

SHEBOYGAN FILM FESTIVAL 2026

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Art by Stavros Hatzopoulos

www.sheboyganfilmfest.com

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Sponsor Spotlight



VENUES



**John Michael
Kohler Arts Center**

STEFANIE H.
WEILL
C E N T E R

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

JAKE'S A LAKELAND
COMMUNITY



MEAD
LIBRARY



**WordHaven
BookHouse**



the sheboygan collective

BLUE HARBOR RESORT 
CONFERENCE CENTER



2026 FESTIVAL ART

This year's official festival art entitled 'Take Two' was designed by Stavros Hatzopoulos. You can find it featured on festival merch, on the festival beer label, and throughout the fest!

Pick up a 6-pack of our 2026 festival beer at 3 Sheeps Brewing. Only available during the festival!



Meet Stavros Hatzopoulos!

SFF's 2026 Festival Artist



Hi! My name is Stavros. On the internet, I go by STOOVRS, and my mission in life is to create the best cartoons in the world. Last year, I had an animated short featured in the Sheboygan Film Festival's Shorts Block. Now, I reside in the Chicagoland area where I continue to concoct my maniacal experiments for the whole world to enjoy. Oh yeah, and something about a new cartoon coming to this year's festival. But that's a story for another time. If you wanna see more of my work, I'm on Bluesky and Twitter, sure. But I'm most active on Instagram and YouTube @STOOVRS, so check me out there!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 OPENING NIGHT

6:00 PM Red Carpet / 7:00 PM Screening

Stefanie H. Weill Center

Red Carpet by  **B'loonie Gifts**
Party Store LLC

Opening Shorts

Fred's Basement Bijou (Wisconsin)

Dir. Michael T. Vollmann



Candy Bar (Australia)

Dir. Nash Edgerton



Opening Feature

CHILI FINGER

Dirs. Edd Benda & Stephen Helstad

Filmmakers in
attendance!



Judy Greer, John Goodman, Sean Astin, and Bryan Cranston star in this 2026 dark comedy, crime film. Based on true events, a small town lawyer (Greer) finds a human finger in her chili and blackmails the restaurant for a cash payout in an effort to regain control over her mundane life. The situation quickly spirals out of control and her life descends into chaos.

Afterparty with Music by
Community Playlist



**SHEBOYGAN
PERFORMING**

— **ARTS** —

FOUNDATION

\$25 - Ticket includes a drink voucher & popcorn
Included with Film Lover & Festival Experience passes

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

9:00 AM

WordHaven BookHouse

Open Writing Hour

Sometimes being in a writers' room just feels, well, right. Join fellow writers and creatives for an open writing session at downtown Sheboygan's indie bookstore, WordHaven, to write, sketch, bounce ideas off on another, and get things done.

Open to Film Lover and Festival Experience passholders

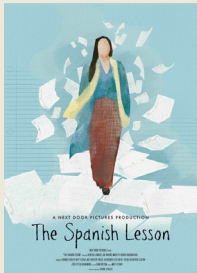
10:30 AM

John Michael Kohler
Arts Center

Shorts Block 1: Shelter

Examining themes of alienation, displacement, and grief, the short films in this block offer revealing character studies and relationship-driven stories. These films also show that it is our capacity for compassion, loyalty, and kindness that help us navigate life's storms.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



The Spanish Lesson (USA)
Dir. Simone Stadler

Marisol is already having a rough day (or year) when a tutoring session with an important client is interrupted by a strange man accusing her of salacious goings-on with his wife.



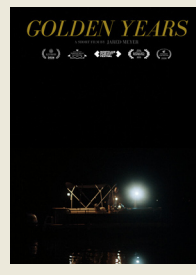
Draft Paper (Illinois)
Dir. Olivia Moon

An unfulfilled fashion designer faces the moral implications of creating his art when given an intriguing new opportunity during World War II.



In Between Storms (Puerto Rico)
Dir. Fran Zayas

After a hurricane ravages his hometown, a grieving man breaks into an off-limits cemetery to rescue the lost remains of his brother in order to give him a proper burial.



Golden Years (USA)
Dir. Jared Meyer

A newly retired man has his friendship tested when he is involved in a horrifying accident.



Pasta Negra (Venezuela)
Dir. Jorge Thielen Armand

Three Venezuelan women cross the border into Colombia to buy a packet of pasta.



Skin on Skin (Germany)
Dir. Simon Schneckenburger

An industrial slaughterhouse somewhere in Germany. Jakob is a security guard, while Boris from Bosnia does the slaughtering. Amid the cold and the violence, a silent bond develops between the two, as does an unspoken longing for freedom.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

11:00 AM

WordHaven BookHouse

Capturing the Midwest Story

Join filmmakers Edd Benda and Stephen Helstad as they talk about their experience writing and directing the feature film *Chili Finger* and their decision to set the film in the Midwest, specifically Wisconsin.

Tickets \$10

Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes

1:30 PM

John Michael Kohler
Arts Center

Feature Block 1: *First Feature*

The documentary films in this block capture the heart of the modern Midwest: a stubborn refusal to let the world tell us who we are or who we can be. These narratively compelling films from Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan showcase that spirit.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



A Light into a Void (Wisconsin) Dir. Lin Chen

After discovering his late father's Hi-8 tapes, filmmaker Lin Chen interweaves this family archive with 16mm and Super 8 footage to explore grief, memory, and the ways recording media preserve and reshape the past.



