

GREAT LAKES, GREAT MOVIES

# SOO FILM FESTIVAL

SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
SEPTEMBER 10-14, 2025

## FESTIVAL GUIDE



# Great Lakes, Great Movies, and Everything Classic!

## 2025 Soo Film Festival Film Schedule

September 10 to 14

Block	Block Title	Venue	Day	Time
1	HOMES Documented (FREE)	Bayliss Library	Wed 10	6:30p
2	International Shorts (FREE)	Bayliss Library	Thu 11	6:30p
3	IDOLMAKERS	Soo Theatre	Fri 12	2:30p
4	Thanks for the Room	Soo Theatre	Fri 12	4:30p
	BREAK		Fri 12	6:00p
5	Relationships and Consequences	Soo Theatre	Fri 12	7:00p
6	Friday Night Fright	Soo Theatre	Fri 12	9:00p
7	Student Films	Soo Theatre	Sat 13	11:00a
8	Made in Michigan	Soo Theatre	Sat 13	1:00p
	BREAK		Sat 13	2:45p
9	1969: Killers, Freaks, and Radicals	Soo Theatre	Sat 13	4:00p
10	Sunset Somewhere	Soo Theatre	Sat 13	6:30p
	RECEPTION		Sat 13	8:00p
11	Welcome HOMES	Soo Theatre	Sun 14	10:30a
12	Michigan Documented	Soo Theatre	Sun 14	12:45p
	BREAK		Sun 14	3:00p
13	Armchair Traveller	Soo Theatre	Sun 14	4:00p
14	So Fades the Light	Soo Theatre	Sun 14	6:15p

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.  
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.



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# Welcome to the 2025 Soo Film Festival!

Thank you for joining us for another year of Great Lakes, Great Movies.

We were once again afforded an abundance of feature submissions to choose from which is a great problem to have. It doesn't make programming any easier but it is nice to see filmmaking on that level being done across The Great Lakes, especially Michigan. Once again, your support helps those filmmakers stay here and work here to strengthen local economies.

The festival kicks off with free evening programs at Bayliss Public Library Wednesday and Thursday. The festival continues Friday through Sunday at the Soo Theatre.

Our shorts programs once again offer a wide variety of films across several genres and even several countries. The international shorts screen Thursday at the library. Saturday starts with student films and is followed by a collection of shorts Made in Michigan. Sunday we cast the net a little wider and feature shorts from around The Great Lakes (Welcome HOMES). Please, do not miss the student films on Saturday. We particularly encourage student submissions and this could be your first look at your favorite filmmakers of tomorrow.

Our feature selections also have a lot to offer with drama, comedy, and horror all on tap for the weekend. For our Friday Night Fright Rich Brauer returns with Dogman 3, the long-awaited next installment of his creepy franchise. Sunset Somewhere is the feature debut from Michigander Christopher Jarvis. He will be here to discuss his film after the screening. On Sunday we close out the festival with So Fades the Light, a devastating look at the aftermath of cult life. Directing duo Get Super Rad are also returning filmmakers.

Our documentary selections come from around The Great Lakes and offer unique views of life in the region, you can see those in Block 1 and Block 12. True-crime fans will not want to miss 1969: Killers, Freaks, and Radicals on Saturday. Filmmaker Andrew Templeton spent six years investigating the Michigan Murders case and has come up with something remarkable. He will also be here for Q&A after the film.

Soo Film Festival places an emphasis on Great Lakes films and filmmakers but entry is open worldwide.

All films in every category are eligible for an Audience Award. Festival attendees are encouraged to vote for their favorites.

Thank you for coming out and supporting the festival. We are thrilled to once again welcome you to downtown Sault Ste. Marie for five fantastic days of cinema.

# 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 2025 Soo Film Festival are on sale now. 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's 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-HOMES Documented

Three documentaries of life around the Great Lakes region.

Screening: Wednesday, Sep 10, 6:30pm at Bayliss Library

Free admission

### Wired To Inspire: Riding the La Crosse Omnium



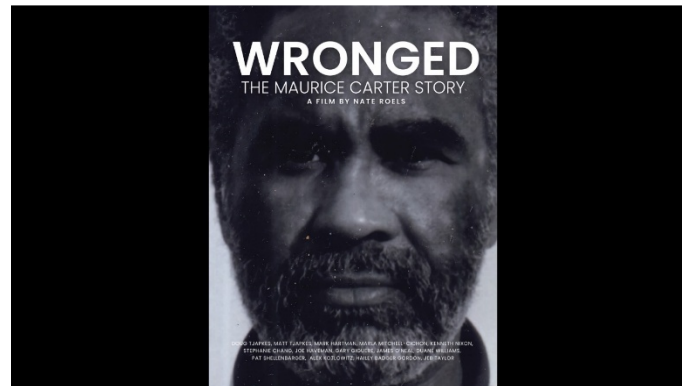
Director: Nicholas Kapanke

Documentary Short, United States, 2025, 10 min, Color

Elite cyclist Noah Collins reflects on his journey in the sport, hoping to inspire the next generation as he takes on the La Crosse Omnium, the only three-day omnium in the United States.

Great Lakes Connection: The young adults featured in the film are from the Kenosha, Wisconsin area, located on Lake Michigan.

## Feature: Wronged: The Maurice Carter Story



Director: Nate Roels

Documentary Feature, United States, 2024, 43 min, Color

Maurice Carter is wrongfully convicted of a crime he did not commit in Benton Harbor, Michigan, and finds himself ensnared in an unjust legal system. As he spends years behind bars, his hope dwindles, until his case catches the attention of Doug Tjapkes, a former radio newsman who believes he can help.

Doug, along with a dedicated group of supporters, embarks on a relentless fight to prove Maurice's innocence, uncovering buried evidence and exposing the deep flaws within the justice system. Their battle against the odds reveals not only the systemic racism and corruption that led to Maurice's conviction but also the power of determination, faith, and the human spirit in the quest for justice.

Great Lakes Connection: This is a Michigan story, filmed in Michigan by a Michigan filmmaker.

### CAST AND CREW

Director: Nate Roels  
Key Cast: Doug Tjapkes, Matt Tjapkes, Alex Kotlowitz, Stephanie Chang, Mark Hartman, Duane Williams, Kenneth Nixon, James O'Neal, Hailey Badger Gordon, Jeb Taylor, Gary C. Gigueure, Marla Mitchell-Cichon, Pat Shellenbarger, Joe Haveman

### DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY - NATE ROELS

Nathan Roels is a video producer with a love for storytelling and making impact through video production. Nathan has directed hundreds of video projects, created award-winning documentaries, and has filmed all around the United States and the world.

He currently resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan with his wife, their 2 sons, and their pug, Nacho.





## Feature: The Inner Sea



Director: Kate Stapleton

Documentary Feature, United States, 2024, 52 min, Color

The Inner Sea is a documentary about adoption, music, a bright blue, 40-foot-long school bus, and the journey of a lifetime.

Great Lakes Connection: The filmmaker is a Michigan native. The film celebrates the beauty and healing power of the Great Lakes.

### CAST AND CREW

Director/Producer: Kate Stapleton

### DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY – KATE STAPLETON

Kate Stapleton is a harpist, dancer, theatre producer, and author. She performs across America in a band with her partner and their six children, traveling in a 40-foot-long, bright blue school bus. She is also a birth mother. She shares the story of how her choice led to her current life as an artist and mother in her directorial debut as a filmmaker, The Inner Sea.

