

**10TH**

**ANNIVERSARY**

**MIDDLEBURY**

**NEW FILMMAKERS**

**FESTIVAL**

**AUGUST**

**21-25**

**2024**

**FESTIVAL PROGRAM**



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# WELCOME TO THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL!

Greetings, everyone... and welcome to MNFF's 10th Anniversary Festival!

We're looking forward to an especially memorable Festival this year – with distinguished guests and honorees including four-time Academy Award-winning director and screenwriter, Oliver Stone (*Platoon, Wall Street, Born on the Fourth of July, Scarface*). Also, Tony, Pulitzer and Academy Award-winning writer and director, John Patrick Shanley (*Moonstruck, Doubt*); and Emmy and Tony Award-winning costume designer Paul Tazewell (*Harriet, Hamilton* on Broadway, the upcoming film *Wicked*) who was nominated for an Academy Award for Costume Design for Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story*.

We're also paying tribute to two of Vermont's finest film folks – cinematographer and director Andy Mitchell and documentary producer and director, Bess O'Brien.

We'll mark the start of Festival Week with a Monday, August 19 event where, as MNFF's founders, we'll take to the Town Hall Theater stage to reflect on what has happened during these ten fabulous years and encourage your recollections, too. And on Tuesday, August 20, at the Marquis Theatre, we'll be rolling out a daylong Animation Day with four Oscar-winning or nominated feature films as a thank you to the community. The popcorn is on us!

We see a theme of endurance that imbues many of the films we've programmed. *Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story*, our Opening Night film, shows physical and spiritual endurance in the face of a catastrophic riding accident. Our closing night film, *A New Kind of Wilderness*, takes us inside the experiences of a dad and his kids after experiencing profound loss. *Black Box Diaries* shows a prominent journalist insisting on justice, against a more powerful man. *The Caravan* puts us on the road with a young Honduran family en route to the American border. *Mediha* connects us to a teenage Yazidi girl who has survived and recently returned from ISIS captivity - and turns a camera on herself to process her trauma while rescuers search for her missing family members. The film has won 11 film festival awards – and both filmmaker Hasan Oswald and *Mediha* herself will be in Middlebury.

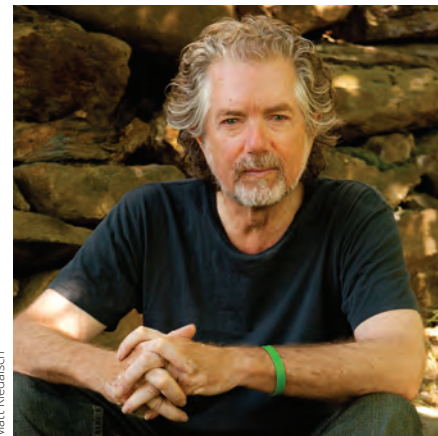
What these feature films, and many of our shorts, also have in common are detailed and compassionate insights into human strength and indomitability. And each day of the Festival is packed with poignant and entertaining films, including Wednesday and Sunday. You'll want to see as many as you can.

During this year's Festival, we'll introduce you to MNFF's new Executive Director, Caitlin Boyle, who will take the reins from Lloyd in September as he retires from his crucial and always challenging work of making this festival happen. Talk about endurance! We're thrilled to welcome Caitlin and look forward to Lloyd's continued role on the MNFF Board of Directors.

Tell us your thoughts on the films and events you see. And the people you meet. Please consider tax-deductible support – to help us light up the screen. We couldn't do this without you.

Enjoy this 10th Anniversary Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival to the fullest!

Warm regards,



Matt Kleidisch

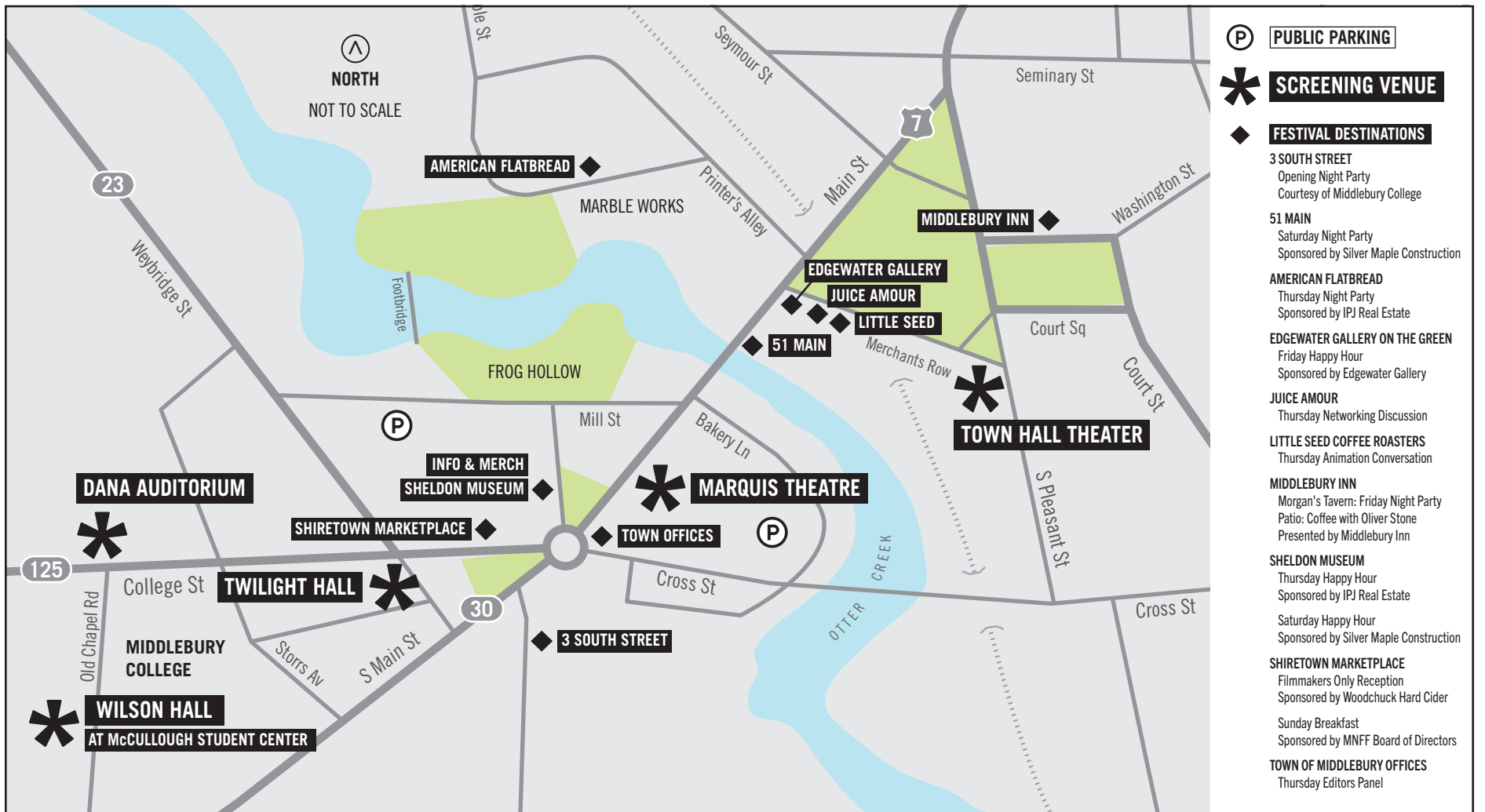
Jay Craven  
MNFF Artistic Director



Todd Balfour

Lloyd Komesar  
MNFF Producer

# FESTIVAL MAP



## JESSICA'S AT SWIFT HOUSE INN

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Fri & Sat 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm



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# FESTIVAL FAQ

## WHERE DO I PICK UP INFORMATION?

The Festival Information and Merchandise Store will be located in the historic barn in the garden of the Sheldon Museum at 1 Park Street in Middlebury. We will have a Merch and Info sign at the front edge of the property, adjacent to the sidewalk that goes back to the barn. The store will be stocked with stacks of printed MNFF10 Festival Programs, along with really nice MNFF hats, glass mugs, tote bags, 10th Anniversary commemorative sweatshirts and our beautiful commemorative poster. Our staff will be on site Wednesday, August 21 from 10:00am to 5:00pm, Thursday, August 22 from 10:00am to 5:00pm, Friday, August 23 from 10:00am to 5:00 pm, Saturday, August 24, 10:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday, August 25, 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 21, 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 **Dana Auditorium** at 7:00pm, with doors opening at 6:00pm. (Please note: **this event is ticketed separately. A Festival Pass does not grant entry.**)

On Thursday, August 22 - Saturday, August 24, films screen at Town Hall Theater, Marquis Theatre [downstairs screen only], Dana Auditorium, Twilight Hall and (Thursday-only) Wilson Hall. Screening times are 9:00am, 11:30am, 2:00pm and 7:15pm. [Note: our outdoor screen under the tent at Swift House Inn will NOT be in use at this year's Festival.]

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

On Sunday, August 25, 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 25 at 6:30pm at Town Hall Theater followed by our Closing Night Film at 7:30pm.

♿ All of our screening venues are accessible.

## DOES MNFF HAVE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS?

We are sensitive to reports of COVID surges in the New York City area, Connecticut and elsewhere in the region. Although there are no mask advisories in Vermont at this point and none of our venues have re-implemented masking, we support any of our guests who choose to wear a mask at film screenings or social events during the 10th Anniversary Festival.

## 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 Monday-Wednesday, August 19-21, 10:00am - 5:00pm and Thursday - Saturday, August 22 - 24, from 8:30am - 7:30pm. On Sunday, August 25, the hours are 9:30am - 5:00pm.

Festival Passes are \$143 each [includes a THT 10% Operations Fee] and admit you to any film on any of the five screening days of the event, along with all Happy Hours and Evening Parties. Day Passes are \$44 for Wednesday or Sunday screenings and \$50 for Thursday-Saturday screenings. The Day Pass admits you to any film and social event 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 10:00am on Monday, August 19.

## 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 MNFF10 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 25 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 and Twilight Hall, 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. Tickets can be purchased 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 After Party at the home of Middlebury President Laurie Patton is \$72 [and includes a 10% THT Operations Fee]. 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 in the barn at the Sheldon Museum Garden. Hours and location are noted above in the Festival Information paragraph. 2024 items include our popular MNFF hats [\$15] in black, navy, khaki, green and white, glass MNFF10 mugs [\$15], handsome black tote bags [\$20] and plush MNFF sweatshirts [\$40]. We will also have a custom commemorative poster of our 10th Anniversary Festival for \$60. MNFF sponsor Champlain Orchards will provide free cider donuts, peaches 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 25 at 6:30pm at Town Hall Theater. 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, S. Pleasant Street going south from Town Hall Theater and on Merchants Row after 5pm.

## 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

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- 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 8/21

6pm  
Doors Open  
6:30pm  
Introductions  
7pm  
Film Screening  
DANA  
AUDITORIUM



### OPENING NIGHT

- OPENING NIGHT TICKET HOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. -

Introductions and remarks by Middlebury College President Laurie Patton, MNFF Producer Lloyd Komesar, MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven, new MNFF Executive Director Caitlin Boyle and others, followed by our Opening Night film.

This screening is courtesy of Warner Brothers.

### *SUPER/MAN: THE CHRISTOPHER REEVE STORY*

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Actor Christopher Reeve rises to stardom when he lands the role of Superman in the 1970s. When a horse-riding accident leaves him paralyzed in 1995, Reeve spends the rest of his life searching for a cure for spinal cord injuries.



WED 8/21

9pm  
PRESIDENT'S  
HOUSE

### OPENING NIGHT PARTY

- OPENING NIGHT TICKET HOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. -

3 South Street | The festivities continue at the home of Middlebury College President Laurie Patton. Enjoy food, drink and music courtesy of Middlebury College. Music by the Dayve Hockett Duo.

# FESTIVAL EVENTS



THU 8/22

FREE!

2pm  
TWILIGHT HALL

## SECRETS OF THE WHALES "ORCA DYNASTY" UNTAMED AMERICAS "DESERTS"

HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH  
ANDY MITCHELL

MODERATED BY MNFF PRODUCER LLOYD KOMESAR

MNFF Honoree Andy Mitchell describes his passion and his methods for shooting in remote areas, either on land or at sea, using these two episodes as his guide.

Free Event - Courtesy Of National Geographic



THU 8/22

2pm  
WILSON HALL,  
MCCULLOUGH  
STUDENT  
CENTER

## VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE WITH FILM SCREENING

FEST PASS AND FRIDAY DAY PASS HOLDERS: FREE  
WALK UP TICKETS AT THE DOOR: \$15

Screening of the final VSO Award winning film, *The Cocoon*, by David Shen Miller, along with two other films highlighting the career of the celebrated German animator Lotte Reiniger.



THU 8/22

4pm  
LITTLE SEED  
COFFEE  
ROASTERS

## A CONVERSATION WITH KIMSON ALBERT – CREATING A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN ANIMATION

JOINED BY ANIMATORS GENNIE RIM & JOHN KAHRS  
MODERATED BY SERENA KIM



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



THT Young Company Classical Presents

## Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead

Aug. 15 & 16  
7pm, Tickets \$10, \$15, \$25



THT Presentsts

## Bread + Puppet

Sept 1  
4pm, Tickets \$22



MACo Presents

## Cutting Edge Play Reading

Sept 7 & 8  
4pm, Tickets \$15



THT Presents

## The Moth

Sept 10  
7pm, Tickets on sale soon



THT Presentsts

## Comedy at the Core with Jason Lorber

Sept 13  
7:30pm, Tickets \$25 & \$40



OCM Presents

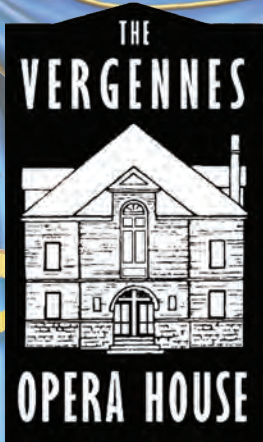
## Scalia/Ginsburg

Oct 4, 5 7:30pm  
Oct 6 2pm

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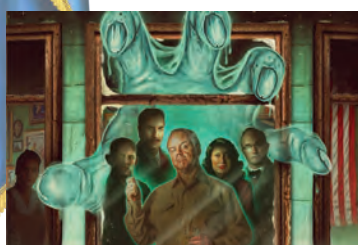


Tickets:  
townhalltheater.org  
802-382-9222

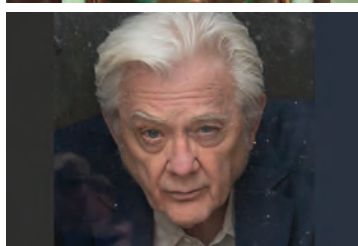


## We're opening the curtain on our 2024-2025 season!

Get tickets and details at [vergennesoperahouse.org](http://vergennesoperahouse.org)



**Film: *Brooklyn 45* (18+)**  
Meet Actor Jeremy Holm and Director Ted Geoghegan!  
**Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September**  
**7:30pm**



**Leroy Preston & Friends**  
Vermont Music Greats join this celebrated singer/songwriter  
**Saturday, October 12**  
**7:30pm**



**Dave Keller Band**  
3-time BMA nominee for Best Soul Blues Album  
**Saturday, November 2**  
**7:30pm**



**Thanksgiving Community Hymn Sing**  
with Champlain Brass and the Addison County Gospel Choir  
**Sunday, November 24**  
**3:00pm**



**Broadway Direct**  
with Bill Carmichael & Friends  
TWO shows this year!  
**Friday, December 6, 7:30pm**  
**Saturday, December 7, 3:00pm**



**Hard Scrabble**  
A Vermont-based band of Bluegrass & Acoustic Blues  
**Saturday, January 11**  
**7:30pm**

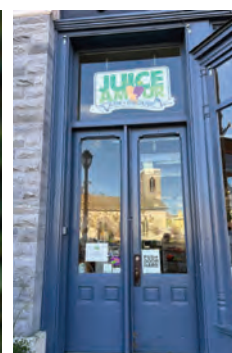


**LC Jazz "Winter Thaw"**  
Free Community Concert  
Bring your dancing shoes!  
**Saturday, February 8**  
**7:30pm**

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

# FESTIVAL EVENTS

24 Merchants Row | Emmy-nominated animator Kimson Albert shares his knowledge and experience in forging a successful path in the animation creation business.



