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# FESTIVAL PROGRAM

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THE 9TH ANNUAL

# MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY

AUGUST 23-27, 2023

[middfilmfest.org](http://middfilmfest.org)



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# WELCOME TO THE 9TH ANNUAL MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL!

Greetings, everyone... and welcome to the 9th edition of our Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival.

We look forward to each August when, for five glorious days, audiences and filmmakers arrive to celebrate the power of imagination, craft, commitment, and perseverance. During our short time together, something memorable and substantial takes place – and it can't be predicted. Each year's Festival allows us to take the temperature of our community and culture. We gather this year in the wake of catastrophic flooding throughout our region. We can't help thinking that all of this will influence how we respond to the films we see, given the ways in which our own place has experienced these challenges – and how we newly perceive the needs for empathy, leadership and resilience.

Our filmmakers fully engage the world they inhabit, investigating and amplifying these themes and enlarging our considerations of them in our own lives. Our opening night film, *Dusty & Stones*, transports us to Eswatini, Africa (formerly Swaziland), where we meet two intrepid singers of country music, determined to travel to Nashville and Texas for a cross-cultural immersion that tells us as much about ourselves as it does about them. What more can any film seek to accomplish?

We received a record number of filmmaker submissions this year, and have assembled a distinctive program that we know will make its mark for originality and timely investigation. In *Whitman Brook*, we reflect on what endures and what passes, right here in Vermont. Similar themes are treated in very different films including *Joan Baez: I Am a Noise* which honors vital shared history and culture – as it reveals hidden subtexts in both. In *Breaking the News*, extraordinary women form a news collaborative that is making a big difference in how we understand the stories of our time; in *Fire Through Dry Grass*, patients experiencing a variety of disabilities chronicle their own precarious time in a New York City Covid ward; in *Dear Thirteen*, we're treated to a nuanced portrait of a new generation, through the eyes of nine thirteen-year-olds from different parts of the world, including Vermont. For anyone looking for signs of hope at a challenging time, these kids will honestly inspire you.

We love our special guests each year – and we're amazed at the distinguished artists who will join us in Middlebury this year. Two-time Academy Award-winning director Alexander Payne (*Sideways*, *Nebraska*, *About Schmidt*) will treat us to screenings and conversation about his work – and he'll share his admiration for an underappreciated indie gem by hosting a screening of *Raising Victor Vargas*.

No one has explored the possibilities for filmic expression more than acclaimed experimental filmmaker and Guggenheim fellow, Su Friedrich, who will share her newest work, *Today*, that takes us on a reflexive, witty and ironic journey into her always-idiosyncratic life during the past six years. And she'll screen her autobiographical masterpiece, *Sink or Swim*, that has been selected for the National Film Registry at the Library of Congress.

Four-time Emmy nominee, John Slattery, will share his first two forays into directing, the new film *Maggie Moore(s)*, with John Hamm and Tina Fey, and *God's Pocket*, featuring John Turturro, Christina Hendricks and a final performance by Philip Seymour Hoffman. Peabody-winner Yoni Brook will discuss his groundbreaking docuseries, *Philly D.A.*, which has swept the indie film world's top honors. Festival favorite and Academy Award-nominee Beth Levison will be honored at the Festival and will offer us *With Peter Bradley*, a new feature documentary, and the acclaimed short doc, *The Martha Mitchell Effect*.

The two-time Academy Award-winning director Barbara Kopple will return to the Festival for the first time since 2018 with her new feature doc *Gumbo Coalition* and three time Emmy Award Winner Marc Levin will return as well with his new feature doc *It's Basic*.

And there's much, much more. More than 60 filmmakers will be here, a dozen of whom coming from distant points of departure like Lebanon and Argentina. And the town of Middlebury has new restaurants and places to browse.

Join us for happy hours and parties and spread the word to friends and family to join you for all or part of this year's film extravaganza.

Feel free to also tell us your thoughts on the films and events you see. And please consider tax-deductible support – to help us light up the screen. We couldn't do this without you.

Enjoy MNFF9 to the fullest!

Warm regards,



Matt Kiedalsch

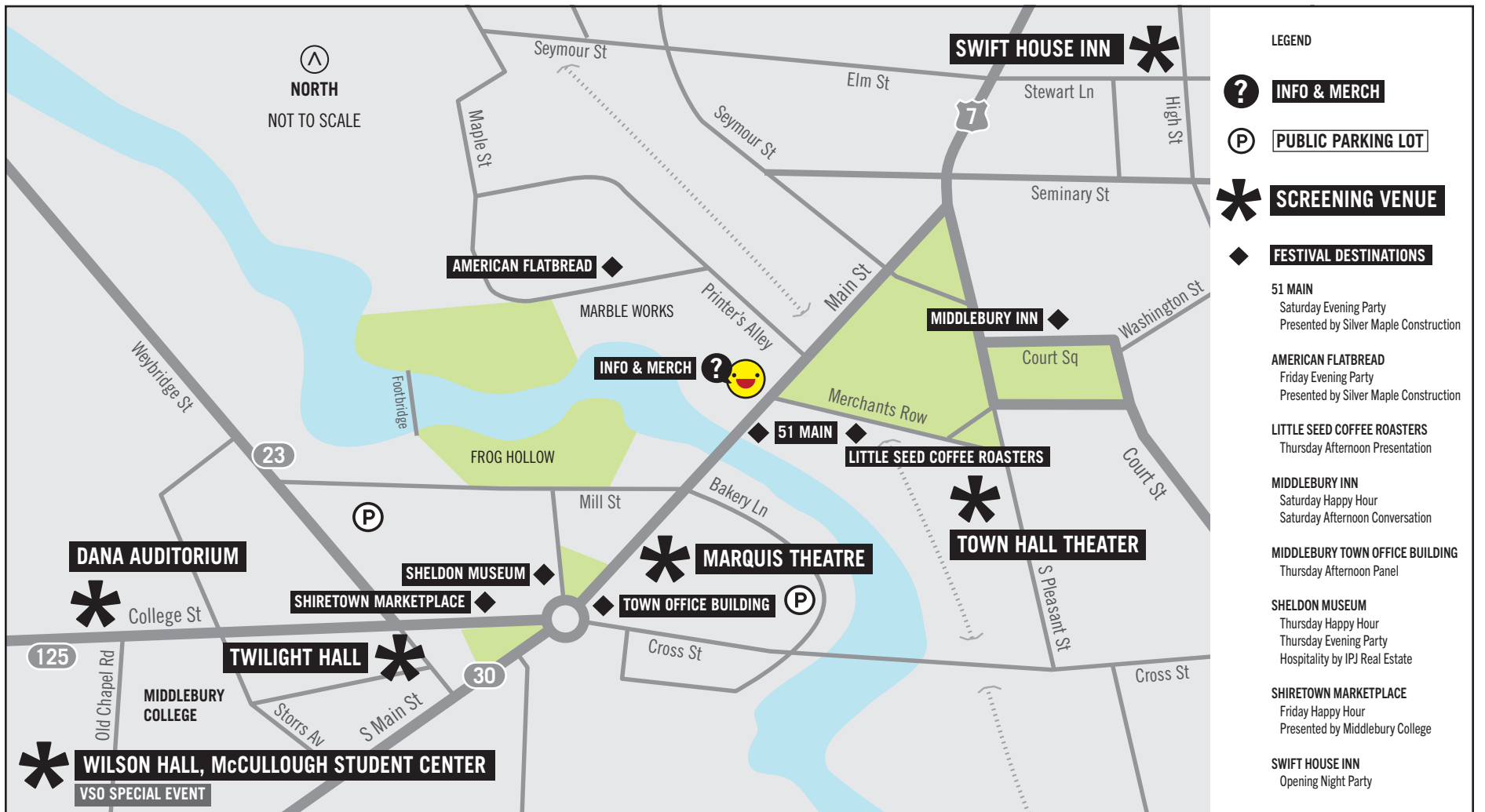
*Jay* Jay Craven  
MNFF Artistic Director



Todd Balfour

*Lloyd* Lloyd Komesar  
MNFF Producer

# FESTIVAL MAP



**VERMONT  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA**

**MIDDLEBURY  
NEW FILMMAKERS  
FESTIVAL**

**TWO AWARD-WINNING FILMS, SCREENED WITH  
LIVE MUSIC BY THE VSO'S CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**



*Born Under Punches*



*The Social Chameleon*

**AUGUST 25 | 4:00 P.M.**  
WILSON HALL, MCCULLOUGH STUDENT CENTER  
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

TICKETS: [VSO.ORG/EVENTS](https://vso.org/events)  
\$10 GENERAL ADMISSION  
MNFF PASS HOLDERS - FREE

# FESTIVAL FAQ

## DOES MNFF HAVE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS?

The 9th Annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival will **NOT** require attendees to show proof of COVID vaccination. All MNFF venues have a Mask Optional policy at this time, but MNFF encourages the wearing of masks to promote a safer environment.

## WHERE DO I PICK UP INFORMATION?

The Festival Information and Merchandise Store at 40 Main Street has stacks of printed MNFF9 Festival Programs, along with really nice MNFF hats, glass mugs, tote bags and sweatshirts. You can't miss the store because of its location at the intersection of Main Street and Merchants Row. Our staff will be on site Wednesday, August 23 from 10:00am to 5:00pm, Thursday, August 24 from 8:30am to 5:00pm, Friday, August 25 from 8:30am to 5:00pm, Saturday, August 26, 8:30am to 5:00pm and Sunday, August 27, 10:00am to 4:00pm. The Festival Program will also be available throughout town at numerous locations and at all screening venues.

## WHEN & WHERE DO FILMS SCREEN?

On Opening Day, Wednesday, August 23, films screen at 11:30am and 2:00pm at the Marquis Theatre (on two screens) and at Twilight Hall on the Middlebury College campus. Our Opening Night film will be screened that night at Town Hall Theater at 7:00pm. (Please note: **this event is ticketed separately. A Festival Pass does not grant entry.**)

On Thursday, August 24 - Saturday, August 26, films screen at Town Hall Theater, Marquis Theatre [downstairs screen only], Dana Auditorium and Twilight Hall [both on the Middlebury College campus]. Screening times are 9:00am, 11:30am, 2:00pm and 7:15pm. Also returning this year, an outdoor screen at Swift House Inn under the tent, with evening screenings only, at 7:15pm, Thursday-Saturday.

No films screen between 4pm-7:15pm. The 4pm slot features special panels and on-stage events. Check the daily schedule grid online or the Festival Program for details.

On Sunday, August 27, films screen at Town Hall Theater and the Marquis Theatre (on two screens). Screening times are 10:00am, 1:00pm and 4:00pm. The presentation of the beloved VTeddy Awards at the Closing Ceremony will be on Sunday, August 27 at 6:30pm at Town Hall Theater followed by our Closing Night Film at 7:30pm.

## WHERE CAN I BUY FEST & DAY PASSES?

Festival Passes and Day Passes can be purchased directly on our website at [middfilmfest.org](http://middfilmfest.org) or in person at the Town Hall Theater Box Office, corner of S. Pleasant Street and Merchants Row. The THT Box Office, located in the main lobby of the building, is open during the Festival on Wednesday, August 23 - Saturday, August 26, from 8:30am - 7:30pm. On Sunday, August 27, the hours are 8:30am - 4:30pm.

Festival Passes are \$125 and admit you to any film on any of the five screening days of the event. Day Passes are \$40 for Wednesday or Sunday screenings and \$45 for Thursday-Saturday screening. The Day Pass admits you to any film on that one specific day.

To online purchasers of Festival Passes and Day Passes, please bring your photo ID and confirmation number or print-at-home ticket to exchange for your actual Pass at the Town Hall Theater [THT] Box Office. Passes are **not mailed** but can be picked up from the THT Box Office beginning at 12 noon on Monday, August 21.

## WHY BUY A PASS?

When you purchase a Festival Pass, you receive special perks. Fest Pass holders will be seated first at all screenings. Day Pass holders will be seated following the seating of all Festival Pass holders. No seats are reserved, but your ability to enter first will be held until 10 minutes before show time. Also note that all Festival Happy Hours and Evening Parties are open **only** to Festival Pass holders. Day Pass holders can also attend Happy Hours and Evening Parties **on their specific Pass day**.

Also, your Fest Pass will give you access to **exclusive** discounts from numerous businesses in town during the Festival, simply by showing your MNFF9 Pass when you enter the premises.

## CAN I JUST BUY SINGLE TICKETS?

Individual ADVANCE tickets to all feature films will be on sale through August 27 at [middfilmfest.org](http://middfilmfest.org). Tickets are \$17 and provide priority seating following Festival Pass holders. Advance ticket availability is based on venue size. So, our smaller venues, Marquis Theatre, Twilight Hall and Swift House Inn Tent, will have fewer seats available in advance.

Single WALK-UP/RUSH tickets for any film are available for \$14 at each of the venues. A single ticket can be purchased for any film

at any venue on any day (excluding Opening Night). Single ticket seating begins 5 minutes prior to listed showtime after all Passholders and Advance Ticket holders have been seated.

## DOES MY FESTIVAL PASS ADMIT ME TO THE OPENING NIGHT FILM?

**No.** Opening Night is a separately ticketed event and can be purchased at our website, [middfilmfest.org](http://middfilmfest.org), or in person at the THT Box Office. Admission to both the Film Screening and the AfterParty at Swift House Inn is \$60. Please note: Opening Night is now on a Waitlist Only basis.

## WHERE CAN I BUY FEST MERCHANDISE?

Festival merchandise will be sold at the MNFF Information & Merchandise Store. Hours and location are noted above in the Festival Information paragraph. 2023 items include our popular MNFF hats [\$15] in black, navy, khaki and white, glass MNFF9 mugs [\$15], handsome black tote bags [\$20] and, by request, plush MNFF sweatshirts [\$35]. MNFF sponsor Champlain Orchards will provide free cider donuts, apples and fresh apple cider.

## ARE THERE FREE EVENTS AT MNFF?

Absolutely! We have gone to great lengths to ensure that there is something for everyone. All of our panels and presentations with filmmakers and industry professionals are free and open to the public. Also free - our wonderful Closing Night Awards Ceremony and Film on Sunday, August 27 at 6:30pm. For times and details on panels and presentations, visit [middfilmfest.org](http://middfilmfest.org) or consult our printed Festival Schedule.

## WHERE DO I FIND PARKING?

Parking options exist throughout the town of Middlebury and the Middlebury College campus. Street parking is available throughout downtown. There are municipal lots below the Cross Street Bridge and in Frog Hollow at the base of Mill Street. Many additional spaces are in various locations along College Street on the Middlebury College campus.

## CAN I SPEAK WITH FILMMAKERS?

Of course! This is one of the special benefits of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. Attending filmmakers and special guests will be available to audiences at post-screening Q&A sessions, panels, happy hours and parties. Feel free to engage with them. Filmmakers genuinely appreciate your interest in their work and life stories.



# Two Brothers Tavern

main st., middlebury | [www.twobrotherstavern.com](http://www.twobrotherstavern.com) | 802-388-0002

- Dinner
- Weekend Lunch
- Late-Night Bites
- Take-Out

## Bravo to the Filmmakers of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival!

Between screenings, stop by Two Brothers Tavern for Vermont-inspired comfort fare and libations - including craft cocktails and the region's largest draught beer selection! Visit our website for menus, online ordering and reservations.



## FESTIVAL EVENTS



WED 8/23

6:30pm  
Doors Open 6pm  
TOWN HALL THEATER



### OPENING NIGHT

- OPENING NIGHT TICKET HOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. -

Introductions and remarks by MNFF Producer Lloyd Komesar and MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven, followed immediately by our Opening Night film.

### DUSTY & STONES

#### Q&A WITH JESSE RUDOY

MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

Filmmaker Jesse Rudoy discusses his journey in creating this warm and winning cross-cultural documentary *Dusty & Stones*, which tells the story of two men from Swaziland who come to the United States to fulfill their dream of being celebrated country music performers.



WED 8/23

9pm  
SWIFT HOUSE INN

### OPENING NIGHT PARTY

- OPENING NIGHT TICKET HOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. -

The festivities continue outdoors under the big tent at Swift House Inn. Enjoy food, drink and music, and mingle with the Inn's convivial owners, Matthew Robinson and Serena Kim. Music by Dayve Huckett.