### DIRECTOR STATEMENT

When I was 21, I got pregnant. I made the choice to place my firstborn child for adoption. This choice changed my life. I became a mother who was not a mother. I became an actress, a musician, an author. I married and had six children. I started a band with my partner, and we began traveling across America, performing shows on the harp and guitar.



The daughter I placed for adoption grew up on the other side of the country, and became a musician as well. We began to talk about performing together.

In many ways, this documentary is a modern-day, deconstructed, real-life Sound of Music. The reason that I wanted to make it was a resounding silence, which is what I have heard from birth mothers in the years since I chose adoption. I had never seen a documentary from the perspective of a birth mother, so I decided to make one. Their stories are rarely told. This is mine.

### SCREENINGS AND AWARDS

Julien Dubuque International Film Festival, Dubuque, Iowa, April 25, 2025, Official Selection

Door County Film Festival, Fish Creek, Wisconsin, February 15, 2025, Official Selection

Red Cedar Film Festival, Menomonie, Wisconsin, July 19, 2025, Official Selection

Houston International Film Festival, Houston, Texas, April 22, 2025, Finalist



## Block 2-International Shorts

A selection of short films from around the world.

Screening: Thursday, Sep 11, 6:30pm at Bayliss Library

Free admission



### Double Bedroom

Directors: Véronique Meriadec, Nassim Azrou

Narrative Short, France, 2024, 8 min, Color

Two views of the same room.

### Fourth Tariff

Director: Jacek Póltorak

Narrative Short, Poland, 2024, 12 min, Color

A young widow working as a taxi driver gets a chance for a new start in life.

### Sarcum

Director: Ignacio Malagón

Narrative Short, Spain, 2024, 13 min, Color

Antonio, a writer in the midst of a crisis, decides to hire the services of Sarcum Solutions, a technology company that is dedicated to facilitating a task that is very difficult for Antonio to do by himself.

### Silver Punch

Directors: Isidora Valdés, Maurizio La Rocca

Animation, Chile, 2025, 2 min, Color, Student Project—Universidad Mayor, Santiago, Chile

A young boxer struggling with toxic competitiveness wants to win first place in a tournament to honor the memory of her late coach. Even if it means playing dirty, she will do whatever it takes to achieve victory.

### SABYR

Directors: Marina Zibert, Damir Tanatov

Narrative Short, Kazakhstan, 2022, 21 min, Color

A boy who suffers from dyslexia dreams that his homemade plane, carrying in the pilot's seat a chicken named Madame de Laroche, will take off into the sky.

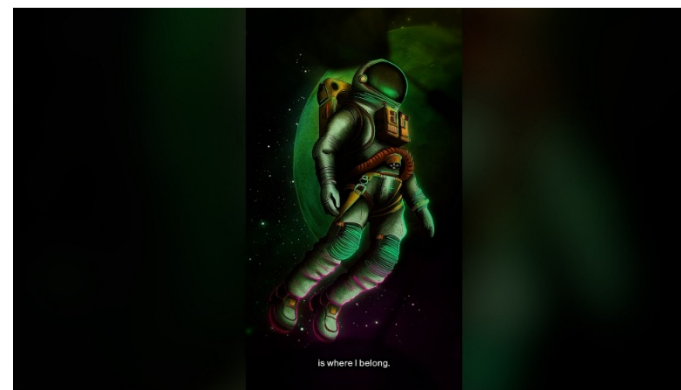
### N3W S74R7

Directors: Charly Delporte, Prune Girand

Narrative Short, France, 2024, 6 min, Color

A man has a series of quick encounters with different women, each unique in their appearance and behavior while also eerily similar. As he explores their diverse personalities, he discovers a surprising truth that changes his perspective on the nature of these encounters.

### Home



Director: Farzad Taheri

Animation, Canada, 2024, 2 min, Color

After spending more than a year in a tiny spaceship, an astronaut discovers that the concept of home holds a unique meaning for him.

### La mort

Director: Jesús Martínez "Nota"

Narrative Short, Spain, 2024, 13 min, Color

When dying is a way of life.

## Let Me Put It This Way



Director: Damla Ersan

Narrative Short, Turkey, 2024, 20 min, Color

In a matriarchal society the roles of men and women are reversed. Arya, a woman, represents power, money, and freedom; Meriç, a man, represents morality and docility. Having met each other on social media, the two meet in person for the first time.

Is the main problem in the complexity of today's relationships only the social meanings attributed to genders or is it human egoism, lost pure emotions, a lack of conscience?

## Lost In Galactic Translation

Director: Rasmus Lindkvist

Narrative Short, Sweden, 2025, 3 min, Black & White and Color

A lonely scientist finally makes contact with extraterrestrial life and eagerly awaits their arrival, dreaming of joining them.

## Block 3-Feature: IDOLMAKERS

Screening: Friday, Sep 12, 2:30pm at Soo Theatre



Director: Luis Diogo

Narrative Feature, Portugal, 2024, 96 min, Color

Sofia discovers that her father and grandfather belong to the "Order of Idol Makers." This Order killed John F. Kennedy, Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, and many others to turn them into Idols. They believe that idols are necessary to promote noble values in an increasingly futile society.

If Sofia wants to be the first woman to join the Order, she must plan the death of a celebrity and turn her into an idol.

### CAST AND CREW

Director/Writer/Producer: Luis Diogo

Key Cast: Rafaela Sá, José Fidalgo, Ricardo Carriço

### DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY - LUIS DIOGO

Luís Diogo was born in Guinea Bissau on the 26th of July 1972, when Guinee-Bissau was still a Portuguese territory. When he was 2 years old, he moved to Portugal.

He wrote the original screenplays from the Portuguese feature films A BOMBA and ICE. He wrote and directed the feature films PECADO FATAL, UMA VIDA SUBLIME (which became the most awarded Portuguese movie ever with 34 awards in 64 film festivals), and JÁ NADA SEI.





## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

IDOLMAKERS is a thriller, with suspense and drama, based on a fantastic premise, presented in a naturalistic and credible way.

The film explores three intertwining themes:

The importance of idols for society, in terms of transmitting values and inspiration

Sexism; How far women are willing to go to achieve equality

The importance of lying; to what extent it is or is not necessary, useful and justifiable.

It's a film where the narrative prevails, trying to balance a more commercial-style narrative and a more independent visual style.

## SCREENINGS AND AWARDS

FANTASPORTO, Porto, Portugal, February 28, 2025, World Premiere, Best Portuguese Movie



## Block 4-Feature: Thanks For The Room

Screening: Friday, Sep 12, 4:30pm at Soo Theatre



Directors: Brett M. Butler, Jason G. Butler

Narrative Feature, Canada, 2024, 89 min, Color

Laid off due to a global illness, Byron is barely holding his life together. With eviction looming and his marriage crumbling, he takes a job as a midnight courier at a pandemic hotel for the unhoused, hoping to scrape by. But the gig drags him into the underbelly of a broken system where addiction, desperation, and survival blur.

Running odd and often illicit errands for guests, he soon realizes how thin the line is between stability and the streets. When a deaf woman vanishes and bodies begin disappearing, his suspicions spiral into obsession. Asking the wrong questions has consequences, and after losing everything, Byron finds himself on the other side—beaten down by the same system he thought he was above.

Thanks For The Room is a raw, street-level descent into survival and paranoia, reminiscent of the anxiety-fueled storytelling of the Safdie Brothers.

Great Lakes Connection: The filmmakers are based in Toronto.

