Future Imperfect	Soo Theatre	Fri	17	6p
5	Friday Night Frights Q&A	Soo Theatre	Fri	17	8:30p
6	Student Films	Soo Theatre	Sat	18	11a
	LUNCH BREAK		Sat	18	12:50p
7	Made in Michigan	Soo Theatre	Sat	18	2p
8	Looking Back	Soo Theatre	Sat	18	4:30p
9	Michigan Featured Q&A	Soo Theatre	Sat	18	6:30p
10	Michigan Documented	Soo Theatre	Sun	19	11a
11	Tunes and Toons	Soo Theatre	Sun	19	1:30p
	DINNER BREAK		Sun	19	3:10p
12	Oh, Canada	Soo Theatre	Sun	19	4:30p
13	Foreign Shorts	Soo Theatre	Sun	19	6:30p

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 10. Festival Pass \$50; Festival Super Saver \$80; Daily Pass \$20; Single Tickets \$7/\$5 per block; Buy tickets online at [SooFilmFestival.org](http://SooFilmFestival.org) or call (906) 440-6086. Program is subject to change.

## Film List

**Block 1-Father Tries Best**  
Flunked  
Moirá

**Block 2-Life Lessons**  
The Legacy of Roethke  
The Stories They Tell

**Block 3-These Times**  
103  
Loch Lomond  
Tim Bits  
October Twenty Twenty  
Deadly - C  
Hell in a Handbasket  
Choices  
Now & Then  
The Formula of Happiness  
The Truth  
Earth Is Home  
Neighbooor

**Block 4-Future Imperfect**  
Moon Drops  
Rediscovering Humanity  
Nevermore  
The Clearing  
Spring Cleaning  
Bartaliticus  
Connected  
Replica  
Prime Time!

**Block 5-Friday Night Frights**  
Mothers  
A Haunting in Hinsdale

**Block 6-Student Films**  
Lifelines  
Tough Love  
Bart's Revenge  
The Letter  
St. George and the Dragon

A Very Long Moment of Silence  
Glances  
Retail Archaeology  
Those Who Move Mountains  
One More Please  
The Color of Hate  
Nekkid

**Block 7-Made in Michigan**  
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Father's Day  
Wolf Boy  
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Metalyñ  
Last Day for Videos  
#37  
In Good Health  
We'll Be in Touch  
Jesse James

**Block 8-Looking Back**  
Time Capsule  
Roy's World: Barry Gifford's Chicago

**Block 9-Michigan Featured**  
Frozen Stupid 2: Open Water!

**Block 10-Michigan Documented**  
Open Water  
The Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative  
A Day in the Life of Kik Pool  
The Silent Disease

**Block 11-Tunes and Toons**  
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Margaux VOL. 1  
Awkward  
Ruth & Nick: A Confectionery Tale  
Winter Child  
Journey With Mr. Mr.  
Behind the Glass  
I Have No Home

## Film List

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*(continued)*

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Crazy Horse  
Fog and Smoke  
Once There Was a Girl  
Angel  
Ababá  
Painting by Numbers  
Departure Song  
Io  
It Fits  
Wishing You the Best  
Thank You for Your Teeth!  
Mooozart

**Block 12-Oh, Canada**  
Still  
Good News  
One Over Capacity  
Mr. Emancipation: The Walter Perry Story

**Block 13-Foreign Shorts\*\***  
What Could Have Happened  
Cristina Zenato and the Reef Shark Connection  
The Delivery  
Cuckoo!  
A Son Like Others  
The Van  
The Whole World's Alright  
Vincent Before Noon  
Julietit\*\*

\*\* Content Advisory: Brief Nudity

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2021 SOO FILM FESTIVAL

## Welcome!

Welcome to the 2021 Soo Film Festival!

We were supremely disappointed to cancel last year's festival. We love movies but nobody should risk their life for them. We were curious to see how a year inside would be reflected in our submissions and we were not disappointed. The creative spirit overcame and the filmmakers found a way. You can see how in our Friday afternoon program 'These Times.'

We're doing something different with our Friday Night Frights this year. Because real life is sometimes scarier, we're featuring local filmmaker Mike Dotson's documentary about his team's investigation of a haunted house. Mike will be joining us for a Q&A after the film so be sure to stick around.

Filmmaker Rich Brauer will be joining us Saturday for a Q&A after his film Frozen Stupid 2: Open Water. He made his film entirely in Michigan and can tell you how he did it.

Other programs feature such themes such as fathers, teachers, and reflecting upon childhood.

Be sure to check out our shorts programs. We've got science fiction, animation, music videos, and documentaries to cover all the bases. The student films could be your first look at your favorite filmmakers of tomorrow. We even have a program devoted to films and filmmakers 'Made in Michigan.'

The festival begins with 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 through Sunday at the Soo Theatre.

Soo Film Festival places an emphasis on Great Lakes films and filmmakers but entry is open worldwide. Festival programming features international submissions from 19 countries.

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

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

Thank You to Our Amazing Sponsors!



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& ELLA B.  
HUDSON  
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## Tickets and Passes

A Festival Pass is \$50 and gives you admission to all blocks on all days of the festival. The Festival Super Saver Pass is \$80 and gives you TWO festival passes for one low price! 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 2021 Soo Film Festival go on sale Monday, August 10. 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 17, 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.

## Block 1-Father Tries Best

Short and Feature program, 108 min, Not rated

**Free admission**

*Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6:30pm - Bayliss Library*



Still photo from *Moira*

This program presents two foreign films in which fathers face challenges.

## Flunked

Director: George ve Gänæaard

Narrative Short, Romania, 2020, 15 min, Color

When his son flunks a biology test, a father must prove his love while helping him pass the term.

## Feature Presentation

### Moira

Director: Daniel Lovecchio

Narrative Feature, Spain, 2019, 93 min, Color, Spanish with English subtitles

Germán is Argentine by birth but has lived in Spain for thirty years. On the day of his daughter Lucia's birthday, he gets a phone call that forces him to confront his violent past. He must then deal with the terrible things that he experienced under Argentina's dictatorship while at the same time overcoming his current family problems.

Director: Daniel Lovecchio

Writer: Nerea Lovecchio

Producer: Daniel Lovecchio

Cinematography: Ariel D. Zeitunlian

Art Director: Solange Ruibal, Nuria Urbano  
 Music: Daniel Lovecchio & Jerónimo Plazza  
 Sound: Inés Almirón  
 Editing: Arantxa Galán  
 Key Cast: Nerea Lovecchio, Daniel Lovecchio, Luciano Ciaglia, Pury Estalayo, Juan Luppi, Malena Altero

## Director Biography

Daniel Lovecchio (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1955) Actor and musician. Dalcroze Rhythmic Specialist. Bachelor of Dramatic Art from the Superior School of Dramatic Art of Buenos Aires. (I.U.N.A) Direction and interpretation. Dr. in Theater from the University of Valladolid 2012.

Director of the TylTyl Theater Integral Training Center in Art since 1995 Director of the TylTyl Company since 1984. 52 shows directed since 1984. Founder and Director of the Tyl Scenic Production Company AIE in 2016.

Director of Chrysalis (69 minutes) 2006, Clipxdiez (30 min) 2010. Moira (1:32:20) 2018.