Brewer (Illinois) Dir. Erika Valenciana

Poetic visuals of the craft beer brewing process juxtapose the reflections of underrepresented brewers confronting bias in their industrial work environment.



First Feature (Michigan) Dir. Curtis Matzke

Intrepid student filmmaker Thomas Reilly-King (affectionately known as TRK) will do anything to complete his first feature film, aptly titled *ENDURING DESTINY*. Searching for fame in a production spanning several years, the unflappable writer/director/actor calls in every favor and spends every last dime to realize his vision and bring his hero's story to the big screen.

4:00 PM

The Sheboygan
Collective

Workshop: Miniature Building

Get creative with an array of craft materials and build your own mini-set. All ages welcome!

Tickets \$15

Included with Film Lover, Festival Experience, and Family Program passes

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

4:30 PM

John Michael Kohler
Arts Center

Shorts Block 2: Emergence

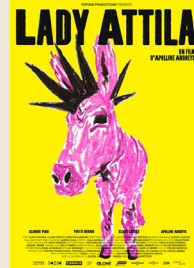
Ebbing and flowing through joyfulness and urgency, turmoil and tranquility, this selection of short films is an opportunity to process the emotional complexities of our shared existence. This astonishing block of short films includes the 2025 winner of the Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or for short films.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



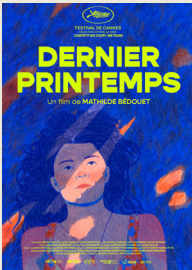
That's How You Make a Torah (USA)
Dir. Lauren Greenhall

Men have been scribing Torah since 3 BCE but it wasn't until 2007 that a Torah was scribed by a woman. In this documentary short, meet two of the first known female scribes in history.



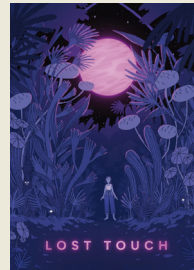
Lady Attila (France)
Dir. Apolline Andreys

Agathe loves tractors and rock! She works in the family farm machinery garage. When she finds out about an upcoming Air Guitar competition, she decides to enter, but her brother objects.



The Last Spring (France)
Dir. Mathilde Bédouet

Marion and Camille, 15, arrive on a southern island for their final school trip, full of excitement and expectation. It's a time of firsts, and the abrupt end of carefree days.



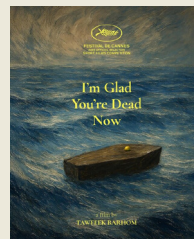
Lost Touch (Switzerland)
Dir. Justine Klaiber

Amelia is the sole survivor on a damaged spaceship. Caught in the gravitational pull of a planet, she struggles with grief and isolation.



Coyotes (Palestine/Jordan/France)
Dir. Said Zaghera

A Palestinian surgeon drives home after a long night shift, but little does she know that a commute through a desolate West Bank road will change her forever.



I'm Glad You're Dead Now (France/Palestine/Greece)
Dir. Tawfeek Barhom

Two brothers return to their childhood island, long-buried secrets force them to confront a dark past that binds them together.

7:30 PM

Jake's
A Lakeland Community



Shorts Block 3: First Steps

Sometimes there are just too many dishes in the kitchen sink. We all have different ways of approaching the stack, and not all approaches are equally productive. Presented by Healthy Sheboygan County, this block of films asks us to consider why we make the choices we do and how we might approach one another with greater kindness and empathy.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



L'homme au chapeau (France)
Dir. Antonio Mengual Llobet

In 1889, during a particularly harsh winter in a remote region at the edge of Norway, a solitary shepherd and his dog roam a hostile forest in search of his flock.



Mother of A Son (Germany)
Dir. Kevin Koch

A year after her son's act of violence, a mother comes to terms with his actions, caught between unconditional love and the weight of his terrible legacy.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

7:30 PM

Shorts Block 3: First Steps



At Eleven (Mexico)
Dir. Priscila Núñez

Pilar's mother gives her daughter a popular book about growing up. But through the book, the eleven-year-old discovers the horrifying truth.



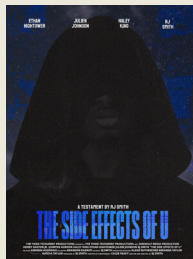
Here and There, In the Wind (Wisconsin)
Dir. Alejandro D. Orenco Colón

Fabi, a housekeeper in Wisconsin, moves through her days balancing chores and a search for normalcy during a lonely, wintry holiday far from her home in Puerto Rico.



Mirrors (Mexico)
Dir. Patricia Ordaz Cruz

Upon returning home after spending seven years living in Spain, Inés must adapt to a reality that is not what she left behind.



The Side Effects of U (Wisconsin)
Dir. RJ Smith

Drifting between memory and revelation, Darius navigates a fractured reality shaped by the ghosts of his past.



I'm Pretty Sure My Therapist Thinks I'm a Bad Actor (Illinois)
Dir. Spenser Davis

After accidentally attending one of her client's theatrical performances, a therapist finds herself abducted and tied to a chair as the client confronts her about the performance.

8:00 PM

John Michael Kohler
Arts Center

Feature Block 2: *Grind*

Post-Millennial angst! In 2004, who knew the internet and social media was going to wreak so much havoc? Black Mirror-esque in their approach, *Grind* and two short films confront the troublesome nature of the digital world, from the personal depletion of our social and emotional lives to the cosmic horrors of the gig economy.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



Christmas IRL (USA/South Africa)
Dir. Rochan Liu

An influencer decides what's truly important on Christmas.