## CAST AND CREW

Directors/Writers/Producers: Brett M. Butler, Jason G. Butler

Key Cast: Kosa Akaraiwe, Nick Biskupek, Jesse McQueen

## DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY - BRETT M. BUTLER, JASON G. BUTLER

Brett and Jason Butler, the Butler Brothers, are Writer/Director/Producers based out of Toronto, creating original content under their boutique studio banner, Substance Production.

The Butler Brothers' most recent theatrical release, Purgatory Jack, arrived in the fall of 2024 after winning multiple awards on the festival circuit. Their previous feature, Unfriending, had a limited theatrical run in the US after also garnering critical acclaim during its festival run.

The Butler Brothers recently wrapped principal photography on another feature, The Last Anniversary.



## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Thanks for the Room is a neo-realist feature inspired by true events, delving into the fragile line between stability and destitution. Like many people during the pandemic, we felt the harsh reality of just how precipitously close many of us are to poverty.

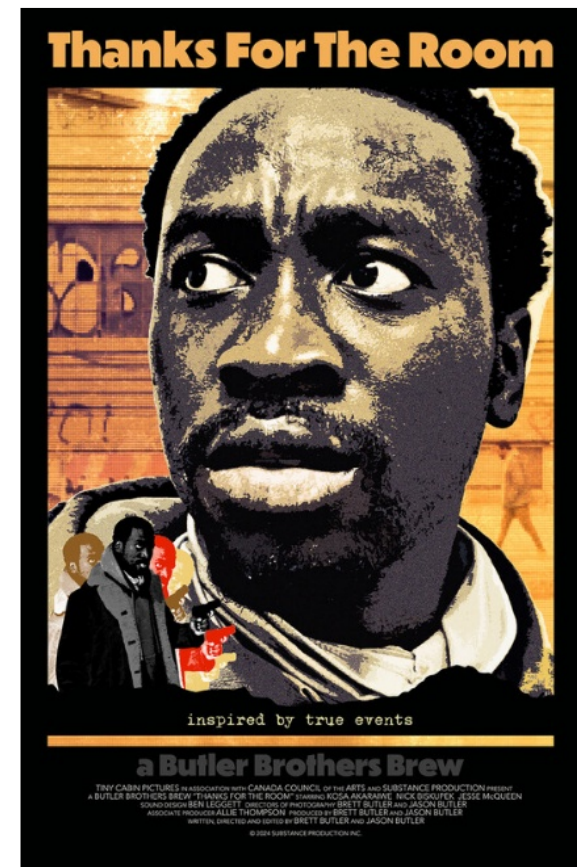
This film seeks to challenge the preconceived notions of homelessness, portraying characters who defy the stereotypes often associated with being unhoused. By weaving these portrayals into the storyline, we aspire to humanize genuine situations while emphasizing the truth that anyone can find themselves on the brink of poverty with just a stroke of bad luck.

The pandemic exacerbated societal divides and heightened paranoia, making these themes more relevant than ever, and we really wanted to highlight how strange and disconnecting that time and space felt. Interactions could escalate without warning or, conversely, become downright funny because of how unusual they were. We feel the film captures the raw, unfiltered experiences of those who

navigated these turbulent times, shedding light on the overlooked struggles we all waged during a particular moment in time.

People's strong and often single-minded opinions were, and still are, a major reason for the divisive times we currently find ourselves in. We wanted this story to not take sides or offer answers, but really live in the uncertainty that we all truly felt.

We took our cameras to some of the most marginalized areas of Toronto for authenticity and hope that comes across on screen, no permits, no tripods, just run and gun. By blending stark realism with deeply personal narratives, we feel Thanks for the Room invites viewers to question their assumptions and foster a deeper empathy for those living on the margins, and those with different viewpoints.



## Block 5-Relationships and Consequences

A short and a narrative feature on the topic.

Screening: Friday, Sep 12, 7pm at Soo Theatre

### Hostages



Director: Elliot Winterstein

Narrative Short, United States, 2025, 10 min, Color

Two young women meet up in a coffee shop to discuss the end of their relationship and to return each other's belongings.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was written, directed, and produced by Michigan natives.

### Feature: I Agree With You



Director: Jake VanKersen

Narrative Feature, United States, 2025, 76 min, Color

After canceling plans with friends on a rare day off together, Hector and Penny begin a game of role-play that threatens to undo their relationship. I Agree With You celebrates open communication, no matter how weird it gets.

Great Lakes Connection: Our director Jake VanKersen is a native of Muskegon. His first job was at Cinema Carousel, which is part of the West Michigan Celebration Cinema chain.

Our Executive Producer John Otterbacher was also raised in West Michigan. He is a graduate of Grand Valley State University. He served as the President of the Grand Rapids Film Festival and was a board member.

### CAST AND CREW

Director: Jake VanKersen

Writer: Ross Compton

Producers: Scott Cupper, Tyler Core, John Otterbacher

Key Cast: Stevie Shale, Ross Compton



### DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY - JAKE VANKERSEN

Jake grew up in the 1980s, a perfect time to be a kid who loved movies. He could watch Spielberg movies in the theater, watch the original Star Wars Trilogy on HBO, or rent Back to the Future over and over again from the video store. It was a great decade to fall in love with filmmaking.

That love for films never dissipated. The day after he turned 16, Jake was hired as an usher at his hometown movie theater. As fate would have it, he was working there during 1999, the much-celebrated year in film, which only solidified his love for filmmaking.

Jake tried to explore other career options but couldn't shake his desire to pursue filmmaking. During an uncertain time in his life, he moved to Chicago and immediately fell in love with the city. From there, he turned his attention to Columbia College Chicago and decided to throw himself into studying film.

After graduating in 2008, he went to work for a Chicago-based company that made camera gear, rented equipment, and also produced a variety of web series. Working for this company allowed Jake to further his film studies by working on productions. During this time, he produced and acted in a web series called Hank Frisco: Galaxy Defender, wrote and directed a short film called Right, made multiple music videos for local artists, and made a web series documentary called Audition, which chronicled the lives of working actors.

Realizing that no one was stopping him, he went to work to finally make a feature film. Working with screenwriter Ross Compton and producers Scott Cupper and Tyler Core, Jake developed the film I Agree With You. The film was shot during five days in August 2023 and post-production was completed in June 2024.



## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

With I Agree With You, I was looking to make a film like Kramer vs Kramer. Which is to say a character driven film about relationships, in this case long-term couple too afraid to confront their issues. I recognize that it is far too easy to romanticize the past, but these character-driven films used to be regularly made by major studios. I might have missed that time by a few decades, but I wanted to honor these films by making one like them. Or at least try.

## SCREENINGS AND AWARDS

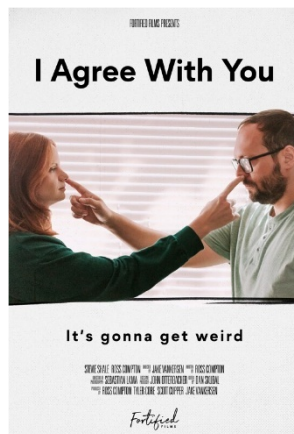
Professor O's Producing Festival #3 - "Ultra Low Budget" Feature Case Study!, Chicago, Illinois, February 2, 2025.