# FESTIVAL EVENTS



THU 8/24

2pm  
TOWN HALL  
THEATER

## PHILLY D.A. - EPISODES 1 & 2

### HONOREE EVENT AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH YONI BROOK

MODERATED BY JAY CRAVEN, MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Peabody Award winning director, producer and cinematographer Yoni Brook discusses the making of his groundbreaking docuseries, *Philly D.A.*



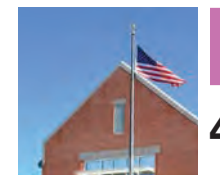
THU 8/24

4:15pm  
LITTLE SEED  
COFFEE  
ROASTERS

## CASTING & DIRECTING CONVERSATION WITH RISA BRAMON GARCIA

MODERATED BY MNFF PRODUCER LLOYD KOMESAR

24 Merchants Row | Join renowned Casting Director and MNFF Honoree Risa Bramon Garcia for a practical and insightful conversation about assembling your film's cast, and how to direct your actors, once cast, so that you get the most out of their talent, get your story told the way you envision it and put all that on the screen in the limited time you have to shoot.



THU 8/24

4:15pm  
MIDDLEBURY  
TOWN OFFICE  
BUILDING

## PANEL DISCUSSION: THE STATE OF INDIE DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN TODAY'S MEDIA LANDSCAPE

MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

77 Main Street | MNFF Honorees Barbara Kopple, Yoni Brook and Marc Levin join Vermont-based documentary producer Caitlin Boyle and documentary director Bess O'Brien for a substantial discussion of key aspects of independent documentary filmmaking.



68 S<sup>O</sup> PLEASANT MIDDLEBURY 802-382-9222  
MON-FRI 12-5



## Chuck Miller Concert

At Town Hall Theater

Aug 31  
7 pm, Tickets \$22



## Bread + Puppet

At Middlebury Snow Bowl

Sept 1  
6 pm, Tickets \$22



## Robert Frost: This Verse Business

Presented by MACo

Sept 8, 9, 10



## Comedy in Color

At Town Hall Theater

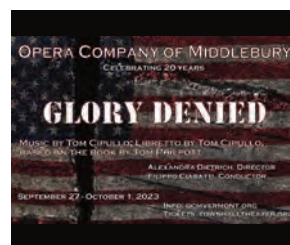
Sept 15  
7:30 pm, Free



## Moiria Smiley & The Rhizome Quartet

At Town Hall Theater

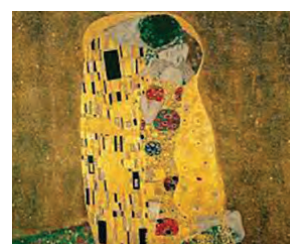
Sept 16  
7:30 pm, Tickets \$27/\$30



## Glory Denied

Presented by OCM

Sept 27, 29 & Oct 1



Be on the lookout  
for the return of

## Great Art Wednesday

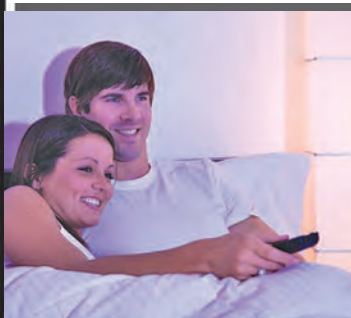
Coming this Fall '23

SPONSORED BY

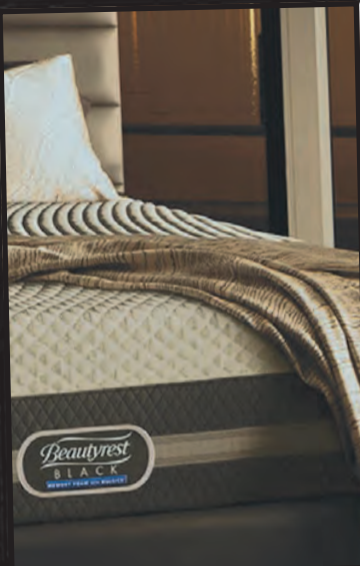


Tickets:  
townhalltheater.org  
802-382-9222

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## FESTIVAL EVENTS

**THU 8/24**



**5pm**  
**HENRY SHELDON  
MUSEUM - IPJ  
HOSPITALITY  
TENT**

### FESTIVAL THURSDAY HAPPY HOUR

- PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. -

1 Park Street | Enjoy tasty food and beverages from Two Brothers Tavern in a beautiful garden setting. Courtesy of IPJ Real Estate, MNFF Presenting Sponsor.

**THU 8/24**



**7:15pm**  
**TOWN HALL  
THEATER**

### GUMBO COALITION

#### RETURNING HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH BARBARA KOPPLE

MODERATED BY PRODUCER CAITLIN BOYLE

Two-time Oscar-winning director and revered documentary filmmaker Barbara Kopple returns to MNFF in person for the first time since 2018 with her outstanding and timely new film, *Gumbo Coalition*.

**THU 8/24**



**7:15pm**  
**MARQUIS  
THEATRE**

### 200 CIGARETTES

#### HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH RISA BRAMON GARCIA

MODERATED BY MNFF PRODUCER LLOYD KOMESAR

MNFF Honoree Risa Bramon Garcia shares insights and memories of her 1999 directorial debut, *200 Cigarettes*, which featured many up and coming stars like Ben Affleck, Kate Hudson and Paul Rudd.

## FESTIVAL EVENTS



THU 8/24

7:15pm  
TWILIGHT HALL

### IT'S BASIC

#### RETURNING HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH MARC LEVIN

MODERATED BY BILL HART, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY, MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Three-time Emmy Award and Peabody Award winner Marc Levin returns to MNFF with his latest feature documentary *It's Basic*, which examines several pilot programs launched in the US that test the effects of giving everyday people an extra \$500 to \$1,000 monthly, with no strings attached.



THU 8/24

9pm  
HENRY SHELDON  
MUSEUM - IPJ  
HOSPITALITY  
TENT

### THURSDAY NIGHT PARTY

- PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. -

1 Park Street | Gather for a lovely ending to Festival Thursday. Enjoy food and drink from Two Brothers Tavern in one of the town's finest spots. Courtesy of IPJ Real Estate, MNFF Presenting Sponsor.

# SUPER HEROES

aren't only in the movies!



Got pain? Need help meeting your lifestyle goals? Are you a Weekend Warrior who wants to get back into the game and have an easier time getting out of bed on Monday mornings? Have you been waiting longer than you would like for a therapy appointment?

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Call us today for a complimentary 15-minute consultation to see how we can help you. We book appointments quickly and you can start your recovery plan within days. *Why wait?*



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**Film: *The Farm Boy***  
Sun, Sept 10 • 2:00pm



**Marsh Lights**  
Sat, Oct 14 • 7:30pm



**Gina Coleman & Misty Blues**  
Sat, Nov 4 • 7:30pm



**Thanksgiving Community Hymn Sing**  
Sun, Nov 19 • 3:00pm



**Vermont Trombone Choir**  
Sun, Dec 3 • 2:00pm



**Broadway Direct**  
Fri, Dec 8 • 7:30pm



**Hocus Pocus Magic Show**  
Sat, Jan 20 • 2:00pm



**LC Jazz Winter Thaw**  
Sat, Feb 10 • 7:30pm



**Ray Vega & His 6-Pc Band**  
Sat, Mar 9 • 7:30pm



**Krishna Guthrie Band**  
Sat, Mar 30 • 7:30pm



**VT Youth Orchestra Ensembles**  
Fri, Apr 5 • 7:00pm



**Kruger Brothers**  
Fri, May 3 • 7:30pm

802-877-6737 • 120 MAIN STREET • PO BOX 88 VERGENNES, VT 05491

## FESTIVAL EVENTS

### AICEF FILMMAKER EXCHANGE

For the third consecutive year, the American Indonesian Cultural and Educational Foundation (AICEF) builds its unique partnership with MNFF and the Bali International Film Festival to foster a cross-cultural exchange of filmmakers between the U.S. and Indonesia. Additional support for this partnership has been received from Freeport McMoRan, Inc.



**FRI 8/25**

**11:30am**  
**TOWN HALL THEATER**

### ORPA

#### WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING

Theogracia Rumansara, Indonesian director and writer of *Orpa* and the AICEF Prize winner selected by the Bali International Film Festival, will attend and screen the U.S. premiere of his award winning first feature.



**FRI 8/25**

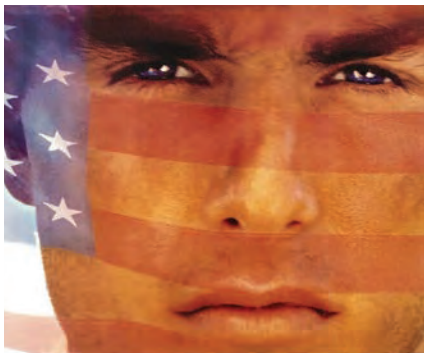
**2pm**  
**TOWN HALL THEATER**

### DEAR THIRTEEN

#### WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING

Director and Producer Alexis Neophytides, the AICEF Prize winner selected by the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, presents the Vermont premiere of her new documentary *Dear Thirteen*. Ms. Neophytides will be going to Bali next June to participate in the 17th Annual Balinale.

# FESTIVAL EVENTS



FRI 8/25

2pm  
DANA  
AUDITORIUM

## BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY

### HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH RISA BRAMON GARCIA

MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

MNFF Honoree Risa Bramon Garcia discusses the making of this acclaimed Oscar winning film by Oliver Stone from her unique perspective as its Casting Director.



FRI 8/25

4pm  
WILSON HALL,  
MCCULLOUGH  
STUDENT  
CENTER

## VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

FEST PASS AND FRIDAY DAY PASS HOLDERS: FREE  
WALK UP TICKETS AT THE DOOR: \$10

The VSO and MNFF continue their fruitful partnership with a performance of the scores and a simultaneous screening of last year's winners of the VSO Award for Best Integration of Music into Film: *The Social Chameleon*, directed by Alex Ross, and *Born Under Punches*, directed by Gaoyang Ganjin. The VSO's Matt La Rocca will conduct the arranged scores.



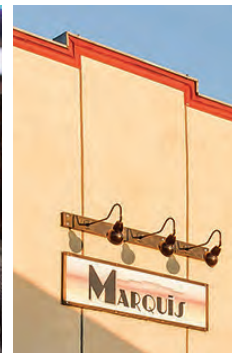
FRI 8/25

5pm  
SHIRETOWN  
MARKETPLACE

## FESTIVAL FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR

– PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –

54 College Street | Enjoy the outstanding house made food and delicious beverages in the newly renovated ShireTown Marketplace. Presented by MNFF Sponsor Middlebury College.



FRI 8/25

5pm  
MARQUIS  
THEATRE CAFÉ

## FILMMAKERS CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

– VISITING FILMMAKERS ONLY, PLEASE. –

65 Main Street | An informal opportunity for filmmakers to meet and mingle in one of Middlebury's iconic film spaces.



FRI 8/25

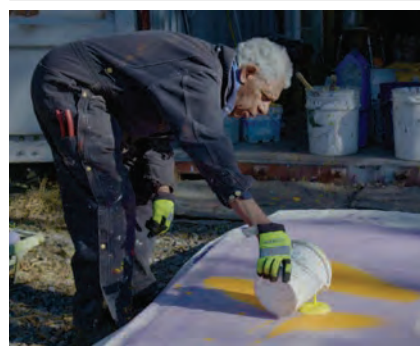
7:15pm  
TOWN HALL  
THEATER

## ABOUT SCHMIDT

### HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH ALEXANDER PAYNE

MODERATED BY MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH JAY PARINI

MNFF Honoree Alexander Payne discusses his acclaimed Oscar-nominated and Golden Globe-winning 2002 feature film *About Schmidt*, starring Jack Nicholson, Kathy Bates and June Squibb.



FRI 8/25

7:15pm  
DANA  
AUDITORIUM

## WITH PETER BRADLEY

### HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH BETH LEVISON

MODERATED BY MNFF PRODUCER LLOYD KOMESAR

MNFF Honoree Beth Levison is joined by director Alex Rappoport to discuss the making of this excellent new feature documentary that delves into the life of the fascinating and rediscovered painter Peter Bradley.

# FESTIVAL EVENTS



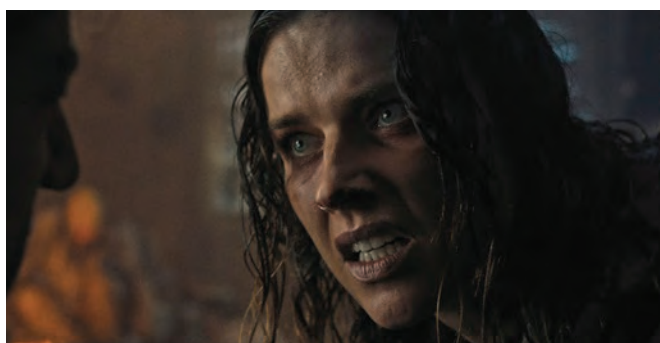
FRI 8/25

9pm  
AMERICAN  
FLATBREAD

## FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY

– PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –

Marble Works, 137 Maple St | Wrap up Festival Friday under the beautiful pavilion outside at American Flatbread with great food, beverages and music by Java Sparrow. Presented by MNFF Sponsor Silver Maple Construction.



FRI 8/25

FREE!

11pm  
MARQUIS  
THEATRE

## FRIDAY NIGHT LATE NIGHT FILM

### BLACK MOLD

The Friday Night Late Night screening returns to the Marquis Theatre for the first time since 2019 with the psychological horror thriller *Black Mold*. Admission is free. Presented by local favorite Jeremy Holm and sponsored by Drop-In Brewing.



SAT 8/26

FREE!

9am  
DANA  
AUDITORIUM

## THE MARTHA MITCHELL EFFECT

### HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH BETH LEVISON

MODERATED BY MNFF PRODUCER LLOYD KOMESAR

MNFF Honoree Beth Levison is joined by directors Anne Alvergue and Debra McClutchy to explore the making of this significant Oscar-nominated film and the road to Oscar night itself that they all navigated.



SAT 8/26

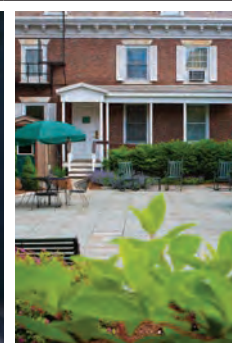
2pm  
TOWN HALL  
THEATER

## SINK OR SWIM

### HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH SU FRIEDRICH

MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

Spend time with MNFF Honoree Su Friedrich as she discusses her highly acclaimed film *Sink or Swim*, inducted into the prestigious National Film Registry of the Library of Congress in 2015.



SAT 8/26

FREE!

4pm  
MIDDLEBURY INN  
PATIO

## A LIFE IN FILMMAKING WITH DIRECTOR ALEXANDER PAYNE

HOSTED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

– PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –

16 Court Square | Honoree Alexander Payne shares his myriad filmmaking experiences in this informal conversation at one of the town's most convivial outdoor spaces.



SAT 8/26

5pm  
MIDDLEBURY  
INN LOBBY &  
VERANDA

## FESTIVAL SATURDAY HAPPY HOUR

– PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –

16 Court Square | Enjoy the lovely food and beverages, presented by the Middlebury Inn, an MNFF Lodging and Hospitality Sponsor.

# FESTIVAL EVENTS



**SAT 8/26**

**7:15pm**  
**DANA**  
**AUDITORIUM**

## NEBRASKA

### HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH ALEXANDER PAYNE

MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

Following the screening of his much loved, multi-Oscar nominated film *Nebraska*, MNFF Honoree Alexander Payne offers his insights and reflections on the film's creation and its sterling cast.



**SUN 8/27**

**1pm**  
**MARQUIS**  
**THEATRE**

## TODAY

### HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH SU FRIEDRICH

MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

MNFF Honoree Su Friedrich offers her thoughts on her most recent film *Today* and what lies ahead in her storied career.



**SAT 8/26**

**9pm**  
**51 MAIN**

## SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY

- PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. -

51 Main St | Gather at one of the town's hottest new spots for the vibrant Festival Saturday Night party with terrific food and beverages, presented by MNFF Sponsor Silver Maple Construction.



**SUN 8/27**

**4pm**  
**TOWN HALL**  
**THEATER**

## GOD'S POCKET

### HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH JOHN SLATTERY

MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

Join MNFF Honoree John Slattery for a robust discussion of his 2014 directing debut, *God's Pocket*, featuring Phillip Seymour Hoffman, John Turturro and Christina Hendricks.