Get to Work (Iran)
Dir. Parsa Zahedi

A man struggles in his bathroom through a severe panic attack as he desperately tries to work through it and get to work on time.



Grind (USA)
Dirs. Brea Grant, Ed Dougherty, Chelsea Stardust

Starring James Paxton, Rob Huebel, Barbara Crampton, and Aubrey Shea, four interconnected stories center around the gig economy, hustle culture, and evils of late-stage capitalism. This is a film for anyone who's ever hated their job, had a bad boss, or felt taken advantage of at work. In other words, it's a film for all of us.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Sips
AND
Cinema8:00 PM
The Berkshire

A one-of-a-kind evening and a favorite among Sheboygan-area cinephiles! Join us at The Berkshire for a five course dinner featuring five pours of wine and five short films from around the world. Each course is designed by Chef Rob Hurrie and inspired by the short film that will play while you enjoy that course. This is an evening that will engage all the senses through the sights and sounds of the films and the tastes and smells of the food and wine!

Tickets \$140 (includes tip) / Included with Festival Experience pass



Loc Lac (France)
Dir. Bun Chaï Ly

Sinn Ran goes home and cooks. As he prepares, he recalls his childhood memories of cooking and eating with his Aunt.



SAMLAND (USA)
Dir. Grace B. Poppe

An artist presents the magical property he has been building and designing on Little Cranberry Island off the coast of MDI, Maine, for the past 30 years.



Paradise Garden (Morocco/France)
Dir. Sonia Terrab

Naima is raising her son Ahmed on her own. When the state decides to rehouse them, Ahmed has to change schools. Alas, only Ahmed's father is permitted to sign the required paperwork - but he disappeared years ago.



Casi Septiembre (Spain)
Dir. Lucía G. Romero

Follows Alejandra, a young girl who lives year-round with her family in a Camping Resort. The story explores her struggle with the fear of abandonment, especially as a new romance with a Madrilenian tourist brings these insecurities to the surface.



The Juggler (France)
Dir. Jennifer Fanjeaux

Raoul, a young teenager, is waiting for a stranger father, Serge, with whom he is to spend the weekend. Torn between his impatience to reconnect with this man he knows so little about and his contempt for this atypical, crazy father, temporarily out of prison, Raoul must find his way during a road trip through the shallows of his childhood ponds.

9:00 PM
925 Restaurant,
The Pelican Room

Friday Night Party!

Join us at The Pelican Room to celebrate Friday night of the festival!

Open to all festival passholders

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

9:00 AM

WordHaven BookHouse

Open Writing Hour

Sometimes being in a writers' room just feels, well, right. Join fellow writers and creatives for an open writing session at downtown Sheboygan's indie bookstore, WordHaven, to write, sketch, bounce ideas off on another, and get things done.

Open to Film Lover and Festival Experience passholders

9:30 AM

Jake's,

A Lakeland Community

Workshop: Professor O's One Day Film

Whether you are new to filmmaking or are an experienced filmmaker looking for a new approach, this workshop will give you insight into the One Day Film method that Producer John Otterbacher has successfully developed. Screening example, presentation, and discussion as well as a great opportunity to meet with other filmmakers and possible collaborators. Workshop participants are encouraged to share any One Day Films with Professor O for future screenings and workshop opportunities. Recommended for ages 15+.

Tickets \$10

Included with Film Lover, Festival Experience, and Family Program passes

10:00 AM

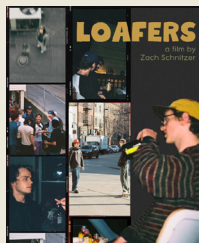
John Michael Kohler

Arts Center

Feature Block 3: Double Feature!

It's a Mumblecore Matinee double-feature! Offering an intimate look into the complexities of friendship, *Loafers* and *Sinner Supper Club* invite us into a lived-in space through honest emotions and great casting. There will be a short intermission between films to accommodate new and late arriving audience members.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes

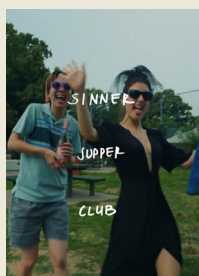


Loafers (Illinois)

Dir. Zach Schnitzer

Amid a post-grad haze, best friends Isaac and Cameron navigate the shifting terrain of their relationships, grappling with the deeper question of whether their once unbreakable friendship can survive the weight of change.

11:30 AM – 11:40 AM *Intermission*



Sinner Supper Club (USA)

Dirs. Daisy Rosato, Nora Kaye

An NYC friend group reunites to throw an 'eviction funeral' for Genevieve; as the night progresses and a heatwave traps them together, their long-ignored problems boil over.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

11:00 AM

Blue Harbor Resort
Conference Center

Shorts Block 5: Gaze

The act of creation is an often difficult and complex process. The films in this block take on creation, creativity, and self-expression from multiple perspectives, acknowledging the vulnerability and the bravery necessary to create and to allow oneself to be the subject of another's gaze. Discussion to follow in Impressions Gallery.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



Fačuk (Croatia/Slovenia)
Dir. Maida Srabovic

In a God-fearing village lying between two rivers, giving birth to a fachuk – an illegitimate child – is a mortal sin. Everyone in the village recoils from the young pregnant woman who is about to give birth at any moment.