Lake Michigan Film Festival, Okemos, Michigan, February 28, 2025, Best Feature - Winner

Broad St. Film Festival, Sugar Hill, Georgia, March 7, 2025, Nominee - Best Feature

Touchstone Independent Film Festival, Online, April 7, 2025, Best Comedy Feature

The Davis Theater, Chicago, Illinois, July 29, 2025, Chicago Premiere

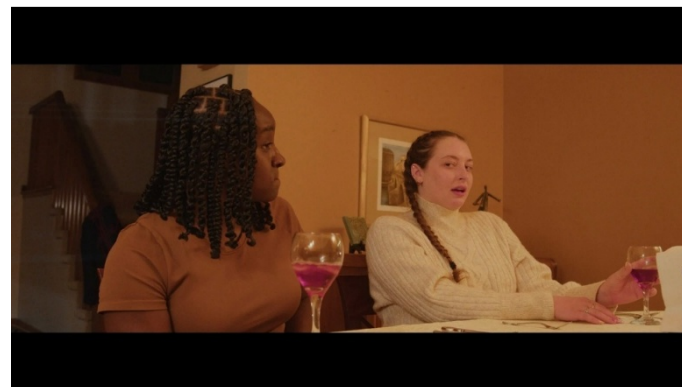


## Block 6-Friday Night Fright

A short and a horror feature.

Screening: Friday, Sep 12, 9pm at Soo Theatre

## Dinner for Strix



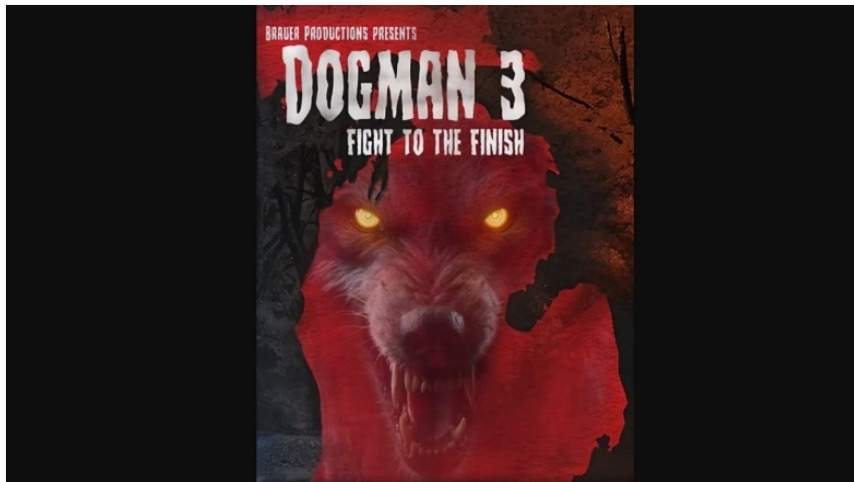
Director: Ellison Winterstein

Narrative Short, United States, 2025, 16 min, Color

A bickering lesbian couple's dinner party is spoiled by bad cooking and a mythical monster.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was written, directed, and produced by a Michigan native and was shot near Lansing, Michigan.

## Feature: DOGMAN3: Fight to the Finish



Director: Richard Douglas Brauer

Narrative Feature, United States, 2024, 90 min, Color

The last time Hank Purvis (Larry Joe Campbell) saw a Dogman, it was 7 years ago on a lone country road... dead. Everyone thought that was the end of them.

They were wrong.

Hank now finds himself caught in the middle of it again and it's personal this time.

He gathers his allies from past Dogman encounters and together they embark on what they hope is their final confrontation with the unpredictable and terrifying beast.

This time, it's for keeps.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Northern Michigan.

### CAST AND CREW

Director/Writer/Producer: Richard Douglas Brauer

Key Cast: Larry Joe Campbell, Stacie Mitchell, Kimberly Guerrero, Cheryl Turski, AJ Guertin, Benjamin Busch

### DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY - RICHARD DOUGLAS BRAUER

Richard D. Brauer

Producer/Director/Director of Photography

President/Founder, Brauer Productions, Inc.



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 11 feature films and hundreds of corporate, non-profit, educational and commercial projects. He enjoys supporting independent filmmakers.

He co-founded the Maritime Heritage Alliance in 1982 and the Inland Seas Education Association in 1989. 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 7 grandkids and lives on an old fruit farm on Old Mission Peninsula near Traverse City, Michigan.

### DIRECTOR STATEMENT

I love getting a great cast and crew together to tell stories! This film captures the fun, the chase and the redemption surrounding mythical woodland creatures. Every culture has one... so be careful!



## Block 7-Student Films

A showcase of student talent.

Screening: Saturday, Sep 13, 11am at Soo Theatre



### Sidekicks

Director: John Daniel

Narrative Short, Canada, 2025, 12 min, Color, Student Project—George Brown College, Toronto, located on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and other Indigenous peoples

Two best friends debate what should be done with their newly-acquired superpowers.

### Bounce

Director: Tristan Cloete

Animation, South Africa, 2024, 4 min, Color, Student Project—The Animation School (Pty) Ltd, Cape Town, South Africa

An animated story of two boys, a fish, and an “evil” soccer ball.

### A-Okay

Director: J Fitzpatrick

Documentary Short, Canada, 2024, 6 min, Color, Student Project—Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario

Sex. Something that is part of human nature. Everyone does it and strives to have their happily ever after... Right?

A young adult writes a letter to their past self, providing advice about discovering one's sexual identity while living in a hyper-sexualized and romance-filled society.

A-Okay brings attention to how society's expectations, stigmas, and stereotypes can be harmful to individuals on the aromantic and asexual spectra.

Great Lakes Connection: Our entire crew resides on the northeast edge of Lake Ontario. We are all going to school 10 minutes from the lakefront.

### The Last Fifteen Minutes

Director: Edo Natasha

Narrative Short, United States, 2025, 15 min, Color, Student Project—Los Angeles Film School, California

An Indonesian actress and an American music producer struggle through a grueling marriage that pushes them to a stinging conclusion.

### Real Fake War



Director: Tommy Dilger

Documentary Short, United States, 2025, 16 min, Color, Student Project—Savannah College of Art & Design, Savannah, Georgia

Real Fake War is a deeply personal documentary that tells the story of Travis “TJ” Truax, a Marine Corps combat veteran struggling to cope with PTSD and the loss of his friends to suicide through war reenacting.

Great Lakes Connection: The director and the subject of the documentary are Michigan natives. The film was shot entirely in Michigan.

### VIOLATOR

Director: MacLain Bowman

Animation, United States, 2024, 6 min, Color, Student Project—College for Creative Studies, Detroit, Michigan

A man tries to survive by the skin of his teeth as he is pursued by a vicious bounty hunter.



Great Lakes Connection: The film was created by a Michigan animator at a Michigan school. The soundtrack was created by a Michigan producer.

## **“A Plus”**

Director: Eduardo A. Camargo  
Narrative Short, Canada, 2024, 10 min, Color, Student Project—Toronto Film School, Ontario

An acting student decides to kill her acting teacher because she didn’t give her an A Plus on her short film assignment.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Toronto.

## **There Goes The Bride**

Director: Olivia Ellis  
Narrative Short, Canada, 2024, 7 min, Color, Student Project—Mohawk College, Hamilton, Ontario

A bride’s wedding day takes an unexpected turn for the worse moments before she says “I do.”

## **Livid Mortis**

Director: David Mzolo  
Animation, South Africa, 2024, 5 min, Color, Student Project—The Animation School (Pty) Ltd, Cape Town, South Africa

After losing his life in the ocean, Mort awakes to the grisly sight of his body desecrated by a seemingly malicious surgeon, Viv, and is mortified by the absence of his heart. Through hijinks and mishaps, he uses his body and his organs to attempt to pursue and retrieve his heart, while Viv desperately tries to give the heart to her dying sister, Hope. Through his escapade in the hospital, Mort learns to let go of his past to help Hope create her future.