**THU 8/22**

**4pm**  
**JUICE AMOUR**

## A CONVERSATION WITH SANDRINE FAUCHER CASSIDY – ATTENDING FILM FESTIVALS AND NETWORKING FOR CAREER SUCCESS

MODERATED BY MNFF PRODUCER LLOYD KOMESAR

16 Merchants Row | What film festivals are right for you and your film? How do you capitalize on the momentum gained at the festival experience? Sandrine Cassidy, Senior Director of Talent Development, Festivals & Distribution at the USC School of Cinematic Arts, shares her knowledge on building your strategy to move your career forward.



**THU 8/22**

**4pm**  
**TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY OFFICES**



## PANEL DISCUSSION – THE EVOLVING ROLE OF EDITORS IN INDIE FILMMAKING

MODERATED BY SIMEON HUTNER

77 Main St | Toby Shimin, David Teague, Sabine Hoffman and Sascha Stanton-Craven, four top editors working in independent film today, discuss the practice of editing both narrative and documentary features and how editing the footage is tantamount to writing the story.



**THU 8/22**

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

## FESTIVAL THURSDAY HAPPY HOUR

# FESTIVAL EVENTS

– 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 8/22

7:15pm  
DANA  
AUDITORIUM

## AN AMERICAN BOMBING: THE ROAD TO APRIL 19TH

RETURNING HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH MARC LEVIN

MODERATED BY MNFF PRODUCER LLOYD KOMESAR

The 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, the most devastating domestic terrorism attack in United States history, is explored in depth by director Marc Levin in this riveting film.



THU 8/22

7:15pm  
WILSON HALL,  
MCCULLOUGH  
STUDENT  
CENTER

## PLATOON

HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH OLIVER STONE

MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

Legendary Oscar-winning director Oliver Stone discusses the making of his epic Vietnam War drama, *Platoon*.

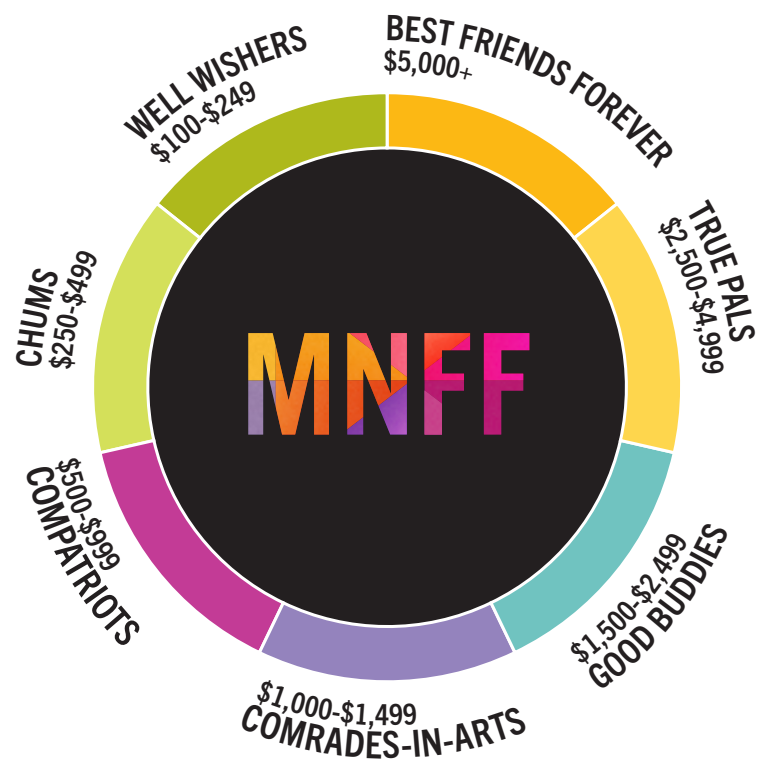
## MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL

THE MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL WARMLY WELCOMES ITS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CAITLIN BOYLE.



## SUPPORT MNFF

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VISIT [MIDDFILMFEST.ORG/DONATE-TO-MNFF](https://mddfilmfest.org/donate-to-mnff)

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## FESTIVAL EVENTS

THU 8/22



9pm  
AMERICAN  
FLATBREAD  
MIDDLEBURY  
HEARTH

### THURSDAY NIGHT PARTY

- PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. -

Marble Works, 137 Maple St | Wrap up Festival Thursday under the beautiful pavilion outside at American Flatbread with great food and beverages. Courtesy of MNFF Presenting Sponsor, IPJ Real Estate. Music by Noble Rot.

### AICEF FILMMAKER EXCHANGE

For the fourth 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.



FRI 8/23

11:30am  
TOWN HALL  
THEATER

### SCULPTING THE GIANT

WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING

Meet the director and the producer of the AICEF Prize-winning documentary *Sculpting the Giant*, who will share the U.S. Premiere of this exciting first feature. Q&A moderated by MNFF Producer Lloyd Komesar and AICEF Chairman Wayne Forrest.



FRI 8/23

2pm  
TOWN HALL  
THEATER

### NEW WAVE

WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING

Director and Producer Elizabeth Ai, MNFF's AICEF Prize winner, presents the Vermont Premiere of her revealing new documentary, *New Wave*. Q&A moderated by MNFF Producer Lloyd Komesar and AICEF Chairman Wayne Forrest.

# FESTIVAL EVENTS



FRI 8/23

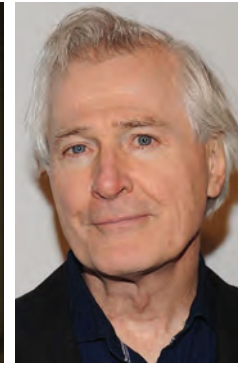
2pm  
DANA  
AUDITORIUM

## WEST SIDE STORY

### HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH PAUL TAZEWELL

MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

Oscar-nominated and acclaimed costume designer Paul Tazewell will discuss his gorgeous and celebrated costume designs from *West Side Story*, *Hamilton*, *Harriet* and *The Wiz Live!*



FRI 8/23

7:15pm  
TOWN HALL  
THEATER

## DOUBT

### HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY

MODERATED BY DAWN WAGNER

MNFF Honoree John Patrick Shanley discusses his Oscar-nominated film *Doubt*, based on his Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning play of the same name. The film stars Meryl Streep, the late Philip Seymour Hoffman and Viola Davis.



FRI 8/23

5pm  
EDGEWATER  
GALLERY ON  
THE GREEN

## FESTIVAL FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR

– PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –

6 Merchants Row | Enjoy the ambiance of Edgewater Gallery's lovely space along with food and delicious beverages from Eden Ciders and Shelburne Vineyard. Presented by MNFF Sponsor Edgewater Gallery. Music by Deep Think.



FRI 8/23

7:15pm  
TWILIGHT HALL

## THE UNTOLD HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES: CHAPTER 2 ROOSEVELT, TRUMAN AND WALLACE

### HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH OLIVER STONE

MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

MNFF Honoree Oliver Stone discusses his multi-part documentary that reexamines underreported events of American history.



FRI 8/23

5pm  
SHIRETOWN  
MARKETPLACE

## FILMMAKERS RECEPTION

– VISITING FILMMAKERS ONLY, PLEASE. –

54 College Street | An informal opportunity for filmmakers to meet and mingle in the beautifully renovated Shiretown Marketplace. Sponsored by Woodchuck Hard Cider.



FRI 8/23

9pm  
MIDDLEBURY INN  
MORGAN'S  
TAVERN

## FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY

– PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –

14 Court Square | Wrap up Festival Friday at the lively Morgan's Tavern at the historic Middlebury Inn with good food and great beverages. Presented by MNFF Sponsor Middlebury Inn.

# FESTIVAL EVENTS



SAT 8/24

11:30am  
TOWN HALL  
THEATER

## SIERRA LEONE'S REFUGEE ALL STARS

### HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH ANDY MITCHELL

MODERATED BY MNFF PRODUCER LLOYD KOMESAR

Director/Writer/Cinematographer Andy Mitchell relates the making of this film about courageous musicians who form a band in a West African refugee camp to keep their hopes alive.



SAT 8/24

FREE!

4pm  
MIDDLEBURY INN  
PATIO

## COFFEE WITH OLIVER STONE

HOSTED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

16 Court Square | Get up close and personal with legendary director and writer Oliver Stone as he talks filmmaking in this informal conversation at one of the town's most convivial outdoor spaces. [In the event of rain, the conversation will move indoors to the Founder's Room on the first floor of the Inn.]



SAT 8/24

11:30am  
TWILIGHT HALL

## THE HUNGRY HEART

### HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH BESS O'BRIEN

MODERATED BY MNFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CAITLIN BOYLE

Celebrated Vermont filmmaker Bess O'Brien discusses her game-changing and highly acclaimed documentary, *The Hungry Heart*.



SAT 8/24

5pm  
HENRY SHELDON  
MUSEUM - SMC  
HOSPITALITY  
TENT

## FESTIVAL SATURDAY HAPPY HOUR

- PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. -

1 Park Street | Enjoy tasty food and beverages from Two Brothers Tavern in a beautiful garden setting. Presented by MNFF Sponsor Silver Maple Construction.



SAT 8/24

2pm  
TOWN HALL  
THEATER

## MOONSTRUCK

### HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY

MODERATED BY JEREMY HOLM

MNFF Honoree John Patrick Shanley reveals how he created his Oscar-winning original screenplay for the immensely popular *Moonstruck*, starring Cher and Nicolas Cage.



SAT 8/24

7:15pm  
TOWN HALL  
THEATER

## WALL STREET

### HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH OLIVER STONE

MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

Following the screening of his scathing dissection of the American brokerage industry, MNFF Honoree Oliver Stone discusses the making of his multi Oscar-nominated feature, *Wall Street*.

# FESTIVAL EVENTS



**SAT 8/24**

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

## SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY

– PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –

51 Main St | Gather at one of the town's hottest spots for the vibrant Festival Saturday Night party with terrific food and beverages, presented by MNFF Sponsor Silver Maple Construction and hosted by Crooked Ladle and Everything Nice at 51 Main. Music by DJ Serena Kim.



**SUN 8/25**

**8:30am**  
**SHIRETOWN**  
**MARKETPLACE**

## FESTIVAL SUNDAY BREAKFAST

– PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –

54 College Street | The MNFF Board of Directors welcomes passholders to a first ever tasty Sunday breakfast at Festival Sponsor Shiretown Marketplace to usher in the final day of the Festival.



**SUN 8/25**

**10am**  
**TOWN HALL**  
**THEATER**

## JUST GETTING BY

### HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH BESS O'BRIEN

MODERATED BY MNFF PRODUCER LLOYD KOMESAR

Join MNFF Honoree Bess O'Brien for an insightful discussion of her new strongly-felt documentary *Just Getting By*, a look at the lives of Vermonters who are struggling with food and housing insecurity.



**SUN 8/25**

**FREE!**

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



## CLOSING CEREMONY: THE VTEDDY AWARDS

Join us for the joyful presentation of the VTeddy Awards celebrating our MNFF 10th Anniversary winners and Honorees!

## CLOSING NIGHT FILM: A NEW KIND OF WILDERNESS

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

In the Norwegian wilderness, a family seeks a wild and free existence but a tragic turn of events shatters their isolation, compelling them to adapt to the demands of contemporary society.

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# SCHEDULE WED 8/21

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

**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**WIL** WILSON HALL

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## 11:30am

<b>MQM</b>	The Unseen (3m)	Oasis (14m) ★	Nanitic (14m)	Sundial (65m)			
<b>MQS</b>	Black Box Diaries (102m)						
<b>TWI</b>	College Student Shorts: Showcase 1	It Came From Within (5m)	Drive to Freedom (6m) ■	Existential Action Thriller (11m) ■	Simmer (15m) ■	POV (15m)	The Act of Crying (18m)

## 2pm

<b>MQM</b>	The Flower Darkens (14m)	Sirin (87m)	
<b>MQS</b>	Curtain Call (16m)	Roses (15m)	That Breath (81m)
<b>TWI</b>	Tótem (95m)		

## DANA AUDITORIUM | 6:30pm, Doors Open 6pm - Opening Night Ticket Holders Only, Please - **OPENING NIGHT**

Introductions and remarks by Middlebury College President Laurie Patton, MNFF Producer Lloyd Komesar, MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven, new MNFF Executive Director Caitlin Boyle and others, followed by our Opening Night film.



### ***SUPER/MAN: THE CHRISTOPHER REEVE STORY***

Documentary | 106m | Actor Christopher Reeve rises to stardom when he lands the role of Superman in the 1970s. When a horse-riding accident leaves him paralyzed in 1995, Reeve spends the rest of his life searching for a cure for spinal cord injuries.

#### **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

**DIRECTED BY:** IAN BONHÔTE, PETER ETTEGUI  
**PRODUCED BY:** IAN BONHÔTE, ROBERT FORD, LIZZIE GILLET



### **9pm | PRESIDENT'S HOUSE OPENING NIGHT PARTY**

3 South Street | The festivities continue at the home of Middlebury College President Laurie Patton. Enjoy food, drink and music courtesy of Middlebury College. Music by the Dayve Hockett Duo.