Tame (Illinois)
Dir. Will Schneider

Near the end of a long shift, a stressed diner waitress has to serve an especially difficult customer.



Life Model Protégé (Wisconsin)
Dir. Joseph S Vignieri

This intimate and revealing documentary takes us inside the rarely seen world of life modeling—posing nude for artists.



Caries (Switzerland)
Dir. Aline Höchli

Eager to create a monumental work of art, a shaman remains blissfully unaware that she is painting her murals in the mouth of a vain weather presenter.



If You Don't Like It, Look Away (Germany)
Dir. Simon Schneckenburger

Every day, Joëlle meets her retired friends on Bain des Dames' beach in Marseille. Like in an open-air theater, they laugh, talk about love, sex, aging bodies, and remake the world with the freedom of nothing left to prove.



Yonne (Switzerland)
Drs. Julietta Korbelt, Yan Ciszewski Morvan, 1842: forced to pass themselves off as men in order to reach Paris, two sisters embark on an eventful raft journey among the log drivers.

11:30 AM

Jake's,
A Lakeland Community

Workshop: Prepping Your Project for Post

Join the founders of Journeywork Entertainment, a full service visual post house based in Chicago, as they take a deep dive into post production planning. Editor Ana Christain and Colorist Ryan Stemple will walk you through the process of getting your project ready for post. They'll walk you through budgeting, things to consider in pre-production, and the post production workflow. Recommended for ages 15+.

Tickets \$10
Included with Film Lover, Festival Experience & Family Program passes



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

2:00 PM

Blue Harbor Resort
Conference Center

Lakeshore Comfort Dogs

Shorts Block 6: Animal Instinct

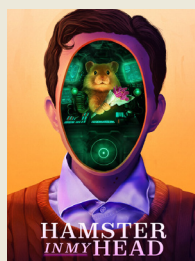
Not your typical creature-feature, this block is supported by Lakeshore Comfort Dogs, brings is an exciting blend of animal-driven short films, running the gamut from Indigenous knowledge to science fiction to comedy to animation to giallo.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



Evening Escapades (Canada)
Drs. Chantal Rousseau, Darcy Tara McDiarmid

An adventurous rabbit undertakes an enchanted evening escapade through a mysterious forest trail.



Hamster in My Head (Illinois)
Dir. Jerry S. Gonzalez

A genetically modified hamster escapes a mad scientist lab in a human mech suit. Now disguised as a human, he tries to blend in and go on dates.



Hippopotami (China/Hong Kong)
Dir. Lin Jianjie

In the suburbs of a northern Chinese city undergoing urbanization, a quirky girl who wants to see animals in the zoo is taken for a ride that will forever change her perspective on life.



Rare Birds (USA)
Dir. Lily Weisberg

A trouble-making 12-year-old tries to convince her former camp counselor to ditch his dead-end job at the local antique store for one last game of basketball.



Petra and the Sun (Chile)
Drs. Malu Furche, Stefania Malacchini

During a heavy snowmelt in the Andes, Petra, 71, discovers the perfectly preserved corpse of a mountaineer from the last century.



The Seeing Eye Dog Who Saw Too Much (USA)
Dir. Eric Jackowitz

In 1975, a seeing-eye dog is the only witness to a series of murders on the set of a giallo filming in Rome.

2:00 PM

Jake's,
A Lakeland Community



REBEL REELS FILM SOCIETY

Feature Block 4: *SHANK!*

In the spirit of the shot-on-video boom, *SHANK!* is a lo-fi action movie made the drive-in way: no frills and for the love of film and friendship. And Bigfoot. Presented by Sheboygan's Rebel Reels Film Society, this block includes an outrageous short film satirizing the too-online-male.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



Finger Guns (Canada)
Dir. David Feehan

A privileged office worker rebels when his freedom to use the 'finger gun' gesture is threatened in this comedic satire.



SHANK! (Illinois)
Dir. Jim Terry

Pulled out of a self imposed exile, urban legend Shank must find out who is trying to have him killed while discovering where his long lost love had disappeared to. Described as 'If Monty Python made John Wick with no money'.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

2:00 PM

John Michael Kohler
Arts Center

Family Block 5: Teens & Tweens

Famously, adolescence is an easy time for everyone. Remember, parents, how easy it was to enter your teens? This tween and teen-driven block of short films gears itself toward the joys and frustrations, along with the humor and the connections that help us become who we're going to be.

Tickets \$10

Included with Film Lover, Festival Experience, and Family Program passes



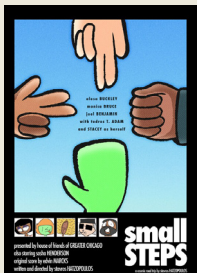
We're Kinda Different (Canada)
Dir. Ben Meinhardt

Join this peculiar hero as he sings his way through a mundane office building, achieving profound results along the way.



Voyous (France)
Drs. Camille Ledentu, Lucie Bagot, Marion Barth, Elisa Broustal, Luna Dupas, Ninon Reboux, Inès Tran, Xavier L'èveque de Vilmorin

Two young boys on scooters try to impress a group of skateboarders while babysitting a little girl.