## **ILL**

Director: Liana Montoya-Loranger  
Music Video, United States, 2025, 6 min, Color, Student Project—University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico

A girl battles a mysterious illness as green slime pours from her and she desperately flees from doctors. Is it a mental struggle, or is the danger real?

## **The Break**

Director: Kimberly Lee  
Narrative Short, Canada, 2025, 8 min, Color, Student Project—Toronto Film School, Ontario

A young woman tirelessly pushes herself to excel in her career, sacrificing time with loved ones in the process. On the day of her biggest presentation, the stress

she’s been suppressing overwhelms her, but she delivers flawlessly, reaffirming her “superstar” status. However, an email demanding more work reignites the pressure, causing her to break down, ultimately leading her to reach out for support and take the break she desperately needs.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in the Great Lakes region in Ontario and some of our key crew members are natives of the region.

## **Crackman | What It Means To Be a Fan**

Directors: Mustafa Ali, Ryan Stasinski, Elliot Booth  
Documentary Short, United States, 2025, 5 min, Color, Student Project—Troy Athens High School, Troy, Michigan

The story of Detroit Lions Hall of Fame Super Fan Ron Crachiola.

Great Lakes Connection: The film is about Ron Crachiola aka Crackman, a Hall of Fame Detroit Lions fan. It was filmed by Troy Athens High School students.

## **The Most Delicious Game**



Director: Ethan Schmaltz  
Narrative Short, United States, 2025, 10 min, Color, Student Project—Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, Michigan

A pizza delivery driver delivers a pizza to an island where he is trapped and must escape from a retired delivery driver out to hunt him.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot entirely in southeast Michigan. Actor Joe Sbar hails from Sault Ste Marie, Michigan.

## Block 8-Made in Michigan

A selection of short films from Michigan.

Screening: Saturday, Sep 13, 1pm at Soo Theatre



### Lightly Ghosted

Director: Garrett Sammons

Narrative Short, United States, 2025, 10 min, Color

A contented ghost stirs his tea, blissfully unaware that he's dead. His peaceful afterlife unravels when two young paranormal investigators—one a believer, the other a fraud—accidentally tear the veil between their worlds.

Told through colliding parallel timelines, *Lightly Ghosted* is a light-hearted spectral comedy that asks: who's haunting whom?

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Detroit. All cast and crew are local to southeast Michigan.

### Down Safe

Director: Fédor Benton

Narrative Short, United States, 2025, 8 min, Color, Student Project—Marshall Greene Middle School, Birch Run, Michigan

When 10-year-old Fédor discovers a locked safe buried in his backyard, his world transforms into a thrilling quest to uncover its secrets.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was made in Clio, Michigan.

## C-NOTE

Director: Jack Horrigan

Narrative Short, United States, 2025, 8 min, Color

Two indie musicians go to a bank to film a music video. The lines between a staged robbery and a real one get blurred.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Michigan and everyone who worked on it is a Michigan native.

### Single Use

Director: Jonney Zomberg

Animation, United States, 2025, 5 min, Color, Student Project—University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Set in a far polluted future, a scavenger resourcefully creates to survive in this stop-motion film.

Great Lakes Connection: The animator is a Grand Rapids, Michigan native and created this film in Ann Arbor.

### Lost Together



Director: Jonathan Todd Frank

Narrative Short, United States, 2025, 20 min, Color

Four high school seniors with a complicated history get separated on a field trip in the woods. As they grow further and further apart physically, they may find their way back to each other emotionally.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Michigan.

## Devolution

Director: Mark Broe

Narrative Short, United States, 2024, 10 min, Color

A couple fights for survival in a post-apocalyptic world.

Great Lakes Connection: All of the cast and crew are Michiganders. The film was shot in Grand Rapids.

## Lotus

Directors: Bryce Mackie, Brennan Collins

Narrative Short, United States, 2024, 15 min, Color

Be kind to yourself.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Evart, Michigan.

## Something is Rotten

Director: TL Westgate

Narrative Short, United States, 2024, 8 min, Color

A mob boss suspects foul play among her minions and has her henchmen help her get answers out of the accountant. Hilarity ensues.

Great Lakes Connection: The writer/director/lead actor is from Lansing, Michigan. We had a cabin at Higgins Lake, too.

## ScrabbleTown

Directors: Andrew Alan, E Holder

Narrative Short, United States, 2025, 16 min, Black & White and Color, Student Project—Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, Michigan

A young man must overcome the weight of his family's years of defeat at the hands of the British. By winning a scrabble championship, he can overcome the failures of his ancestors and redeem his father.

Great Lakes Connection: Everyone who worked on this film is currently living in Michigan. Both directors grew up here as did a lot of the crew. The project was produced for Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor.

## How'd You Feel (About Talkin' to Me)

Directors: Jim Diamond, Joseph Frezza

Music Video, United States, 2025, 3 min, Color

Music video promoting a record release.

Great Lakes Connection: The artists are from Michigan.

## Block 9-Feature: 1969: Killers, Freaks, and Radicals

Screening: Saturday, Sep 13, 4pm at Soo Theatre



Director: Andrew Templeton

Documentary Feature, United States, 2024, 112 min, Color

Amid the radical politics and cultural upheaval of the late 1960s, a series of brutal murders targeting young women gripped the twin university towns of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, Michigan. Home to the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University, the communities grew increasingly anxious as police seemed unable to stop the killer—or killers—responsible.

Through interviews with law enforcement, political figures, and women who lived through the fear, this independent documentary examines not just a series of crimes, but the social and political tensions that enabled them—many of which still resonate today.

Great Lakes Connection: The film takes place almost entirely in the Ann Arbor area and was produced and worked on by Michigan natives.

### CAST AND CREW

Director: Andrew Templeton

Producers: Rachel James-Dolan, Joshua Quintal

Original Music by: Secondary Colors, Andrew Templeton, Nate Secor





#### DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY - ANDREW TEMPLETON

An independent filmmaker from the Detroit area who has been fascinated by cameras, history, and storytelling since childhood. Reading about the tumultuous events occurring simultaneously in Southeast Michigan in the late 1960s gripped me and I spent 6 years researching and independently producing this documentary: a true passion project, with the goal of telling this largely forgotten true-crime story in an engaging, informative, and respectful way.



## Block 10-Feature: Sunset Somewhere

Screening: Saturday, Sep 13, 6:30pm at Soo Theatre



Director: Christopher Jarvis

Narrative Feature, United States, 2025, 85 min, Color

When an aspiring writer on a road trip to finish her book learns that her publisher has gone out of business, she suddenly finds herself directionless. She strikes up a friendship with another wayward traveler who invites her along on a journey of self-discovery and reckoning.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot entirely in Michigan by Michigan filmmakers.

#### CAST AND CREW

Director/Writer: Christopher Jarvis

Producers: Christopher Jarvis, Abigail Jaske, Margo Dalal, Zachary Jarvis

Key Cast: Sara Cicilian, Ana Gomez, Devin Rosni, Brett Mercer, Lailani Ledesma

#### DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY - CHRISTOPHER JARVIS

Christopher Jarvis is a filmmaker based in Detroit, MI. In 2023 his super 8mm film Singularity screened at the Cannes Film Festival. It also won the worldwide Straight 8 filmmaking competition and screened at the British Film Institute, the London Short Film Festival, and screened at cinemas in the UK, Portugal, and Brazil.