**SUN 8/27**

**1pm**  
**TOWN HALL**  
**THEATER**

## RAISING VICTOR VARGAS

### HONOREE "PRESENTATION" SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH ALEXANDER PAYNE

MODERATED BY MNFF PRODUCER LLOYD KOMESAR

MNFF Honoree Alexander Payne presents and discusses *Raising Victor Vargas*, an underappreciated 2002 gem of a film by then first time director Peter Sollett.



**SUN 8/27**

**FREE!**

**6:30pm**  
**TOWN HALL**  
**THEATER**

## CLOSING CEREMONY: THE VTEDDY AWARDS

### CLOSING NIGHT FILM: MAGGIE MOORE(S)

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR JOHN SLATTERY

Join us for the joyful presentation of the coveted VTeddy Awards, celebrating Festival Award and Prize winners and our outstanding Honorees. Following the Ceremony, stay for the MNFF9 Closing Night film, director John Slattery's delightful new drama *Maggie Moore(s)*, starring Jon Hamm and Tina Fey. A Q&A with Mr. Slattery wraps up the Festival.

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# SCHEDULE WED 8/23

**THT** TOWN HALL THEATER  
**MQM** MARQUIS THEATRE - MAIN SCREEN  
**MQS** MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM

**SWI** SWIFT HOUSE INN  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## 11:30am

**MQM** Savage Waters (93m)

**MQS** No Bedroom (12m) Longing for Color (116m) ★

**TWI** The Graduates (86m)

## 2pm

**MQM** Everything's Fine (10m) Master of Cheese (92m)

**MQS** Three (15m) Lâl (15m) Cinema Sabaya (91m)

**TWI** College Student  
Shorts: Showcase 1 Hold Me Close (7m) ■ Pure Baroque (10m) Sabor y Amor (9m) ■ The Visit (9m) ■ To Be Fair (23m) ■

## 6:30pm TOWN HALL THEATER | DOORS OPEN 6pm

- Opening Night Ticket Holders Only, Please -

# OPENING NIGHT



### VERMONT PREMIERE

DIRECTED BY JESSE RUDOY ■  
 PRODUCED BY MELISSA ADEYEMO

Introductions and remarks by MNFF Producer Lloyd Komesar and MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven, followed immediately by our Opening Night film.

## DUSTY AND STONES

Documentary | 83m | *Dusty & Stones* recounts the beautiful story of two men living in the tiny Kingdom of Swaziland in rural Africa who aspire to become country music performers, having grown up listening to that genre of music over Voice of America Radio. The film follows the two men as they come to the U.S. to record a couple of songs in Nashville and then make their way to a country music festival held each year in Texas featuring performers from other nations.

### Q&A TO FOLLOW WITH DIRECTOR JESSE RUDOY

Moderated by MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven. Filmmaker Jesse Rudoy chronicles the making of his warm, heartfelt documentary *Dusty & Stones*.



## 9pm | SWIFT HOUSE INN

# OPENING NIGHT PARTY

The festivities continue outdoors under the big tent at Swift House Inn. Enjoy food, drink and music, and mingle with the Inn's owners Matthew Robinson and Serena Kim. Music by Dayve Hockett.

# SCHEDULE THU 8/24

**THT** TOWN HALL THEATER  
**MQM** MARQUIS THEATRE - MAIN SCREEN  
**MQS** MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM

**SWI** SWIFT HOUSE INN  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## 9am

<b>THT</b>	Echdoe (5m)	Misophonia (9m) ■	Corps de Ballet (10m) ■★	Finding the Line (12m)	The Art Whisperer (44m) ■
<b>MQM</b>	Black Barbie: A Documentary (100m)				
<b>DAN</b>	Brutal Utopias (34m) ■	Whitman Brook (66m) ■★			
<b>TWI</b>	Winter in Vermont (16m) ■	I'm the Vet (23m) ■	Roland & Mary: A Winter of Towing in the Northeast Kingdom (70m) ■		

## 11:30am

<b>THT</b>	Infraction (21m)	Radioactive: The Women of Three Mile Island (77m) ■			
<b>MQM</b>	The Cocoon (9m) ■★	Guaranteed in Gary (11m)	Fire Through Dry Grass (86m) ■★		
<b>DAN</b>	White River Land Collaborative: A Seed for the Future (15m) ■		Vanish - Disappearing Icons of a Rural America (84m) ■		
<b>TWI</b>	Fat Girl (15m) ■	The Elements (17m) ■	The Butterfly Queen (77m) ■		

## 2pm

<b>THT</b>	Philly D.A. Episode 1 (58m), Episode 2 (55m) ■ HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with Yoni Brook				
<b>MQM</b>	Fail First (13m) ■	Breaking the News (99m) ■			
<b>DAN</b>	Unnamed (13m)	The Secret Song (90m) ■★			
<b>TWI</b>	Confessions (11m) ■	What About Dennis? (12m)	The Life of Lester Wink (17m)	It Happened One Weekend (71m) ■	

## 4:15-5:15pm

**LITTLE SEED COFFEE ROASTERS** CONVERSATION | Casting & Directing with MNFF Honoree Risa Bramon Garcia

**MIDDLEBURY TOWN OFFICE** PANEL DISCUSSION | The State of Indie Documentary Filmmaking - Challenges and Opportunities In Today's Media Landscape; Hosted by MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven

## 5-6pm

**HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM GARDEN - IPJ HOSPITALITY TENT** FESTIVAL THURSDAY HAPPY HOUR  
 - Passholders Only, Please -

## 7:15pm

<b>THT</b>	Gumbo Coalition (108m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   Onstage Conversation with Barbara Kopple			
<b>MQM</b>	200 Cigarettes (101m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   Onstage Conversation with Risa Bramon Garcia			
<b>DAN</b>	Joan Baez: I Am a Noise (113m) ■★				
<b>TWI</b>	It's Basic (76m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   Onstage Conversation with Marc Levin			
<b>SHI</b>	Scrapper (84m)				

## 9-11pm

**HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM GARDEN - IPJ HOSPITALITY TENT** THURSDAY NIGHT PARTY  
 - Passholders Only, Please -

# SCHEDULE FRI 8/25

**THT** TOWN HALL THEATER  
**MQM** MARQUIS THEATRE - MAIN SCREEN  
**MQS** MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM

**SWI** SWIFT HOUSE INN  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## 9am

<b>THT</b>	Incisor (15m) ■★	To Be Frank (15m) ■	Sam Now (87m)
<b>MQM</b>	Life in This Body (4m) ■	Shudderbugs (106m) ■	
<b>DAN</b>	Dis-chord (11m) ■	You Left Me Alone (15m)	The Taste of Mango (75m) ■
<b>TWI</b>	Ride or Die (19m)	Ocean City Monster Building (90m) ■	

## 11:30am

<b>THT</b>	Orpa (99m) ■★	SPECIAL EVENT   AICEF Filmmaker Screening with Director Theogracia Rumansara	
<b>MQM</b>	Hard To Reach (14m)	The Principal's Assembly (18m)	The Dancing Monkey (73m) ■
<b>DAN</b>	Paths (11m)	Jimmy in Saigon (89m)	
<b>TWI</b>	Hormonal (9m) ■	Scrap (105m) ■	

## 2pm

<b>THT</b>	Dear Thirteen (79m) ■★	SPECIAL EVENT   AICEF Filmmaker Screening with Director and Producer Alexis Neophytides	
<b>MQM</b>	RIPS (13m)	NIA (15m)	Sunnyland (77m) ■
<b>DAN</b>	Born on the Fourth of July (145m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with Risa Bramon Garcia	
<b>TWI</b>	Prick (9m) ■	Year of the Dog (97m) ■	

## 4pm

**WILSON HALL, MCCULLOUGH STUDENT CENTER  
 MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE** SPECIAL EVENT | Vermont Symphony Orchestra Performance with Screening of VSO Award-Winning Films

## 5pm

**SHIRETOWN MARKETPLACE** FESTIVAL FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR | Presented by Middlebury College  
**- Passholders Only, Please -**

**MARQUIS THEATRE CAFÉ** FILMMAKERS CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION  
**- Visiting Filmmakers Only, Please -**

## 7:15pm

<b>THT</b>	About Schmidt (125m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   Onstage Conversation with Alexander Payne	
<b>MQM</b>	Immediate Family (102m) ■		
<b>DAN</b>	With Peter Bradley (92m) ■★	HONOREE SCREENING   Onstage Conversation with Beth Levison	
<b>TWI</b>	Stillness (11m) ■★	Little Mouse (14m) ■	Dindin (77m) ■
<b>SHI</b>	A Kind of Kidnapping (82m) ★		

## 9-11pm

**AMERICAN FLATBREAD MIDDLEBURY HEARTH** FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY | Presented by Silver Maple Construction  
**- Passholders Only, Please -**

## 11pm

**MQM** Black Mold (92m) ■ FRIDAY NIGHT LATE NIGHT FILM | Presented by Drop-In Brewing  
**- FREE! -**

# SCHEDULE SAT 8/26

**THT** TOWN HALL THEATER  
**MQM** MARQUIS THEATRE - MAIN SCREEN  
**MQS** MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM

**SWI** SWIFT HOUSE INN  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## 9am

<b>THT</b>	Boom & Whoa! The Making of a Community within a Community (10m) ■	We Will Speak (94m) ■
<b>MQM</b>	Loc'd (5m)	I Have No Tears and I Must Cry (13m)      unseen (88m) ■
<b>DAN</b>	The Martha Mitchell Effect (40m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   Onstage Conversation with Beth Levison
<b>TWI</b>	Payment in Kind (11m) ■	Faulkner: The Past is Never Dead (93m) ■

## 11:30am

<b>THT</b>	City of Lost Souls (14m)	Call Me Dancer (84m) ■
<b>MQM</b>	Teatime (8m) ■	Joonam (100m) ■
<b>DAN</b>	Black Whole (18m) ■	A Revolution on Canvas (90m)
<b>TWI</b>	Tierra de Leche (12m) ■★	Sin Refugio (17m)      This is Fracking (64m) ■★

## 2pm

<b>THT</b>	Sink or Swim (48m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   Onstage Conversation with Su Friedrich
<b>MQM</b>	Giti Jan (10m)	Q (93m) ■
<b>DAN</b>	Against All Enemies (106m) ■★	
<b>TWI</b>	Earthling (10m)	Impossible Town (93m) ■

## 4-5pm

**MIDDLEBURY INN PATIO**      AFTERNOON CONVERSATION | A Life in Filmmaking with Director Alexander Payne  
 - FREE! -

## 5-6pm

**MIDDLEBURY INN LOBBY & VERANDA**      FESTIVAL SATURDAY HAPPY HOUR  
 - Passholders Only, Please -

## 7:15pm

<b>THT</b>	Little Richard: I Am Everything (98m)	
<b>MQM</b>	Period Drama (13m) ■	Pinball: The Man Who Saved the Game (91m)
<b>DAN</b>	Nebraska (115m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   Onstage Conversation with Alexander Payne
<b>TWI</b>	How To Blow Up a Pipeline (103m)	
<b>SHI</b>	After Love	

## 9-11pm

**51 MAIN**      SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY | Presented by Silver Maple Construction  
 - Passholders Only, Please -

# SCHEDULE SUN 8/27

**THT** TOWN HALL THEATER  
**MQM** MARQUIS THEATRE - MAIN SCREEN  
**MQS** MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM

**SWI** SWIFT HOUSE INN  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## 10am

<b>THT</b>	Spare (9m)	Go On, Be Brave (112m) ■					
<b>MQM</b>	El Soñador (12m)	Living While American (26m)	Hollow Tree (73m) ■				
<b>MQS</b>	College Student Shorts: Showcase 2	Hawawshi (6m)	Enloquecer (12m)	Good To See You (14m)	Two-Story House (15m)	Heat (15m)	Who's There (5m)

## 1pm

<b>THT</b>	Raising Victor Vargas (88m) ■	HONOREE "PRESENTATION" SCREENING   Onstage Conversation with Alexander Payne
<b>MQM</b>	Today (57m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   Onstage Conversation with Su Friedrich
<b>MQS</b>	Chile '76 (95m)	

## 4pm

<b>THT</b>	God's Pocket (88m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   Onstage Conversation with Director John Slattery
<b>MQM</b>	The Worst Ones (99m)	
<b>MQS</b>	Past Lives (105m)	

## 6:30pm TOWN HALL THEATER | DOORS OPEN 6pm CLOSING NIGHT

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

### CLOSING CEREMONY & VTEDDY AWARDS PRESENTATION

Join us for the joyful presentation of the VTeddy Awards celebrating our MNFF9 winners and Honorees!

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

7:30pm

### MAGGIE MOORE(S)

Narrative | 99m | When two women with the same name are murdered days apart, small-town police chief Jordan Sanders finds himself wading through an unlikely collection of cheating husbands, lonely hearts, contract killers and a nosy neighbor in an effort to put the pieces of the case, and his life, together.

The Closing Night screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree John Slattery.

#### Q&A TO FOLLOW WITH DIRECTOR JOHN SLATTERY

Our final event of MNFF9, John Slattery joins MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven for a discussion of his entertaining new film *Maggie Moore(s)*.



#### VERMONT PREMIERE

DIRECTED BY JOHN SLATTERY ■

PRODUCED BY JOHN SLATTERY, VINCENT GARCIA NEWMAN, DAN REARDON, SANTOSH GOVINDARAJU, NANCY LEOPARDI, ROSS KOHN



## KATHLEEN HUGHES

Kathleen Hughes is a director, producer and writer of documentary film and other media. She recently directed and produced

*The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales* with Abigail Disney, which launched at Sundance in 2022 and screened at MNFF8. She produced and co-directed with Disney the 2015 Emmy Award winning feature documentary, *The Armor of Light*. She holds a masters in journalism from Columbia University.



## CAITLIN BOYLE

Caitlin Boyle has served for more than fifteen years as a leading expert in the use of film as a tool for amplifying social good and inspiring

civic engagement. She is a specialist in navigating both commercial and grassroots distribution for documentary filmmakers, having worked with more than 450 independent production teams, distributors and advocacy organizations.



## DEB ELLIS

Deb Ellis's documentary films have won awards and screened at film festivals nationally and internationally. She is currently

Professor in the Film & Television Studies Program and co-director of the Reporting and Documentary Storytelling minor at the University of Vermont. An overview of her creative work is at [debellisprojects.com](http://debellisprojects.com)



## NATASHA N'GAIZA

Natasha N'gaiza is a Tanzanian-American screenwriter, filmmaker and film professor at Middlebury College. Her short films have

screened at a number of acclaimed film festivals and venues and focus on women and mothers of the African Diaspora through an intimate look at their mental and reproductive health.



## JIM SADWITH

A writer, director and producer for 40 years, Jim Sadwith's movies, mini-series, drama pilots and series have won or been

nominated for over 35 Emmy and Golden Globe awards. His first independent feature film, *Coming Through The Rye*, won top honors at film festivals across the country and screened at MNFF in 2016. Jim is currently a Professor of Film and Television at the Savannah College of Arts and Design while also editing his first feature documentary.



## JON TAZEWELL

Jonathan Tazewell is the Thomas S. Turgeon Endowed Professor of Drama and Film at Kenyon College, specializing in theater and film

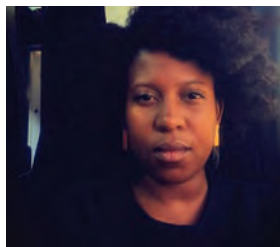
directing and cinema studies. His feature film, *Gotta Get Down To It*, screened at MNFF6 Online in 2020. A graduate of Kenyon College, he also holds a MFA from California Institute of the Arts in Directing for Theater, Video and Cinema.



## CIARA LACY

Ciara Leina`ala Lacy is a writer-director whose Native Hawaiian identity drives the intimacy and authenticity in her work. Her films

have shown at Sundance and Berlinale as well as on platforms including Netflix, PBS and ABC. She continues to work on documentary content for broadcast and streaming while expanding her intimate style of filmmaking into the branded content, animation, and narrative spaces.



## CHLOË WALTERS-WALLACE

Chloë Walters-Wallace is the Director of Regional Initiatives at Firelight Media, where she oversees the

non-fiction anthology *HOME GROWN* and the Groundwork Regional Lab, both programs supporting emerging filmmakers of color based outside of New York & L.A. She is also guest-curator of the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers 21'-22' season, and co-created the Caribbean Film Academy 2.0 at Third Horizon. She lives between New York, New Orleans and Jamaica.