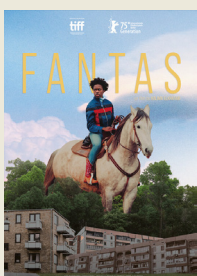
Small Steps (Wisconsin)
Dir. Stavros Hatzopoulos

After settling in with her roommates Charlyne and Sophie, mute alien Stacey happily joins them on a trip from the Riverwest neighborhood in Milwaukee to Charlyne's dear old dad in Chicago.



Hell's Diapers (France)
Drs. Nour El Hajj Sleiman Haidar, Cyril Aimon, Alex L'Helgoual'ch, Lucille Olenine, Luce Boulet, Isabella Guilbert, Beatriz Goncalves Pinheiro, Cedric Letho, Nadi Saade, Dianany Soundaramourty, Benjamin Martineau

The quiet life of Maria, a reclusive nun in a remote Mexican church, is disrupted when a baby is mysteriously left at her door.



Fantas (Canada)
Dir. Halima Elkhatabi

Worlds and genres collide one summer afternoon as a young woman and her horse make a surprising and eventful odyssey.



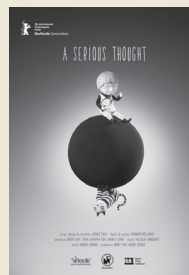
Final Roll (USA)
Dir. Irina Golina Sagatelian
The final roll leads us through a transformation of animation styles.



Nude Apocalypse (USA)
Dir. John 'F' Fountain
Join 'Floccinocci & Tip' on their adventure as they go on a quest across the wastelands of their world searching for knowledge, treasure, and maybe even themselves!



Seasons (France)
Drs. Lucie Rouquette, Angele Napoli, Matteo Diverres
After hurting Winter's feelings, Spring, Summer, and Autumn set off on a perilous journey to find the Edelweiss flower, a symbol of hope and reconciliation.



A Serious Thought (Estonia)
Dir. Jonas Taul
When a boy has trouble falling asleep at night, he begins to ponder his place in the world. If the Earth is just a small marble flying through space, and he is only one child among many, what is the meaning of his existence?

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

4:00 PM

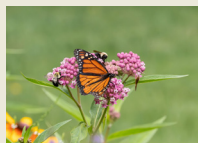
Mead Public Library
Rocca Room

Shorts Block 7: Young Filmmakers

Some folks catch the filmmaking bug early, and this selection of animated and live-action films highlights the work of young filmmakers from Wisconsin, the U.S., and around the world. One of the great joys of filmmaking is sharing one's work with an appreciative audience, and we're excited to celebrate the work of these up-and-coming artists.

Tickets \$10

Included with Film Lover, Festival Experience, and Family Program passes



Why Native Plants? (Michigan)
Dir. Cecelia Gould

Native plants improve outcomes for the environment, but are increasingly eliminated in favor of more typical garden plants.



Paani (USA)
Dir. Akshita Vashisht

In rural India, families whose lives revolve around securing water find hope when engineers drill to reach drinkable groundwater.



Lords of Dust (Croatia)
Dir. Lira Bartolić

In the kingdom of dust and flies, in the expanse under the bed, the Lords of dust rule.



The Span of a Breath (France)
Dir. Loéan Lemarié
The Dreamer, Tristan, and their solitude meet on the Seine in Paris, over four nights.



Facade (Wisconsin)
Dir. Sam Slowik

A man discovers ways to cover up his real face and emotions, wondering why he would want to look like himself when he can look like everyone else.



Homeless at Sea (China)
Dir. Shoujun Zhou

Along the southern coast of China, a community that has lived off the sea and called the boat their home for generations is on the verge of disappearing...



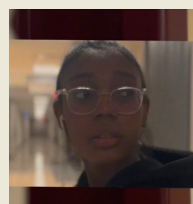
Arachne (Wisconsin)
Drs. Crestwood 4th & 5th Graders

A delightfully askew interpretation of a well-known Greek myth about a girl with a talent so great it threatens the gods, told with just the right amount of Gen Alpha twistedness.



Tree of Life (Croatia)
Dir. Jana Bedić

A poetic experimental short film that explores the relationship between memory, existence, and time.



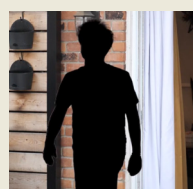
Fate (USA)
Dir. Kai Delise Murdock

To be connected with someone you don't know - same dreams, same feelings, same thoughts. Could it be fate?



Journey Through the Desert (Croatia)

Drs. Niko Karaula, Juraj Škovrlj
A truck driver makes his way through the desert, leaving chaos in his wake.



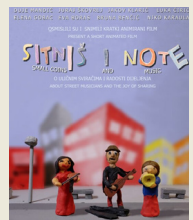
Running (Michigan)
Dir. Alyssa Marx

Luke Rogers tries to outrun his shadow in the music video for 'Running'.



Wool (Croatia)

Drs. Tonka Krnić, Simona Sermazi, Eva Boras, Lena Burušić, Gabriela Đurinski, Niko Karaula, Tibor Avdagić, Juraj Škovrlj, Mihael Šošćarić, Duje Mandić, Juraj Car
Creatures made of yarn are created, entangled, and come apart.