In 2020 his short film Bruised Fruit won the Audience Award at the Central Michigan International Film Festival. It also won Best



Michigan Short at the Royal Starr Film Festival and was nominated for Best Short Film at the New York World Film Festival, the Fort Myers Beach International Film Festival, and the Detroit Filmmaker Awards.

In 2017 he scored the VR film *If Not Love* that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

His films have screened all over the country including the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival, the Chicago International Arthouse Film Festival, the Miami Independent Film Festival, Hell's Half Mile Film Festival, and more.

He currently teaches Digital Media Arts at Lawrence Technological University and lives in Detroit, MI with his partner and dog, Varda.

### DIRECTOR STATEMENT

*Sunset Somewhere* is a film about that feeling when your 20s are behind you and you're starting to come to terms with the fact that you probably won't get to live the dream life you wanted, and learning to accept that and see the beauty in everyday life.

Our film explores this generation's relationship with success and instant gratification in the social media age as well as identity, addiction, family and friendship, themes that are very relevant to Millennials and Gen Z as we navigate an uncertain and constantly changing world.

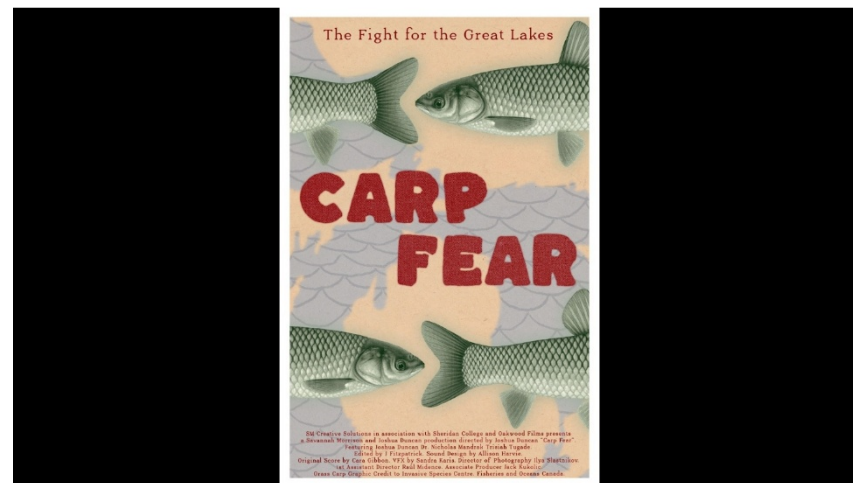


As someone who's been obsessed with the dream of being a successful filmmaker and musician since I was a young kid, this script is very personal to me. Like our main character, I've had glimpses of opportunity that have ultimately resulted in disappointment. As I've gotten older I've had to recalibrate what success means to me and learn to appreciate and see the beauty in the life I'm currently living, which is so full of worth and value if we really look.

## Block 11-Welcome HOMES

Shorts from around the Great Lakes region.

Screening: Sunday, Sep 14, 10:30am at Soo Theatre



### Claire Bikes

Director: Molly Weinstein

Narrative Short, United States, 2025, 11 min, Color

Claire tries to repair her bike tire in a gas station and accepts help kindly offered by Richie, a bike mechanic. When she finds out he is homeless, she mistrusts him at first, but later the two connect to finish the repair.

Great Lakes Connection: The story was written and filmed in Minneapolis. Post-production was completed in Chicago. The cast and crew are all from the Great Lakes States of Minnesota and Illinois.

### My Last Martini

Director: Rob Christopher

Narrative Short, United States, 2025, 14 min, Color

One evening at an elegant cocktail lounge, a frustrated writer impulsively breaks a self-imposed rule and decides to have a third martini. Moments later, he is joined by a mysterious woman, played by Wendy Robie, the eyepatch-wearing Nadine Hurley from the infamous TV series *TWIN PEAKS*, who drifts over from the next booth, looking for a good listener. Based on a story by Barry Gifford (David Lynch's *WILD AT HEART* and *LOST HIGHWAY*).

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot entirely on location at Bryant's Cocktail Lounge, serving Milwaukee since 1938. The cast and crew are all based in Chicago. Producer John Otterbacher is from Michigan.



## Circles

Director: Thomas Moeger

Narrative Short, United States, 2024, 4 min, Color

A man in a park writes a letter to his late father as he reflects on their relationship and an important decision he's about to make. Through this quiet moment of introspection, he seeks closure and clarity, reconciling with his father's memory while preparing for the next step in his life.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Toledo, Ohio. The director and some of the cast members are from the Great Lakes State of Ohio.

## Red



Director: Elif Boyacioglu

Animation, Canada, 2024, 2 min, Color

Sometimes weird little things in life can trip you up...

Great Lakes Connection: The director and animator of the film lives in Toronto and the film was created and completed there.

## Chest Candy

Director: Robert X. Golphin

Narrative Short, United States, 2025, 18 min, Color

Haunted by trauma, a Black army vet and father spirals into a psychological collapse, forcing the women closest to him to confront their shared grief and fractured bonds before it destroys their family.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in the Great Lakes State of Pennsylvania.

## Carp Fear

Director: Joshua Duncan

Documentary Short, Canada, 2025, 12 min, Color, Student Project—Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario

Through interviews with anglers, biologists, and members of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, *Carp Fear* uncovers the most destructive ecological threat facing the Great Lakes: invasive carp. It also teaches viewers what they can do to prevent this threat.

Great Lakes Connection: The film is entirely focused on the future of the health of the Great Lakes. Invasive carp pose an enormous threat to the ecosystem, and it is the responsibility of everyone who lives, plays, or works in the Great Lakes area. We filmed with the Invasive Carp team on Jordon Harbour, an inlet of Lake Ontario. Nearly everyone who worked on the film lives in a city on one of the Great Lakes.

## Lucy's Haunting



Director: Bryanna Vachon

Narrative Short, Canada, 2020, 3 min, Color

A dark presence won't leave Lucy alone.

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

## A Witch Named Agatha

Director: Rebeka Herron

Animation, Canada, 2024, 11 min, Color

Agatha is a mixed race witch, who is struggling to learn to use her magical powers.



Great Lakes Connection: The film was created in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, and many of the cast and crew live there.

## Bronze

Director: Corey Benson Powers  
Narrative Short, United States, 2024, 7 min, Color

Wine, sun, and a good book: the perfect ingredients for Tori to relax in her yard on a beautiful summer day. Spurred by a flirtatious message, Tori launches into an impromptu photo shoot—unaware that she has an audience.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in the Chicagoland area by an entirely local cast and crew.

## What Will You Say?

Director: Jason Lupish  
Narrative Short, Canada, 2024, 15 min, Color

The sudden death of a former love sparks a conversation between Maddie and her husband Perry about the type of social media tribute he would make in the event of her death.

Great Lakes Connection: The film's director/producer Jason Lupish and the writer/producer/actor Ann-Marie B. Zammit are from the Niagara Region of Ontario. Ms. Zammit grew up in Fort Erie on Lake Erie. She currently resides in St. Catharines on Lake Ontario.

## Fractures



Director: Roman Gubin  
Narrative Short, Canada, 2025, 9 min, Color

A father struggles to meet the needs of his young daughter, Sophie, while navigating the tension between his new partner and his late wife's mother. Set during Sophie's 7th birthday, the film explores themes of unresolved grief and family conflict, exposing the emotional cracks that threaten to tear them apart.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was produced and shot in Toronto with a Toronto cast and crew.