## Awards

Ariano International Film Festival (Ariano Irpino, Italy), August 1, 2021, Best Feature Film

Lone Star International Film Festival (Fort Worth, TX, United States), November 14, 2021, Best Feature

Website: [promofest.org/films/moira](http://promofest.org/films/moira) Trailer: [vimeo.com/511140839](https://vimeo.com/511140839)

Facebook: [facebook.com/filmmoira/](https://facebook.com/filmmoira/)



## Block 2-Life Lessons

Shorts and Feature program, 94 min, Not rated

**Free Admission**

*Thursday, Sept. 16, 6:30pm - Bayliss Library*



Still photo from *The Stories They Tell*

This program presents two documentaries based in Michigan, a short and a feature.

## The Legacy of Roethke

Director: Jeff Vande Zande

Documentary Short, USA, 2019, 19 min, Color

Poet Tess Gallagher was in Theodore Roethke's last poetry writing class before he died in the summer of 1963. In this documentary Gallagher shares her recollections of Roethke as a teacher, while offering a virtual tour of Roethke's boyhood home, now maintained as a museum in Saginaw, MI.

Great Lakes Connection: The film's subject is Theodore Roethke, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet from Saginaw, Michigan.

## Feature Presentation

### The Stories They Tell

Director: Danny Kim

Documentary Feature, USA, 2015, 75 min, Color

For over 15 years, Professor Siu-Lan Tan has partnered every Kalamazoo College student in her Developmental Psychology class with a child at Woodward Elementary School to create a children's book together. This Co-Authorship Project has expanded education beyond the four walls of the classroom - giving psychology students rich

insights into the development of young children, who in turn learn about literacy, social interaction and perhaps even catch a glimpse of their potential futures.

The Stories They Tell will take you on a journey of this innovative partnership, as students both young and old connect through this creative collaboration and learn more about each other and themselves in the process.

Great Lakes connection: The film documents a project involving college and elementary school students from Kalamazoo, Michigan. Also, the crew is from Michigan.

Director: Danny Kim  
Writer: Danny Kim  
Producer: Danny Kim

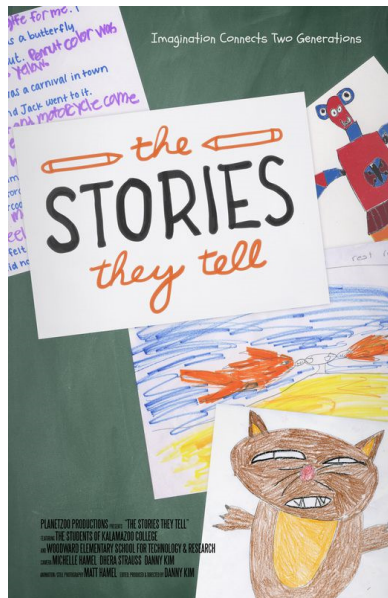
### Screenings/Awards

North by Midwest Micro-Budget Film Festival (Kalamazoo, MI, United States), May 21, 2016, Best Feature Film

Royal Starr Film Festival, (Royal Oak, MI, United States), October 13, 2016

Made-in-Michigan Film Festival (Frankenmuth, MI, United States), February 3, 2017

Trailer: <https://bit.ly/2WbShFQ>



## Block 3 - These Times

Shorts program, 97 min, Not rated

Friday, Sept. 17, 3pm - Soo Theatre



Still photo from *Neighboor*

This program presents a mixed group of short films that tell pandemic stories from around the world.

### 103

Director: José Bautista

Documentary Short, Spain, 2020, 19 min, Color

On March 13th Fernando Domínguez, an architect, went to the Bellvitge Hospital in Barcelona with COVID-19. Twenty days later he was discharged and became the first patient to leave the Intensive Care Unit of that medical center. Fernando never saw the faces of those who cared for him. On April 1st he began to write a letter.

### Loch Lomond

Director: Sarah Root

Narrative Short, USA, 2020, 10 min, Color

In the midst of a pandemic, a young woman rediscovers her family's past of love, loss, and adventure during the Jacobite uprising of 1745.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Oak Park, Michigan. All of the cast and crew currently reside in Michigan and are Michigan natives.

## Tim Bits

Director: Gordon Pepper

Documentary Short, Canada, 2021, 1 min, Color

A comic look at the yearlong pandemic.

## October Twenty Twenty

Director: Lorenzo Tricase

Documentary Short, Italy, 2020, 13 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.

A personal short story during the main global pandemic event in the last century.

## Deadly - C

Director: Ashish Bisht

Narrative Short, India, 2020, 5 min, Color

Deadly - C is a 5-minute short film that tells the story of human negligence, where the irresponsible behavior of one person can generate life-threatening circumstances not only for individual but for the entire human race.

## Hell in a Handbasket

Director: Lee Chambers

Narrative Short, Canada, 2021, 5 min, Color

Dale, a lonely research scientist in the Arctic, struggles to maintain his solitary existence. With the world failing from a global pandemic, all hopes fall on Dale's shoulders as he represents the last stand for humanity.

Great Lakes Connection: The director was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario... and has been selected by the Soo Film Festival before.

## Choices

Director: Michael McCallum

Narrative Short, USA, 2020, 6 min, Black & White

Mitch and Charlie are facing a new world after a mysterious sickness has taken everyone they love.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was created entirely in Michigan.

## Now & Then

Director: Peter M Angelinas

Narrative Short, USA, 2021, 15 min, Color

On the roof of their apartment building two men have an increasingly awkward conversation about money, quarantine, and life.

## The Formula of Happiness

Director: Jimmy Castro

Narrative Short, Argentina, 2020, 2 min, Black & White

A man tries to explain the formula of happiness during the quarantine in eight simple steps.

## The Truth

Director: Alberto Blanco

Narrative Short, Spain, 2021, 3 min, Color

For ten days Alejandro Martínez has been locked in his room, losing all sense of time, all because of a pandemic alert against which he starts to doubt and conspire.

## Earth Is Home

Director: Noomen Noomen

Documentary Short, Tunisia, 2020, 8 min, Black & White and Color, Student Project - ESAC Gammarth (High School of Audiovisual and Cinema), Gammarth, Tunisia

How does the current COVID-19 pandemic compare to the forgotten Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918? While we are in quarantine, the Earth is resting from our pollution. When we emerge from quarantine, we must remember to protect the Earth because Earth is our home.

## Neighbooor

Director: Paco León

Narrative Short, Spain, 2020, 10 min, Color

Living by himself, Luis is handling the quarantine quite badly. One day while he is in the bathroom, he hears a voice calling for him from the air vent. It's Rosa, an enthusiastic neighbor who starts invading his privacy every time he goes into the bathroom. Luis puts up with every conversation with the politeness of a selfless neighbor but, for him, the situation is a nightmare. It gets worse when she asks him for a favor.



## Block 4-Future Imperfect

Shorts program, 111 min, Not rated

*Friday, Sept. 17, 6pm - Soo Theatre*



Still photo from *Connected*

What will the future bring? This program of short narrative films offers some possible visions.

### Moon Drops

Director: Yoram Ever-Hadani

Narrative Short, Israel, 2018, 16 min, Color

A factory worker assembles an enigmatic machine that produces liquid drops from the moonlight.