## ROBIN STARBUCK

Robin Starbuck is an accomplished filmmaker and artist based in New York City. Her artistic endeavors span a diverse range of

mediums, including experimental film, installation art, animation and media design for theater. She is a Professor and Chair of Filmmaking & Moving Image Arts at Sarah Lawrence College and holds an MFA in multimedia installation and performance art from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.



## SEAN WEINER

Sean Weiner is a film producer and artist community leader. He is the Co-Director of UFO, a filmmaker support organization built upon a

philosophy of inclusion and collaboration. He was the Founding Director of Creative Culture at the Jacob Burns Film Center and has produced and edited films selected by Sundance, Berlinale and SXSW, and acquired by Searchlight, HBO Max and New York Times' Op-Docs.



## LISANNE SARTOR

Lisanne Sartor is an award-winning writer/director whose short films have screened at hundreds of worldwide festivals. She is an alumna of

the UCLA Screenwriting MFA Program and the AFI Directing Workshop for Women, and has worked with numerous production companies and taught screenwriting at UCLA, Stephens, the Disney Launchpad Shorts Incubator and the AFI DWW.



## OLIVIA HETREED

Olivia Hetreed is a screenwriter and mentor and former President of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain. She is currently writing and

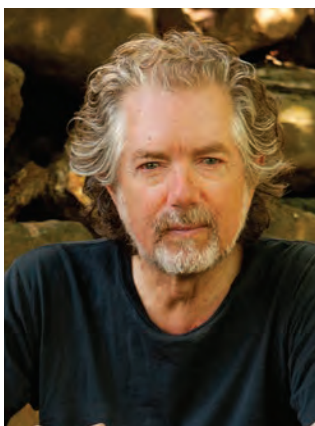
producing *Margot & Rudi*, a narrative feature which received an MNFF Franklin Fund development grant supporting from early stage production.

# MNFF STAFF



**LLOYD KOMESAR**  
PRODUCER

Lloyd spent nearly 30 years as a sales, research and distribution exec in the film and television programming industry, first at Blair Television in NY, then, for the next 25 years, at the Walt Disney Company in New York and Los Angeles. Having acquired extensive knowledge of the distribution models of film and television over his rewarding career, he brings a considerable amount of perspective and insight to the MNFF endeavor.



**JAY CRAVEN**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jay is an independent filmmaker with 10 feature films, a comedy TV series and four documentaries to his credit. His films have played Sundance, SXSW, AFI, Lincoln Center, Constitutional Court of Johannesburg and others. He founded and directs the Semester Cinema program where, every two years, 30 professionals mentor and collaborate with 40 students from 14 colleges to make an ambitious feature film for national release. Information at [www.KingdomCounty.org](http://www.KingdomCounty.org) or [jcraven1590@gmail.com](mailto:jcraven1590@gmail.com)



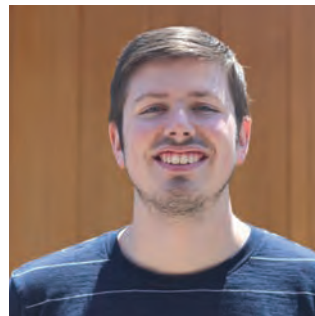
**VANESSA DOWNING**  
SENIOR PROGRAMMER

Vanessa is a lifelong lover of film and music and has carved out an exciting and eclectic path pursuing both. She currently serves as the Managing Director of the non-profit Provincetown Film Society in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Vanessa is also a member of several musical groups that play regularly on Cape Cod and elsewhere.



**HANNA LOEFLER**  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

A former Culinary Arts and Customer Service professional, Hanna Loeffler has 20+ years of leadership and organizational experience. Currently an Organizational Leadership student at Arizona State University, she hikes, canoes, and leads tours as a Tour Guide in Vermont in her free time.



**JOHN MCCULLOCH**  
PRODUCTION INTERN

John McCulloch is a rising senior at Middlebury College from Bedford, MA studying Film and Spanish. When he's not watching movies on the biggest screen he can find, he's probably obsessing over his Letterboxd reviews, ready and willing to discuss them with anyone that will entertain him.



**RACH PECK**  
PRODUCTION INTERN

Rach Peck is a junior at Middlebury College from the U.K. majoring in Film and English Literature. They're really excited about all of the films, but would like to especially thank the British filmmakers for the much needed accent immersion.



**JISAN HAQUE**  
VIDEOGRAPHY INTERN

Jisan Haque is a rising senior at the University of Vermont with a Film & Television Studies major. He grew up in Vermont and has spent much time creating videos with his friends. This led to a pursuit of filmmaking and he hopes to utilize his skills at MNFF9.



**LAUREN SAYULA**  
VIDEOGRAPHY INTERN

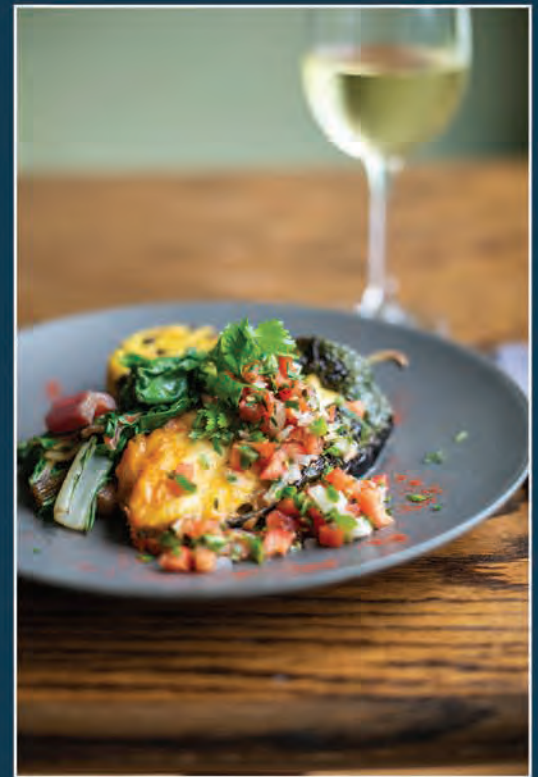
Lauren Sayula is a recent graduate of Middlebury College where she studied Film and Media Culture. She is from Los Angeles and is a big fan of weird movies, miniature sets, practical effects, circular dolly tracks and the Adobe After Effects graph editor.



# JESSICA'S AT SWIFT HOUSE INN

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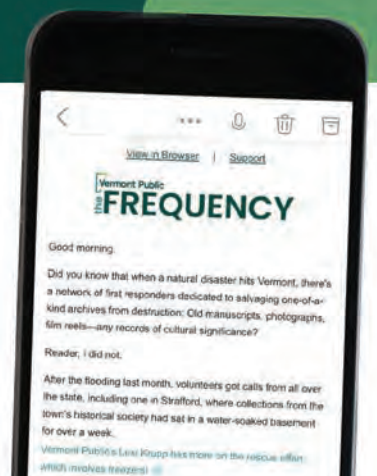
# Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival



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[vermontpublic.org/newsletters](http://vermontpublic.org/newsletters)





# FILMS A-Z

BROWSE THE FEATURE AND SHORT FILMS THAT WILL BE SCREENED AT THE 9TH ANNUAL MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL.

■ INDICATES FILMMAKER SCHEDULED TO ATTEND THE FESTIVAL

● INDICATES FEATURE FILM

○ INDICATES SHORT FILM

WATCH TRAILERS AT [middfilmfest.org/2023-films](http://middfilmfest.org/2023-films)

## 200 Cigarettes



THU 8/24  
7:15pm  
MQM  
● 101m

This ensemble comedy follows an array of young people in New York City on New Year's Eve. Among the numerous characters looking for love and fun are impulsive artist Ellie and punks Tom and Dave, who meet up with Stephanie and Val, two girls from Long Island. Also interacting with various partygoers are a pensive bartender and a taxi driver who operates a disco in his cab.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Risa Bramon Garcia.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Risa Bramon Garcia ■ English  
Produced by: Betsy Beers, David Gale, Van Toffler

## About Schmidt



FRI 8/25  
7:15pm  
THT  
● 125m

When his wife dies suddenly, Warren Schmidt, a retired insurance actuary, sets out on a journey to Colorado for his daughter's wedding to a waterbed salesman he despises. Every move Warren makes seems wrong, and he appears destined to end his life as a failure. But along the way, Warren recounts his journey to a poor Tanzanian orphan whom he is sponsoring and begins to see the life he has lived in a new light. Starring Jack Nicholson.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Alexander Payne.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Alexander Payne ■ English  
Produced by: Michael Besman, Harry Gittes

## After Love



SAT 8/26  
7:15pm  
SWI  
● 89m

*After Love* tells the story of Mary Hussain, who converted to Islam when she married and is now in her early 60s, living quietly in Dover with her husband Ahmed. Following his unexpected death, she discovers that Ahmed had a secret life just twenty-one miles away, across the Channel in Calais. The shocking discovery compels her to go there to find out more, and as she grapples with her shattered sense of identity, her search for understanding has surprising consequences.

Narrative United Kingdom, France  
Directed by: Aleem Khan  
Produced by: Matthieu de Braconier, Gabrielle Dumon  
English, Arabic, French, Urdu

WINNER: THADDEUS STEVENS PRIZE FOR SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

## Against All Enemies



SAT 8/26  
2pm  
DAN  
● 106m

*Against All Enemies* goes deep inside the violent extremist movement in America, alongside the Proud Boys, 3 Percenters and with never-before-seen footage of the Oath Keepers. These groups, organized and led by highly trained military veterans, pose one of the greatest threats to the United States today. The film explores the historical roots of the insurrectionist cause, its powerful draw for today's veterans and the cover being provided by highly decorated former military officers and political leaders.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Charlie Sadoff ■ English  
Produced by: Kenneth Harbaugh ■, Sebastian Junger, Charlie Sadoff ■ **VERMONT PREMIERE**

WINNER: BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE

## A Kind of Kidnapping



FRI 8/25  
7:15pm  
SWI  
● 82m

A young, broke couple kidnap a sleazy politician who decides he can spin the story to his own advantage.

Narrative United Kingdom  
Directed by: D.G. Clark  
Produced by: Richard Wylie  
English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

# MNFF9 FILMS A-Z

THT TOWN HALL THEATER  
MQM MARQUIS THEATRE - MAIN SCREEN  
MQS MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM

TWI TWILIGHT HALL  
DAN DANA AUDITORIUM  
SWI SWIFT HOUSE INN

FILMMAKER ATTENDING

## The Art Whisperer



THU 8/24  
9am  
THT  
● 44m

*The Art Whisperer* is an intimate portrait of an outspoken woman who loved art, lived in a glass house, but did not want to be seen. Reinventing herself following a divorce at the age of 60, Ginny ultimately amassed one of the most important collections of work by female artists in the world. Her intuition drew her to female artists. Some of them she befriended — many she championed when no one else paid much attention to them.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Flemming Fynsk ■ English  
Produced by: Elle Payne Williams **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Black Barbie: A Documentary



THU 8/24  
9am  
MQM  
● 100m

Everyone has a Barbie story. For filmmaker Lagueria Davis, it started with her 83-year old Aunt Beulah Mae and a question: "Why not make a Barbie that looks like me?" *Black Barbie* is a personal exploration that tells a thought-provoking story giving voice to the insights and experiences of Beulah Mae Mitchell, who spent 45 years working at Mattel. Upon Mattel's 1980 release of *Black Barbie*, the film turns to the intergenerational impact the doll had.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Lagueria Davis English  
Produced by: Camilla Hall

## Black Mold



FRI 8/25  
11pm  
MQM  
● 92m

Photographers Brooke Konrad and Tanner Behlman travel to rural, abandoned buildings to capture the inherent beauty of long-forgotten locations, but far from forgotten are the traumatic memories that surface in Brooke when they meet The Man Upstairs, an unsuspecting squatter. As tensions and uncertainties arise, Brooke must determine if this mysterious stranger will provide her the closure she so desperately seeks or let the fears of the past consume her.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: John Pata English  
Produced by: Sarah Sharp, Jennifer Shelby, Robert Patrick Stern

## Black Whole



SAT 8/26  
11:30am  
DAN  
● 18m

When a haunting black hole appears in their yard, a young pregnant couple must face their fears of miscarriage, to eliminate the phenomenon before it consumes them.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Brett Alan Calkins ■ English  
Produced by: Jess Hess **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Boom & Whoa! The Making of a Community within a Community



SAT 8/26  
9am  
THT  
● 10m

*Boom & Whoa! The Making of a Community within a Community* shares the heartwarming story of Middlebury's own Yellow House Community (YHC). Founded in 2019 by two visionary Vermont families, YHC serves as a beacon of hope and opportunity for adults with disabilities. Through intimate portrayals of YHC residents ("Friends"), the film unveils the profound impact of Yellow House on their lives. This thought-provoking short film challenges societal norms and reveals the transformative power of interdependence.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Dana Ambrose Jr. ■, Jake Dombek ■ English

## Born On the Fourth of July



FRI 8/25  
2pm  
DAN  
● 145m

In the mid-1960s, suburban New York teenager Ron enlists in the Marines, fulfilling what he sees as his patriotic duty. During his second tour in Vietnam, he accidentally kills a fellow soldier during a retreat and later becomes permanently paralyzed in battle. Returning home to an uncaring Veterans Administration bureaucracy and to people on both sides of the political divide who don't understand his experience, Ron becomes an impassioned critic of the war.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Risa Bramon Garcia.  
Narrative United States  
Directed by: Oliver Stone English  
Produced by: Oliver Stone, A. Kitman Ho  
Casting Director: Risa Bramon Garcia ■

## Breaking the News



THU 8/24  
2pm  
MQM  
● 99m

*Breaking The News* tells the story of digital news start-up The 19th\*. Named after the Amendment that gave some women the right to vote, The 19th\* identifies and amplifies voices that are omitted from mainstream coverage. The film documents how one newsroom confronts gender and race inequity and inadequate inclusion, both as a workplace and in their journalism. Moreover, the film is about America in flux and the voices that are often left out of the American story.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Chelsea Hernandez, Heather Courtney, Princess Hairston ■ English  
Produced by: Diane Quon **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Brutal Utopias

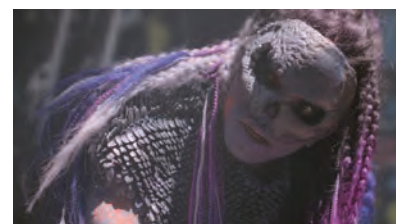


THU 8/24  
9am  
DAN  
● 34m

In 1968, architect Ralph Rapson was charged with designing one of the largest urban renewal projects in US history, a utopia constructed entirely of concrete. The plan faced one problem: the Minneapolis neighborhood they wanted to demolish was home to a counterculture with its own utopian vision. Tracing a remarkable story of resistance to urban renewal and its aftermath, *Brutal Utopias* works to understand the dreams of modernity—and their violence—at the moment they were starting to crumble.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Morgan M. Adamson ■ English  
Produced by: Morgan M. Adamson **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## The Butterfly Queen



THU 8/24  
11:30am  
TWI  
● 77m

Casey (a sheep farmer/cartoonist) and Robin (basically a vagabond) are lost in a magical forest, struggling to find Casey's sketchbook so they can get the hell back home. Unfortunately, *The Butterfly Queen* wants the sketchbook too, and A) she's clever, B) she's desperate and C) she makes the rules.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Liam O'Connor-Genereaux ■ English  
Produced by: Liam O'Connor-Genereaux, Seana Testa ■, Clay Neuger

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FILMMAKER ATTENDING

## Call Me Dancer



SAT 8/26  
11:30am  
THT  
● 84m

Manish is a talented and athletic street dancer from Mumbai who dreams of becoming professional against the wishes of his struggling parents. He meets a curmudgeonly Israeli ballet master who gives him the determination to keep going. But when he is pitted against another boy who has got the attention of the top school in the world, Manish realizes he must push himself to his physical limits if he has any chance to succeed.

Documentary  
Directed by: Leslie Shampaine, Pip Gilmour  
Produced by: Leslie Shampaine, Priya Ramasubban, Cynthia Kane ■

USA, Israel, UK  
English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Chile '76



SUN 8/27  
1pm  
MQS  
● 95m

Carmen leads a sheltered upper middle class existence. She heads to her summer house in the off-season to supervise its renovation, while also performing local charitable works through her church. When the family priest asks her to care for an injured young man he has been secretly sheltering, Carmen is inadvertently drawn into the world of the Chilean political opposition and must face real-world threats she is unprepared to handle.