Small Coins and Music (Croatia)

Drs. Tonka Krnić, Mia Jureković, Duje Mandić, Vito Mačak, Jakov Klarić, Elena Gobac, Juraj Škovrlj, Eva Boras, Dora Klarić, Luka Čirić, Bruna Benčić, Niko Karaula

Street musicians entertain passersby with their music.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

4:30 PM

Blue Harbor Resort
Conference Center

Shorts Block 8: Weird Wisconsin

We love the weird and the eerie-the unnamable thing that raises the hairs on your neck but you can't quite find the word for. But being Midwestern, we often undermine it with wry humor. Each of these homegrown shorts takes on the terrifying, the terrorizing, and the madcap as only Wisconsinites can.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



A Town Called Malice (Wisconsin)
Dir. Joseph Sliker

A Man encounters a mysterious stranger on the streets of his city.



Under Her Skin (Wisconsin)
Dir. Adelle Johns

After a night out, Gracie spots a sore on Eleanore's stomach.



Ghoststory (Wisconsin)
Dir. Alex Jacobs

A story about a ghost.



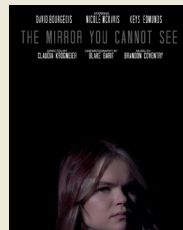
Aroma-Vision (Wisconsin)
Dir. Shun Powell

With the invention of a television that broadcasts scent, an ordinary Milwaukee man gets pulled into a daunting new cooking show.



Halloween Bird (Wisconsin)
Dir. Dean Bertram

On Halloween night, a deaf girl and her grandmother carve pumpkins and wait for trick-or-treaters. They are about to receive a menacing visitor.



The Mirror You Cannot See (Wisconsin)
Dir. Claudia Krogmeier

A woman finds herself trapped in a dream-like, emotional purgatory state of mind as she reflects on previous versions of herself.



Blossom Needs a Ride Home (Wisconsin)
Dir. Tim Schwagel

After defeating a bloodthirsty maniac, Blossom needs a ride home. What a hassle.



Silent Scream (USA)
Dir. Tommy O'Rourke

An ancient blood feud between two gangs of rival mimes escalates to horrifying new heights when they discover their mimed weaponry has [extremely bloody] real world consequences.

Screening Sponsor



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

4:30 PM

John Michael Kohler
Arts Center

Feature Block 5: *The History of Concrete*

From auteur documentarian John Wilson (HBO's *How To with John Wilson*) and Magnolia Films, we get a hilarious and heartwarming perspective into the strange ways we try to simultaneously invent the past and imagine permanence, neither of which really exist how we want.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



Halfway Haunted (Canada)
Dir. Sam Rudykoff

A tenant in a haunted house reluctantly teams up with a ghost to stop a real estate developer from demolishing the home they share.



The History of Concrete (USA)
Dir. John Wilson

After attending a workshop on how to write and sell a Hallmark movie, filmmaker John Wilson tries to use the same formula to sell a documentary about concrete.

7:30 PM

John Michael Kohler
Arts Center

Feature Block 6: *Los Vampires*

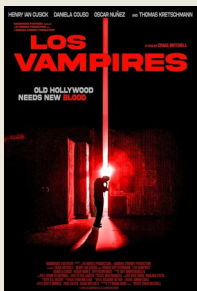
Art has the power to express universal truths while history merely records particular facts. Both films in this block reshape history for artistic ends, first by turning a critical eye toward the French New Wave and its fascination with American culture, and then by considering what strange and uncanny forces may have been at play in early Hollywood.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



Bailey's Blues (USA)
Dir. Shiloh Tumo Washington

In 1960s France, a jazz musician becomes the subject of an impromptu documentary.



Los Vampires (USA)
Dir. Craig Mitchell

In 1930 Hollywood, a Spanish actor is cast in the night shoot of a soon-to-be-legendary vampire film, forced to imitate the English-speaking star who performs the same role by day. The two actors regularly meet at the transitory hours of their shoots, and a rivalry stirs between them. All the while, a string of murders are occurring on and around the soundstage.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

7:30 PM

Paradigm Coffee
& Music

Feature Block 7: *Now! More! Yes!*

Never be anyone other than who you are. Featuring two Milwaukee documentaries and an incredible animated short from the UK, this block of films humorously and heartwarmingly reminds us that, we're good enough, we're smart enough, and doggone it, people like us. And if they don't? GET BENT!

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover, and Festival Experience passes



HAG (United Kingdom)
Dir. Anna Ginsburg

After breaking up with her obnoxious boyfriend, Hag battles society pressures, inner longings, and the tick of her own biological clock in a mythical journey through a surreal South London.



Thick & Sweet (Wisconsin)
Dir. Yinan Wang

Cutouts, reenactments, found footage, and fragments of earlier films reconstruct personal and collective memory while reflecting on the immigrant experience through the Americanization of food.



Now! More! Yes! (Wisconsin)
Dir. Max Hey

TW Hansen is a legally blind used car salesman, a landlord, and a film car coordinator living in Milwaukee. One of TW's tenants began following him with a camera after he drunkenly purchased an ambulance using his boss's money.

10:00 PM

Paradigm Coffee
& Music

Saturday Night Party!

Join us at Paradigm to celebrate the last night of our the festival!

Open to all festival passholders

11:00 PM

3 Sheeps Brewing

**MAGONIA
FILMS**

The Mutant Graveyard Midnite Picture Show

From the misty, mystic shores of Lake Michigan, it's The Mutant Graveyard! Join fellow mutants and cinema raccoons as we shamle and lurch around cinema's unsavory fringe. Including Vinegar Syndrome's *Night of the Vamp-Friars*, this block of weirdo horrors and high strangeness features films by uncompromising and fearless directors who push both cinema and good taste to their limits in the name of art.