### Rediscovering Humanity

Director: Matthew Ryan Smith

Narrative Short, USA, 2021, 11 min, Black & White and Color

A far-future human civilization that spans the galaxy looks back to learn more about humans in our time.

Great Lakes Connection: The filmmaker has lived in Michigan all his life. The interview portions of the film are set, and the scenes were also shot, in Michigan.

### Nevermore

Director: John Baak

Narrative Short, Netherlands, 2020, 9 min, Color

In search of a better life, Samira finds herself in a situation where her core values are challenged, and she starts to wonder if it's all worth it.

## The Clearing

Director: Matthew Hamel, Danny Kim, Michelle Hamel

Narrative Short, USA, 2016, 6 min, Color

On Halloween, something goes wrong for two siblings out trick-or-treating. This short film was conceptualized and completed in just 48 hours (2880 minutes) for the Cinema 2880 Film Festival and had to include all of the following: Genre: Western; Character: Know-It-All; Item (Prop): Postcard; Location: The Woods; Line of Dialogue: Make it easy on yourself. There's nothing more you can do.

Great Lakes Connection: The entire cast and crew are from Berrien Springs and Kalamazoo, Michigan.

## Spring Cleaning

Director: James Sowka

Narrative Short, USA, 2021, 8 min, Color

A woman makes a startling discovery while cleaning her home.

Great Lakes Connection: The director lived in East Lansing for over a year.

## Bartaliticus

Director: Vincent Gagliardi

Narrative Short, USA, 2020, 8 min, Color

In this sci-fi comedy, an extraterrestrial visits Earth to reveal the secret to saving the planet.

Great Lakes Connection: Co-Producer Matt Jensen is from Michigan.

## Connected

Director: Christopher Satola

Narrative Short, USA, 2018, 12 min, Color, Student Project - University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

In a near future world, technological communication advancements have deprived humanity of closeness to each other. The sound of a human voice has become almost forgotten, the touch of a person close to you almost extinct, and direct interactions almost forbidden. A small boy, full of curiosity about the world that surrounds him, goes on a journey to learn the value of interpersonal communication, human emotions, and their expression, and discovers the underground art of theater. The boy tries to adopt a play portraying an early 21st century family into his own relationship with his parents.

## Replica

Director: Álvaro de la Hoz

Narrative Short, Spain, 2020, 12 min, Color

Olivia is not willing to fail. She goes out and tests herself, going further and further. Until she executes her plan.

## Prime Time!

Director: Nacho S. Cavada, Gerar Revilla, Adrián Hevia

Narrative Short, Spain, 2020, 29 min, Color

1993. Nico Ríos is an unsuccessful journalist working for a minor newspaper. When he receives an anonymous call from a mysterious woman, Nico finds himself involved in a race against the clock to reveal a dark plot orchestrated by an unscrupulous businessman that threatens all mankind.

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[www.smith-company.com](http://www.smith-company.com)

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

## Block 5-Friday Night Frights

Shorts and Feature program, 94 min, Not rated

**Q&A with filmmaker Michael Dotson**

*Friday, Sept. 17, 8:30pm - Soo Theatre*



Still photo from *A Haunting in Hinsdale*

Be prepared to be scared.

## Mothers

Directors: George ve Gänæaard, Horia Cucută

Narrative Short, Romania, 2020, 4 min, Color

After putting her young daughter to bed for the night, a mother's quiet evening turns to despair when the child disappears from her room.

## Feature Presentation

### A Haunting in Hinsdale

Director: Michael Dotson

Documentary Feature, USA, 2021, 90 min, Color, Paranormal

A group of friends embark on a ghostly adventure on the East Coast leading up to a paranormal investigation at a historic haunted house.

A **Q&A session** with the filmmaker follows the screening.

Great Lakes Connection: All members of the crew were born and raised in Michigan.

Director: Michael Dotson

Producer: Drive-In Cinema Pictures

Key Cast: Michelle Sibbald, Austin Rogers, Michael Dotson, Luke Bernard, William Johnston, Billie Lindemuth

## Director Biography

Born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, filmmaking has always been a passion of his in his spare time. He's a huge fan of 1980s horror movies and cult films.

## Director Statement

Thank you for taking your time to watch our film that we've worked very hard on, and I hope this not only entertains you but also makes you think twice about the afterlife. We spent weeks going through hours of footage and months of editing to bring this together for your entertainment.

Trailer: [youtube.com/watch?v=I\\_vxv0hTvFA](https://youtube.com/watch?v=I_vxv0hTvFA)



## Block 6-Student Films

Shorts program, 107 min, Not rated

*Saturday, Sept. 18, 11am - Soo Theatre*



Still photo from *The Color of Hate*

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.

## Lifelines

Director: Noah Bernardo

Narrative Short, USA, 2021, 16 min, Color, Student Project - Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona

A lonely sound engineer decides to finally contact his crush and reconnect with his sister by pretending to use them both as phone lifelines on a game show.

## Tough Love

Director: Daniel Rodriguez

Narrative Short, USA, 2021, 12 min, Color, Student Project - Compass College of Cinematic Arts, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Robert has been tasked with writing a retirement speech for his father but earlier memories both good and bad keep getting in the way.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan with local actors.

## Bart's Revenge

Director: Gus Kearns

Animation, UK, 2017, 1 min, Color, Student Project - Staffordshire University, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, UK

A bored barman takes a nap but soon finds that all is not as it seems in this old Western tavern.

## The Letter

Director: Aleksei Borovikov

Narrative Short, USA, 2020, 3 min, Color, Student Project - Columbia College Chicago, Illinois

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a young man dreams of life after lockdown and sends an inspiring message to the world.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Chicago.

## St. George and the Dragon

Director: Gus Kearns

Animation, UK, 2019, 3 min, Color, Student Project - Staffordshire University, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, UK

A family of medieval entertainers perform the legend of St. George and the Dragon for the local townsfolk. This film is an homage to the Mystery Plays of the medieval era which were typically performed by a travelling troupe for both adults and children to enjoy.

## A Very Long Moment of Silence

Director: Henry Dobozy

Narrative Short, Canada, 2021, 5 min, Black & White, Student Project - Kitchener Collegiate and Vocational School, Ontario, Canada

Hapless Charlie Kay's day takes a turn for the worse when he falls down the stairs and loses his voice.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. The director is also native to the Great Lakes region.

## Glances

Director: Aleksei Borovikov

Narrative Short, USA, 2020, 7 min, Color, Student Project - Columbia College Chicago, Illinois

Two strangers lock eyes in a cafe and have to deal with unexpected feelings.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Chicago with local cast and crew.

## Retail Archaeology

Director: Jack Schreiner

Documentary Short, USA, 2019, 5 min, Color, Student Project - Penta Career Center, Perrysburg, Ohio

Retail shopping habits are changing in America. Online shopping is killing indoor shopping malls. This short documentary discusses why this is happening as well as the past, present, and future of American retail and shopping malls.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Northwest Ohio.

## Those Who Move Mountains

Director: Lauren Loesberg

Narrative Short, USA, 2020, 12 min, Color, Student Project - Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

In a near-future society that has left humans dependent on urban infrastructure, a falsely convicted woman is sentenced to a lifetime in the wilderness.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Evanston and Chicago, Illinois. Lake Michigan features prominently in the film.