## The Email

Director: Samantha Houle  
Narrative Short, Canada, 2024, 7 min, Color

Mike anxiously awaits a scheduled phone call. As the minutes tick by without any word, his concern deepens. When an unexpected email arrives, Mike must decide how to respond.

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

## Idiot, Relax



Director: Samuel Karow  
Narrative Short, United States, 2024, 8 min, Black & White and Color

An uptight man tries to relax with the help of a meditation tape. The harder he tries, the more frustrated he becomes. Winner, Best Experimental Film, 2024 Basin Short Film Festival, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

## Block 12-Michigan Documented

Documentary films (several shorts and a feature) showcasing life in different corners of Michigan.

Screening: Sunday, Sep 14, 12:45pm at Soo Theatre



### Kalamazoo Nature

Director: Chad Campbell

Documentary Short, United States, 2025, 3 min, Color

A relaxing journey through woods and fields at the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot entirely in Kalamazoo.

### Ripple - Casting for Change

Director: John Curtis

Documentary Short, United States, 2023, 25 min, Color, Student Project—Shay Elementary School, Harbor Springs, Michigan

Six elementary school girls fly to an island in the middle of Lake Michigan to test their fly fishing skill. The girls are members of a school-sponsored Adventure Club that focuses on building community, belonging, and leadership skills to change the narrative of what girls can and cannot do.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot on Beaver Island and in Harbor Springs, Michigan. Shay Elementary is located on Lake Michigan and the school promotes lifelong sports unique to our Great Lakes Region.

## Feature: Did You Guys Eat? / Ya Comieron: Stories of Michigan Agriculture



Director: Stephany Slaughter

Documentary Feature, United States, 2025, 60 min, Color

Did You Guys Eat? / Ya Comieron? Stories of Michigan Agriculture is a journey into the heart of Mid-Michigan's agricultural landscape—one of the most diverse in the nation. Second only to California in crop variety, Michigan's farms are as varied as the people who work them.

This documentary follows the rhythm of the growing season, focusing on the individuals whose labor brings food to our tables: small family farmers, organic growers, and the often-overlooked seasonal migrant workers. Did You Guys Eat? / Ya Comieron? goes beyond the fields and greenhouses to also highlight the support network that cares for the well-being of those who help us eat.

This is not just a film about farming—it is about the people, the challenges, and the unseen systems that make each meal possible.

Great Lakes Connection: The subject of the film is Mid-Michigan's rich agricultural landscape and the people involved in it.

### CAST AND CREW

Director: Stephany Slaughter

Producers: Stephany Slaughter, Nick Wracan

### DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY - STEPHANY SLAUGHTER

Dr. Stephany Slaughter is the Director of the Andison Center for Teaching Excellence and a professor of Spanish and Women's and Gender Studies at Alma College.





She teaches classes related to language, literature, and culture of Latin America. In addition, she pursues research in gender studies; cultural studies; Latin American (especially Mexican) film, theater, performance; borders and immigration; and representations of the Mexican Revolution.

With an interest in game-based learning, she co-authored the Reacting to the Past game: Mexico in Revolution, 1912-1920.

She won the Andison Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2011 and 2019, and the Excellence in Inclusion award in

2022. She was honored to receive the Athena Award from the Gratiot County Chamber of Commerce in 2025.

Dr. Slaughter enjoys interdisciplinary opportunities and has collaborated with faculty in other departments in recent years to help produce several film projects. These projects include the fiction shorts Break My Bones(Anthony Collamati, 2016), Base Camp(Collamati 2018), and the dance-for-camera short, Uprooted (Rosely Conz and Stephany Slaughter 2019).

She is currently working with Professor Nick Wracan and Dr. Ben Peterson on a multimedia project that includes the documentary screened in this block.

The first film she helped produce was the Emmy-award-winning and Oscar-nominated documentary, Which Way Home (Cammisa 2009), which follows unaccompanied minors on their journey across Mexico towards the US on the train known as “La Bestia.”

Dr. Slaughter also works with several equity-focused groups on and off campus, including the DIAB (Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board), Latinos Unidos, Safe Zone and LGBTQ+ advocacy, The Mid-Michigan Migrant Resource Council (MMMRC), and MIRC (Michigan Immigrant Rights Center).

## Sacred Waters: Anishinaabeg Naagdawenmaanaanig Giigoonhkewin (The First People Taking Care of the Fishery)

Directors: Finn Ryan, Aaron Peterson

Documentary Short, United States, 2024, 15 min, Color

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians is the largest indigenous tribe east of the Mississippi and has been stewarding the fisheries of their Great Lakes territory for generations. This project explores the cultural and economic importance of the fishery to the tribe and how they are working in the face of climate change and invasive species to ensure a healthy fishery for the next seven generations.

Great Lakes Connection: The film focuses on the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians’ deep connection to the Great Lakes and their efforts to restore whitefish populations.

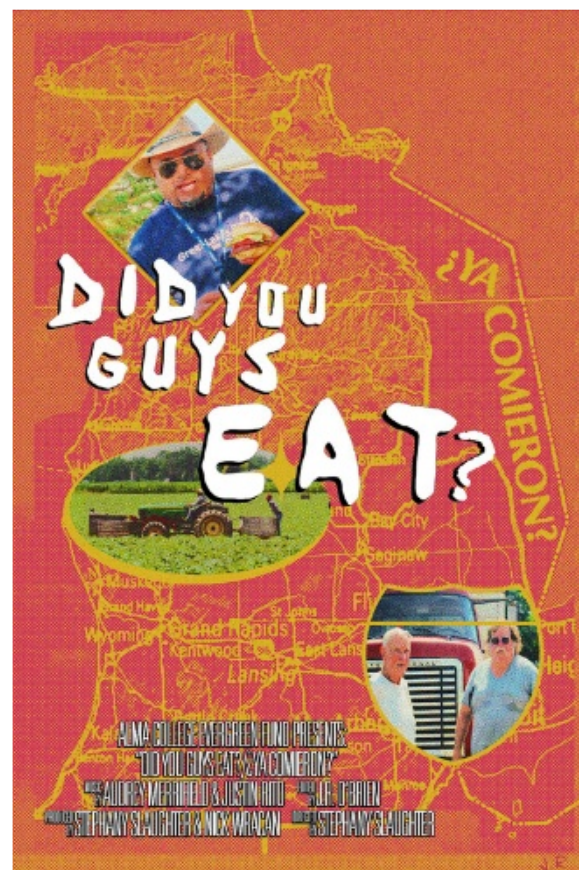
## Chillermania!

Director: Chad Campbell

Documentary Short, United States, 2025, 27 min, Color

In honor of 25 years, The Alamo Studio takes a behind-the-scenes look at Johnathan Rand, the name behind two best-selling children’s book series, Michigan Chillers and its successor, American Chillers.

Great Lakes Connection: The film is about a Michigan author and a Michigan book series. In addition, all of the cast and crew are from Michigan and it was filmed in Michigan.





# Block 13-Feature: Armchair Traveller

Screening: Sunday, Sep 14, 4pm at Soo Theatre



Director: Rebeka Herron

Narrative Feature, Canada, 2024, 105 min, Color

Charlie is a recluse in his thirties who lives through his forums and message boards. Continually offering advice and support to sufferers of agoraphobia, he states that he is going to embark on a world trip. Terrified of the outside world, Charlie, with the help of his overly curious convict neighbour Ethan, must travel the world without leaving the comfort of his own living room.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, and many of the cast and crew live there.