Narrative  
Directed by: Manuela Martelli  
Produced by: Manuela Martelli, Alejandra Moffat

Chile, Argentina  
Spanish [w/English subtitles]

## Cinema Sabaya



WED 8/23  
2pm  
MQS  
● 91m

A group of Palestinian and Israeli women attend a video-making workshop at a small town community center that teaches them to document their lives. As each student shares footage from her home life, their beliefs and preconceptions are challenged and barriers are broken down. The group comes together as women living in a world designed to keep them apart, forming an empowering and lasting bond as they learn more about each other... and themselves.

Narrative  
Directed by: Orit Fouks Rotem  
Produced by: Roi Kurland, Gal Greenspan, Maya Fischer

Israel  
Hebrew, Arabic, English

## City of Lost Souls



SAT 8/29  
11:30am  
THT  
● 14m

A woman and a teenage girl, alone in Berlin in different circumstances and for different reasons, encounter each other after the girl steals the woman's backpack, and find they have more in common than they first thought.

Narrative  
Directed by: Nikos Mpouyioukas  
Produced by: Pietro Venier

Germany  
English, German, Greek  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## The Cocoon



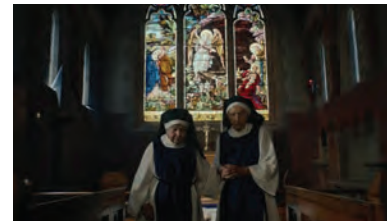
THU 8/24  
11:30am  
MQM  
● 9m

Trapped inside a room covered with muddy footprints, a man will stop at nothing to mop the floor perfectly clean. But with every step he takes to wipe away a footprint, he leaves a new one behind him.

Animation  
Directed by: David Shen Miller ■  
Produced by: David Shen Miller, Andrew Seth Cohen, Ryan Kieffer

United States  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Confessions



THU 8/24  
2pm  
TWI  
● 11m

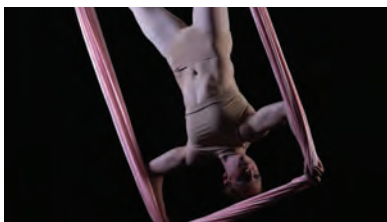
After the death of a friend, two nuns in their golden years contemplate what their future holds. One confession leads to another and before they know it, they're embarking on an adventure.

Narrative  
Directed by: Stephanie Kaznocha ■  
Produced by: Chase Horton, Caroline Huber, Stephanie Kaznocha

United States  
English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

**WINNER: VSO AWARD FOR BEST INTEGRATION OF MUSIC INTO FILM**

## Corps de Ballet



THU 8/24  
9am  
THT  
● 10m

The wispy quality of professional ballerinas sets a precedent for aspiring dancers that is often unachievable through healthy practices. As a result, young dancers are typically tempted to change their bodies by overexercising or under-eating. Director Katherine Hutchinson visually expresses how ballet shaped her body image using aerial dance and an original score. The film demonstrates the restriction of body shame and the freedom of relinquishing that shame.

Documentary  
Directed by: Katherine Hutchinson ■

United States  
English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## The Dancing Monkey



FRI 8/25  
11:30am  
MQM  
● 73m

*The Dancing Monkey* is adapted from Eugene O'Neill's classic groundbreaking play, 'The Hairy Ape.' Set in the present, the film follows Wayne, a cardboard box factory worker with the deciding vote in his company's union drive. After being compared to a dancing monkey by one of the factory owners, Wayne sets out to find an answer to a question that will decide his fate and those around him.

Narrative  
Directed by: Chandler Wild ■  
Produced by: Scott Delacruz, Tommy Beardmore, Natasha Coppola-Shalom

United States  
English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

**WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING**

## Dear Thirteen



FRI 8/25  
2pm  
THT  
● 79m

*Dear Thirteen* weaves together nine stories of thirteen-year-olds from across the globe. Video diaries and candid interviews reveal how global issues are shaping – and being shaped by – young people: rising anti-Semitism in Europe, guns in America, gender identity and racial divisions across Australia and Asia. This empathetic portrait of a new generation goes beyond stereotypes of adolescence to capture the complexity of finding a way into adulthood today.

Documentary  
Directed by: Alexis Neophytides ■  
Produced by: Alexis Neophytides

Australia, France, Mexico, Nepal, United States  
English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

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# MNFF9

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Kari Hansen

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FILMMAKER ATTENDING

## Dindin



FRI 8/25  
7:15pm  
TWI  
● 77m

Pierre and Emily are bourgeois, charming, and full of middle-class ennui. They live in a remote coastal town full of struggling artists — artists like Darlene and Ricky — who'd make a wonderful couple if only they'd stop being so feisty with one another. Soon the volatile compound of these four humans proves too combustible for the confines of a civilized dinner party, and sharp words, flying plates and blood on the floor become inevitable.

Narrative  
Directed by: Brendan Patrick Hughes ■  
Written by: Brenda Withers ■  
Produced by: Jonathan Fielding, Brendan Patrick Hughes, Jeff Zinn ■

United States  
English  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

## Dis-chord



FRI 8/25  
9am  
DANA  
● 11m

A mother and daughter relationship is strained when finances and dreams get in the way of a once loving relationship.

Narrative  
Directed by: Macdaine St. Remy ■  
Produced by: oko Kohmoto, Natalie Novak, Rui Scott-Dong

United States  
English  
**U.S. PREMIERE**

## OPENING NIGHT FILM

### Dusty & Stones



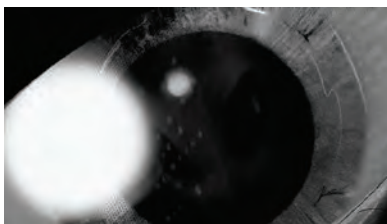
WED 8/23  
7pm  
THT  
● 83m

The story of two men living in rural Africa who aspire to become country music performers after having grown up listening to that genre of music over Voice of America Radio. The film tracks the two men as they come to the U.S. to record a couple of songs in Nashville and then make their way to a country music festival held each year in Texas featuring performers from other nations.

Documentary  
Directed by: Jesse Rudoy ■  
Produced by: Melissa Adeyemo

United States  
English, Zulu  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Earthling



SAT 8/26  
2pm  
TWI  
● 10m

In the summer of 1976, Jack Weiner, along with his twin brother Jim and two friends, went camping in Maine's Allagash wilderness, where they were abducted by aliens. It wasn't until ten years later that the four men explored what happened to them on that trip through hypnosis. Despite people not believing Jack about his encounter with aliens, he stands by his story.

Animation  
Directed by: Keith Lane, Molly Graham  
Produced by: Keith Lane, Molly Graham

United States  
English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Echdoe



THU 8/24  
9am  
THT  
● 5m

*Echdoe* is a poetic documentary about rock climber Cheryl Law, which takes place in the dramatic and atmospheric Dinorwig Slate Quarry in North Wales. Following a life-changing climbing fall in a quarry, Cheryl is told she might never walk again. Face to face once again with the imposing rock she fell from, her trauma resurfaces forcing her to embark on a deeply personal quest to reconnect with the landscape and find her peace with the quarry.

Documentary  
Directed by: Gwen Kathryn Thomson  
Produced by: Sara Allen, Grant Black

United Kingdom  
English  
**U.S. PREMIERE**

## The Elements



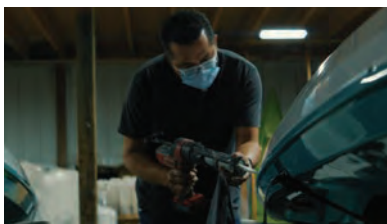
THU 8/24  
11:30am  
TWI  
● 17m

A determined sexual assault survivor who cannot heal from the trauma hesitantly joins group therapy as a last resort. Despite her earnest attempts, she still finds herself enraged and now clashing with the overly optimistic group therapist. She realizes that there may be in fact one last thing that can help, with far more reaching consequences, dragging along not only the therapist but the other group members in the process.

Narrative  
Directed by: Eri Geroulis ■  
Produced by: Eri Geroulis

Greece  
Greek [w/English subtitles]  
**U.S. PREMIERE**

## El Soñador



SUN 8/27  
10am  
MQM  
● 12m

A family of undocumented immigrants must overcome prejudice and systemic obstacles in order to survive in America.

Documentary  
Directed by: Duncan Walter Heger  
Produced by: Ashley Dasom Lee

United States  
English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Enloquecer



SUN 8/27  
10am  
MQS  
● 12m

After losing her lead actor at the last minute, a music video director goes to extreme measures to get her new talent to perform, pushing her team and the whole production to the brink of madness. [A part of the MNFF9 College Student Shorts Showcase 2]

Narrative  
Directed by: Hector Prats ■  
Produced by: Yoko Kohmoto

United States  
English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Everything's Fine



WED 8/23  
2pm  
MQM  
● 10m

Melanie's strongest wish is to have a family that stands together, that stays together. Meanwhile, her boyfriend David is about to roll away to become a long-distance truck driver. Sweet as an ice cream, *Everything's Fine* opens a window on the emotions contained in a mother's heart, who always puts others first.

Documentary  
Directed by: Audrey Nantel-Gagnon  
Produced by: Isabelle Grignon-Francke

Canada  
French [w/subtitles]

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FILMMAKER ATTENDING

## Fail First



THU 8/24  
2pm  
MQM  
● 18m

Through a series of phone calls and animations, *Fail First* follows a young woman as she navigates the absurdities and intricacies of fighting her insurance company for access to treatment for her chronic illness. During the process, she discovers the aggravating and dehumanizing methods in which insurance companies render patients unable to make critical health decisions for themselves.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Desiree Jade English  
Schippers ■ **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**  
Produced by: Peach Sahasakul

## Fat Girl



THU 8/24  
11:30am  
TWI  
● 15m

A lonely teenage girl's obsession with her favorite Tik Tok star takes a dark turn as she descends into DIY cosmetics in an attempt to look like her.

Narrative United Kingdom  
Directed by: Makez Rikweda ■ English  
Produced by: Don Omope, Clarissa Itschert, Emma Keeling, Sol Rikweda **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Faulkner: The Past Is Never Dead



SAT 8/26  
9am  
TWI  
● 93m

William Faulkner was one of the greatest writers of all time, winning the 1949 Nobel Prize in Literature. Faulkner's novels have challenged generations of readers and inspired generations of writers worldwide. *Faulkner: The Past Is Never Dead* goes where other films have feared to tread. It captures the complexity of Faulkner's work, life and contradictory views on race. The film will re-engage viewers who have experienced his fiction and entice others to take the plunge.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Michael Modak-Truran ■ English  
Produced by: Anastasia Lampton, Jeremy Culver, Michael Modak-Truran **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Finding The Line



THU 8/24  
9am  
THT  
● 12m

Alexandra "Chachi" Riesco has been shaped by rivers. From slicing through rapids in a whitewater kayak to carving into a plate in her printmaking studio, Chachi draws lines between the geologic forces she's studied and her work and play — but following her own line hasn't always been easy. As Chachi navigates challenges, her art highlights the importance of our connections to nature and how the landscapes we explore are more than they first seem.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Katie Hake English  
Produced by: Katie Hake **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Fire Through Dry Grass

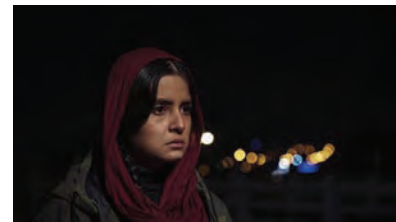


THU 8/24  
11:30am  
MQM  
● 86m

Wearing snapback caps and Air Jordans, the Reality Poets don't look like typical nursing home residents. In *Fire Through Dry Grass*, these young, Black and brown disabled artists document their lives on lockdown during Covid, using their poetry and art to underscore the danger and imprisonment they feel in the face of institutional neglect. They refuse to be abused, confined and erased.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Alexis Neophytides ■, Andres Molina English  
Produced by: Alexis Neophytides, Jennilie Brewster **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Giti Jan



SAT 8/26  
2pm  
MQM  
● 10m

Walk in the shoes of a young Iranian woman who faces a series of incidents that are insulting and demeaning, climaxing in a noxious prank played on her by a relative. The insidious male gaze of Iranian men is squarely in front of her and how she deals with it is revealing.

Narrative Iran  
Directed by: Shayan Shahverdi Persian [w/English subtitles]  
Produced by: Masoud Shahverdi **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## God's Pocket

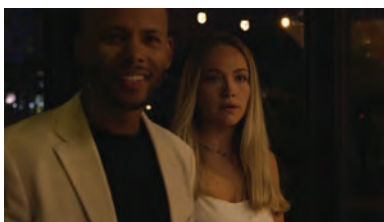


SUN 8/27  
4pm  
THT  
● 88m

In the gritty, blue-collar neighborhood of God's Pocket, Mickey Scarpato's crazy stepson, Leon, is killed in a construction "accident," and Mickey quickly tries to bury the bad news with the body. But when a local columnist comes sniffing around for the truth, things go from bad to worse. Mickey finds himself stuck in a life-and-death struggle compounded by a body he can't bury, a wife he can't please and a debt he can't pay.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: John Slattery ■ English  
Produced by: Lance Acord, Jackie Kelman Bisbee, Sam Bisbee, Emily Ziff, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, John Slattery

## Good to See You



SUN 8/27  
10am  
MQS  
● 14m

A pair of exes bump into each other while on first dates at the same restaurant. [A part of the MNFF9 College Student Shorts Showcase 2]

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Jarett Evans Malouf English  
Produced by: Sofia D'Annunzio **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Go On, Be Brave



SUN 8/27  
10am  
THT  
● 112m

Hailed as "a joyous ride we all need to take", *Go On, Be Brave* is the story of one woman's race against time — a diagnosis of ALS and an attempt at the impossible — to be the first person with ALS to complete a marathon in all 50 states. Follow Andrea Lytle Peet's journey as she inspires others to go on, be brave.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Miriam McSpadden ■, Brian Beckman ■ English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

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**SWI** SWIFT HOUSE INN

■ FILMMAKER  
 ATTENDING

## The Graduates



WED 8/23  
 11:30am  
 TWI  
 ● 86m

When renowned journalist Dusan Gajic graduated high school with his peers in 1989 Serbia, the fall of the Berlin wall that year promised a brighter future. But the following decade only brought more war and strife at home. Thirty years after graduation, Gajic and his classmates reunite in their old high school. Featuring dramatic historical footage and frank conversations with former classmates, *The Graduates* is a thought-provoking visual retelling of Serbia's recent history.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Dusan Gajic  
 Produced by: Dusan Gajic  
 Serbia  
 Serbian [w/English subtitles], French  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Guaranteed in Gary



THU 8/24  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 11m

*Guaranteed in Gary* follows a guaranteed income experiment in Gary, Indiana. Residents received a gift of \$500 per month for a year. The G.I.V.E. program is designed to reduce household stress and create the mental space to imagine new pathways to life goals. One recipient, Augustine, is inspired to return to college at age 67. This experiment confirms that poverty isn't a lack of character, but a lack of cash.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Darryl Parham  
 Produced by: isé Sanders-Weir, Seth McClellan, Andrea de Fraga, Darryl Parham  
 United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Gumbo Coalition



THU 8/24  
 7:15pm  
 THT  
 ● 108m

*Gumbo Coalition* follows two visionary Civil Rights leaders, Marc Morial and Janet Murguía, as they work to empower African American and Latin American communities through three turbulent years in America. The film takes us on an intimate — and sometimes humorous — journey into their lives, homes and the family histories that motivate their mission to achieve a more just and equitable country.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a special event for MNFF Returning Honoree Barbara Kopple.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Barbara Kopple ■  
 Produced by: Barbara Kopple, David Cassidy, Williams Cole, Ray Nowosielski  
 United States  
 English

## Hard To Reach



FRI 8/25  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 14m

When an anxiety-fuelled mentor takes his disruptive teenage student on a photography trip, an altercation on a train leads to a cathartic exchange that changes them forever.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Darryl Foster ■  
 Produced by: Jessica Palmarozza  
 United Kingdom  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Hawawshi