## One More Please

Director: Aleksei Borovikov

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 5 min, Color, Student Project - Columbia College Chicago, Illinois

A lonely young man begins a playful drinking game with a handsome stranger.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Chicago with local cast and crew.

## The Color of Hate

Director: Delores M. Flynn

Narrative Short, USA, 2020, 16 min, Color, Student Project - Motion Picture Institute, Troy, Michigan

This film is an interracial love story set hours before the Detroit Riot in 1967.

## Nekkid

Director: Ellison Winterstein

Narrative Short, USA, 2021, 22 min, Color, Student Project - Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

College student Johnny is locked out of his girlfriend's apartment, and he's buck naked. On his quest for sanctuary and/or pants, he meets the eccentric residents of the apartment complex.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in East Lansing, Michigan. Except for the composer, all production cast and crew live in Michigan.



# Block 7-Made in Michigan

Shorts program, 95 min, Not rated

*Saturday, Sept. 18, 2pm - Soo Theatre*



Still photo from *Wolf Boy*

This program presents a mixed group of short films. All were made in or have a connection to Michigan.

## The Pewter Bros.

Director: Michael McCallum

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 11 min, Color

Two brothers search for a missing treasure. Can they get past being around each other long enough to find it?

Great Lakes Connection: The film was created entirely in Michigan.

## Father's Day

Director: Justin Rose

Narrative Short, USA, 2021, 18 min, Color

When successful attorney Jim Sexton gets a free coffee on Father's Day, it causes him to reflect on his life, what has happened and what will never be.

Great Lakes Connection: The lead actor and writer was born and raised in Michigan. The main character in the story is from Michigan and refers to it in a multitude of ways in the film even though the film takes place in Arizona.

## Wolf Boy

Directors: Danny Kim, Matthew Hamel, Michelle Hamel

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 5 min, Color

A day in the life of a boy who turns into a wolf. This short film was conceptualized and completed in just 48 hours (2880 minutes) for the Cinema 2880 Film Festival and had to include all of the following: Genre: Comedy; Character: Werewolf; Item (Prop): Watermelon; Location: Street Alley; Line of Dialogue: Buy one, get one.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Berrien Springs, Michigan with an all-Michigan cast and crew.

## Progress

Director: Christopher Boulton

Documentary Short, USA, 2021, 8 min, Color

This short documentary profiles Larry and Charlie Schiller, owners of Schiller's Architectural and Design Salvage in Tampa, FL. The film traces the lineage of one of the more unusual items on offer to consider the allure of old objects, take stock of how far we've come, and ask what has been lost and gained in the process.

Great Lakes Connection: The film's creator was born and raised in Holland, Michigan.

## Extracted

Director: Michael Pieper

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 2 min, Color, Student Project - Delta College, University Center, Michigan

A man runs a discount dentistry business out of his garage, and it makes for a scary time.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Midland, Michigan with Michigan-based crew members and actors.

## Metalyn

Director: Jay London

Music Video, USA, 2020, 5 min, Color

Music video from the rock band Tarnished.

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

## Last Day for Videos

Director: Chad Campbell

Documentary Short, USA, 2021, 7 min, Color

A look into the final day of the last video rental chain in America.

Great Lakes Connection: Family Video is definitely a Midwest organization, and this film was shot in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

## #37

Directors: Matthew Hamel, Danny Kim, Michelle Hamel

Narrative Short, USA, 2017, 6 min, Black & White

Something sinister is happening in the back of this grocery store. This short film was conceptualized and completed in just 48 hours (2880 minutes) for the Cinema 2880 Film Festival and had to include all of the following: Genre: Art House Film; Character: Loathes to be Photographed; Item (Prop): Trash Can; Location: Grocery Store; Line of Dialogue: Do you wear glasses when you go to bed?

Great Lakes Connection: The entire cast and crew are from Berrien Springs and Kalamazoo, Michigan.

## In Good Health

Directors: Michael Pieper, Jerrod Rachow, Logan Histed

Narrative Short, USA, 2019, 7 min, Color, Student Project - Delta College, University Center, Michigan

A man falls ill when traveling and returns home. Miraculously healed overnight (with some help), he faces the new day while causing unforeseen consequences for his future health.

Great Lakes Connection: The crew are all from mid-Michigan and Ohio. The film was shot in Saginaw, Michigan.

## We'll Be in Touch

Director: Jeff Vande Zande

Narrative Short, USA, 2020, 6 min, Color

Justin needs a job, but interviews sometimes get downright surreal.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was entirely made in Michigan.

## Jesse James

Director: Josef Steiff

Narrative Short, USA, 2020, 20 min, Color

In the moments between a neighbor's phone call and the arrival of the police, Jesse and his lover test the boundaries of their relationship and come face to face not just with what they are losing but with what they have already lost -- when Jesse can no longer save his relationship but only himself.

Great Lakes Connection: The writer/director lives in Wisconsin. The editor is from Wisconsin. The film was shot in Chicago. Most of the crew is living in or from the Chicago region (Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan).

## Block 8-Looking Back

Shorts and Feature program, 87 min, Not rated

*Saturday, Sept. 18, 4:30pm - Soo Theatre*



Still photo from *Roy's World: Barry Gifford's Chicago*

This program presents the story of poet, author, and screenwriter Barry Gifford and 1950s Chicago as the feature film. It is preceded by a short documentary of a letter found in a time capsule.

## Time Capsule

Director: Lauren Loesberg

Documentary Short, USA, 1900, 12 min, Color

Created from home video footage from 1997-2005, this documentary is set to the reading of a letter written for a time capsule found twelve years later.

Great Lakes Connection: The subjects of the documentary originate from Chicago, Illinois and West Bloomfield, Michigan.

## Feature Presentation

### Roy's World: Barry Gifford's Chicago

Director: Rob Christopher

Documentary Feature, USA, 2020, 75 min, Black & White and Color, Biography, Famous Writers

Hailed as “William Faulkner by way of B-movie film noir, porn paperbacks and Sun Records rockabilly,” poet, author, and screenwriter Barry Gifford has given the world more than forty works, including the *Sailor* and *Lula* novels that inspired David Lynch's *Wild at Heart*.

Featuring Willem Dafoe, Matt Dillon, and Lili Taylor, Rob Christopher's documentary brilliantly brings to life Gifford's autobiographical collection of stories, capturing a vanished 1950s Chicago through a jazzy, impressionistic combination of beguiling archive footage, animation, and spoken word.

Great Lakes connection: The film explores 1950s Chicago.

Director: Rob Christopher

Writers: Barry Gifford, Rob Christopher

Producer: Michael Glover Smith, Rob Christopher

Key Cast: Willem Dafoe, Matt Dillon, Lili Taylor

Music: Jason Adasiewicz

Editing: Marianna Milhorat

Animation: Lilli Carré, Kevin Eskew

## Director Biography

Rob Christopher wrote, directed, and starred in the acclaimed fiction feature *Pause of the Clock*, which had its World Premiere at the Denver Film Festival in 2015 and screened at the Gene Siskel Film Center in 2016. In January 2017 it was nominated for Best Chicago Film by the Chicago Independent Film Critics Circle.