\$10 Tickets / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



Pimple (Portugal)
Dir. Fernando Alle

A young boy's pimple bursts, leading to a bloody disaster.



Sin Eater (USA)
Dir. Corey Simpson

When Minerva goes to her grandmothers house to clean it out after she passes, the intrusion of a stranger forces Minerva to learn there was more to her grandmother than she could have ever known.



Night of the Vamp-Friars (USA)
Dir. Kurtis Spieler

A group of friends in a punk rock band discover a hidden cemetery in the woods where they accidentally raise a group of undead Friars in this new release from Vinegar Syndrome.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

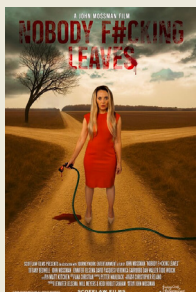
10:30 AM

John Michael Kohler
Arts Center

Shorts Block 9: Reality

"And you may ask yourself, 'Well, how did I get here?' ... And you may say to yourself, 'My God, what have I done?'" Driven by Midwestern voices, this block confronts the world we're creating for ourselves, and asks what insanity might lie ahead.

Tickets \$10 / Included with Film Lover and Festival Experience passes



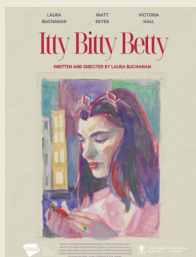
Nobody F#cking Leaves (Illinois)
Dir. John Mossman

A woman with a secret so deep is torn from her comfortable life and returned to the family she ran from years before. Her past comes rushing back—along with some pretty badass powers she doesn't have complete control over.



Choke (Illinois)
Dirs. Joelle Marie Velez, Kemi Mayomi, Cee Pham

In the colorful dream world of Very Nice Town, Poppy is launching a campaign for the town's new loyalty test - The Choke, which bans speech for 24 hours.



Itty Bitty Betty (Canada)
Dir. Laura Buchanan

For fear of rejection, Betty lives in isolation at home, in a reality constructed with miniature figurines—one of whom she has developed a relationship with.



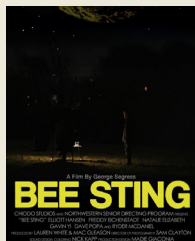
Keepsake (USA)
Dir. Erik Skramstad

When Lily's husband transports them back into their happiest memory together, she must choose whether to face the harsh reality of their present or start over in an idyllic past.



Oni (France)
Dir. Idir Serghine

Akemi, a Japanese student, moves into her new apartment in Paris. After spending the night with her one-night stand, strange events begin to disrupt her daily life...



Bee Sting (Illinois)
Dir. George Segress

Haunted by the shadows of a repressive childhood, a gay man drifts through nights of self-destruction, until a new lover offers him a potential lifeline.

10:30 AM

Jake's
A Lakeland Community

Workshop: Starting Short to Make it Big Instructor: Jodie Mortag

Now that you have spent time with screenwriters, producers, and directors at the festival, come and learn why starting with the short film is where it's at. This master class will introduce participants to screenwriters that got their start by way of the short, what classifies as a short film, the techniques used, and how to get started.

Recommended for ages 15+

Tickets \$10
Included with Film Lover, Festival Experience, and Family Program passes

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

1:30 PM

Jakes's,
A Lakeland Community

Panel: Unsung Heroes of Film

You've heard of the director... the screenwriter... the cinematographer... But what about the other creative department heads? Come meet the roles that don't get nearly enough attention but are integral in bringing a film's vision to life.

Open to all passholders

1:30 PM

John Michael Kohler
Arts Center

Family Block 5: Family-Friendly

Being a kid is tough. If you're not being dragged off to some boring thing for grown-ups, you're missing out on quality time with those very grown-ups who are boring you. Quite the dilemma! This block of short films deals with the emotional ups and downs of being a kid and learning how to express yourself in a world that seems much bigger than you.

Tickets \$10

Included with Film Lover, Festival Experience, and Family Program passes



Pow! (USA)
Dir. Joey Clift

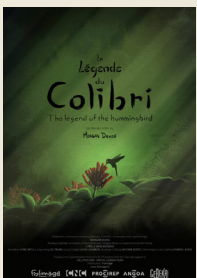
A Native American kid scrambles to charge his dying video game console at a bustling intertribal powwow.



Blossom (France)

Dirs. Bourdel Youenn, Bouley Youen, Jodet Guillaume, Martin Zaccharie, Lusseau Loïs, Laubu Lenny, Lalloué Tiffenn, Lelogeais Juliette, Poncet Daladoire Elouen, Dehard Charli, Bozec Matthis, Dayon Luc, Drugeon Emile

As Winter descends upon the forest, freezing plants and creatures alike, an old beetle awakens a young, energetic fairy.



The Legend of the Hummingbird (France)
Dir. Morgan Devos

A fire breaks out in the Amazon rainforest, and frightened animals leave their habitat to take refuge on the other bank. Only a little hummingbird persists in fighting the fire.



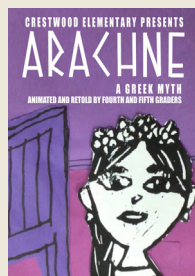
Christopher & the Bug (Canada)
Drs. Vanessa Esteves, Kevin Micallef

A grouchy old owl learns a big lesson about friendship when a small bug moves into his house.