# SCHEDULE THU 8/22

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

**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**WIL** WILSON HALL

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## 9am

<b>THT</b>	Merci, Poppy (15m)	Never Look Away (85m) ★
<b>MQM</b>	Ebb & Flow (18m) ■	Excursion (93m)
<b>DAN</b>	Finding the Money (92m)	
<b>TWI</b>	Tokyo Cowboy (118m)	

## 11:30am

<b>THT</b>	The Quilters (31m) ■	Threads of a Revolution (54m) ■		
<b>MQM</b>	The Well (15m) ■	Classmates (19m) ■	Summer's End (20m) ■	Babyboy (48m)
<b>DAN</b>	Autophagy (11m)	Demon Mineral (88m) ■		
<b>TWI</b>	War Pony (115m)			

## 2pm

<b>THT</b>	Spider-Zan (13m)	Mediha (91m) ■★		
<b>MQM</b>	Why Dogs Howl (5m) ■	Lumen (13m)	Him (80m) ■	
<b>DAN</b>	The Body Politic (91m) ■			
<b>TWI</b>	<b>FREE &amp; OPEN TO ALL</b>	Secrets of the Whales "Orca Dynasty" (49m) ■	Untamed Americas "Deserts" (46m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with Andy Mitchell

**WILSON HALL, MCCULLOUGH STUDENT CENTER  
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE**

SPECIAL EVENT | Vermont Symphony Orchestra Performance with the Final VSO  
Award winning film, The Cocoon

## 4-5pm

**LITTLE SEED COFFEE ROASTERS**

CONVERSATION | Kimson Albert – Creating a Successful Career in Animation. Joined by Animators Gennie Rim and John Kahrs

**JUICE AMOUR**

CONVERSATION | Sandrine Faucher Cassidy – Attending Film Festivals and Networking for Career Success

**TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY OFFICES**

PANEL DISCUSSION | The Evolving Role of Editors in Indie Filmmaking with Simeon Hutner

## 5-6pm

**HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM GARDEN - IPJ HOSPITALITY TENT**

FESTIVAL THURSDAY HAPPY HOUR  
- Passholders Only, Please -

## 7:15pm

<b>THT</b>	Death to the Bikini (17m)	Babes (104m)		
<b>MQM</b>	Witness (15m)	A Good Day Will Come (18m) ■★	Maestro (82m)	
<b>DAN</b>	An American Bombing: The Road to April 19th (107m) ■	RETURNING HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with Mark Levin		
<b>TWI</b>	Kings (11m)	Girls Will Be Girls (118m)		
<b>WIL</b>	Platoon (120m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with Oliver Stone		

## 9-11pm

**AMERICAN FLATBREAD MIDDLEBURY HEARTH**

THURSDAY NIGHT PARTY | Presented by IPJ Real Estate  
- Passholders Only, Please -

# SCHEDULE FRI 8/23

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

**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**WIL** WILSON HALL

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## 9am

<b>THT</b>	The Cage (4m)	How To Fill The Unfillable Hole Inside You (10m) ■	Holding Back the Tide (81m) ■
<b>MQM</b>	Hindsight (18m) ■	Yatra (27m) ■	Playing the Changes: Tracking Darius Brubeck (61m) ■
<b>DAN</b>	Have You Seen Her (15m)	Westermann: Memorial to the Idea of a Man If He Was an Idea (91m)	
<b>TWI</b>	Petal Fall (13m) ■★	The Lakekeeper (13m) ■	The Quietest Year (74m) ■★

## 11:30am

<b>THT</b>	Sculpting the Giant (87m) ■	SPECIAL EVENT   AICEF Filmmaker Screening with Director Rheza Arden Wiguna and Producer Maulana Aziz	
<b>MQM</b>	Garden High (11m) ■	Robert Shields: My Life as a Robot (87m) ■★	
<b>DAN</b>	Cicada (13m) ■	A Photographic Memory (87m) ■★	
<b>TWI</b>	Die Laughing (19m)	A Time To Yell: More Than A Statue (70m) ■	

## 2pm

<b>THT</b>	New Wave (89m) ■★	SPECIAL EVENT   AICEF Filmmaker Screening with Director Elizabeth Ai	
<b>MQM</b>	The Drummer (15m) ■	Garland Jeffreys: The King of In Between (71m)	
<b>DAN</b>	West Side Story (156m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with Paul Tazewell	
<b>TWI</b>	Such A Lovely Day (17m)	Join the Club (90m)	

## 5-6pm

<b>EDGEWATER GALLERY ON THE GREEN</b>	FESTIVAL FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR   Presented by Edgewater Gallery - Passholders Only, Please -		
<b>SHIRETOWN MARKETPLACE</b>	FILMMAKERS RECEPTION   Sponsored by Woodchuck Hard Cider - Visiting Filmmakers Only, Please -		

## 7:15pm

<b>THT</b>	Doubt (102m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with John Patrick Shanley	
<b>MQM</b>	Washed Up (11m) ■★	Not for Nothing (104m) ■	
<b>DAN</b>	Kowloon! (16m)	DRIVER (92m) ■	
<b>TWI</b>	The Untold History of the United States: Chapter 2 Roosevelt, Truman and Wallace ■	HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with Oliver Stone	

## 9-11pm

<b>MORGAN'S TAVERN, MIDDLEBURY INN</b>	FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY   Sponsored by Middlebury Inn - Passholders Only, Please -		
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# SCHEDULE SAT 8/24

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

**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**WIL** WILSON HALL

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## 9am

<b>THT</b>	Leaves of Three (6m) ■	Between Earth and Sky (25m)	Nocturnes (82m)
<b>MQM</b>	Things Long Left Unsaid (20m) ■	The In Between (83m)	
<b>DAN</b>	Broken Hearts (17m)	An Avocado Pit (20m)	Moi-Même (65m) ■
<b>TWI</b>	Home (20m) ■	Cherry (22m)	My Place Ozerna (59m) ■

## 11:30am

<b>THT</b>	Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars (78m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with Andy Mitchell	
<b>MQM</b>	By My Side (30m) ■★	Running for the Mountains (77m) ■★	
<b>DAN</b>	After the Deluge (14m) ■	Hangdog (92m) ■	HONOREE John Patrick Shanley will appear as Writer of After The Deluge
<b>TWI</b>	The Hungry Heart (84m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with Bess O'Brien	

## 2pm

<b>THT</b>	Moonstruck (102m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with John Patrick Shanley	
<b>MQM</b>	Fly Free (14m)	High Tide (101m)	
<b>DAN</b>	Los Frikis (111m) ■★		
<b>TWI</b>	Will You Remember Me? (13m) ■	Prodigal Daughter (90m) ■	

## 4-6pm

### MIDDLEBURY INN PATIO

In the case of rain, the event will move indoors to the Founder's Room

AFTERNOON CONVERSATION | Coffee with Oliver Stone

**FREE & OPEN TO ALL**

## 5-6pm

### HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM GARDEN - SMC HOSPITALITY TENT

FESTIVAL SATURDAY HAPPY HOUR | Presented by Silver Maple Construction  
 - Passholders Only, Please -

## 7:15pm

<b>THT</b>	Wall Street (126m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with Oliver Stone	
<b>MQM</b>	Start Them Young (14m) ■	Good One (90m)	
<b>DAN</b>	Suck It Up (9m)	Thelma (97m)	
<b>TWI</b>	The Corridor (9m)	The Settlers (97m)	

## 9-11pm

**51 MAIN** SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY | Presented by MNFF Sponsor Silver Maple Construction and hosted by Crooked Ladle and Everything Nice at 51 Main  
 - Passholders Only, Please -

# SCHEDULE SUN 8/25

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

**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**WIL** WILSON HALL

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## 8:30-10am

**SHIRETOWN MARKETPLACE**

FESTIVAL SUNDAY BREAKFAST | Hosted by MNFF Board of Directors  
 - Passholders Only, Please -

## 10am

<b>THT</b>	Just Getting By (90m) ■	HONOREE SCREENING   On-Stage Conversation with Bess O'Brien					
<b>MQM</b>	The Rite of Spring (16m) ■	Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano (87m)					
<b>MQS</b>	College Student Shorts: Showcase 2	Missing the Trailers (8m) ■	Dead Presidents (12m)	Canvas (15m) ■	Playground (16m) ■	The Lights Above (17m) ■	The Basics of Love (18m)

## 1pm

<b>THT</b>	Janet Planet (113m)						
<b>MQM</b>	Keepers (10m) ■	Porcelain War (87m) ■★					
<b>MQS</b>	Voy! Voy! Voy! (109m)						

## 4pm

<b>THT</b>	Roe (5m)	Sugarcane (107m)					
<b>MQM</b>	Torn (17m) ■	The Caravan (77m)					
<b>MQS</b>	Terrestrial Verses (77m) Presented by Vermont International Film Festival (VTIFF) and hosted by VTIFF Executive Director Steve MacQueen						

## TOWN HALL THEATER | 6:30pm, Doors Open 6pm CLOSING NIGHT

**FREE & OPEN TO ALL**

### CLOSING CEREMONY: THE VTEDDY AWARDS

Join us for the joyful presentation of the VTeddy Awards celebrating our MNFF 10th Anniversary winners and Honorees!

**FREE & OPEN TO ALL**

### 7:30pm

### A NEW KIND OF WILDERNESS

Documentary | 84m | In the Norwegian wilderness, a family seeks a wild and free existence but a tragic turn of events shatters their isolation, compelling them to adapt to the demands of contemporary society.

**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

DIRECTED BY: SILJE EVENSMO JACOBSEN

PRODUCED BY: MARI BAKKE RISE





## KAREN ALLEN

Karen Allen is an award winning film and theatre director and actor working in NYC and western Massachusetts.

She is currently working on the film version of playwright Joan Ackermann's play *The Batting Cage* which she will direct in 2025. Karen is on the Board of the Berkshire International Film Festival.



## SANDRINE FAUCHER CASSIDY

Sandrine Faucher Cassidy is the Senior Director of Festival, Distribution & Talent

Development at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. She advises students and alumni on festival strategies for their student films and independent features and on reaching their career goals. She is responsible for licensing of the large catalogue of USC shorts.



## JONATHAN CAVALERRO

Jonathan J. Cavallerro is Professor of Rhetoric, Film, and Screen Studies at Bates College and the Founding Director

of the Bates Film Festival. He has published two books: *Hollywood's Italian American Filmmakers* (2011) and *Television Directors, Race, and Gender* (2024). He lives in Yarmouth, Maine with his family.



## ABIGAIL DISNEY

Abigail E. Disney is a documentary filmmaker who advocates for real changes to the way capitalism operates in

today's world. As a philanthropist and social activist, she has worked with organizations supporting peacebuilding, gender justice and systemic cultural change. Her 2015 documentary, *The Armor of Light*, won an Emmy award and she has produced over 100 films, many of which have screened at MNFF.



## LANCE EDMANDS

Lance is a writer, director and editor from Brooklyn. He was born and raised on the coast of Maine and graduated from NYU Tisch School of the

Arts. His first feature film as writer/director,

*Bluebird*, starring John Slattery, Amy Morton and Adam Driver, premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and was released theatrically. Most recently, Lance edited the feature film *Sanctuary*, as well as the second season of *The Jinx* for HBO Max which brought him an Emmy nomination.



## ERIC FORD

Eric Ford is the Director of Content Partnership at Vermont Public and has produced and hosted the independent

documentary film series *Made Here* since 2016. Ford was also the co-founder of the Burlington Film Society. Eric lives in Westford, Vermont with his wife and daughter.



## MILTON GUILLEN

Milton Guillén is a visual artist, filmmaker and the senior programmer for the Camden International Film

Festival/Points North Institute. Milton's work explores the cinematic intersections of radical collaborative non-fictions and political dreamscapes, focusing on themes transversing human rights and aesthetics. Milton's films and installations have screened globally at CPH:DOX, Hot Docs, True/False and several dozens of festivals and venues around the world.



## BARBARA KOPPLE

Barbara Kopple is a two-time Academy Award-winning and ten-time Emmy-nominated filmmaker,

receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 44th Annual News and Documentary Emmy Awards in 2023. She has directed and produced more than fifty films throughout her career, including her most recent documentary, *Gumbo Coalition*, which follows civil rights leaders Marc Morial and Janet Murguía during a pivotal time in American history.



## MARC LEVIN

Marc Levin is a fiercely independent and fearless filmmaker. He has won most of the industry's top awards,

including four Emmys and four duPont-Columbia Awards. His 1988 narrative feature film, *SLAM*, won the Grand Jury Prize at the

Sundance Film Festival and the Camera D'Or at Cannes. He recently directed *An American Bombing: The Road to April 19th* about the surge in political violence through the story of the Oklahoma City bombing.



## STEFAN NOWICKI

Stefan works as a creative producer in all stages of the filmmaking process, from development through

distribution, for both documentary and feature films. His credits include *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*, *Obvious Child*, *Youth In Oregon* and *Amazing Grace: Aretha Franklin*.



## DIANE QUON

Academy Award-nominated, Diane Quon has produced multiple documentaries including: Oscar and

Emmy nominated and Peabody award-winning, *Minding the Gap* (Hulu, POV); Emmy-nominated *Finding Yingying* (MTVDOCS); *AKA Mr. Chow* (HBO); Emmy-nominated *Wuhan Wuhan* (POV) and Oscar-shortlisted *Bad Axe* (IFC Films). Diane is an AMPAS member and proud mother of four.



## LISANNE SARTOR

Lisanne Sartor is an award-winning writer/director whose short films have screened at hundreds of

worldwide festivals. An alumna of the AFI DWW, and Yaddo, Hedgebrook, Storyknife, Ragdale and Gulkistan residencies, she has a UCLA Screenwriting MFA, has had an original screenplay air on Lifetime, taught screenwriting at UCLA, Stephens MFA, Disney Launchpad and the AFI DWW, and worked with The CineStory Foundation for over twenty years.



## IOANA URICARU

Ioana is a filmmaker and film scholar. Her work has been included in the Official Selections at the Cannes, Sundance,

Berlin, Tribeca and AFI film festivals. She was awarded for Best Film at several festivals, along with Best Directing at the Heart of Sarajevo and an Independent Spirit Award nomination. Her portfolio includes *Tales from the Golden Age* (2009) and *Lemonade* (2018). She is a Guggenheim Fellow.

# MNFF STAFF



## LLOYD KOMESAR PRODUCER

Lloyd spent nearly 30 years as a sales, research and distribution exec in the film and television programming industry, including a 25 year run 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 has brought a considerable amount of perspective and insight to the MNFF endeavor. Following MNFF10, he will be stepping down from his position as Festival Producer and thanks everyone for their incredible support over the years.