He wrote the introduction to the young adult edition of *Sad Stories of the Death of Kings* by Barry Gifford and edited several Roy stories for publication on the website *Chicagoist*. Also author of the book *Queue Tips: Discovering Your Next Great Movie*, his film writing frequently appears in *Cine-File Chicago*.

## Director Statement

For many years I've been captivated by the Roy stories of Barry Gifford, which use a very spare and direct prose style to trace a boy's childhood. Unlike a lot of autobiographical fiction, they're not sentimental at all. But what especially appeals to me is that their power over the reader is gradual and cumulative; you don't even have to read the stories in any particular order, but the more of them you read the more vivid they feel. Because they really do put you in a very particular time and place, mostly the 1950s and mostly in Chicago.

I've wanted to make a film about Chicago for a long time, and it seemed to me that using the Roy stories as a lens for viewing the city's history would be the perfect launching pad for a documentary. My approach was really inspired by Terence Davies' *Of Time and the City*, Laurie Anderson's *Heart of a Dog*, and the work of Bill Morrison. In *Roy's World* we freely mix Gifford's biography with the fictional versions of his life as presented in the Roy stories to create a dream-like, composite portrait—an impressionistic exploration of both Chicago and Gifford's work.

Befitting a documentary about a writer, words are the thing: Gifford's recollections of the period, told in voiceover, mesh with narration of the stories by Willem Dafoe, Matt Dillon, and Lili Taylor. All three actors are fans of Gifford's work and were excited to be part of the project.

From the very beginning it was important to me that the film ditch a traditional "talking heads" approach. That meant no onscreen interviews, with Gifford or anyone else. No celebrity endorsements. And I also wanted to make sure there weren't any cutaways to contemporary views of Chicago neighborhoods, meant to demonstrate "how things look today." Instead, in *Roy's World* we strive to keep viewers fully immersed in that vanished time and place. To make you feel like you're actually there—which is exactly what Gifford's stories achieve. Onscreen, photographs and other materials from Gifford's personal files are intertwined with archival materials (including rare home movies, amateur footage, family photographs, and industrial films) to spotlight facets of everyday life ignored in most documentaries about the period.

Animated segments by Lilli Carré and Kevin Eskew, illustrating key stories that trace Roy's progression from childhood to adolescence, provide another way of representing the Roy stories.

And binding everything together is an evocative jazz score composed by celebrated vibraphonist Jason Adasiewicz and performed by the cream of the crop of Chicago's current jazz scene. In fact, Jason composed the score and we recorded it before I even started editing. I wanted the music up front, not just lurking in the background. To sort of have a conversation with the stories and the visuals. So the sound and mood of Jason's music pervades *Roy's World* and carries you along.

The end result is, I hope, a documentary that conjures a lost time and place without coming off like a dry history lesson; that draws from primary resources to offer a neighborhood-level view of city life, of how ordinary residents worked, raised families, and interacted with one another; and that, through the Roy stories, suggests how these people, and Gifford in particular, were affected by societal factors such as corruption and racism—all themes which are still timely and relevant. And I sure hope it nudges viewers to check out Gifford's writing!

## Screenings/Awards

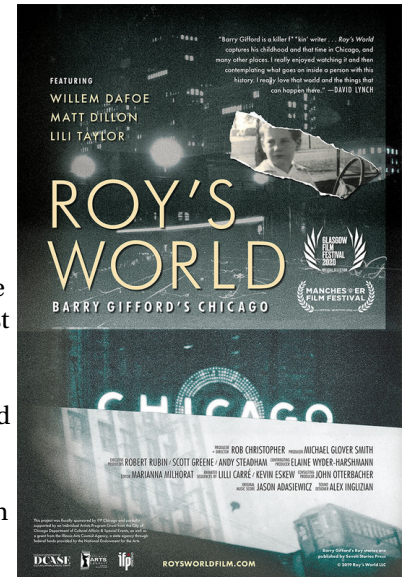
Glasgow Film Festival (Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom), February 28, 2020, World Premiere

Beloit International Film Festival (Beloit, IL, United States), February 19, 2021, Wisconsin Premiere, Best Illinois Feature

Website: [www.roysworldfilm.com](http://www.roysworldfilm.com)

Trailer: [www.roysworldfilm.com](http://www.roysworldfilm.com)

Twitter: [twitter.com/RoysWorldFilm](https://twitter.com/RoysWorldFilm) Instagram: [instagram.com/roysworldfilm](https://www.instagram.com/roysworldfilm)





## Block 9-Michigan Featured

Feature program, 83 min, Not rated

**Q&A with filmmaker Rich Brauer**

*Saturday, Sept. 18, 6:30pm - Soo Theatre*



Still photo from *Frozen Stupid 2: Open Water*

This program presents the narrative feature, *Frozen Stupid 2: Open Water*, directed by a frequent participant in past Soo Film Festivals, Traverse-City-based Rich Brauer.

A **Q&A session** with the filmmaker follows the screening.

### Feature Presentation

#### **Frozen Stupid 2: Open Water**

Director: Rich Brauer

Narrative Feature, USA, 2021, 83 min, Color, Family Comedy

The ice is long gone. Tony Norgard (Joey Albright, Escanaba in da Moonlight, *Frozen Stupid*) gets a call that his waterlogged vehicle is finally getting pulled out of Houghton Lake. His joyous moment, however, is shattered when he is handed a big DNR fine. He finds some fast cash to pay the tow truck guy; he can figure out a way to pay the fine later.

Then the perfect thing happens: he hears about a fishing tournament in town with a juicy prize.

With high hopes, he and his friend Sam Idleman (Wayne David Parker, Escanaba in Da Moonlight, *Frozen Stupid*, Barn Red) resurrect a forgotten 1960s boat he inherited from his dad (played by Ernest Borgnine in the original *Frozen Stupid* movie). Not surprisingly, the modern boats in the competition outflank them on every level.

Luckily, they meet up with long-time fisherwoman Stormy (Kimberly Guerrero, Hidalgo, Barn Red, Seinfeld) who offers a unique gift at the perfect time.

As in the original film *Frozen Stupid*, Tony stays ever buoyant, against all odds, postponing trouble, being a friend, and trying to make the best of what life throws at him.

Great Lakes connection: The film revolves around Michigan inland lake fishing.

Director: Rich Brauer

Writer: Rich Brauer

Key Cast: Kimberly Guerrero, Joey Albright, Wayne David Parker

### Director Biography

Rich Brauer is president of Brauer Productions, Inc., an independent film and video production company he founded in 1977 after graduating with a B.A. in Motion Picture Production and Undersea Photographic Technology from Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, CA.

Brauer received the Michigan Filmmaker of the Year award at the 2009 Traverse City Film Festival, presented by filmmaker Michael Moore. Past recipients have been actor Jeff Daniels, writer Kurt Luedtke, and actress Christine Lahti.

Brauer has written and directed 10 feature films and hundreds of corporate, non-profit, educational and commercial projects. He enjoys supporting independent filmmakers.

He co-founded the Inland Seas Education Association in 1989 and the Maritime Heritage Alliance in 1982, where he currently serves as president. He also serves on the board of directors of COGNITION, a science and learning center in Benzie County, Michigan.