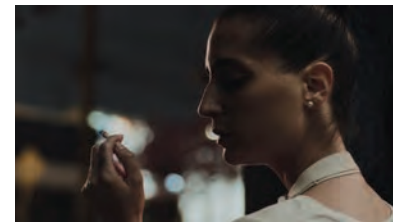


SUN 8/27  
 10am  
 MQS  
 ● 6m

At a late night eatery, Farida shows her friend traditional Egyptian food. When she witnesses a sexual assault, she confronts the situation and everyone else. [A part of the MNFF9 College Student Shorts Showcase 2]

Narrative  
 Directed by: Waleed Bedour  
 Produced by: Ahmed Barbary, Annika Johnson  
 United States  
 Arabic, English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Heat



SUN 8/27  
 10am  
 MQS  
 ● 15m

Valentina, a disturbed cook, must finish the "Lomo de Llama" signature dish on time to gain the approval of the brutal head chef. She fails her deadline and is ruthlessly fired. Having lost track of reality, she returns to the kitchen for revenge. [A part of the MNFF9 College Student Shorts Showcase 2]

Narrative  
 Directed by: Patricio de la Maza  
 Produced by: Andre Cristofi  
 Ecuador, United States  
 English, Portuguese, Spanish  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Hold Me Close



WED 8/23  
 2pm  
 TWI  
 ● 7m

While being confronted with the various sources of uncertainty and anxiety in his life, a young man is presented with an unexpected gift. [A part of the MNFF9 College Student Shorts Showcase 1]

Narrative  
 Directed by: Callahan Mainzer ■  
 Produced by: Callahan Mainzer  
 United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Hollow Tree



SUN 8/27  
 10am  
 MQM  
 ● 73m

*Hollow Tree* follows three teenagers coming of age in their sinking homeland of Louisiana. For the first time, they notice the Mississippi River's engineering, stumps of cypress trees and billowing smokestacks. Their different perspectives — as Indigenous, white, and Angolan young women — shape their story of the climate crisis.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Kira Akerman ■  
 Produced by: Monique Walton, Chachi Hauser, Jolene Pinder  
 United States  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Hormonal



FRI 8/25  
 11:30am  
 TWI  
 ● 9m

In this autobiographical short film, 22-year-old Irish dancer Siena questions her relationship with her body, femininity and menstruation through revisiting memories from her girlhood.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Siena Caddle ■  
 Assistant Director: Rach Peck ■  
 United States  
 English  
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# MNFF9 FILMS A-Z

THT TOWN HALL THEATER  
MQM MARQUIS THEATRE - MAIN SCREEN  
MQS MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM

TWI TWILIGHT HALL  
DAN DANA AUDITORIUM  
SWI SWIFT HOUSE INN

FILMMAKER ATTENDING

## How to Blow Up A Pipeline



SAT 8/26  
7:15pm  
TWI  
● 104m

A crew of young environmental activists executes a daring mission to sabotage an oil pipeline in this taut and timely thriller that is part high-stakes heist, part radical exploration of the climate crisis.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Daniel Goldhaber English  
Produced by: Daniel Goldhaber, Ariela Barer, Isa Mazzei, Adam Wyatt Tate, David Grove Churchill Viste, Alex Black, Alex Hughes

## I Have No Tears, and I Must Cry



SAT 8/26  
9am  
MQM  
● 13m

Maria Luisa is ready to escape immigration limbo, but when her green card interview takes an unexpected turn, she faces the anxiety of losing the life she had planned.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Luis Fernando Puente English, Spanish  
Produced by: Rollins Wimber **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Immediate Family



FRI 8/25  
7:15pm  
MQM  
● 102m

*Immediate Family* is the story of the brilliant session musicians who worked with the biggest stars of the 1970s and beyond: Danny Kortchmar, Leland Sklar, Russ Kunkel and Waddy Wachtel. They created the "Singer/Songwriter sound" and backed up iconic artists like James Taylor, Carole King, Jackson Browne, Don Henley, Linda Ronstadt, Warren Zevon and many more. A fascinating portrait of how this timeless music was made.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Denny Tedesco English  
Produced by: Greg Richling, Jack Piatt, Jonathan Sheldon

**WINNER: WINNER: JEANINE BASINGER PRIZE FOR BEST STUDENT FILM**

## Impossible Town



SAT 8/26  
2pm  
TWI  
● 93m

Set against the backdrop of loss, grief, and environmental injustice in rural Appalachia, *Impossible Town* tells the story of Dr. Ayne Amjad's role at the helm of a decades-long struggle to aid a southern West Virginia town beset by cancer-causing chemicals. Haunted by her late father's mandate to "help others" at all costs, Ayne is caught between her dream of raising a family and a bold plan to relocate the town and bring closure to her father's work.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Meg Griffiths, David Scott Faris English  
Produced by: Meg Griffiths **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## I'm The Vet



THU 8/24  
9am  
TWI  
● 23m

An inside look at the reality of an ICU Veterinarian, Dr. Lindsay Eisenhour, as she battles the difficulties of pet healthcare while holding onto her passion for treating animals at Neel Veterinary Hospital in Oklahoma City, OK. We see and feel the difficult experiences that Dr. Eisenhour endures inside the hospital and the miracles that she experiences with her patients and their owners.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Cameron Babcock English  
Produced by: James Hall **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Incisor

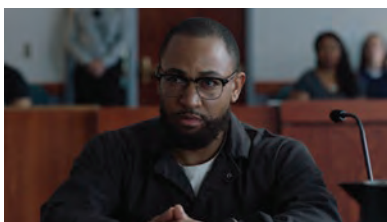


FRI 8/25  
9am  
THT  
● 15m

Experiencing a painful toothache, Roy Kim, a floater, must address the estranged relationship he has with his dentist.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Jinho Myung English, Korean  
Produced by: Jinho Myung **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Infraction

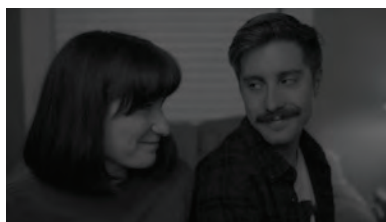


THU 8/24  
11:30am  
THT  
● 21m

After an inmate murders a prison guard, his replacement Sergeant Bennett is told to bring "the block" back to order. Bennett reluctantly relies on help from the head block worker, inmate Terrance Lewis. They form an unlikely friendship, which the warden condemns. Things come to a head at Terrance's resentencing hearing where Bennett must choose between his job and standing up for an innocent man.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Timothy Blackwood English  
Produced by: Tara Gallardy, Lana Link, Rob Pfaltzgraff **U.S. PREMIERE**

## It Happened One Weekend



THU 8/24  
2pm  
TWI  
● 71m

After getting dumped on the same weekend, two friends explore the boundaries of their relationship.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Zac Cooper English  
Produced by: Zac Cooper, Kurtis Bowersock, Matty McMahon, Victoria Britton **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## It's Basic



THU 8/24  
7:15pm  
TWI  
● 76m

*It's Basic* looks at several pilot programs launched in the US that test the effects of giving everyday people an extra \$500 to \$1,000 monthly, with no strings attached. The film presents an unbiased account of the benefits, criticisms and outcomes of giving unconditional money to people in need and examines whether Basic Income pilot programs eradicate child poverty and level the racial playing field through community-centric solutions.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a special event for MNFF Returning Honoree Marc Levin.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Marc Levin English  
Produced by: Daphne Pinkerson, Auri Akerele, Elizabeth Sehring



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## Jimmy in Saigon



FRI 8/25  
 11:30am  
 DAN  
 ● 89m

*Jimmy in Saigon* is a loving documentary about the radical life and mysterious death of the director's eldest brother, Jim. Chronicling the story of the Vietnam War veteran, who died in a shroud of shame in Saigon when Peter was only 5 years old, the film is both an homage to a complicated man and an investigation into the secrets of one family.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Peter McDowell  
 Produced by: Dan Savage, Lucia Palmarini, Peter McDowell, Peter Schulman  
 United States  
 English and Vietnamese [w/ subtitles]  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Joan Baez: I Am a Noise



THU 8/24  
 7:15pm  
 DAN  
 ● 113m

At the end of a 60-year career, legendary singer and activist Joan Baez takes an honest look back and a deep look inward as she tries to make sense of her large, history-making life, and the personal struggles she's kept private.

Live Zoom Q&A with Joan Baez follows the screening.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Miri Navasky ■, Maeve O'Boyle, Karen O'Connor ■  
 Produced by: Mira Navasky, Karen O'Connor  
 United States  
 English

## Joonam



SAT 8/26  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 100m

Spurred by a provocative family memory and a lifetime of separation from the country her mother left behind, a young filmmaker delves into her mother and grandmother's complicated pasts, and her own fractured Iranian identity.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Sierra Urich ■  
 Produced by: Sierra Urich, Keith Wilson  
 United States  
 English, Persian  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Lâl



WED 8/23  
 2pm  
 MQS  
 ● 15m

After a horrific incident in a park in Istanbul, Ece and Oguz decide to go to the apartment of Oguz's brother, Orhan. The young couple argues about how to handle the situation, only to find that disparities between their genders and upbringings erupt. Orhan also has his own concerns about his brother which push them to reveal their true identities against Ece.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Burak Can Sen  
 Produced by: Burak Can Sen  
 Turkey  
 Turkish [w/English subtitles]  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

## Life In This Body



FRI 8/25  
 9am  
 MQM  
 ● 4m

*Life in This Body* serves as a personal response to the Supreme Court leak of the choice to overturn Roe v. Wade and the eventual overturning, navigating through what this tells people with uteruses and what it means for people who live in these bodies.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Annika Ellis ■  
 Produced by: Annika Ellis  
 United States  
 English  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

## The Life of Lester Wink

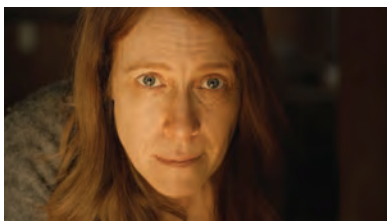


THU 8/24  
 2pm  
 TWI  
 ● 17m

Lester Wink is a pet insurance salesman with a phobia of talking with strangers. He needs to bring in a sale by 5pm or get fired. Going door to door he meets Sammy, a widow who is afraid to leave her house.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Cassidy C. Harrison  
 Produced by: Greg Burrowes, Ronan Cassidy  
 Ireland, United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Little Mouse



FRI 8/25  
 7:15pm  
 TWI  
 ● 14m

Betsy suddenly finds herself alone, packing up a houseful of memories. In order to move on, she must untangle her feelings of loss as she navigates a complicated and unexpected relationship with a mouse in her house.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Lena Kaminsky ■  
 Produced by: Eva Kaminsky, John Patrick Hayden, Lena Kaminsky  
 United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Little Richard: I Am Everything



SAT 8/26  
 7:15pm  
 THT  
 ● 98m

*Little Richard: I Am Everything* tells the story of the Black queer origins of rock n' roll, exploding the whitewashed canon of American pop music to reveal the innovator – the originator – Richard Penniman.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Lisa Cortés  
 Produced by: Lisa Cortés, Robert Friedman, Liz Yale Marsh, Caryn Capotosto  
 United States  
 Language: English

## Living While American



SUN 8/27  
 10am  
 MQM  
 ● 26m

When Isaiah Thomas is elected to city council in Philadelphia on his third try, he proposes new rules to reduce unnecessary traffic stops, especially of people of color. After months of negotiations, he gets the police on board and passes the bill. Since the law went into effect, stops have dropped by 70% and seizures of illegal guns and drugs have doubled. Other cities across the country are now passing similar laws.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Sosena Solomon  
 Produced by: Luke Slattery, Howard Tomb  
 United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

# MNFF9 FILMS A-Z

THT TOWN HALL THEATER  
MQM MARQUIS THEATRE - MAIN SCREEN  
MQS MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM

TWI TWILIGHT HALL  
DAN DANA AUDITORIUM  
SWI SWIFT HOUSE INN

FILMMAKER ATTENDING

## Loc'd



SAT 8/26  
9am  
MQM  
● 5m

Ayeyi, Odehye, and Nkunim, three Ghanaian siblings, were kicked out of school for wearing their hair loc'd. In this short documentary, they share their experiences of having loc'd hair in a society that frowns upon such hairstyles.

Documentary  
Directed by: Kendi King, Natalija Joi, Olivia Alleyne  
Ghana  
English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## The Martha Mitchell Effect



SAT 8/26  
9am  
DAN  
● 40m

She was once as famous as Jackie O. And then she tried to take down a President. *The Martha Mitchell Effect* is a 40-minute archival documentary portrait of the unlikely of whistleblowers: Martha Mitchell, a Republican cabinet wife who was gaslighted by the Nixon Administration to keep her quiet. It offers a female gaze on Watergate through the voice of the woman herself. Nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Short.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Beth Levison.

Documentary  
Directed by: Anne Alvergue, Debra McClutchy  
Produced by: Beth Levison, Judith Mizrachy  
United States  
English

## Nebraska



SAT 8/26  
7:15pm  
DAN  
● 115m

Cantankerous buzzard Woody can barely walk down the street of his home in Montana without stopping for a drink. So when he receives a sweepstakes notice in the mail and insists on making a 750-mile trip to Nebraska to collect his prize, it falls to baffled son David to accompany him. During a stop in their hometown, word gets out about Woody's fortune, first making him a hero, then later, the target of predatory people.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Alexander Payne.

Narrative  
Directed by: Alexander Payne  
Produced by: Albert Berger, Ron Yerxa  
United States  
English

## WINNER: GAMBLE-PAISON PRIZE FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM

### Longing For Color



WED 8/23  
9am  
MQM  
● 116m

Yui, a 14-year-old girl, lives in a single-parent family household with her father Nobuo and her grandmother. Painting pictures with various colors is the only way for Yui to be herself. One day, she meets Miki, a pottery painter, and empathizes with Miki's work. By coincidence, Miki and her father start dating, and Yui's life changes.

Narrative  
Directed by: Junji Kojima  
Produced by: Takamasa Araki  
Japan  
Japanese [w/English subtitles]  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Master of Cheese



WED 8/23  
2pm  
MQM  
● 92m

*Master of Cheese* tells the story of Willi Schmid, the world's best cheesemaker, who makes his cheese in a dairy the size of a living room. He knows every cow by name, every plant in his valley and produces cheese with pure intuition. His innate talents and boundless work ethic have allowed him to produce outstanding cheese in demand across the globe. The film highlights a powerful model of artisanship and sustainable food production.

Documentary  
Directed by: Simon Steuri  
Produced by: Myriam Andrea Zumbuehl  
Switzerland  
Swiss German [w/ subtitles]

## NIA



FRI 8/25  
2pm  
MQM  
● 15m

Nia, a young black woman, is raised in the countryside by her white grandmother. When she suddenly passes away, Nia struggles with her identity and where she came from. Focusing on finding her birth mother, she wonders if their relationship can be rekindled.

Narrative  
Directed by: Chantelle Ampomah Aboraah  
Produced by: Martina Russo  
United Kingdom  
English  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

## CLOSING NIGHT FILM

### Maggie Moore(s)



SUN 8/27  
7:30pm  
THT  
● 99m

When two women with the same name are murdered days apart, small-town police chief Jordan Sanders finds himself wading through an unlikely collection of cheating husbands, lonely hearts, contract killers and a nosy neighbor in an effort to put the pieces of the case, and his life, together.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree John Slattery.

Narrative  
Directed by: John Slattery  
Produced by: John Slattery, Vincent Garcia Newman, Dan Reardon, Santosh Govindaraju, Nancy Leopardi, Ross Kohn  
United States  
English

## Misophonia



THU 8/24  
9am  
THT  
● 9m

A quiet bus ride turns into an aural nightmare for a book-reading commuter. With every stop the bus fills with people and sounds, becoming a chaotic cacophony joyful to everyone but her. Only when the bus reaches her seaside destination do we discover she is not the average commuter.

Animation  
Directed by: Linda Wingerter  
Produced by: Linda Wingerter, Alex Griffin, Jessica Simon  
United States  
English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## No Bedroom



WED 8/23  
11:30am  
MQS  
● 12m

A young woman selectively arranges viewings for her one-bedroom house, which she may not be genuine about actually renting.