## JAY CRAVEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jay is an independent filmmaker with 11 narrative 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).



## HANNA LOEFFLER ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Formerly from Germany and now a Middlebury local, Hanna is the managing partner of Adagio Chocolates and an organizational leadership professional. When she's not working at MNFF or the chocolate shop, she's collaborating with other businesses as a freelance consultant. In her free time, she sings, gardens and hikes.



## SIMEON HUTNER SENIOR PROGRAMMER

Simeon Hutner has been editing documentaries for over 30 years, and several have screened at MNFF. He is currently co-editing a feature documentary directed by Ivy Meeropol about E. Jean Carroll and recently finished editing Heidi Levitt's documentary *Walk With Me*. He has an MFA from USC and a BA from Middlebury College.



## REGAN O'BRIEN PRODUCTION INTERN

Regan O'Brien is a rising senior at the University of Vermont studying Film and Philosophy. She is originally from Concord, New Hampshire and enjoys lemon water, copy editing, film editing, Super Mario and physical DVDs complete with Director's Commentary.



## MORIAH THOMPSON PRODUCTION INTERN

Moriah Thompson is a rising senior at Middlebury College from Brooklyn, New York, studying Film and Theatre. When she's not writing, you can find her dancing or watching her favorite series *Insecure* by Issa Rae. Or, she may be immersed in a search for her favorite things on Amazon, like the blender she just bought.



## FRANCESCA MEDEIROS PRODUCTION INTERN

Francesca "Cesca" Medeiros is a rising senior at Middlebury College from Miami, Florida. She is a History major, and a recently converted Film minor. In her free time, she plunges down Wikipedia rabbit holes, explains that Miami is not really Florida, and writes, produces and acts for the College sketch comedy group.



## JOSÉ ANTONIO HERNÁNDEZ MORALES VIDEOGRAPHY INTERN

José Antonio Hernández Morales, or "Toño", is a rising junior at Middlebury College from Monterrey, Mexico. He is a Film and Media Culture & Chinese Studies joint-major. Since seeing his mother cry because of a cartoon, he has embraced the idea that fictional reality can touch actual reality.



## VERONICA HULBERT VIDEOGRAPHY INTERN

Veronica Hulbert is a rising senior at the University of Vermont studying Community Development & Applied Economics, and pursuing a minor in Film and Chinese. She was raised overseas and never had cable television. Therefore, she is still catching up on some old classics, but still knows the first 50 minutes of dialogue to her favorite movie, *The Goonies*.

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<b>Beautyrest.</b>	Twin XL Set...\$2629
<b>BLACK™</b>	Full Set.....\$2929
<b>SERIES 2™</b>	Queen Set.....\$3099
<b>FIRM</b>	King Set.....\$3899

<b>Beautyrest.</b>	Twin Set.....\$2599
<b>BLACK™</b>	Full Set.....\$2899
<b>SERIES 2™</b>	Queen Set.....\$3099
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<b>Beautyrest.</b>	Twin XL Set...\$2599
<b>BLACK™</b>	Full Set.....\$2899
<b>SERIES 3™</b>	Queen Set.....\$3199
<b>MEDIUM</b>	King Set.....\$4199



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## Morgan's Tavern

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Locally sourced ingredients, spirits, wines & beers.  
A historically memorable dining experience.



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Monday - Friday 7:30am - 10am
<b>Lunch:</b>
Monday - Friday 11am - 2pm
<b>Brunch:</b>
Saturday - Sunday 8am - 2pm
<b>Dinner:</b>
Tuesday - Saturday 5:30pm - 8:30pm

All MNFF pass holders receive 10% off meals\* – just show your pass to your server.

Proud sponsors of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival! \*excludes alcohol



## Hooked on Rugs Silent Auction

All bidding to take place in-person at the Museum or by calling 802-388-2117.

Now through -  
Saturday, August 31st, 2024

### CURRENT EXHIBITS AT THE SHELDON



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Fashion in  
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# FILMS A-Z

BROWSE THE FEATURE AND SHORT FILMS THAT WILL BE SCREENED AT THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL.

- INDICATES FILMMAKER SCHEDULED TO ATTEND THE FESTIVAL
- INDICATES FEATURE FILM
- 🕒 INDICATES SHORT FILM

WATCH TRAILERS AT [mddfilmfest.org/2024-films](http://mddfilmfest.org/2024-films)

### WINNER: BEST NARRATIVE SHORT

#### A Good Day Will Come



THU 8/22  
7:15pm  
MQM  
🕒 18m

Arash is a professional wrestler with dreams of representing his country and winning gold medals. The country is in turmoil and its people are suffering. Arash must decide between using his platform to stand up to tyranny, or put his head down and remain silent.

Narrative  
Directed by: Amir Zargara ■  
Produced by: Iman Tahsin, Amir Zargara

Canada  
Persian (English subtitles)  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

### CLOSING NIGHT FILM

#### A New Kind of Wilderness



SUN 8/25  
7:30pm  
THT  
● 84m  
**FREE!**

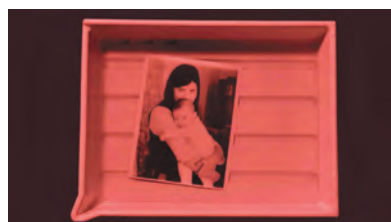
In the Norwegian wilderness, a family seeks a wild and free existence but a tragic turn of events shatters their isolation, compelling them to adapt to the demands of contemporary society.

Documentary  
Directed by: Silje Evensmo Jacobsen  
Produced by: Mari Bakke Rise

Norway  
Norwegian (English subtitles)  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

### WINNER: RALPH STEINER PRIZE FOR POETIC CINEMA

#### A Photographic Memory



FRI 8/23  
11:30am  
DAN  
● 87m

*A Photographic Memory* is an intimate, genre-bending portrait of a daughter's attempt to piece together a portrait of her mother, an avant-garde journalist and a woman she never knew. Uncovering the vast archive Sheila Turner-Seed produced, including lost interviews with iconic photographers Henri Cartier-Bresson, Gordon Parks, Cecil Beaton, Lisette Model and others, the film explores memory, legacy and stories left untold.

Documentary  
Directed by: Rachel Elizabeth Seed ■  
Produced by: Rachel Elizabeth Seed, Sigrid Dyekjær, Beth Levison, Matt Perniciaro, Michael Sherman, Danielle Varga

United States  
English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

#### A Time To Yell: More Than a Statue



FRI 8/23  
11:30am  
TWI  
● 70m

We all witnessed the violence and despicable rhetoric that culminated in the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville in 2017. This is the untold story from a man who was the catalyst for these monumental events. Through the lens of Dr. Wes Bellamy and his community, the film tells the story of what transpired in exploring the history behind this racially motivated attack and one of the most politically divisive conflicts in modern American history.

Documentary  
Directed by: Eric W. Newman, Daniel B. Levin ■  
Produced by: Daryl Davis, Eric W. Newman, Daniel B. Levin, Marvin Arrington, Angela Rye, Ian Swain, Charlotte Duckworth, Jay "Jeezy" Jenkins

United States  
English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

#### The Act of Crying



WED 8/21  
11:30am  
TWI  
🕒 18m

A Chinese man who can't cry works with an acting coach for an upcoming "project". [A part of the MNFF10 College Student Shorts Showcase 1.]

Narrative  
Directed by: Xiayang Li  
Produced by: Zizheng Liu, Adam Bloodgood

United States  
English  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

## After the Deluge



SAT 8/24  
11:30am  
DAN  
● 14m

A year into the Covid-19 pandemic, Sharka, a scrappy expressionistic painter, finds respite from the isolation of her small apartment on a park bench, where she stations herself to paint. When Bridget, a self-possessed lone traveler encroaches, angry sparks fly until the two find unexpected common ground. [MNFF Honoree John Patrick Shanley will attend the screening and participate in the Q&A.]

Narrative  
Directed by: Tara Young ■  
Written by: John Patrick Shanley ■ **WORLD PREMIERE**  
Produced by: Charlotte Hornsby, Ashley George, Beth Levison, Nikhil Melnechuk

United States  
English

## An American Bombing: The Road to April 19th



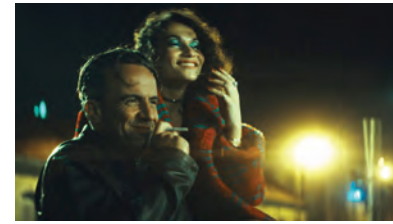
THU 8/22  
7:15pm  
DAN  
● 107m

On April 19, 1995, the Oklahoma City bombing became the deadliest act of homegrown terrorism against the government in U.S. history. *An American Bombing: The Road to April 19th* examines the details of that day, the experiences of the people there, the hunt for the perpetrators, the pivotal moments of the trials, and its effects still felt today.

Documentary  
Directed by: Marc Levin ■  
Produced by: Marc Levin, Mahrya MacIntire, Daphne Pinkerson

United States  
English

## An Avocado Pit



SAT 8/24  
9am  
DAN  
● 20m

Larissa, a trans woman and Cláudio, a cis man, meet one night, in the streets of Lisbon. Two people, two realities, who dance their differences away till morning light. In challenge, in surprise, in awe and in recognition, this is an empowering story, free from violence and filled with light and hope for the better days yet to come.

Narrative  
Directed by: Ary Zara  
Produced by: Andreia Nunes

Portugal  
Portuguese (English subtitles)  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Autophagy



THU 8/22  
11:30am  
DAN  
● 11m

A waterborne disease ravages a town, the affliction slowly morphing many of its residents into octopi. With the societal hatred towards those suffering building, a couple has a limited choice: afford the medication to carry on living, or drink the water and suffer being shunned.

Animation  
Directed by: Edie Lawrence  
Produced by: Milly Riley

United Kingdom  
English  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

## Babes



THU 8/22  
7:15pm  
THT  
● 104m

*Babes* follows inseparable childhood friends Eden (Ilana Glazer) and Dawn (Michelle Buteau), having grown up together in NYC, now firmly in different phases of adulthood. When carefree and single Eden decides to have a baby on her own after a one-night stand, their friendship faces its greatest challenge. *Babes* delves into the complexities of female friendship with a blend of laughter, tears and labor pains.

Narrative  
Directed by: Pamela Adlon  
Produced by: Ashley Fox, Susie Fox, Ilana Glazer, Breean Pojunas, Josh Rabinowitz

United States  
English

## Babyboy



THU 8/22  
11:30am  
MQM  
● 48m

Vincent is 16 and aspires to achieve everything that makes a boy a man: moving out of his mother's house, finding acceptance among the boys on his football team, and sleeping with his girlfriend. But between his first love and the divorce of his parents, lies Vincent's longing to feel at home again.

Narrative  
Directed by: Jannik Weiße  
Produced by: Helena Zeppenfeldt, Mareike Mössner, Bernhard Strobel

Germany  
German (English subtitles)  
**U.S. PREMIERE**

## The Basics of Love



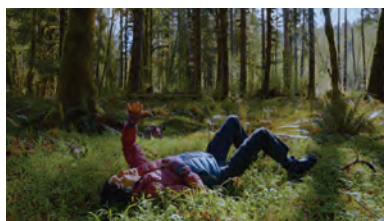
SUN 8/25  
10am  
MQS  
● 18m

After stumbling into an armed robbery on New Year's Eve, two sanitation workers are caught off-guard by feelings for one another that they didn't realize they had. [A part of the MNFF10 College Student Shorts Showcase 2.]

Narrative  
Directed by: Joshua Nathan  
Produced by: Xixian Wang

United States  
English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Between Earth & Sky



SAT 8/24  
9am  
THT  
● 25m

For her entire professional life, renowned ecologist Nalini Nadkarni pioneered climbing techniques to study "what grows back" after an ecological disturbance in the rainforest canopy. Now, after surviving a life-threatening fall from a tree, she must turn her research question onto herself in order to understand the effects of disturbance and recovery throughout her life.

Documentary  
Directed by: Andrew Nadkarni  
Produced by: Swetha Regunathan, Katie Schiller, Andrew Nadkarni

United States  
English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Black Box Diaries



WED 8/21  
11:30am  
MQS  
● 102m

Journalist Shiori Ito investigates her own sexual assault, seeking to prosecute the high-profile offender. Her quest becomes a landmark case, exposing Japan's outdated judicial and societal systems.

Documentary  
Directed by: Shiori Ito  
Produced by: Shiori Ito, Hann Aqvilin, Eric Nyari

Japan  
Japanese (English subtitles)  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

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**WIL** WILSON HALL

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## THE BODY POLITIC



THU 8/22  
 2pm  
 DAN  
 ● 91m

*THE BODY POLITIC* follows Baltimore's idealistic young mayor into office where he puts his personal and political future on the line to save his beloved city from chronic violence.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Gabriel Francis Paz Goodenough ■  
 Produced by: Dawne Langford, John Benam  
 United States  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Broken Hearts



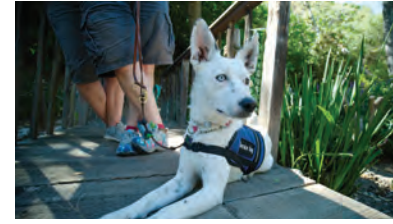
SAT 8/24  
 9am  
 DAN  
 ● 17m

Chloe, a regular at the Broken Hearts hospital and a desperate romantic, is back again after yet another romantic mishap. This time, Dr. Love agrees to prescribe her a rebound – the love-cynical Charlie, who's here on his first visit. They must undergo the treatment together, regardless of their clashing beliefs.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Julie Magnaudet  
 Produced by: Nathan M. Legger  
 United Kingdom  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

**WINNER: KATE HEARST PRIZE FOR HUMAN CONNECTIVITY**

## By My Side



SAT 8/24  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 30m

Three veterans and their families bravely share their pain, fear, and the difficult realization that they've lost time and love that they may never get back again. All three found hope where no one had looked — in the heart of a faithful service dog.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Vicki Topaz, Wynn Padula ■  
 Produced by: Vicki Topaz, Michael Collins  
 United States  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## The Cage

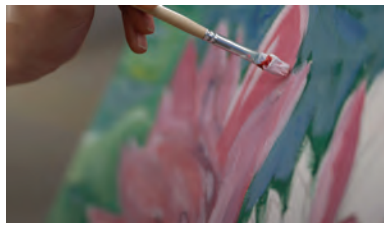


FRI 8/23  
 9am  
 THT  
 ● 4m

In a city, everyone has a cage on their head, until one person realizes this by accident and wants to make others aware.

Animation  
 Directed by: Hamideh Motavali Zadeh  
 Produced by: Hamideh Motavali Zadeh  
 Iran  
 (No dialogue)  
**U.S. PREMIERE**

## Canvas



SUN 8/25  
 10am  
 MQS  
 ● 15m

A young painter is forced to reconcile with repressed trauma in a journey through her own memories. [A part of the MNFF10 College Student Shorts Showcase 2.]