He has three adult children and 6 grandkids and lives on an old fruit farm on Old Mission Peninsula near Traverse City, Michigan.

### Director Statement

I love the challenge of pulling crew and actors together to tell stories!!

Website: [brauer.com/frozen-stupid-2](http://brauer.com/frozen-stupid-2)

Trailer: [vimeo.com/520403281](https://vimeo.com/520403281)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Brauer-Productions-Inc-109544909078131](https://www.facebook.com/Brauer-Productions-Inc-109544909078131)



## Block 10-Michigan Documented

Documentary shorts program, 187 min, Not rated

*Sunday, Sept. 19, 11am - Soo Theatre*



Still photo from *A Day in the Life of Kik Pool*

The four short documentaries in this program share a connection with Michigan.

### Open Water

Director: Kalli Anderson

Documentary Short, Canada, 2020, 19 min, Color

What does it feel like to swim across the largest freshwater lake in the world?

To answer that question, this short documentary film follows 61-year-old open-water swimmer Marilyn Korzekwa in her attempt to be the first person to ever complete a crossing of the eastern end of Lake Superior, from Michigan, USA to Ontario, Canada.

The film uses experimental underwater photography techniques and immersive sound design to convey the subjective experience of swimming non-stop through a night and a day. It chronicles the changing moods of the lake over the course of the swim as Marilyn and her small support crew weather the waves and numbing cold. Along the way, we get to know some of the tight-knit community of Canadian women who have, with very little fanfare, been swimming and helping each other swim the Great Lakes for three generations.

Great Lakes Connection: The film tells the story of Marilyn Korzekwa, the first person ever to complete a solo marathon swim from Michigan to Ontario across the Eastern end of Lake Superior.

### The Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative

Directors: Grace Bright, Grace Joo

Documentary Short, USA, 2020, 19 min, Color, Student Project - Troy Athens High School, Troy, Michigan

The native Arctic grayling disappeared from Michigan waters by 1936. This is the story of what it will take to bring them back.

Great Lakes Connection: The film is about returning a native species to Michigan waters.

### A Day in the Life of Kik Pool

Director: Danny Kim

Documentary Short, USA, 2019, 30 min, Color

Beginning in the quiet, pre-dawn hours, a public pool provides a place for the community to gather: to stay in shape, to learn an important skill, and to simply have fun. But as the day progresses, it becomes clear that a swimming pool is much more than that. It is almost a living thing: shifting and changing for the different people who use it, strengthening friendships and family bonds, and becoming a vital part of the community.

Great Lakes Connection: The cast are from, and film's location is in, Kalamazoo, Michigan. All of the crew are from Michigan.

### The Silent Disease

Director: Kyla Milberger

Documentary Short, USA, 2021, 36 min, Color, Student Project - New York University, New York City

It took my father's death for me to realize he was hiding a big secret. While as an anesthesiologist he was saving lives, he himself fell victim to a silent disease: addiction. My parents divorced; the family divided; one son also became a drug user. Eventually drugs would cause my father's death. I was angry and ashamed of my dad. I thought he had a choice to choose us or the drugs. But now, five years later, I get a second chance at understanding this disease that my brother struggles with every day.

Great Lakes Connection: The film is based in the metro Detroit area.

## Block 11-Tunes and Toons

Shorts program, 98 min, Not rated

*Sunday, Sept. 19, 1:30pm - Soo Theatre*



Still photo from *Journey With Mr. Mr.*

This program is a mix of music videos and short animations from around the world.

### One Left

Director: Sebastian Doring

Animation, Austria, 2020, 6 min, Color, Student Project - University of Applied Arts of Vienna, Austria

Several patients wait in a doctor's office to hear test results regarding their remaining lifetimes. In most cases, the allotted time is not as long as they had hoped for.

### Margaux VOL. 1

Director: Daniel Iglesias Jr.

Music Video, USA, 2018, 2 min, Color

A retro magazine comes alive in this exploration of modern iconography. A fashion film starring Margaux The Agency.

### Awkward

Director: Nata Metlukh

Animation, USA, 2020, 4 min, Color

A day full of socially awkward moments.

## Ruth & Nick: A Confectionery Tale

Director: Carter Rostron

Animation, USA, 2021, 6 min, Color, Student Project - Pembroke Hill School, Kansas City, Missouri

This stop-motion animated short tells the bittersweet story of Nick, a piece of candy who falls in love with a girl who seems out of reach. This film was made by 15-year-old Carter Rostron of Kansas City, using cardboard, construction paper, and a bunch of candy.

Great Lakes Connection: From the director: "I have gone to the Great Lakes region (Ludington, Michigan) every summer of my life, and it's my favorite place in the world. Maybe someday I will make a movie about that, but this movie doesn't really relate to that. But it's about candy, and I'm sure people in the Great Lakes region love candy as much as anyone does!"

### Winter Child

Director: Lorenzo Massa

Music Video, Italy, 2021, 4 min, Color

Experimental music video.

### Journey With Mr. Mr.

Director: Céline Brengou

Animation, France, 2019, 3 min, Color

As landscapes unfold behind the train's window, thoughts roam freely and the mind wanders. Mister and Mister discourse.

### Behind the Glass

Director: Pedro de la Llave

Narrative Short, Spain, 2021, 5 min, Color

Mario thinks he is in control. He thinks he knows what he is doing, and he looks down to the people on the other side of the glass. But what Mario doesn't know is that the glass itself is not on his side.

### I Have No Home

Director: Volodymyr Vlasenko

Music Video, Ukraine, 2019, 3 min, Color

A young boy is traveling with his imaginary friends in search of the way home. Will he find a place to stay or is the journey the meaning of life for him now?

## How My Grandmother Became A Chair

Director: Nicolas Fattouh

Animation, Lebanon, 2020, 10 min, Color

An aging grandmother loses her five senses, one after the other, before finally becoming a wooden chair. Throughout her transformation, she realizes that her housekeeper is not the wild animal she once thought she was, but the caring and loyal family member she was sadly lacking. A poignant story about illness and growing old which employs imagination and metaphor to show the difficult and painful process of departing.

## Crazy Horse

Directors: Gus Kearns, Giulia Marcolini

Animation, UK, 2018, 1 min, Color

A civilized horse gets more than he bargained for after opening his morning newspaper.

## Fog and Smoke

Director: Nathanael Draper

Music Video, Canada, 2021, 6 min, Color

A man is trapped inside and pestered by someone who only wants to party while he's just trying to get through the day.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Toronto.

## Once There Was a Girl

Director: Deb Ethier

Animation, Canada, 2020, 4 min, Color

Why do stories we read as children stay with us through our lives and become broken bits of dreams and jumbled images from fairy tales that are always in the back of our minds?

Great Lakes Connection: The film's creator lives and works in southern Ontario, on the shores of the Detroit River where it empties into Lake Erie.

## Angel

Director: Nicole Rinaldi

Music Video, USA, 2021, 3 min, Color

Animated music video for the single Angel. Artist: Nowey.

Great Lakes Connection: The filmmaker is from, and the film was created in, New York.

## Ababá

Director: Jon Calvo

Animation, Spain, 2021, 3 min, Color

The adventures of a little furry being as he tries to discover his mission in the world.