Narrative  
Directed by: Ryan Leedu  
Produced by: Ryan Leedu  
Canada  
English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

# MNFF9 FILMS A-Z

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MQS MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM

TWI TWILIGHT HALL  
DAN DANA AUDITORIUM  
SWI SWIFT HOUSE INN

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## Ocean City Monster Building



FRI 8/25  
9am  
TWI  
● 90m

In 1984, the former mayor of a small upstate New York town is found dead in his car with a young girl. In the aftermath, his wife and his adopted daughter have to make sense of this situation, while a detective from out of town tries to solve the case.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Chris Lane ■ English  
Produced by: Chris Lane, Sean Mara, Danette Wilson **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING

### Orpa



FRI 8/25  
11:30am  
THT  
● 99m

Orpa, a 13 year old bookish Papuan girl who is to be married off by her father, runs away one night to pursue her dream of attending school in Wamena. She crosses paths with Ryan, a wannabe musician from Jakarta who agrees to take her. On their journey, a gentle friendship sparks but they encounter difficulties in their travels as they are chased by both Orpa's father and the villagers who accuse Ryan of running from murder.

Narrative Indonesia  
Directed by: Theogracia Indonesian [w/ English subtitles]  
Produced by: Axel Putra, Dani Huda, Giovanni Rahmadeva ■, Cornelio Sunny **U.S. PREMIERE**

## Past Lives



SUN 8/27  
4pm  
MQS  
● 105m

Nora and Hae Sung, two deeply connected childhood friends, are torn apart after Nora's family emigrates from South Korea. Two decades later, they are reunited in New York for one fateful week as they confront notions of destiny, love, and the choices that make a life, in this heartrending modern romance.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Celine Song English, Korean  
Produced by: David Hinojosa, Christine Vachon, Pamela Koffler

## Paths



FRI 8/25  
11:30am  
DAN  
● 11m

In August 2014, Isis attacked the city of Shingal and the villages surrounding it. While Haider and 21 members of his family are escaping the terrorists, something happens that drastically changes the course of their lives. In a double narrative fractured storyline, Haider must choose a path.

Narrative Iraq  
Directed by: Azhin Kawa Kurdish [w/English subtitles]  
Produced by: Azhin Kawa, Tazhan Wahab **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Payment in Kind



SAT 8/26  
9am  
TWI  
● 11m

Carly's dog needs surgery. But the only way she can pay for it is by selling off a painting she swore she wouldn't sell.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: David Zax ■ English  
Produced by: Jonathan DiMaio **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Period Drama

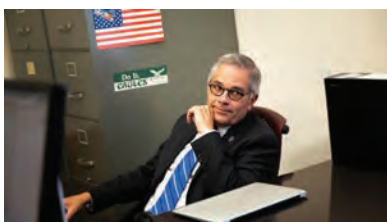


SAT 8/26  
7:15pm  
MQM  
● 13m

It is 1810 and the Fairfield family are on the brink of disaster. This means the only option left is for their daughter to marry well. On the morning of this important meeting, and with the family finances depending on Jane's pristine behavior, not everything goes to plan when she gets her period for the first time. *Period Drama* hysterically subverts the shame that has traditionally beset menstruation, with hilarious and uplifting consequences.

Narrative United Kingdom  
Directed by: Evie Fehilly ■ English  
Produced by: Olivia Pastor **WORLD PREMIERE**

## Philly D.A.



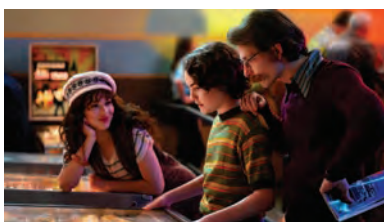
THU 8/24  
2pm  
THT  
● 113m

Larry Krasner spent 30 years fighting the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office as a civil rights attorney. He sued the police over 75 times. After an election he was never supposed to win, he now is the Philly D.A. Over the course of this eight part docuseries, *Philly D.A.* explores the most pressing social issues of our time—police brutality, the opioid crisis, gun violence, and mass incarceration—through the lens of an idealistic team attempting fundamental overhaul from within the system.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening of Episodes 1 & 2 is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Yoni Brook.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Yoni Brook ■, Ted Passon, Nicole Salazar English  
Produced by: Yoni Brook, Ted Passon, Nicole Salazar, Josh Penn, Michael Gottwald

## Pinball: The Man Who Saved The Game



SAT 8/26  
7:15pm  
MQM  
● 91m

An unsettled writer, Roger Sharpe finds solace and confidence in one thing he has mastered: pinball. When a police raid destroys the only machines he can find in 1970s New York City, Roger reluctantly joins forces with the Music and Amusement Association to overturn the ban while falling in love with Ellen, an artist and single mother. Roger learns what it means to take a chance—and that commitment is the most rewarding gamble of all.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Austin Bragg, Meredith Bragg English  
Produced by: Rob Pfaltzgraff, Lana Link, Stacey Parks, Summer Crockett Moore, Tony Glazer

## Prick



FRI 8/25  
2pm  
TWI  
● 9m

When Peter indulges in a plate of homemade biscotti, he doesn't expect to wind up having a deadly allergic reaction. The only thing that can save him also happens to be his biggest fear: his epi-pen. Afraid and in denial, Peter does everything in his power to prolong the inevitable. His delusion prevails until he is forced to face the hardest decision of his life head on: stab himself, or die trying not to.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Alex Dibucci ■ English  
Produced by: Amanda Talmadge, Karla Macias **VERMONT PREMIERE**

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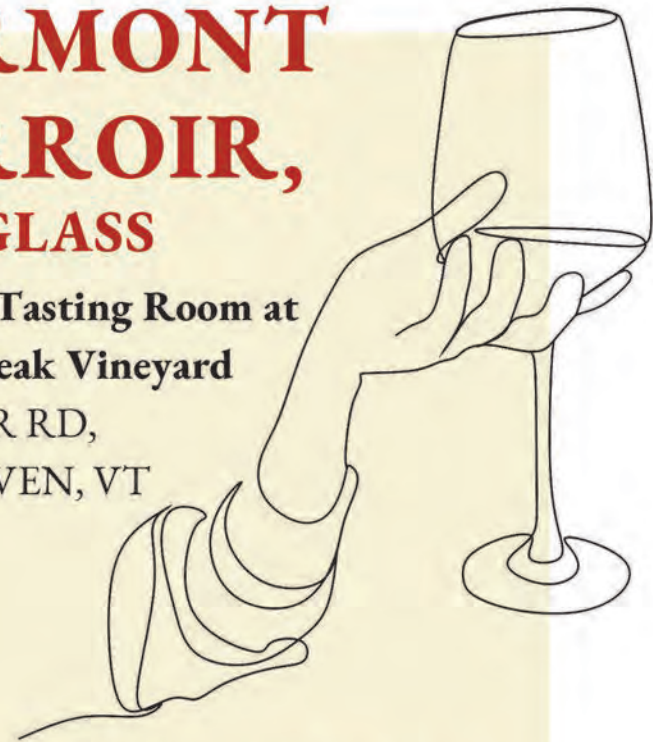
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TWI TWILIGHT HALL  
DAN DANA AUDITORIUM  
SWI SWIFT HOUSE INN

FILMMAKER ATTENDING

## The Principal's Assembly



FRI 8/25  
11:30am  
MQM  
● 18m

A high school principal's grief over the loss of a student spirals into substance abuse. To escape her anguish, she slides into a summer habit of frequenting an out-of-the-way bar whose bartender reminds her of the student until she suffers the harsh reality of her delusion. Once discovered, her husband and best friend confront her, yet she insists on delivering a sobering speech at an assembly on the first day of school.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Jordan Ancel English  
Produced by: Evan Schneider, Seth Chitwood, Jordan Ancel, Pamela Jayne Morgan (EP) **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Pure Baroque

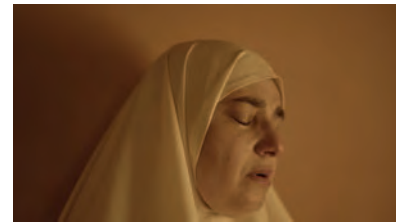


WED 8/23  
2pm  
TWI  
● 10m

*Pure Baroque* is a short story happening in the human head, where the yesterday collides with tomorrow creating today. How would you survive a night in a crowd if you can't remember what happened yesterday? [A part of the MNFF9 College Student Shorts Showcase 1]

Narrative Poland  
Directed by: Pawel Czarkowski Polish [w/English subtitles]  
Produced by: Pawel Czarkowski **U.S. PREMIERE**

## Q



SAT 8/26  
2pm  
MQM  
● 93m

An intimate portrayal of a quest for love and acceptance at any cost, *Q* depicts the influence of a secretive matriarchal religious order in Lebanon on three generations of women in the Chehab family. Director Jude Chehab potently documents the unspoken ties and consequences of loyalty that have bonded her mother, grandmother and herself to the mysterious organization, producing a multigenerational tale of the eternal search for meaning.

Documentary Lebanon  
Directed by: Jude Chehab ■ Arabic [w/subtitles]  
Produced by: Jude Chehab **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## RADIOACTIVE: The Women of Three Mile Island



THU 8/24  
11:30am  
THT  
● 77m

*RADIOACTIVE: The Women of Three Mile Island*, frames the 1979 Three Mile Island meltdown—the worst commercial nuclear accident in U.S. history and one of the biggest corporate cover-ups in U.S. history – in a new way, relating the never-before-told stories of four intrepid homemakers, two lawyers who took the local community's case all the way to the Supreme Court and a young female journalist who was caught in the radioactive crossfire.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Heidi Hutner ■ English  
Produced by: Heidi Hutner, Simeon Hutner ■, Judith Helfand, Richard Saperstein, Suzanne Kay **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Raising Victor Vargas



SUN 8/27  
1pm  
THT  
● 88m

On New York City's Lower East Side, Dominican teen and aspiring ladies' man Victor Vargas has nothing but girls on his mind. Though he talks a big game at the local pool, Vargas' true experience amounts to nothing more than a string of romantic rejections. After Vargas fails to improve his abysmal reputation by bedding an overweight classmate, he chooses a much more difficult target – the stunning and stuck-up Judy Ramirez.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is a special selection by MNFF Honoree Alexander Payne.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Peter Sollett English  
Produced by: Peter Sollett, Robin O'Hara, Scott Macaulay, Alain de la Mata

## WINNER: BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

## A Revolution on Canvas



SAT 8/26  
11:30am  
DAN  
● 90m

In this hybrid political thriller and verité portrait documentary, directors Sara Nodjoumi and Till Schauder dive into the mystery surrounding the disappearance of more than 100 "treasonous" paintings by Nodjoumi's father, seminal Iranian modern artist Nickzad Nodjoumi. Grappling with complex feelings tied to her upbringing, the film traces a timeline of events to understand the circumstances that led to her family's personal history echoing the treacherous path of many immigrant families caught in the crossfire of politics and life.

Documentary United States  
Directed/ Produced by: Sara Nodjoumi, Till Schauder English, Persian  
Edited by: Simeon Hutner ■, Gretchen Hildebran ■ **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Ride or Die



FRI 8/25  
9am  
TWI  
● 19m

*Ride or Die* is a short action comedy about an online fitness instructor who goes Columbo to recover her best friend's bike from a dicey kingpin.

Narrative Canada  
Directed by: Allison Johnston English  
Produced by: Sara Hennessey, Henri Fabergé, Laura Gladwell **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## RIPS

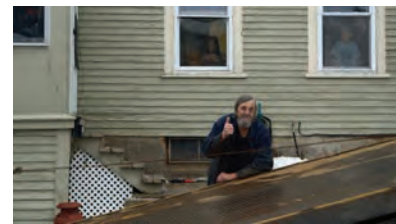


FRI 8/25  
2pm  
MQM  
● 13m

A 9-year-old girl discovers that her favorite sweatshirt is a hand-me-down.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Major Dorfman English  
Produced by: Justin Gonçalves, Creighton Dorfman **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Roland & Mary, A Winter of Towing in the Northeast Kingdom



THU 8/24  
9am  
TWI  
● 70m

The film explores the lovingly contentious relationship behind legendary Vermont towing company Roland's Wrecker Service. Set to the stark backdrop of a Vermont winter, director Dillon Tanner rides along on calls with his camera as Roland and Mary take an honest look back on the trials of a difficult career, with the unflinching humor and stubborn independence that pulled them through.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Dillon Tanner ■ English  
Produced by: Dillon Tanner

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TWI TWILIGHT HALL  
DAN DANA AUDITORIUM  
SWI SWIFT HOUSE INN

FILMMAKER ATTENDING

## Sabor y Amor



WED 8/23  
2pm  
TWI  
● 9m

*Sabor y Amor* unfolds in rural Vermont, where Alejandra, a Mexican migrant, discovers livelihood and community through her love for cooking. Her grandmother's tamale recipe becomes a lifeline in harsh winters, symbolizing cultural exchange and unity. This film shines a light on migrant resilience, emphasizing the power of food in creating a sense of belonging, wherever one may be. [A part of the MNFF9 College Student Shorts Showcase 1]

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Luke Robins, Ivonne English, Spanish Serna  
Produced by: Luke Robins, Ivonne Serna

## Sam Now

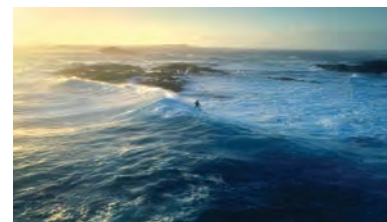


FRI 8/25  
9am  
THT  
● 87m

What do two film-obsessed brothers do to solve a family mystery? Using every video format imaginable, they make a movie as they travel thousands of miles looking for their missing mom. But solving the mystery of her disappearance is only the beginning of their story. Stitching together 25 years of footage, *Sam Now* is a mosaic of love, loss and an attempt to overcome intergenerational trauma.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Reed Harkness English  
Produced by: Reed Harkness, Jason Reid, Heather Hawksford, Adam Spiro Brown **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Savage Waters



WED 8/23  
11:30am  
MQM  
● 93m

For renowned skipper Matt Knight, sailing to unpredictable and uncharted regions is impossible to resist. As a lifelong thrill-seeker, he is constantly testing the limits of what's possible. With family and friends, he follows clues to a 'perfect wave' found in a 19th century treasure hunter's journal, but not everything goes according to plan, with serious injury and life-threatening challenges testing the crew's resilience and attitudes towards risk.

Documentary Ireland, Portugal, United Kingdom  
Directed by: Mikey Corker English  
Produced by: Ghislaine Couvillat **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Scrap



FRI 8/25  
11:30am  
TWI  
● 105m

Beth has recently been laid off and struggles to maintain the appearance of a middle-class lifestyle as she bounces around Los Angeles. Hiding her homelessness from her estranged brother Ben, Beth must confront her own pride in order to provide for her young daughter Birdy. Meanwhile, Ben and his wife Stacy consider a third round of IVF and Stacy must re-evaluate her own conflicted relationship with motherhood.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Vivian Kerr English  
Produced by: Rachel Stander, Vivian Kerr **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Scrapper



THU 8/24  
7:15pm  
SWI  
● 84m

Georgie is a dreamy 12-year-old girl who lives alone in her London flat, filling it with magic after the death of her mother. Out of nowhere, her estranged father Jason arrives and forces her to confront reality. Uninterested in this sudden new parental figure, Georgie is stubbornly resistant to his efforts, but as they adjust to their new circumstances, both father and daughter still have a lot of growing up to do.

Narrative United Kingdom  
Directed by: Charlotte Regan English  
Produced by: Theo Barrowclough

WINNER: KATE HEARST PRIZE FOR HUMAN CONNECTIVITY

## The Secret Song



THU 8/24  
2pm  
DAN  
● 90m

The *Secret Song* chronicles the final months of Doug Goodkin's 45-year career teaching music to children in San Francisco. As the pandemic forces schools into "distance" learning, a music program that always prioritized singing and learning through the ear, not the eye, has to adapt to an online format. The film shows the dynamism and adaptability that all teachers find and bring forth in the classroom, and how a sense of belonging helps surmount hardships and adversity.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Samantha Campbell English  
Produced by: Todd Dayton **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

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SWI SWIFT HOUSE INN

FILMMAKER ATTENDING

## WINNER: RALPH STEINER PRIZE FOR POETIC CINEMA

### Shudderbugs



FRI 8/25  
9am  
MQM  
● 106m

Samantha Cole returns to her childhood home when her mother suddenly passes. In place of familiar spaces and memories, Sam finds only uneasiness and confusion. Things are missing, the environment seems unnatural and the neighbor, Noah, is suspiciously obtuse. Isolated with these mysteries, Sam wrestles with her instincts to untangle the truth.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Johanna Putnam ■ English  
Produced by: Johanna Putnam, ■ **NEW ENGLAND**  
Brennan Brooks ■, Jamie Unruh ■ **PREMIERE**

### Sink or Swim



SAT 8/26  
2pm  
THT  
● 48m

Through a series of twenty six short stories, a girl describes the childhood events that shaped her ideas about fatherhood, family relations, work and play. As the stories unfold, a dual portrait emerges: that of a father who cared more for his career than for his family, and of a daughter who was deeply affected by his behavior.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Su Friedrich.