Narrative  
 Directed by: Naomi Clark ■  
 Produced by: Bella Morales  
 United States  
 English  
**U.S. PREMIERE**

## The Caravan



SUN 8/25  
 4pm  
 MQM  
 ● 77m

Directors Núria Clavero and Aitor Palacios humanize the political debate around border control through the story of one family's quest for a better life. The camera follows pregnant Yuri, her partner, Mike, and young son, Santi, as they flee Honduras, capturing the nuances of why they undertook this perilous trek.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Núria Clavero, Aitor Palacios  
 Produced by: Erik Mariñelarena, Núria Clavero, Aitor Palacios  
 Mexico  
 Spanish (English subtitles)  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Cherry

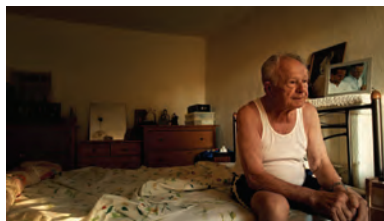


SAT 8/24  
 9am  
 TWI  
 ● 22m

A portrait of Marie-Lise Chouinard, a beautiful and radiant woman imbued with contagious liveliness. Experience an intimate encounter with Marie-Lise through a wishlist of activities of her own. *Cherry* is the epitome of resilience, friendship and hope.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Laurence Gagné-Frégeau  
 Produced by: Laurence Gagné-Frégeau  
 Canada  
 English, French (English subtitles)  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Cicada



FRI 8/23  
 11:30am  
 DAN  
 ● 13m

After losing his wife, Papou reconciles with a changed sense of belonging as he returns to his home village without her.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Matteo Moretti ■  
 Produced by: Matteo Moretti  
 United States  
 English, Greek (English subtitles)

## Classmates



THU 8/22  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 19m

An apathetic teenager is dropped off on the outskirts of town to work on a project with the school outcast. The two boys form an unlikely connection, but not without consequences.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Major Dorfman ■  
 Produced by: Grace Merriman  
 United States  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

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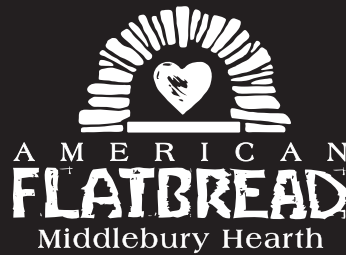
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■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## The Corridor

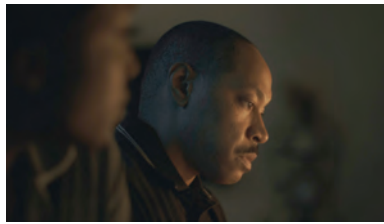


SAT 8/24  
 7:15pm  
 TWI  
 ● 9m

A body that is completely disjointed is trying to put its pieces back together. On this path, it succeeds in creating a collage of itself.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Kourosh Mohammadi  
 Produced by: 33Projects  
 Iran  
 (No dialogue)  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Curtain Call



WED 8/21  
 2pm  
 MQS  
 ● 16m

Luke runs into an old flame, Eric, from his previous life of performing in musical theater. Comparing how both moved on, Luke reveals that Eric was his first and only same-sex relationship. At home with his wife and child, we see remnants of his inner heartbreak.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Malynda Hale  
 Produced by: Danielle Beckmann  
 United States  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano



SUN 8/25  
 10am  
 MQM  
 ● 87m

In the aftermath of the catastrophic explosion of August 4th, 2020 in Beirut, a film crew is facing a serious dilemma: should they defy the chaos and move forward with the shooting of their film or surrender to the multiple crises that are spreading all over the country? *Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano* captures their relentless battle to keep making cinema in a shattered city.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Cyril Aris  
 Produced by: Katharina Weser, Myriam Sassine, Mounia Akl  
 Germany, Lebanon  
 English, Arabic, French (English subtitles)  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Dead Presidents



SUN 8/25  
 10am  
 MQS  
 ● 12m

With no plan and packing iron, stoner brothers Mark and Chris rob a bank to fund their pilgrimage to the land of beers, boobs and bud. [A part of the MNFF10 College Student Shorts Showcase 2.]

Narrative  
 Directed by: Ryan Lilienfield  
 Produced by: Gabrielle Chapman  
 United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Death to the Bikini



THU 8/22  
 7:15pm  
 THT  
 ● 17m

Lili, a spirited 10 year old, rebels when her parents force her to wear a bikini top, even though she has always gone swimming topless.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Justine Gauthier  
 Produced by: Léonie Hurtubise  
 Canada  
 French (English subtitles)  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Demon Mineral



THU 8/22  
 11:30am  
 DAN  
 ● 88m

*Demon Mineral* documents the indigenous struggle for vital living space in the radioactive desert of the American Southwest. Spanning the breadth of the Navajo Nation, in a landscape perforated by abandoned uranium mines, the film unearths the thousand-years-long project of reclaiming sacred homeland.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Hadley Austin  
 Produced by: Nevo Shinaar, Emma Robbins  
 United States  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Die Laughing



FRI 8/23  
 11:30am  
 TWI  
 ● 19m

A documentary short that illuminates the power of comedy, and the lengths comedians will go to inspire laughter while expressing the truth — where freedom of expression is a literal fight for freedom.

Documentary  
 Directed by: JL Pomeroy, Tom Broecker  
 Produced by: JL Pomeroy, Tom Broecker  
 United States  
 English, Arabic (English subtitles)  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Doubt



FRI 8/23  
 7:15pm  
 THT  
 ● 104m

In 1964, a Catholic school nun questions a priest's ambiguous relationship with a troubled young student, suspecting him of abuse. He denies the charges, and much of the film's quick-fire dialogue tackles themes of religion, morality and authority.

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

Narrative  
 Directed by: John Patrick Shanley  
 Produced by: Scott Rudin  
 United States  
 English

## Drive to Freedom



WED 8/21  
 11:30am  
 TWI  
 ● 6m

Driving has been promised to lead to freedom and autonomy. But for whom? This experimental documentary delves into Roosevelt Boulevard in Northeast Philadelphia — one of the U.S. interstate highways with the most traffic and the highest number of pedestrian fatalities — uncovering the impact of a driver-centric landscape on people's feelings about their bodies. [A part of the MNFF10 College Student Shorts Showcase 1.]

Documentary, Experimental  
 Directed by: Yuqin Wu  
 Produced by: Yuqin Wu  
 United States  
 (No dialogue)  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

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**WIL** WILSON HALL

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## DRIVER



FRI 8/23  
 7:15pm  
 DAN  
 ● 92m

After losing everything, Desiree Wood takes a second lease on life as a long-haul truck driver. Alongside an irreverent group of women drivers, she fights for a life on the road.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Nesa Azimi ■  
 Produced by: Nesa Azimi, Ines Hoffman Kanna and Nicolas Borel  
 United States  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## The Drummer



FRI 8/23  
 2pm  
 MQM  
 ⌚ 15m

Cuban drummer Elvis García reflects on his journey from Havana to Miami, struggling to make his way in the American city as a professional musician.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Amalie Seyffert ■  
 Produced by: Ivette Valdes Rivero  
 United States  
 English, Spanish (English subtitles)  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Ebb & Flow



THU 8/22  
 9am  
 MQM  
 ⌚ 18m

Determined to have her first kiss, Loulwa defies her tumultuous world in search of normalcy. As she braves through Beirut in pursuit of her sexual awakening, she finds herself taking an instant leap into adulthood as her world erupts into a redefined "normal".

Narrative  
 Directed by: Nay Tabbara ■  
 Produced by: Isabelle Mecattaf  
 Lebanon  
 Arabic (English subtitles)  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Excursion



THU 8/22  
 9am  
 MQM  
 ● 93m

If once teenage sexuality was an unexplored secret, in the days of social media and relentless sharing, it's something experienced almost publicly and often distorted. In Sarajevo, a high school girl, caught in a game of truth or dare, fabricates a lie about having had sex with her boyfriend. Trapped in this web of deceit, she is forced to invent a pregnancy with unforeseen consequences.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Una Gunjak  
 Produced by: Amra Bakšić Čamo, Adis Đapo  
 Bosnia, Herzegovina  
 Bosnian (English subtitles)  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Existential Action Thriller



WED 8/21  
 11:30am  
 TWI  
 ⌚ 11m

A documentary about the artist Heidi Schwegler. Faced with a crisis in her art practice, Schwegler leaves for unfamiliar settings, and begins to see her surroundings in new ways. [A part of the MNFF10 College Student Shorts Showcase 1.]

Documentary  
 Directed by: Stephen Funk ■  
 Produced by: Stephen Funk  
 United States  
 English  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

## Finding the Money



THU 8/22  
 9am  
 DAN  
 ● 92m

*Finding the Money* follows American economist and academic Stephanie Kelton on her journey to reframe the national debt debate. By introducing the public to an economic concept called Modern Monetary Theory, or MMT, Kelton shares how democracies around the world can fight the biggest challenges of the 21st century.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Maren Poitras  
 Produced by: Maren Poitras, Marc Smolowitz  
 United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## The Flower Darkens

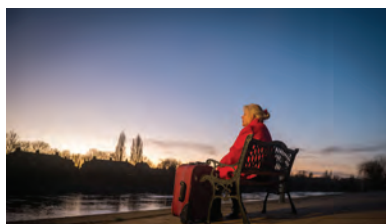


WED 8/21  
 2pm  
 MQM  
 ⌚ 14m

Alice, a graduating high school student, is unsure about all aspects of her future. Uncertain about her own talent and ambition, she seeks comfort from her mother, as well as her good friend Julien and the beautiful music he composes. This morning, during class, news will be delivered by the principal. This news will mark the start of a complex relationship between Alice and absent grief.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Philippe Berthelet  
 Produced by: Danielle Horne  
 Canada  
 French (English subtitles)

## Fly Free



SAT 8/24  
 2pm  
 MQM  
 ⌚ 14m

Eighty-year-old Mary blows her life savings on a sports car, but can she convince her controlling daughter, Fiona, to "fly free"? Fiona sells her mother's old car, essentially trapping her at home. A shiny red sports car and its promised new adventures call to Mary, that is, until Fiona arrives home – and staunchly disapproves of the car. Mary knows they are both imprisoned and that it is ultimately her job to lead them towards freedom.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Ann Hawker  
 Produced by: Shelagh McLeod  
 United Kingdom  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Garden High



FRI 8/23  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ⌚ 11m

*Garden High* is a meditative journey into the magically surreal world of a backyard community garden in Miami, Florida.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Jayme Kaye Gershen ■  
 Produced by: Verena Faden, Fabiola Rodriguez  
 United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

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■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## Garland Jeffreys: The King of In Between



FRI 8/23  
 2pm  
 MQM  
 ● 71m

Hubris, anger, prejudice, and a blend of doo-wop, reggae, and rock define Garland Jeffreys' fifty-year career. This documentary explores why his name evokes either obscurity or reverence. Featuring insights from Laurie Anderson, Harvey Keitel, Bruce Springsteen and others, the film delves into Jeffreys' transformative journey through the music industry's highs and lows. Critics contextualize his artistry, while Jeffreys and his wife provide candid reflections. A poignant tale ends with Jeffreys finding contentment, despite never achieving widespread fame.

Documentary United States  
 Directed by: Claire Jeffreys English  
 Produced by: Claire Jeffreys, Evan M. Johnson **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Girls Will Be Girls



THU 8/22  
 7:15pm  
 TWI  
 ● 118m

In a strict boarding school nestled in the Himalayas, 16-year-old Mira discovers desire and romance, but her sexual, rebellious awakening is disrupted by her mother who never got to come-of-age herself.

Narrative India  
 Directed by: Shuchi Talati English, Hindi  
 Produced by: Richa Chadha, Claire Chassagne, Shuchi Talati (English subtitles) **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Good One



SAT 8/24  
 7:15pm  
 MQM  
 ● 90m

During a weekend backpacking trip in the Catskills, 17-year-old Sam navigates the clash of egos between her father and his oldest friend.

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: India Donaldson English  
 Produced by: Graham Mason, Diana Irvine, Wilson Cameron, India Donaldson, Breanne Thomas, Sabina Friedman-Seitz **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Hangdog



SAT 8/24  
 11:30am  
 DAN  
 ● 92m

Anxiety-riddled Walt embarks on a comic odyssey through Portland, Maine to retrieve his stolen dog before his girlfriend, Wendy, returns from her business trip, lest he risk losing them both. Along the way, his encounters with eccentric locals Marianne and Brent force him to confront his insecurities and embrace human connection.

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Matt Cascella ■ English  
 Produced by: Patrick White, Desmin Borges, Matt Cascella, Alyssa Roehrenbeck **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Have You Seen Her



FRI 8/23  
 9am  
 DAN  
 ☉ 15m

Set on a rugged Arctic island where the sun sets for two months each winter, this film uses strikingly artistic imagery to investigate our relationship to the cycles of nature. It points an explorative lens at a remote community, whose inhabitants know exactly at what place, on what day, and at what time they can see the sun again for the first time— after the darkness of the polar night.

Documentary Norway  
 Directed by: Astrid Ardagh Norwegian (English subtitles)  
 Produced by: Rhian Collings **U.S. PREMIERE**

## High Tide

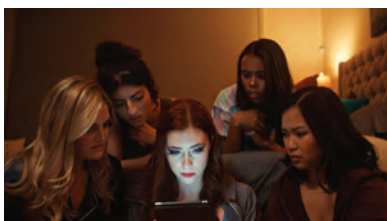


SAT 8/24  
 2pm  
 MQM  
 ● 101m

Heartbroken and adrift, undocumented Brazilian immigrant Lourenço searches for purpose in the queer mecca of Provincetown. As the summer season comes to a fade, he sparks an intense and unexpected romance with Maurice. Together, the two reconcile the pasts they've left behind and their uncertain futures.

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Marco Calvani English, Portuguese  
 Produced by: Pete Shilaimon, Mickey Liddell (English subtitles) **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Him



THU 8/22  
 2pm  
 MQM  
 ● 80m

The final five contestants on a reality dating show face manipulative producers, the fear of being alone forever, and their suitor's deceitful nature. Sequestered in a remote villa, these former competitors must band together to assert their self-worth over their suitor and the show's producers who manipulated them into falling in love.