Catch that Fish! (France)
Drs. Julia Ragot, Gabrielle Montané, Hector de Ghaisne de Bourmont, Ilona Laouchez, Florent Delay, André Yu

Little Naya goes on a quest to catch the legendary fish: her father.



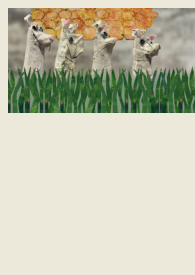
Arachne (Wisconsin)
Drs. Crestwood 4th & 5th Graders

A delightfully askew interpretation of a well-known Greek myth about tale of a girl with a talent so great it threatens the gods, told with just the right amount of Gen Alpha twistedness.



A Dog's Life (Netherlands)
Drs. Sophie Olga de Jong, Sytske Kok

Luna helps her grandmother bury her dog. A colorful short film exploring the tension between childish innocence and death.



Frederick (Wisconsin)
Dir. Timon Tupper

An animated short made by John Michael Kohler Arts Center Preschool drawings and puppets, telling the story 'Frederick' by Leo Lionni.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

CLOSING DAY

3:00 PM Doors Open / 3:30 PM Screening

Stefanie H. Weill Center

Opening Shorts

Sueños de una Monarca (Illinois)

Dir. Julián Trejo Bax



River Revelations (Canada)

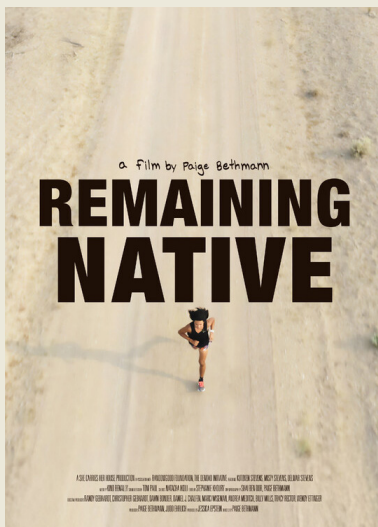
Dirs. Chantal Rousseau, Darcy Tara



Closing Feature

REMAINING NATIVE

Dir. Paige Bethmann



Ku Stevens, a 17-year-old Native American runner, struggles to navigate his dream of becoming a collegiate athlete as the memory of his great grandfather's escape from an Indian boarding school begins to connect past, present, and future.

Tickets \$15

Included w/ Film Lover, Festival Experience, and Family Program passes

CREDITS

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EHREN FLECHNER
JON GOLLNER
RICK GRANT
ZACK KRUSE

AUBREY LAUX
COLE J SHELTON
BEAH TRAVIS

Festival Director.....BEAH TRAVIS
Programming Director.....ZACK KRUSE
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Theater Manager.....COLA ENGEL
Venue & Guest Experience Manager.....GRETCHEN KLEIN
Box Office Manager.....MATT MCNABB
SFF Logo Design.....MATT VANDEN BOOMEN
SFF 2026 Festival Art.....STAVROS HATZOPOULOS

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JON GOLLNER
ZACK KRUSE

AUBREY LAUX
COLE SHELTON
BEAH TRAVIS

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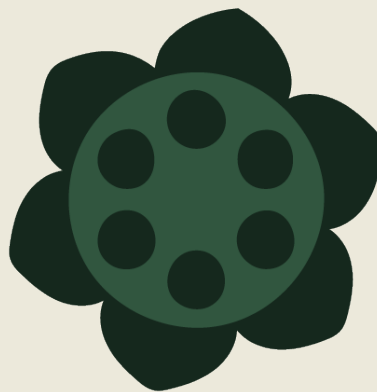
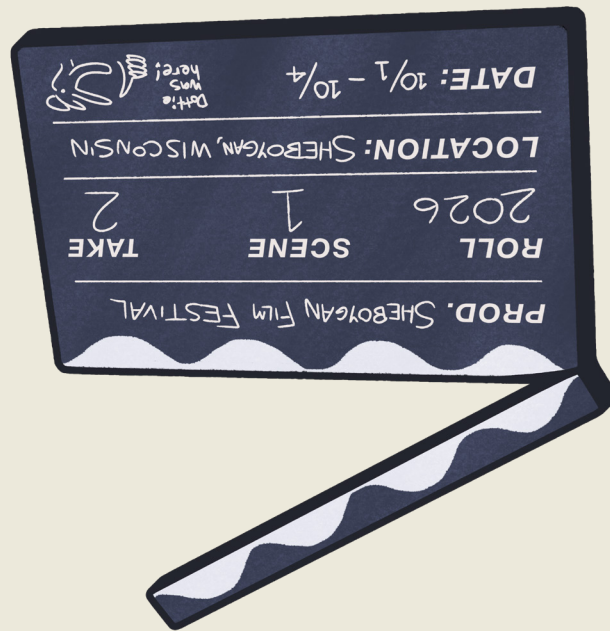
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WATERSHED HOTEL

HARBOR CENTRE BID

**Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers
who donated their time and talents to the
2026 Sheboygan Film Festival!**



Belladonna
FILM PROJECT

The Sheboygan Film Festival is a project of the Belladonna Film Project, a 501(c)3 organization based in Sheboygan, WI. Our mission is to produce regional films and provide accessible arts experiences in the Midwest.

www.sheboyganfilmfest.com