Experimental United States  
Directed by: Su Friedrich ■ English  
Produced by: Su Friedrich

### Sin Refugio



SAT 8/26  
11:30am  
TWI  
● 17m

When the Mexican government opens a dam to pay back water debts to the US, local farmers battle against the military to protect their crops and livelihood.

Documentary Mexico  
Directed by: Roberto Bosoms, Spanish (w/ English  
Andrea Cordoba subtitles)  
Produced by: Roberto Bosoms, **U.S. PREMIERE**  
Andrea Cordoba, Julia Madrazo

### Spare



SUN 8/27  
10am  
THT  
● 9m

Billy visits Cheryl to express gratitude for a gift he can never repay only to learn she has received an invaluable gift of her own.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Iona Sun English  
Produced by: Iona Sun, Jimmy **NEW ENGLAND**  
Holder, Bryan Rucker **PREMIERE**

## WINNER: BEST NARRATIVE SHORT

### Stillness



FRI 8/25  
7:15pm  
TWI  
● 11m

A photographer comes to take remembrance portraits for a family who has suffered a stillbirth.

Narrative United Kingdom  
Directed by: Rachel Fowler ■ English  
Produced by: Kate Baxter **NEW ENGLAND**  
**PREMIERE**

### Sunnyland



FRI 8/25  
2pm  
MQM  
● 77m

A five year old girl living in a Miami trailer park has a mission... to somehow get to the beach and see the ocean for the first time. Her older friend decides to help make this happen.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Xavier Medina ■ English  
Produced by: María Amelia **VERMONT PREMIERE**  
Cotarelo ■

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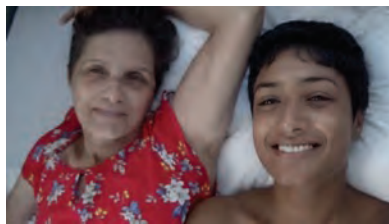
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 SWI SWIFT HOUSE INN

FILMMAKER ATTENDING

## The Taste Of Mango



FRI 8/25  
 9am  
 DAN  
 ● 75m

*The Taste of Mango* is an enveloping, hypnotic, urgently personal meditation on family, memory, identity, violence and love. At its center are three extraordinary women: the director's mother, Rozana; her grandmother, Jean; and the director herself. Their stories, by turns difficult and jubilant, testify to the entangled and ever-changing nature of inheritance and the ways in which we both hurt and protect the ones we love.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Chloe Abrahams  
 Produced by: Chloe Abrahams, Elliott Whitton  
 Edited by Isidore Bethel ■  
 Sri Lanka, United Kingdom  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Teatime



SAT 8/26  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 8m

A grandmother fends off loneliness with the help of her imagination...and some tea.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Tamara Sevunts ■  
 Produced by: Tamara Sevunts  
 Canada  
 Russian [w/English subtitles]

**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## WINNER: GAIA PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FILMMAKING

## This Is Fracking



SAT 8/26  
 11:30am  
 TWI  
 ● 64m

The Patagonia region of Argentina is known for its stunning landscapes and famous wines. But it also harbors a dark secret: the site of one of the world's largest shale oil and gas reserves. While oil companies reap record-breaking profits, the people living here suffer from the impacts of fracking, ignored by both Argentinian and global media. *This is Fracking* reveals the real story behind fracking in Patagonia, the one we have not yet been shown.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Rocío Rodríguez Almaraz ■, Paula Otero  
 Produced by: Rocío Rodríguez Almaraz  
 Argentina  
 English, Spanish (w/English subtitles)  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

## Three



WED 8/23  
 2pm  
 MQS  
 ● 15m

A weekend away at the seaside is Ellie's first family holiday since she and Nick had Harry. But holidays are not like they used to be. Neither is her marriage or her body.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Amelia Sears  
 Produced by: Amelia Sears  
 United Kingdom  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## WINNER: BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

## Tierra de Leche

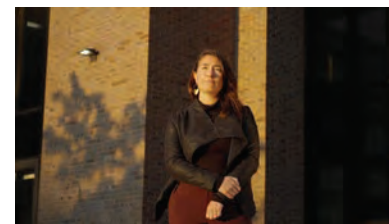


SAT 8/26  
 11:30am  
 TWI  
 ● 12m

Central American dairy workers in the Northeast reminisce about their relationship to the land, labor practices and their home countries. Hours, days, weeks and years pass by and the repetitiveness of the labor makes way to new families in a non-place. *Tierra de Leche* is an exploration of multiple species exploited by capitalistic forces, both humans and cows, and questions the technologies we have created to maximize efficiency over liberation.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Milton Guillen ■, Fiona Hall ■  
 Produced by: Connor Whitley  
 Nicaragua, United States  
 Spanish  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## To Be Fair



WED 8/23  
 2pm  
 TWI  
 ● 23m

Vermont's most progressive prosecutor faces a primary challenger who threatens to reverse the momentum she's built overhauling the criminal legal system in the state's most populous county. Up against a candidate backed by police unions and an antiquated tough-on-crime agenda, Sarah Fair George's innovative public safety policies are put to the test in a county election with national implications. [A part of the MNFF9 College Student Shorts Showcase 1]

Documentary  
 Directed by: Jennifer Hill ■  
 Produced by: Jennifer Hill  
 United States  
 English  
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FILMMAKER ATTENDING

## To Be Frank



FRI 8/25  
9am  
THT  
● 15m

Frank was exceptional, and for 20 years his grandson Derek was only somewhat certain of this. There was the shitty smooth jazz, the popcorn machine precariously placed and those massive steel-worker hands, but Derek never heard Frank speak. Desperate to hear his grandfather's choice words, Derek searches the family archives, tape after tape, and slowly pieces together Frank's forgotten voice.

Documentary  
Directed by: Derek Hackert ■

United States  
English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Unnamed



THU 8/24  
2pm  
DAN  
● 13m

*Unnamed* tells the story of Zainab, an Iranian volleyball player who undergoes a gender transition. In the face of opposition from his family and from Iranian society, Zainab must fight for his identity and success in volleyball and beyond in order to live his life in its most authentic form. *Unnamed* tells Zainab's story, but it is a story that resonates with the lives of transgender people globally as they face an increasingly hostile world.

Documentary  
Directed by: Iranmehr Salimi  
Produced by: Iranmehr Salimi

Iran  
Persian (w/ subtitles)  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## The Visit



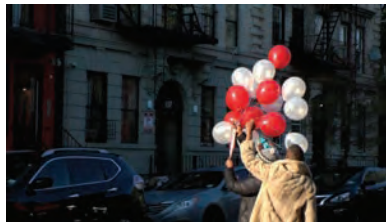
WED 8/23  
2pm  
TWI  
● 9m

Feeling guilty for neglecting his grandma, Osamudia decides to visit his Grandma for a school mockumentary project while spending time together. However, as he records her daily life, he realizes she isn't as lonely as he thought, and his constant filming bothers her. Despite her objections, he completes the documentary, including a tribute to her vibrant spirit and the joy she brings to his life. [A part of the MNFF9 College Student Shorts Showcase 1]

Documentary  
Directed by: Osamudiamen Atekha ■

United States  
English  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

## Today



SUN 8/27  
1pm  
MQM  
● 57m

*Today* is about what happens when you think that "living in the moment" will give you access to seeing the wonders of the world, and then you discover that it simply means you'll see exactly what's in front of you on any given day, whether that's uplifting—or devastating.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Su Friedrich.

Experimental  
Directed by: Su Friedrich ■  
Produced by: Su Friedrich

United States  
English

## unseen



SAT 8/26  
9am  
MQM  
● 88m

Most people dream of a better future. Aspiring social worker Pedro is no different. But as a blind, undocumented immigrant, Pedro faces political restrictions to obtain his college degree, secure a job in his field and support his family. What starts as a journey to provide mental health care for his community ultimately transforms into Pedro's path towards his own healing. Through experimental cinematography and sound, *unseen* reimagines the accessibility of cinema, while exploring the intersections of immigration, disability and mental health.

Documentary  
Directed by: Set Hernandez ■  
Produced by: Set Hernandez, Day Al-Mohamed, Félix Endara

United States  
English, Spanish  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## ᏍᏏᏉᏍ (We Will Speak)



SAT 8/26  
9am  
THT  
● 94m

The Cherokee language is deeply tied to Cherokee identity. Yet generations of assimilation efforts by the U.S. government and anti-Indigenous stigmas forced the Tri-Council of Cherokee tribes to declare a State of Emergency for the language in 2019. Of the 430,000 Cherokee citizens, fewer than an estimated 2,000 fluent Cherokee speakers remain. *ᏍᏏᏉᏍ (We Will Speak)* follows various Cherokee community members as they continue the long fight to help save the language.

Documentary  
Directed by: Schon Duncan, Michael McDermit  
Produced by: Keli Gonzales, Laura Herberton  
Cinematography by: Jacob Koestler ■

United States  
Cherokee (w/ subtitles)  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Two-Story House



SUN 8/27  
10am  
MQS  
● 15m

After witnessing the murder of her father, a college student is kidnapped by three men who must decide whether or not to kill her while she tries to escape. [A part of the MNFF9 College Student Shorts Showcase 2]

Narrative  
Directed by: Devin Lee  
Produced by: Denyvi Rose, Henry Wolf

United States  
English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Vanish – Disappearing Icons of a Rural America



THU 8/24  
11:30am  
DAN  
● 84m

A remarkable story of past and present, *Vanish* chronicles the "visual preservation" adventures of fine art photographer, Jim Westphalen, as he travels across the country seeking out and creating stunning imagery of America's disappearing rural structures. Road-trip with Westphalen as he races against time and the unrelenting elements to capture the extraordinary beauty of aging barns, one room schoolhouses, grain elevators, prairie churches and all the classic structures that our country's rural heritage was built upon.

Documentary  
Directed by: Jim Westphalen ■  
Produced by: Jim Westphalen

United States  
English  
**FESTIVAL PREMIERE**

## What About Dennis?



THU 8/24  
2pm  
TWI  
● 12m

An artist's life is suddenly upended when he is visited by a woman who claims to be his boyfriend's wife.

Narrative  
Directed by: David Alan Morrison  
Produced by: Lionel Flynn, Amber Giacone

United States  
English  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

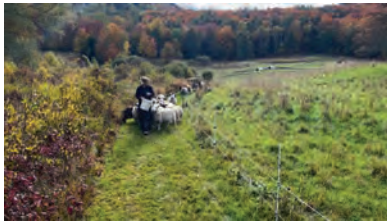
# MNFF9 FILMS A-Z

THT TOWN HALL THEATER  
MQM MARQUIS THEATRE - MAIN SCREEN  
MQS MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM

TWI TWILIGHT HALL  
DAN DANA AUDITORIUM  
SWI SWIFT HOUSE INN

FILMMAKER ATTENDING

## White River Land Collaborative: A Seed for the Future



THU 8/24  
11:30am  
DAN  
● 15m

White River Land Collaborative has a mission: to transform a former organic dairy farm into a community hub that will support sustainable agricultural enterprises, forest stewardship and community activities, while also reducing barriers to land access for young farmers and local Abenaki land stewards. They intend to build a resilient land-based economy rooted in equitable land access — a model that can be replicated on farms across Vermont and beyond.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Lisa Zimble ■ English  
Produced by: Lisa Zimble, Evan Dunsky ■

**WINNER: SWIFT HOUSE PRIZE FOR BEST DEPICTION OF THE ARTS**

### With Peter Bradley



FRI 8/25  
7:15pm  
DAN  
● 92m

79 years old and overlooked since the 1970s, abstract artist Peter Bradley reflects on life and shares his artistic process on the cusp of his rediscovery. *With Peter Bradley* is a celebration of art-making, resilience and the creative contributions of Black artists to American life. It shines a light on Bradley's rightful place in the ongoing movement toward racial equity in the arts and our society.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Beth Levison.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Alex Rappoport ■ English  
Produced by: Alex Rappoport  
Consulting Producers: Beth Levison ■, Diane Kolyer

## The Year of the Dog



FRI 8/25  
2pm  
TWI  
● 97m

Matt, a loner alcoholic at rock bottom, struggles to maintain sobriety for 30 days so he can honor his mother's dying wish: to visit her in hospice sober. His AA sponsor offers him refuge at his farm where Matt meets Yup'ik, a stray dog with a unique athletic talent. With the help of a close-knit Montana community, the two strays find a connection and discover what it takes to pull through to the finish line.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Robert Grabow ■, Michael Peterson, Andrew McGinn ■ **VERMONT PREMIERE**  
Produced by: Robert Grabow, Heather Hanley

## Who's There



SUN 8/27  
10am  
MQS  
● 5m

An exhausted sketch artist struggles to complete his newest artwork but a supernatural force blocks him at every turn. [A part of the MNFF9 College Student Shorts Showcase 2]

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Desmond Levi Jackson English **VERMONT PREMIERE**  
Produced by: Luke Dias

## Winter in Vermont



THU 8/24  
9am  
TWI  
● 16m

The short documentary *Winter In Vermont* tells the story of a Vermont family (perhaps not your typical family) as they prepare for Christmas with all the trimmings.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Max Zevon-Powell ■ English **WORLD PREMIERE**  
Produced by: Max Zevon-Powell

**WINNER: SHOULDICE FAMILY PRIZE FOR BEST VERMONT-MADE FILM**

## Whitman Brook

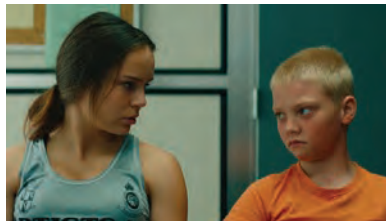


THU 8/24  
9am  
DAN  
● 66m

An abandoned apple orchard, rescued by chance, thrives under the caring hands of the people driven to rejuvenate this Vermont hillside, who encourage the trees to flourish where once they stood bent and broken. A four-season meditation on time, change, loss, and renewal, *Whitman Brook* offers a glimpse into a world that moves with a different cadence, where we are invited to slow down and recognize the extraordinary.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Ben Silberfarb ■ English  
Produced by: Terry Dorman

## The Worst Ones



SUN 8/27  
4pm  
MQM  
● 99m

Set in the suburbs of northern France, *The Worst Ones* captures a film within a film as it follows a feature production. Eager to capture performances of gritty authenticity, the director selects four working class teenagers to the surprise and consternation of the local community, who question the director's choice of "the worst ones." Throughout filming, jealousies are stoked, lines are crossed, and ethical questions arise, with thought-provoking and at times darkly funny results.

Narrative France  
Directed by: Lise Akoka, Romane Gueret French [w/English subtitles]  
Produced by: Marine Alaric, Frédéric Joue

## You Left Me Alone



FRI 8/25  
9am  
DAN  
● 15m

When a crisis forces Erica back to the home she escaped, she fights to revive the childhood connection she shared with Marina, the sibling she left behind. *You Left Me Alone* uses dance to express and explore the relationship between siblings grappling with the complex legacy of child abuse.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Lauren Fondren English **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**  
Produced by: Taylor Mendonca, Derek Kelly

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- Ridley Scott

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John, Brenda, Nancy, Diana, Heather, January

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AUGUST 21-25

2024

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# SCREENING VENUES



**Town Hall  
Theater**

**THT**



**Marquis  
Theatre**

**MQM  
MQS**



**Twilight Hall**

**TWI**



**Dana  
Auditorium**

**DAN**



**Swift House Inn**

**SWI**

# GET INVOLVED



## Submit Your Film

The submission window for MNFF10 opens January 2, 2024 on FilmFreeway!



## Apply for a Grant

MNFF Alumni: Submit your narrative feature script to the MNFF Franklin Film Development Fund.



## Donate to MNFF

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## Volunteer with MNFF

Volunteers are essential to the smooth running of the Festival. Join us!



## MNFF Year-round

Follow us online to learn about year-round events.

[middfilmfest.org](http://middfilmfest.org)  
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