Narrative United States  
 Director: Rebecca Wahls ■ English  
 Producer: Rebecca Wahls, Tess Higgins **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Hindsight



FRI 8/23  
 9am  
 MQM  
 ☉ 18m

A look at the fragility of our roots, the impermanence of our cultures, and the transience of our freedoms through the lens of a traveling VHS camera in the late 1990s. Hindsight offers a visual meditation on the memories of two young Ukrainians emerging from the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Documentary Ukraine  
 Directed by: Max Rykov ■ English, Russian, Ukrainian (English subtitles) **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Holding Back the Tide



FRI 8/23  
 9am  
 THT  
 ● 81m

This impressionist hybrid documentary traces the oyster through its many life cycles in New York, once the world's oyster capital. Now their specter haunts the city through queer characters embodying ancient myth, discovering the overlooked history and biology of the bivalve that built the city. As environmentalists restore them to the harbor, *Holding Back The Tide* looks to the oyster as a queer icon, entangled with nature, with much to teach about our continued survival.

Documentary United States  
 Director: Emily Packer ■ English  
 Producer: Ben Still, Trey Tetreault, Josh Margolis, Julia Lewis, Liz Beeson **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**



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## Home



SAT 8/24  
 9am  
 TWI  
 ● 20m

Brandie, a nurse of 20 years and a single mom, returns to her hometown during the pandemic but cannot find an affordable place to live. With a poor credit score, she is ultimately forced to move to an extended-stay hotel. Working two jobs and raising her kids, she dreams of buying a place of her own. Brandie's journey of becoming a homeowner offers an intimate look at motherhood and redefines the meaning of home.

Documentary United States  
 Directed by: Beatričė Bankauskaitė ■ English  
 Produced by: Robert Greene, Sebastián Martínez Valdivia, Sean Frost VERMONT PREMIERE

## How To Fill The Unfillable Hole Inside You



FRI 8/23  
 9am  
 THT  
 ● 10m

Four strangers explore the complexity of their deepest emotions through the lens of comfort foods.

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Dave Canning English  
 Produced by: Collin Meath, Benjamin Thompson, Lianne Becker ■ NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

## HONOREE SCREENING

### The Hungry Heart



SAT 8/24  
 11:30am  
 TWI  
 ● 84m

An acclaimed, game-changing documentary that provides an intimate look at the often hidden world of prescription drug addiction through the eyes of Vermont Pediatrician Dr. Fred Holmes. The film explores the challenges faced by Dr. Holmes and the simple and profound connection he forges with his patients. *The Hungry Heart* shines a light on the healing power of conversation and the need for connection that many of these young addicts yearn for.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Bess O'Brien.

Documentary Vermont  
 Directed by: Bess O'Brien ■ Language: English  
 Produced by: Bess O'Brien

## The In Between

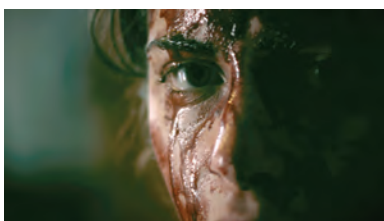


SAT 8/24  
 9am  
 MQM  
 ● 83m

Following the death of her brother, filmmaker Robie Flores returns to her hometown Eagle Pass on the Texas/Mexico border, wanting to turn back time. She collides with unruly experiences of adolescence that invite her to soak up the details of the home her brother adored and she ignored. A playful dance between a personal and coming-of-age portrait of border kids and Robie herself as she rediscovers joy after grief.

Documentary Mexico, United States  
 Directed by: Robie Flores English (Spanish subtitles)  
 Produced by: Alejandro Jose Flores, Kellen Quinn VERMONT PREMIERE

## It Came From Within



WED 8/21  
 11:30am  
 TWI  
 ● 5m

Amelia is struggling to understand a new disease that only infects women, and must regain control of her body before time runs out. [A part of the MNFF10 College Student Shorts Showcase 1.]

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Queenie Zhang English  
 Produced by: Ashayla Blakely NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

## Janet Planet



SUN 8/25  
 1pm  
 THT  
 ● 113m

In Western Massachusetts, 11-year-old Lacy spends the summer of 1991 at home, enthralled by her own imagination and the attention of her mother, Janet. As the months pass, three visitors enter their orbit, all captivated by Janet and her spellbinding nature. In her solitary moments, Lacy inhabits an inner world so extraordinarily detailed that it begins to seep into the outside world.

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Annie Baker English  
 Produced by: Annie Baker, Andrew Goldman, Dan Janvey, Derrick Tseng

## Join the Club



FRI 8/23  
 2pm  
 TWI  
 ● 90m

Dennis Peron is San Francisco's biggest pot dealer. But when the AIDS epidemic sweeps through his community, Peron realizes that marijuana is more than a good time — it's medicine. In the wake of his lover's death, Peron opens the Cannabis Buyers' Club, a five-story dispensary complete with rainbow murals, drag shows, and doctors onsite. *Join the Club* uncovers the queer history of marijuana legalization in America, through the lens of Dennis Peron's life.

Documentary United States  
 Directed by: Kip Andersen, Chris O'Connell English  
 Written by: Paul Marchand, Adam Kaplan U.S. PREMIERE  
 Produced by: Chris O'Connell

## HONOREE SCREENING

### Just Getting By



SUN 8/25  
 10am  
 THT  
 ● 90m

A sweeping, and yet intimate, look at the lives of Vermonters who are struggling with food and housing insecurity. Vermont has the second highest rate of homeless people in the United States, right after California. One third of Vermonters struggle to put food on the table. These are big issues for a small state. *Just Getting By* focuses on these issues in the lives of everyday people.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Bess O'Brien.

Documentary Vermont  
 Directed by: Bess O'Brien ■ English  
 Produced by: Bess O'Brien

## Keepers



SUN 8/25  
 1pm  
 MQM  
 ● 10m

A lobsterman will stop at nothing to understand the mystery behind a strange trap he hauls aboard.

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Paul Emile ■ English  
 Produced by: Christopher Ross Fitsimmons VERMONT PREMIERE

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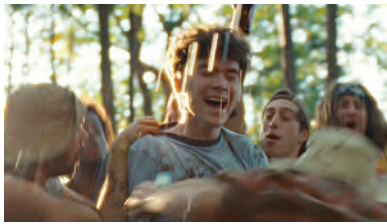
# MNFF10 FILMS A-Z

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

**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**WIL** WILSON HALL

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## Kings



THU 8/22  
 7:15pm  
 TWI  
 ● 11m

Elias and Laurent are the only two new counselors at camp this summer. When their initiation goes sideways, Laurent tries to get out of it – and the entire group ridicules him. Elias is trapped: he either needs to reject his friend, or risk being rejected himself.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Olivier Côté  
 Produced by: Karine Bélanger  
 Canada  
 French (English subtitles)  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Kowloon!



FRI 8/23  
 7:15pm  
 DAN  
 ● 16m

As the biggest Chinese restaurant in the US, Kowloon is a fantasyland that represents the Wong family's American Dream come true. However, as third-generation owner Bobby Wong and his brothers approach their seventies, they consider the weight of their family and community legacy.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Mona Xia, Erin Ramirez  
 Produced by: Mona Xia, Erin Ramirez  
 United States  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## The Lakekeeper



FRI 8/23  
 9am  
 TWI  
 ● 13m

*The Lakekeeper* follows Julie Silverman and her pioneering initiatives to restore the ecological well-being of Lake Champlain in the aftermath of catastrophic flooding.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Chiara Hollender ■  
 Produced by: Chiara Hollender  
 United States  
 English  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

## Leaves of Three



SAT 8/24  
 9am  
 THT  
 ● 6m

*Leaves of Three* is a modern day fairytale exploring the parallels between land protection and bodily autonomy, the female relationship to poison, and what it means to engage deeply with a planet that, on occasion, wants us dead.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Julia de Guzman ■  
 Produced by: Omar Andon, Imogen Best  
 United States  
 English  
**U.S. PREMIERE**

## The Lights Above



SUN 8/25  
 10am  
 MQS  
 ● 17m

Just months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, a series of unidentified aircraft sightings over Los Angeles lead a determined journalist to reluctantly pair up with a Japanese American photographer to prevent another attack. [A part of the MNFF10 College Student Shorts Showcase 2.]

Narrative  
 Directed by: Luke J Salewski ■  
 Produced by: Alex Chang, Avu John Kambourian  
 United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## WINNER: BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE

## Los Frikis



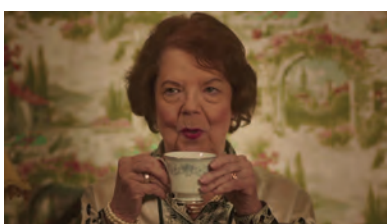
SAT 8/24  
 2pm  
 DAN  
 ● 111m

Inspired by true events, *Los Frikis* is a coming-of-age story set in early 90s Cuba where a group of punk rockers in search of freedom deliberately inject HIV-contaminated fluids so that they can live at a government-run sanatorium and create their own utopia.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Michael Schwartz, Tyler Nilson ■  
 Produced by: Phil Lord, Christopher Miller, Jordan Fudge, Jeremy Allen, Rebecca Karch Tomlinson, Aditya Sood, Tess Cohen  
 Dominican Republic  
 Spanish (English subtitles)  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## WINNER: HERNANDEZ/BAYLISS PRIZE FOR TRIUMPH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

## Lumen



THU 8/22  
 2pm  
 MQM  
 ● 13m

It has been raining heavily for months and the sixth wave is depressing humanity. In this prevailing darkness, Claude, 70 years old, compulsively buys lamps online to break her solitude and bring light into her life, at any cost.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Stéphanie Bélanger  
 Produced by: Rocio B. Fuentes, Giacomo Nudi  
 Canada  
 French (English subtitles)  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Maestro



THU 8/22  
 7:15pm  
 MQM  
 ● 82m

Golnoosh, aspiring to study at a prestigious university in Austria, needs a recommendation letter from her professor, Nima Edris. When she visits his house to collect the letter, Nima harasses her, causing her to leave abruptly without the crucial document. Distressed and humiliated, Golnoosh confides in her fiancé, Alireza. Outraged by the incident, Alireza decides to confront Nima and seek retribution for his actions.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Emad Hosseini  
 Produced by: Behrooz Afkhami  
 Iran  
 Persian (English subtitles)  
**U.S. PREMIERE**

## Mediha



THU 8/22  
 2pm  
 THT  
 ● 91m

Mediha, a teenage Yazidi girl who has recently returned from ISIS captivity, turns her camera on herself to process her trauma while rescuers search for her missing family members. This is the story of the Yazidi Genocide and its aftermath, shown through the lens of one young survivor as she confronts her past through personal video diaries, reclaiming her voice and stepping bravely towards the future.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Hasan Oswald ■  
 Produced by: Hasan Oswald, Annelise Mecca, Fahrinisa Campana, Alexander Spiess, Stephen Nemeth  
 Iraq  
 Arabic (English subtitles)  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

# MNFF10 FILMS A-Z

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**MQM** MARQUIS THEATRE - MAIN SCREEN  
**MQS** MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM

**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**WIL** WILSON HALL

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## Merci, Poppy



THU 8/22  
 9am  
 THT  
 ● 15m

A scrappy assistant reaches her breaking point when her charismatic boss blows off her request for a promotion.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Hanna Gray Organschi  
 Produced by: Hanna Gray Organschi, Elizabeth Woodward, Tara Elizabeth Sheffer

United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Missing The Trailers



SUN 8/25  
 10am  
 MQS  
 ● 8m

Two friends come up with several genre spanning hypotheticals to explain why their friend is late for the movies. [A part of the MNFF10 College Student Shorts Showcase 2.]

Narrative  
 Directed by: Max Walters ■  
 Produced by: Bella Luna Morales

United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Moi-même



SAT 8/24  
 9am  
 DAN  
 ● 65m

*Moi-même* is an experimental narrative film shot in Paris from 1968-1969 by Lee Breuer and future Mabou Mines members. It follows a twelve-year-old boy attempting to make a film during the May 1968 protests. Abandoned after principal photography, the film had no sound, no script, and no edit. Over the past three years, the director's son created a script, edited the footage, and added a full soundtrack, honoring the original while introducing new elements.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Mojo Lorwin, Lee Breuer ■  
 Produced by: Mojo Lorwin

France, United States  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

### HONOREE SCREENING

## Moonstruck



SAT 8/24  
 2pm  
 THT  
 ● 102m

Loretta Castorini, a bookkeeper from Brooklyn, New York, finds herself in a difficult situation when she falls for the brother of the man she has agreed to marry. [MNFF Honoree John Patrick Shanley won the Academy Award for Best Writing, Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen.]

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

Narrative  
 Directed by: Norman Jewison  
 Written by: John Patrick Shanley ■  
 Produced by: Norman Jewison, Patrick J. Palmer

United States  
 English

## My Place Ozerna



SAT 8/24  
 9am  
 TWI  
 ● 59m

Karina, a Polish woman looking to escape London, is drawn to Ozerna, a village in Ukraine, where she meets 84-year-old Slava. Karina's sense of alienation stokes a lingering depression she hopes to shake, a feeling Slava can relate to as a long-time widow. The women grow closer, developing a bond of love and care. This documentary witnesses the importance of cross-generational connection and a shared re-discovery of vitality and purpose.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Karina Będkowska ■  
 Produced by: Monika Braid

Ukraine  
 English, Polish, Ukrainian (English subtitles)  
**U.S. PREMIERE**

## Nanitic



WED 8/21  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 14m

"The first brood of worker ants produced by a queen ant using only the reserved nutrition in her body, nanitics shoulder the initial fate of the colony and are often underfed due to the conditions in colony building. Thus, nanitics may be smaller in size from later worker ants to optimize the survival of the group..." — But what happens to the colony when the queen dies? Had the nanitics done enough?

Narrative  
 Directed by: Carol Nguyen  
 Produced by: Carol Nguyen

Canada  
 English, Vietnamese (English subtitles)  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

### WINNER: CLIO VISUALIZING HISTORY PRIZE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN FILM

## Never Look Away



THU 8/22  
 9am  
 THT  
 ● 85m

Swashbuckling CNN combat camerawoman, Margaret Moth, risks it all to put the viewer inside the conflict. When a fateful injury gets in the way of her appetite for danger and adrenaline, Moth must find the strength to carry on.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Lucy Lawless  
 Produced by: Tom Blackwell, Matthew Metcalfe

Germany  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

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

## New Wave



FRI 8/23  
 2pm  
 THT  
 ● 89m

Exploring the defiant Vietnamese-American new wave music scene, filmmaker Elizabeth Ai takes a vulnerable, personal look at her community, revisiting their unexamined past and the lasting effects of the Vietnam War and displacement on the community's mental health.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Elizabeth Ai ■  
 Produced by: Elizabeth Ai, Rachel Sine

United States  
 English, Vietnamese (English subtitles)  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Nocturnes



SAT 8/24  
 9am  
 THT  
 ● 82m

Amidst the lush Eastern Himalayan forests, moths convey a mysterious message. Under the cover of night, two inquisitive observers illuminate this clandestine universe, unraveling the secrets whispered by these enigmatic creatures.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Anirban Dutta, Anupama Srinivasan  
 Produced by: Anirban Dutta

India  
 English, Hindi (English subtitles)  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

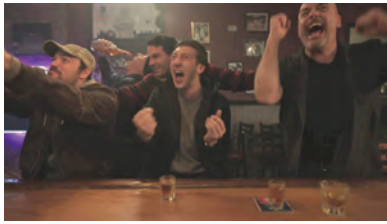
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**WIL** WILSON HALL

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## Not For Nothing



FRI 8/23  
 7:15pm  
 MQM  
 ● 104m

In a local corner bar, modern Italian and Irish American men, sons of former mob associates, grapple with their outsider status in a changing neighborhood. When the bar owner's daughter dies of an overdose, suspected foul play prompts them to investigate. They uncover a drug underworld led by Bobby Boss, which they link to the death. As tensions rise, they confront Bobby's gang in a violent battle escalating to murder and chaos.