## CAST AND CREW

Director/Producer: Rebeka Herron

Writers: Steve Moody, Rebeka Herron

Key Cast: Richard Barlow, Eric Miron

## DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY - REBEKA HERRON

As an aspiring mixed race differently-abled Latina director Rebeka Herron has directed fitness series Kiss My Incoming Abs for Novus TV, music videos, and animated short films Chick-a-Duck and Beka & Nico. She is an alumna of Capilano University's Motion Picture Program, Women in the Director's Chair, and the Canadian Film Centre. Rebeka is a member of the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television, the Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA), and ACTRA.



Rebeka began her career in development for Brightlight Pictures before transitioning to the story department on several lifestyle and reality programs, including the award-winning series, Ice Pilots NWT.

Rebeka worked as Supervising Line Producer at Taqqut Productions, specializing in animation and children's content including; TIFF award winning stop motion short film The Shaman's Apprentice, and UNNIKKATUAT.

In 2018, Rebeka opened her production company Rusty Halo Productions, and in 2020 co-founded the Sault Film Festival.

## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

To me, Armchair Traveller is a small story with universal themes. It is a story about the ways we choose to represent ourselves on social media. As we continue to engage in a dialogue about how social media impacts our lives, it's important that we shed light on how social media can not only consume our lives but also how it can connect us with people around the world.

My mandate from the very beginning has been to produce misfit stories featuring unique characters, and Armchair Traveller is an intimate look into how one lie on social media can spiral out of control—and in Charlie's sake into a hilarious out-of-control mess.



# Block 14-Feature: So Fades the Light

Screening: Sunday, Sep 14, 6:15pm at Soo Theatre



Director: Get Super Rad

Narrative Feature, United States, 2024, 81 min, Color

As a child, Sun was worshipped by an extremist gun cult that was ultimately destroyed by the United States government. Fifteen years later, Sun lives in hiding with memories that torment her. She takes to the road, traveling back to the compound for closure. But little does she know, the cult's former leader has been released from prison and is headed in the same direction.

Great Lakes Connection: The film was shot in Michigan.

## CAST AND CREW

Director/Writer: Get Super Rad

Producer: William Stertz

Key Cast: Kiley Lotz

## DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY - GET SUPER RAD

Get Super Rad is a creative collective whose goal is to tell brand and narrative stories without ever falling into the trap of having a locked and defined style.

Our goal is to make content that feels unique and special to the project we create it for. Mostly, we want our work to look and represent the fun we had while generating it.

Get Super Rad was founded in 2013. It has since made two feature films with a third one on the way. We have created content for television, broadcast, and web.



We have populated auto show screens, and worked on interactive web video content.

Get Super Rad has worked with pets, puppets, and people, and is always looking to explore new media to tell your story in an original way.

## DIRECTOR STATEMENT

So Fades The Light: Right wing extremism terrifies us. Not just because of the immediate effect, but also because of the long-lasting damage it causes. In So Fades The Light, we put you in a place where you see the effects of that trauma, and the harrowing journey it takes to rebuild oneself, connect with truth, and deconstruct the past while building a future.

The people affected and manipulated by right wing grifters and Neo-Christian leaders are often plucked from places of deep isolation and vulnerability. They are sold comfort by people who claim they are the only ones who can save them from an uncertain, painful future. And while doing that, these people have all their colors, stories, empathy, and individual gifts stripped away.

Folks who have escaped and deconstructed this life are brave and capable. They must face overwhelming trauma and things they once said and believed and the shame of that. They must believe in a new core truth—that they are good and deserving of a full life and that, with the help of others, they can grow an experience that will not define them.

By subverting standard story structure and providing the audience dual perspectives on how our main character remembers their past, we show how religious trauma can cause individuals to become co-dependent on the cult leader as the keeper and narrator of the truth. But once the crack splits and light begins to peek through, time ultimately allows our hero to solidify reality and their compassion for themselves.



## 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, in the Parking Garage on Osborn Blvd., or behind the theatre in the Oaka Street lots. You may also park on Dawson Street and in the lots on Court 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).



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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, Everything Classic Bridge FM

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

The filmmakers 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, work, expertise, and enthusiasm: Helen Cho Anthos, Rich Brauer, Nick Childs, Steve Hamilton, and Steven Wiig. We're in awe.

Everyone at the Soo Theatre Project, especially Craig Flickinger for technical assistance at the Soo Theatre

The hotels and restaurants who provided a festival discount  
Linda Hoath and the Sault Ste. Marie Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Bayliss Public Library, a Superior District Library

Special thanks to all of our film judges who spent countless hours reviewing our submissions. We could not do it without you!

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

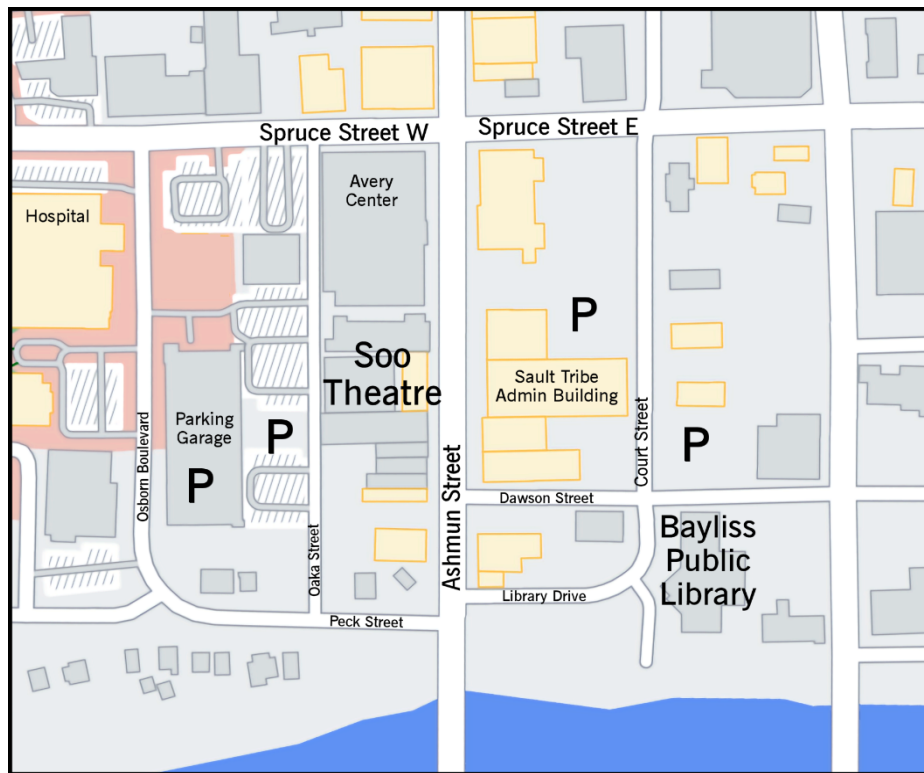
Liz Brugman, webmaster and program guide creator  
Everyone who helped after this guide went to press.

Everyone who volunteered, 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 10-14, 2025

Soo Theatre and Bayliss Public Library

Sault Ste. Marie, MI

### About Us

Soo Film Festival, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and host film and allied arts festivals in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Soo Film Festival, Inc. seeks to showcase the work of independent and emerging filmmakers from the Great Lakes of North America while bringing movies back to downtown Sault Ste. Marie and the historic Soo Theatre.

**Our Mission: Great Lakes, Great Movies!**