## Painting by Numbers

Director: Radheya Jegatheva

Animation, Australia, 2021, 4 min, Color, Student Project - Curtin University, Bentley, Perth, Western Australia

In a mysterious gallery imbued with strange life, a child's encounter with classic masterpieces triggers a confronting epiphany.

## Departure Song

Director: Deco Farkas

Music Video, Brazil, 2019, 4 min, Color

This music video is the first single of a singer, composer, and multi-instrumentalist musician from São Paulo, Brazil. Artist: Ga Setubal.

## Io

Director: Antonio Michele Stea

Animation, Italy, 2020, 8 min, Color

The gaze belongs to the individual: always looking at the outside from the inside. Inside and out are the same image at a mirror. Here the space is not a space.

## It Fits

Director: Children of the FABIDO Day Care Center "Dürener Strasse"

Animation, Germany, 2020, 6 min, Color

In the triangle country it is very beautiful: sunny with a blue sea and good air. But there is too little work. So, the triangle family decides to emigrate to the square country. Daddy quickly finds work. But life is hard. They do not fit through the square doors. And some squares claim that the triangles do not fit at all into the quadrangle country. This film was made by 5- and 6-year-old children of a day care center in a difficult social environment (it was completed in September of 2020). The children did the stop-motion technique, made the dolls and the environment, and did the voiceovers.

## Wishing You the Best

Directors: Michael Khernonsky, Monique Sherrell Brown

Music Video, USA, 2019, 3 min, Color

This music video is about a narcissist ("Big Country") who has to come to terms with the fact that he is not as great as he thinks he is. Artist: Monique Sherrell Brown

## Thank You for Your Teeth!

Directors: George ve Gänæard, Horia Cucută

Animation, Romania, 2020, 3 min, Color

Josh, a 6-year-old kid living with his mother and sister, discovers that for each tooth lost he receives five dollars. He makes a quick calculation and understands that an entire bike is sitting in his mouth.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was written by Ron Riecki, who hails from Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

## Mooozart

Director: Piero Tonin

Animation, Italy, 2021, 10 min, Color

An animated homage to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and classical art.

## Block 12-Oh, Canada

Shorts and Feature program, 86 min, Not rated

*Sunday, Sept. 19, 4:30pm - Soo Theatre*



Still photo from *Mr. Emancipation: The Walter Perry Story*

Three narrative shorts and a documentary feature share a Canadian connection.

## Still

Director: Alison MacDonald

Narrative Short, Canada, 2021, 4 min, Color, Student Project - Sault College, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada

A visual poem that provides space for reflection on the quieter moments in life, where we pause to think, to feel, and to breathe.

Great Lakes Connection: The creator/actor is from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The film was shot in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

## Good News

Director: Osric Chau

Narrative Short, Canada, 2021, 14 min, Color

Happily married without kids and intending to focus on his career, Ryan struggles with the news of an unplanned pregnancy and his wife Nicole's decision to keep the baby. When the doctor diagnoses his wife with cancer, it leaves Ryan wanting nothing more than to have a child with Nicole.



## One Over Capacity

Director: Michael Zamanis

Narrative Short, Canada, 2020, 6 min, Color

Don and Betty must reduce the company's headcount by one staff member through unorthodox methods.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in North York, Ontario. All of the actors and crew hail from the greater Toronto area.

## Feature Presentation

### Mr. Emancipation: The Walter Perry Story

Director: Preston Chase

Documentary Feature, Canada, 2020, 62 min, Color, First-Time Filmmaker

Mr. Emancipation is the story of Walter L. Perry's determination to put on a celebration that would transcend divisions of race and class. He staged an Emancipation Day festival that was where everyone wanted to be. Eleanor Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr., and Jesse Owens all headed there because, as civil rights activist Dick Gregory said, "The largest Juneteenth celebration was not in America, it was in Windsor, Canada."

A celebration of ending slavery sounds grim. What Walter Perry organized was the exact opposite of grim.

Imagine a miles-long parade. The smell of soul food. Whirling carnival rides. There was live music, talent shows, and even the Miss Sepia beauty pageant (the first international beauty pageant for Black women).

From 1936 until 1967, that's how Walter Perry celebrated freedom. Perry and his celebration got caught up in the overheated racial politics, sabotage, and race riots of 1967 in Detroit. His event never recovered from that year and, shortly afterward, Walter Perry died. But the spirit of Mr. Emancipation still lives on.

Great Lakes Connection: The film documents the history of a festival in Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan.

Director: Preston Chase

Writer: Preston Chase

Producer: The Walter Perry Freedom Foundation

## Director Biography

Preston William Chase is a seventh-generation African-Canadian and a descendant of William Parker. Parker escaped slavery in Maryland, and went on to play a key role in the Christiana Riots in Pennsylvania. It was his friend, the great Fredrick Douglass who convinced Parker to take refuge in Canada.

Born to a single mother in the Black community of downtown Windsor, Ontario, Canada, Chase went on to become a high school teacher. He is also the family historian and a passionate advocate for greater awareness of a historic Black community, time has forgotten.

It was a desire for everyone to know the story of his great-great-uncle Walter Perry that led Chase to pick up a camera and begin recording the stories about him from the elders in his community.

Mister Emancipation: The Walter Perry Story is the result of twenty years of research and five years of production.

## Director Statement

Directing a film is the last thing I ever expected to do. I have never done anything like this before. I am a school teacher, not a filmmaker. It's just that I really wanted to tell this story of one man who once had big dreams, who somehow managed to bring people together across race and class divides.

I grew up in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. It's a blue collar city just south of Detroit, with a Black community that dates back to the days of the Underground Railroad. Times were always tough in the community. But there was one thing that people could be proud of, the largest Emancipation Day celebration in the world.

And the man who made it happen was my great-great-uncle Walter Perry. I grew up hearing stories about the festival. It was much later that my godparents told me stories about Uncle Walt.

For years now, I have wanted to share those stories. I mean, here was a guy who came from nothing, and sold newspapers to make ends meet, who somehow charmed city leaders, and sponsors and staged an event that drew top sports talent, American civil rights leaders, politicians, and musicians to Windsor.

He literally put Windsor's Black community on the map and made everyone feel proud.

I wanted to capture that and share it, especially now, when we seem more divided than ever, it's possible to reach out, get along, and have fun.

Over the past five years, I spent many hours with the elders in my community, recording their recollections of Uncle Walt, and the impact his festival had on



them, and how it shaped their lives. I sifted through their old photos which capture so many joyous moments. I did it just in time, we're losing that generation, and their voices are still relevant today.