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Tim Dowlin, Frank Tartaglia ■ English  
 Produced by: Mark Webber, Peter Pelullo, Michael Regalbuto, William Ostroff **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

### HONOREE SCREENING

## Platoon



THU 8/22  
 7:15pm  
 WIL  
 ● 120m

Chris Taylor, a neophyte recruit in Vietnam, finds himself caught in a battle of wills between two sergeants, one good and the other evil. Platoon is a shrewd examination of the brutality of war and the duality of man in conflict. [MNFF Honoree Oliver Stone won the Academy Award for Best Director.]

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Oliver Stone.

Narrative Philippines  
 Directed by: Oliver Stone ■ English  
 Produced by: Arnold Kopelson

**WINNER: GAMBLE-PAISON PRIZE FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM**  
**WINNER: BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE**

## Porcelain War



SUN 8/25  
 1pm  
 MQM  
 ● 87m

Under roaring fighter jets and missile strikes, Ukrainian artists Slava, Anya and Andrey choose to stay behind and fight, contending with the soldiers they have become. Defiantly finding beauty amid destruction, they show that although it's easy to make people afraid, it's hard to destroy their passion for living.

Documentary Ukraine  
 Directed by: Brendan Bellomo, Slava Leontyev ■ Russian, Ukrainian (English subtitles)  
 Produced by: Aniela Sidorska, Camilla Mazzaferro, Paula DuPre' Pesmen, Olivia Ahnemann **VERMONT PREMIERE**

### WINNER: BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

## Oasis



WED 8/21  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 14m

At the dawn of their teenage years, Raphaël and Rémi are twins who see their fusal attachment crumble while one of them, suffering from an increasingly marked disability, remains a prisoner of childhood. During one last summer surrounded by nature, time seems to want to stand still.

Documentary Canada  
 Directed by: Justine Martin French (English subtitles)  
 Produced by: Louis-Emmanuel Gagné-Brochu

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

## Petal Fall



FRI 8/23  
 9am  
 TWI  
 ● 13m

A dedicated middle school teacher fights to protect a troubled student after he cheats on an exam.

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Adam Benay ■ English  
 Produced by: Adam Benay, Cal Hopwood

## Playground



SUN 8/25  
 10am  
 MQS  
 ● 16m

A six year old has an adventure at an adult night club. [A part of the MNFF10 College Student Shorts Showcase 2.]

Narrative China  
 Directed by: Yaxing Lin ■ Mandarin (English subtitles)  
 Produced by: Yaxing Lin, Mengqiao Chen, Ruonan Jiang **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Playing the Changes: Tracking Darius Brubeck



FRI 8/23  
 9am  
 MQM  
 ● 61m

Jazz pianist Darius Brubeck (born in 1947), son of the legendary Dave Brubeck, has leveraged his legacy with idealism. This story explores the transformative impact of jazz in societies like Poland and South Africa, highlighting Darius's involvement in both. By embracing jazz's power and continuing his father's legacy, Darius contributes socially, educationally and musically, showing how jazz transcends boundaries and fosters change.

Documentary Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom  
 Directed by: Michiel ten Kleij English  
 Produced by: David E. Richardson, Jr. ■ **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## POV



WED 8/21  
 11:30am  
 TWI  
 ● 15m

Faced with an eviction notice, two TikTokers attempt to earn enough to pay off their landlord by making a series of videos, dragging them into a supposed murder mystery, and later, threatening to end their friendship and ruin their lives. [A part of the MNFF10 College Student Shorts Showcase 1.]

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Lily Tenzer English  
 Produced by: Laura Adams

## Prodigal Daughter



SAT 8/24  
 2pm  
 TWI  
 ● 90m

Filmmaker and artist Mabel Valdiviezo reunites with her family in Peru after 16 years of silence, confronting haunting childhood memories and a troubled past as an undocumented immigrant in the United States.

Documentary Peru, United States  
 Directed by: Mabel Valdiviezo ■ English, Spanish (English subtitles)  
 Produced by: Mabel Valdiviezo, Sara Maamouri (Co-producer) **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

# MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL 2024



Vermont Symphony Orchestra's chamber ensemble accompanies the evolution of animation, from the oldest surviving animated feature film (The Adventures of Prince Achmed by Lotte Reiniger, scored with original music by Erik Nielsen) to The Cocoon, the 2023 winner of the VSO/MNFF Best Music Integration Into Film Award. Conducted by Matt LaRocca.



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# MNFF10 FILMS A-Z

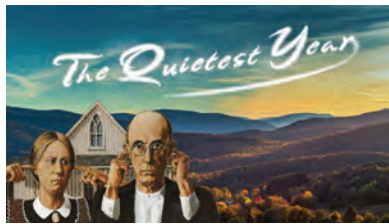
**THT** TOWN HALL THEATER  
**MQM** MARQUIS THEATRE - MAIN SCREEN  
**MQS** MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM

**DAN** DANA AUDITORIUM  
**TWI** TWILIGHT HALL  
**WIL** WILSON HALL

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## WINNER: GAIA PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FILMMAKING

### The Quietest Year



FRI 8/23  
 9am  
 TWI  
 ● 74m

Filmmaker Karen Akins' darkly quirky personal quest to reduce noise pollution in her quaint Vermont village reveals serious nationwide consequences. From a village supporting "recreational shooting" to a fighter jet based in the state's most populated area, the issues are many. As she consults experts including Ben Cohen of Ben and Jerry's, Akins highlights noise pollution as a critical but neglected public health crisis.

Documentary United States  
 Directed by: Karen Akins ■ English  
 Produced by: Karen Akins

### The Quilters



THU 8/22  
 11:30am  
 THT  
 ● 31m

In Licking, Missouri, a quilting group in a men's maximum security prison sews birthday quilts for every foster child in the county. Through this process and the powerful relationships forged, these men transform. Their self-perception shifts and they redefine their relationship with the community outside which has long forgotten them.

Documentary United States  
 Directed by: Jenifer McShane ■ English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

### The Rite of Spring



SUN 8/25  
 10am  
 MQM  
 ● 16m

On a journey of redemption, an aging patriarch meets an unexpected obstacle: a peculiar set of twin caretakers have been watching him.

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Nick Nocera ■ English  
 Produced by: Sandy Siu **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

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

### Robert Shields: My Life as a Robot



FRI 8/23  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 87m

He once opened for the Rolling Stones, became one of the top attractions in San Francisco (second only to the Cable Car), performed in front of two Presidents and a Queen and became one of the most unique acts in Las Vegas, winning Entertainer of the Year two years in a row - all without saying a word!

Documentary United States  
 Directed by: Mark Bonn ■ English  
 Produced by: Christine Seibert Bonn ■, Mark Bonn

### Roe



SUN 8/25  
 4pm  
 THT  
 ● 5m

With words of warning from a fellow teacher ringing in her ears, Jenna tries to establish boundaries with her students at a public college.

Narrative Australia  
 Directed by: Alison Stanton-Cook English  
 Produced by: Alison Stanton-Cook **U.S. PREMIERE**

### Roses



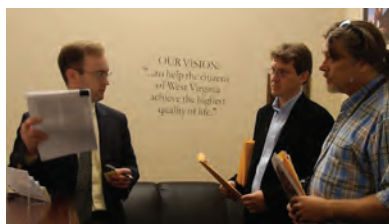
WED 8/21  
 2pm  
 MQS  
 ● 15m

Rosa unexpectedly finds herself spending an evening out alone as her daughter throws an 18th birthday party in their house. Wasting time in her small Cornish town, she spies a woman she has met once before - and is drawn to her.

Narrative United Kingdom  
 Directed by: Coral Knights English  
 Produced by: Lily Ashton **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## WINNER: THADDEUS STEVENS PRIZE FOR SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

### Running for the Mountains



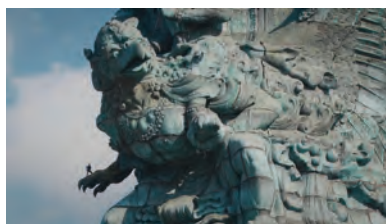
SAT 8/24  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 77m

*Running for the Mountains* digs into West Virginia's history of 'patriotic sacrifice,' unearthing veins of dark money and dirty politics. The film tracks grassroots candidates and ordinary citizens' attempts to save their land, water, homes and communities, calling out the pro-extraction politicians enabling destruction, including Senator Joe Manchin and his likely replacement, coal baron Governor Jim Justice. Appalachia is the proverbial canary in a coal mine; pay attention or pay the price.

Documentary United States  
 Directed by: Julie Eisenberg, Babette Hogan ■ English  
 Produced by: Julie Eisenberg, Babette Hogan **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING

### Sculpting The Giant



FRI 8/23  
 11:30am  
 THT  
 ● 87m

In 1990, Balinese sculptor Nyoman Nuarta made a promise to build one of the largest statues on Earth. At 121 meters tall, Garuda Wisnu Kencana would portray the Hindu god Vishnu mounted on the mythical bird Garuda, his ultimate tribute to the island of Bali. After 28 years of struggle - from a devastating fire, to a worldwide financial crisis, to death threats - Nuarta had built a monument to sheer determination.

Documentary Indonesia  
 Directed by: Banu Wirandoko, Rheza Arden Wiguna ■ Indonesian (English subtitles)  
 Produced by: Maulana Aziz ■ **U.S. PREMIERE**

## HONOREE SCREENING

### Secrets of the Whales, "Orca Dynasty"



THU 8/22  
 2pm  
 TWI  
 ● 49m  
**FREE!**

Orcas across the globe use unique strategies to stay on top of the food chain. Patagonia's whales catch sea lions off the beach, New Zealand's orcas root out hidden stingrays, and Norway's sea giants master the tail slap. Witness five powerful orca matriarchs pass down their family hunting traditions to the next generation, preserving their way of life before the customs are lost forever.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Andy Mitchell.

FREE SCREENING courtesy of National Geographic, Part of a Two-Episode Block with *Untamed Americas*, "Deserts"

Documentary United States  
 Directed by: Brian Armstrong, Andy Mitchell ■ English  
 Produced by: Kevin Krug, Samuel LeGrys, Brian Skerry

## The Settlers



SAT 8/24  
 7:15pm  
 TWI  
 ● 97m

At the turn of the 20th century, three horsemen embark on an expedition across the Tierra del Fuego archipelago at the behest of a wealthy landowner, tasked with securing his vast state-appointed property. Accompanying a reckless British lieutenant and an American mercenary is mestizo marksman Segundo, who comes to realize, amidst rising tensions within the group, their true mission is to murderously "remove" the indigenous population. [Note: Contains violent scenes.]

Narrative Chile  
 Directed by: Felipe Gálvez  
 Produced by: Giancarlo Nasi, Benjamín Domenech, Santiago Gallelli, Matías Roveda, Emily Morgan, Thierry Lenouvel, Stefano Centini  
 Spanish (English subtitles), English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## HONOREE SCREENING

## Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars



SAT 8/24  
 11:30am  
 THT  
 ● 78m

The story of a group of courageous musicians who form a band in a West African refugee camp to keep their hopes alive.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Andy Mitchell.

Documentary United States  
 Directed by: Zach Niles, Banker White English  
 Produced by: Zach Niles, Banker White  
 Cinematography by: Andy Mitchell ■

## Simmer

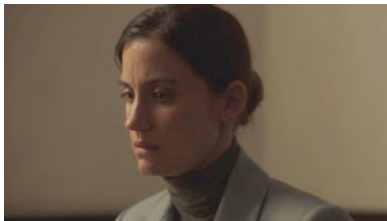


WED 8/21  
 11:30am  
 TWI  
 ● 15m

*Simmer* is a 15-minute narrative drama concerning a young, black high school student Carter Williams. Although his English teacher pushes him to get involved in a poetry showcase and develop his talents, a racist bully and an avoidant father operate against him. Over the course of the story, the conflict blends both real and imagined spaces parallel to Carter's evolution from repression to expression. [A part of the MNFF10 College Student Shorts Showcase 1.]

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Joshua Afiriyie ■ English  
 Produced by: Mae Stokes **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Sirin



WED 8/21  
 2pm  
 MQM  
 ● 87m

Sanela, a Montenegrin of Muslim origins, left former Yugoslavia during wartime in the 90's. After living in the United States and calling herself Nathalie for nearly 20 years, she travels back to assist her employer as an interpreter on a curious inheritance case. Returning to a country she can no longer recognize, Sanela finds herself torn between her new Western identity and the one she erased long ago.

Narrative Montenegro  
 Directed by: Senad Šahmanović Montenegrin  
 Produced by: Veliša Popović (English subtitles)  
**U.S. PREMIERE**

## Spider-Zan



THU 8/22  
 2pm  
 THT  
 ● 13m

A young woman loses something that causes trouble for her on the day of her proposal ceremony.

Narrative Iran  
 Directed by: Maryam Khodabakhsh Persian (English subtitles)  
 Produced by: Ali Tabe emam **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Start Them Young



SAT 8/24  
 7:15pm  
 MQM  
 ● 14m

A pair of anxious young parents do everything in their power to get their daughter into a prestigious preschool.

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Jenna Rossman ■ English  
 Produced by: J. Mehr Kaur, Adrienne Picciotto, Karolina Esqueda-Rocha **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

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■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
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## Such a Lovely Day

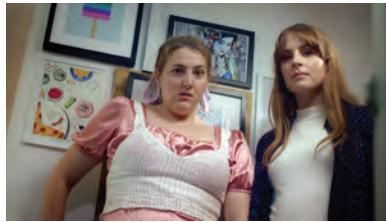


FRI 8/23  
 2pm  
 TWI  
 ● 17m

Seen through the eyes of eleven-year-old Sam, we are taken on a journey through the loveliest of days. A glorious, happy family gathering in a perfect English summer garden. There'll be lunch under the mulberry tree and wine and games and dancing. And then, of course, this being a brilliant party, there'll be a surprise.

Narrative United Kingdom  
 Directed by: Simon Woods English  
 Produced by: Polly Stokes, Emma Norton, Kate Phibbs

## Suck It Up



SAT 8/24  
 7:15pm  
 DAN  
 ● 9m

When their flatmate moves out and takes her vacuum cleaner with her, the two remaining tenants are faced with a challenging road to domestic paradise.

Narrative United Kingdom  
 Directed by: Megan Shandley English  
 Produced by: Megan Shandley **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Sugarcane



SUN 8/25  
 4pm  
 THT  
 ● 107m

In 2021, evidence of unmarked graves was discovered on the grounds of an Indian residential school run by the Catholic Church in Canada. After years of silence, the forced separation, assimilation and abuse many children experienced at these segregated boarding schools was brought to light, sparking a national outcry against a system designed to destroy Indigenous communities. Set amidst a groundbreaking investigation, *Sugarcane* illuminates the beauty of a community breaking cycles of intergenerational trauma and finding the strength to persevere.

Documentary Canada  
 Directed by: Julian Brave NoiseCat, Emily Kassie English  
 Produced by: Emily Kassie, Kellen Quinn **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Summer's End



THU 8/22  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 20m

A closeted queer teen avoids his alcoholic family's beach vacation by going on one-night stands through a hook-up app.

Narrative United States  
 Directed by: Grant Conversano, Adam Conversano ■ English  
 Produced by: Grant Conversano, Adam Conversano **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Sundial



WED 8/21  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 65m

Nature is a diverse orchestra – plants and mushrooms, insects and animals – and humans have a distinct opportunity to take part in the rhythm. Through a collection of ethereal portraits, *Sundial* captures the quiet creativity of the Estonian countryside, from the horses resisting the winter fields to the trees that hide timid rays of sun before falling to the ground.

Documentary Estonia  
 Directed by: Liis Nimik Estonian (English subtitles)  
 Produced by: Liis Nimik, Edina Csüllög **U.S. PREMIERE**

## OPENING NIGHT FILM

## Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story



WED 8/21  
 7pm  
 DANA  
 ● 106m

Actor Christopher Reeve rises to stardom when he lands the role of Superman in the 1970s. When a horse-riding accident leaves him paralyzed in 1995, Reeve spends the rest of his life searching for a cure for spinal cord injuries.

Documentary United States  
 Directed by: Ian Bonhôte, Peter Ettedgui English  
 Produced by: Ian Bonhôte, Robert Ford, Lizzie Gillett **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

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■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
 ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## Terrestrial Verses



SUN 8/25  
 4pm  
 MQS  
 ● 77m

Everyday people from all walks of life navigate the cultural, religious, and institutional constraints imposed on them by various social authorities, from school teachers to bureaucrats. These stirring vignettes, humorous and affecting, capture the spirit and determination of people amidst adversity, offering a nuanced portrait of a complex society.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is presented by the Vermont International Film Festival [VTIFF] and will be hosted by Steve MacQueen, its Executive Director.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Ali Asgari, Alireza Khatami  
 Produced by: Ali Asgari, Milad Khosravi  
 Iran  
 Persian (English subtitles)

## That Breath



WED 8/21  
 2pm  
 MQS  
 ● 81m

Valentina Baracco Pena has lived with her grandfather Fernando for over 20 years. But when he suggests at the age of eighty-eight that the two of them make a film together, they begin to see each other in a way they never have before. Both carrying their own cameras, they embark on an intimate exploration of their bond, love, loss, and the meaning of being alive.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Valentina Baracco Pena  
 Produced by: Andrés D'Avenia Frávega, Valentina Baracco Pena, Eugenia Olascuaga Fierro  
 Uruguay  
 Spanish (English subtitles)  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Thelma



SAT 8/24  
 7:15pm  
 DAN  
 ● 97m

Thelma Post, a feisty 93-year-old grandmother, gets conned by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson and sets out on a treacherous quest across Los Angeles, accompanied by an aging friend and his motorized scooter, to reclaim what was taken from her.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Josh Margolin  
 Produced by: Zoë Worth, Chris Kaye, Nicholas Weinstock, Benjamin Simpson, Karl Spoerri, Viviana Vezzani  
 United States  
 English

## Things Long Left Unsaid



SAT 8/24  
 9am  
 MQM  
 ● 21m

Akin to a visual journal entry, *Things Long Left Unsaid* is a short personal documentary about the sudden loss of the filmmaker's father and her coming to terms with all of the things the two never talked about, including the difficulty of existing as a Black family in her predominantly white suburban hometown.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Antonia Thornton  
 Produced by: Antonia Thornton  
 United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Threads of a Revolution



THU 8/22  
 11:30am  
 THT  
 ● 54m

When Janet Biehl edited her late partner Murray Bookchin's approach to participatory politics in the 1970s, she could never have imagined that this work would one day take her halfway across the globe. In this film, Janet explores how Murray's political theories were adapted to ignite a women-led revolution and bring about remarkable societal transformations in North East Syria.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Danny Mitchell, Ross Domoney  
 Produced by: Danny Mitchell  
 United Kingdom  
 English, Kurdish (English subtitles)  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

## Tokyo Cowboy



THU 8/22  
 9am  
 TWI  
 ● 118m

A Japanese businessman goes on an unwitting journey of self-discovery when he takes a company trip from Tokyo to a Montana cattle ranch.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Marc Marriott  
 Produced by: Brigham Taylor  
 United States  
 English, Japanese (English subtitles)



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DAN DANA AUDITORIUM  
TWI TWILIGHT HALL  
WIL WILSON HALL

■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING  
★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

## Torn



SUN 8/25  
4pm  
MQM  
● 17m

Two siblings, Ellie and Sam, try desperately to stay together when faced with the news that they will be split up into different foster homes.

Narrative United Kingdom  
Directed by: Emily Sewell English  
Produced by: Adi Malca Gordon ■ **U.S. PREMIERE**

## Tótem



WED 8/21  
2pm  
TWI  
● 95m

Seven-year-old Sol is spending the day at her grandfather's home, for a surprise party for Sol's father, Tonatiuh. As daylight fades, Sol comes to understand that her world is about to change dramatically.

Narrative Mexico  
Directed by: Lila Avilés Spanish (English subtitles)  
Produced by: Lila Avilés, Siobhan Flynn, Tatiana Graullera, Louise Rioussé, Jose Tamez **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## The Unseen



WED 8/21  
11:30am  
MQM  
● 3m

Timo is busy making his nest when he hears a reply to his mating call. Desperate to find his mate, he takes flight, only to find the source of the reply is not what he had hoped.

Narrative, Animation United Kingdom  
Directed by: Francesco Guarini (No dialogue)  
Produced by: Rebeca Castellanos **VERMONT PREMIERE**

## HONOREE SCREENING

### Untamed Americas, "Deserts"



THU 8/22  
2pm  
TWI  
● 46m  
**FREE!**

In the deserts of the Americas, an abundance of wildlife has developed an array of bizarre and baffling against-the-odds survival strategies. Go to the Atacama Desert along the coast of northern Peru, where Humboldt penguins raise their families in the driest place on earth.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Andy Mitchell.

FREE SCREENING courtesy of National Geographic, Part of a Two-Episode Block with *Secrets of the Whales*, "Orca Dynasty"

Documentary United States  
Written by: Andy Mitchell ■, James Byrne English  
Produced by: Andy Mitchell, James Byrne

## HONOREE SCREENING

### The Untold History of the United States, "Chapter 2: Roosevelt, Truman and Wallace"



FRI 8/23  
7:15pm  
TWI  
● 58m

*The Untold History of the United States: Chapter 2* examines the end of and the period immediately after World War II. It looks at Stalin's efforts to seize control of Poland and Eastern Europe, Democratic party bosses' efforts to drop Henry Wallace from the 1944 presidential ticket, and British efforts to maintain their colonial holdings after the war.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Oliver Stone.

Documentary United States  
Directed by: Oliver Stone ■ English  
Produced by: José Ibáñez, Fernando Sulichin

### Voy! Voy! Voy!



SUN 8/25  
1pm  
MQS  
● 109m

Hassan is a security guard living an impoverished life with his mother in Cairo. He dreams of traveling and living abroad. One day, the opportunity presents itself when he comes across a blind football team set to compete at the World Cup Championship in Europe and Hassan cunningly decides to pose as a visually impaired man to join the team. Set in Egypt in 2013 and inspired by true events.

Narrative Egypt  
Directed by: Omar Hilal Arabic (English subtitles)  
Produced by: Mohamed Hefzy, Omar Hilal **NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## HONOREE SCREENING

### Wall Street



SAT 8/24  
7:15pm  
THT  
● 126m

An impatient young stockbroker is willing to do anything to get to the top, including trading on illegal inside information taken through a ruthless, greedy corporate raider who takes the youth under his wing.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Oliver Stone.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Oliver Stone ■ English  
Produced by: Edward R. Pressman, A. Kitman Ho

### War Pony



THU 8/22  
11:30am  
TWI  
● 115m

War Pony follows the interlocking stories of two young Lakota men on the Pine Ridge Reservation as they grapple with a world built against them and navigate unique paths to manhood.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Gina Gammell, Riley Keough English  
Produced by: Val Abel, Sacha Ben Harroche, Bear Damen, Salim El Arja, Gina Gammell, Bert Hamelinck, Riley Keough, Michael Manasseri, Sergey Shtern, Elaine Thomas, Willi White, Ryan Zacarias

### Washed Up



FRI 8/23  
7:15pm  
MQM  
● 11m

Mike, an expectant father, has decided to leave behind his life of thievery. He is convinced by his best friend and partner in crime, Aaron, to join him on one last job, a simple robbery of a local car wash. When everything starts to go wrong, Mike is forced to make a choice between his old friend and his new life.

Narrative United States  
Directed by: Thomas Bayne ■ English  
Produced by: Rebecca Lafon

## The Well



THU 8/22  
 11:30am  
 MQM  
 ● 15m

An Asian-American man drives from his home in Chicago to a small lake town in rural Iowa to confront a bar owner with whom he shares a traumatic childhood experience. What ensues is a tension-filled night where two men must find the courage to be honest and vulnerable with each other.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Philip Miles Orduna, Sarah Young ■  
 Produced by: Tori Ernst, Janet Huey, Sarah Young

Location  
 Language  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## HONOREE SCREENING

## West Side Story



FRI 8/23  
 2pm  
 DANA  
 ● 156m

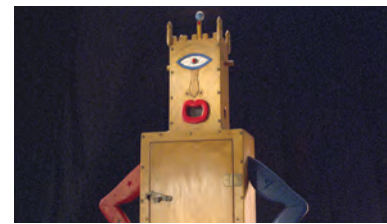
An adaptation of the 1957 musical, *West Side Story* explores forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds.

SPECIAL NOTE: This screening is part of a tribute to MNFF Honoree Paul Tazewell. An extended onstage discussion will follow.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Steven Spielberg  
 Produced by: Steven Spielberg, Kristie Macosko Krieger, Kevin McCollum  
 Costume Design by: Paul Tazewell ■

United States  
 English, Spanish  
 (English subtitles)

## Westermann: Memorial to the Idea of Man If He Was an Idea



FRI 8/23  
 9am  
 DAN  
 ● 91m

As a veteran of World War II and the Korean War who struggled with the ramifications of modern warfare, H.C. ("Cliff") Westermann's dramatic personal history can be traced through his beguiling, surreal artworks. Processing years of horror, Westermann turned to art for control and protection – all while "walking the tightrope" of life, death, hope, and creation.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Leslie Buchbinder  
 Produced by: Leslie Buchbinder, Brian Ashby, Harrison Sherrod

United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Why Dogs Howl



THU 8/22  
 2pm  
 MQM  
 ● 5m

After meeting online, a BOY and GIRL are out on their first date. It rapidly devolves into the BOY vomiting out his life in a Howl that ultimately encompasses the entire universe.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Sandi Johnson  
 Written by: Gary Teitelbaum ■  
 Produced by: Gary Teitelbaum

United States  
 English  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**

## Will You Remember Me?



SAT 8/24  
 2pm  
 TWI  
 ● 13m

Colleen Cove has been caring for people with Alzheimer's all her life. Now in the 45th year of her career, the demands of the job are pulled into sharp focus at the bedside of her oldest patient, a 100-year-old opera singer named Lucille. In this deeply emotional witness to Lucille's final moments, Colleen reflects on her uniquely intimate relationship with death, and Lucille shares her gift with the world for the last time.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Will Dowler ■  
 Produced by: Julia Moran

United States  
 English  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Witness



THU 8/22  
 7:15pm  
 MQM  
 ● 15m

To save her father's life, a young girl named Sharmin finds herself caught between fear and conscience.

Narrative  
 Directed by: Aida Tebianian  
 Produced by: Kazem Daneshi

Iran  
 Persian (English subtitles)  
**VERMONT PREMIERE**

## Yatra



FRI 8/23  
 9am  
 MQM  
 ● 27m

To heal after her mother's sudden death, Aney, an Indian-American doctor, returns to rural India to change the system that failed her.

Documentary  
 Directed by: Hemal Trivedi, Matt Alesevich ■  
 Produced by: Matt Rachamkin, Cynthia Kane, Prerana Thakurdesai ■

Location  
 Language  
**NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE**



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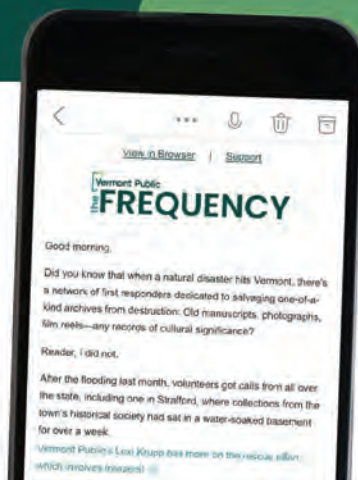
# Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival



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Thank you to the organizers of Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival for their hard work in bringing another wonderful festival to Middlebury this year!



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**Town Hall Theater**

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**Twilight Hall**

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**Dana Auditorium**

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**Wilson Hall at McCullough Student Center**

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# GET INVOLVED



## Submit Your Film

The submission window for MNFF11 opens Jan 2, 2025 on FilmFreeway.

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



## Apply for a Grant

MNFF Alums: Submit your narrative feature script to the MNFF Franklin Film Development Fund beginning Oct 15, 2024.

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



## Donate to MNFF

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[middfilmfest.org/donate-to-mnff](http://middfilmfest.org/donate-to-mnff)

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Volunteers make the Festival successful and there's always a lot to do!

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



## MNFF Year-round

Follow us online to learn about year-round events.

[middfilmfest.org](http://middfilmfest.org)  
  [middfilmfest](https://www.facebook.com/middfilmfest)



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