### Awards:

Trinity Detroit International Film Festival (Detroit, MI), August 20, 2020, Michigan Premiere, Best Documentary

New York Movie Awards (New York City, NY), March 7, 2021, New York Premiere, Best Documentary

Chicago Independent Film Festival (Chicago, IL), March 17, 2021, Illinois Premiere, Best First Time Director

Yorkton Film Festival (Yorkton, SK), May 27, 2021, Saskatchewan Premiere, Best Documentary for History & Biography

Garden Route International Film Festival (Western Cape, South Africa), September 21, 2020, Western Cape Premiere, Semi-Finalist

Cult Valley Global Cinefest (Bengal, India), February 28, 2021, Asian Premiere, Best Educational Film

Trailer: [vimeo.com/434123147](https://vimeo.com/434123147)

Instagram: [instagram.com/Mr.emancipation](https://www.instagram.com/Mr.emancipation)

## Block 13-Foreign Shorts

Shorts program, 112 min, Not rated

CONTENT ADVISORY: THIS PROGRAM CONTAINS BRIEF NUDITY

*Sunday, Sept. 19, 6:30pm - Soo Theatre*



Still photo from *Cuckoo!*

This program presents a mixed group of short films from around the world.

### What Could Have Happened

Director: Nacho Solana

Narrative Short, Spain, 2021, 6 min, Color

In an empty city, the voices of two strangers meet. They end up passing the day together. It could have been a beautiful love story. This is the story of what could have happened (when nothing did).

### Cristina Zenato and the Reef Shark Connection

Director: Jason Perryman

Documentary Short, UK, 2021, 7 min, Color

This short film examines Cristina Zenato's close relationship diving with reef sharks, doing "relaxed state" petting of them, and removing their fishing hooks, a relationship based on love and passion.

Great Lakes Connection: The filmmaker is a friend and business associate of the Soo Film Festival's president.

## The Delivery

Director: Doğuş Özokutan

Narrative Short, Cyprus, 2020, 12 min, Color

Yusuf accepts a job carrying refugees with his refrigerated meat truck, believing this is the only way to find money for saving his daughter's life. When the smuggler shows up with the refugees, Yusuf realizes that there are kids among them that wouldn't survive in a refrigerated truck, but he still keeps on with the job, gambling with their lives.

## Cuckoo!

Director: Jörgen Scholtens

Narrative Short, Netherlands, 2019, 8 min, Color

This film is an absurd comedy about a lonely man who lives inside a cuckoo clock. Every hour he straps himself into his ejection seat and shoots through the doors of the clock. "Cuckoo!" he yells. "Cuckoo!" His work is of vital importance. The old lady who sits under the clock needs to take her medication exactly at the top of every hour. One day the man has the opportunity to win a substantial sum of money in a radio quiz. He loves gadgets and wants to buy a new computer. The only problem is that he can only dial in at the exact time that he's supposed to sit in his seat.

## A Son Like Others

Director: Antonio Sequeira

Narrative Short, Portugal, 2019, 19 min, Color

Dinis is a teenager and, like others, he wants to go to university. But he has recently been diagnosed with schizophrenia. His mother wants him to have a normal life, but she also needs to protect him. Can she do both?

## The Van

Director: Erenik Beqiri

Narrative Short, France, 2019, 15 min, Color

The van finally stops, the doors open, and the son comes out alive. A few more fights and he will be able to pay his way out of Albania, and hopefully, take his father with him.

## The Whole World's Alright

Director: Juan Carlos Alvarez

Narrative Short, Mexico, 2020, 13 min, Color, Student Project - SAE Institute Mexico, Mexico City

Carlos, a teenager in love, has to steal his parents' car to go to a party where Karla, the girl of his dreams, will be.

## Vincent Before Noon

Director: Guillaume Mainguet

Narrative Short, France, 2020, 17 min, Color

After years of conflict between them, a father pays his son Vincent a visit and turns up in the middle of a house move. Vincent reacts violently to the intrusion. Emotionally weakened, the father involuntarily reveals the true reason for his visit, which revives the tension between them. Within a few minutes, the anger, the memories, and the crossed looks move the two men deeply.

## Julietit

CONTENT ADVISORY: THIS FILM CONTAINS BRIEF NUDITY

Directors: Alejandro de Vega, Álvaro Moriano

Narrative Short, Spain, 2020, 15 min, Color

Julia wants to be an actress, but some things stand in her way: her fears, her complexes, her family.

## 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

Note that Oaka Street and Court Street are closed for construction.

You may park on Ashmun Street, in the Parking Garage on Governor Osborne Blvd., or behind the theatre in the Oaka Street lots, accessible by the Parking Garage entrance. Use the walkway next to the Avery Center to get to the Soo Theatre entrance on Ashmun Street.

You may also park on Dawson Street. 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](http://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](http://soofilmfestival.org).

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

## 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 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, and Steven Wiig. We're in awe.

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

Ann Kessinger and everyone at the Soo Theatre Project, especially David Kars and Craig Flickinger for technical assistance at the Soo Theatre

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

The hotels and restaurants who provided a festival discount

Bird's Eye Outfitters, for providing a comfortable meeting space for the Festival Committee

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

The Sault Ste. Marie Downtown Development Authority and 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 350 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

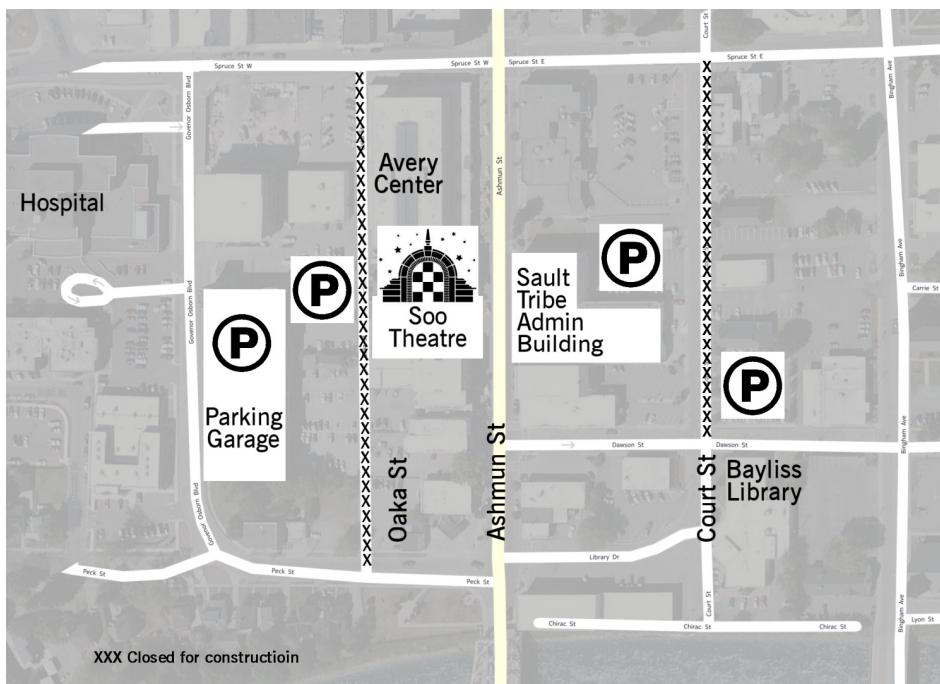
Everyone who volunteered to help, came to a movie, created a buzz on social media, or wished us well. Thanks for your energy and enthusiasm!

## 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**

Soo Film Festival  
1001 E 7th Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 440-6086 [SooFilmFest@gmail.com](mailto:SooFilmFest@gmail.com)  
[SooFilmFestival.org](http://SooFilmFestival.org) On Facebook at [SooFilmFestival](https://www.facebook.com/SooFilmFestival)  
September 15-19, 2021  
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!**