

12TH ANNUAL

MIDDLEBURY

NEW FILMMAKERS

FESTIVAL



FESTIVAL PROGRAM

AUGUST 26-30, 2026

MIDDFILMFEST.ORG

**CELEBRATING 12 YEARS
OF INTRODUCING
EMERGING VOICES IN FILM
TO OUR COMMUNITY**

12th ANNUAL

**MIDDLEBURY
NEW FILMMAKERS
FESTIVAL**



Middlebury



WELCOME TO THE 12TH ANNUAL MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL

Welcome to five days of discovery.

Whether you've traveled across town or across the world, we're happy you've joined us for this year's Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. Over the next five days, you'll encounter 130 films from every corner of the earth. Be prepared for more than a few surprises.

Our theme this year is simple:

Big Stories. New Voices. Five Days.

The films you'll see weren't selected to illustrate a single idea. They've been chosen for their imagination and ability to help us see with new eyes. They've come from cities and villages, mountains and coastlines; from first- and second-time directors alongside special guests who've got lots to offer us.

Without even knowing it, these films speak to one another. *Mary Oliver: Saved by the Beauty of the Word* and *A Savage Art: The Life and Cartoons of Pat Oliphant* explore artists whose work changed how we view our world. *Bucks Harbor* and *Creede USA* celebrate distinctive communities whose identities are inseparable from place. *Blue Heron* and *Remake* meditate on memory, family, and what survives the passage of time. *Gaslit* and *The Lake* ask how communities confront environmental damage—and what happens when truth collides with power. *The Siege of Paradise* and *Nuisance Bear* reveal the unintended consequences of people overwhelming fragile places. *Wood Street* and *Jail Time Records* discover resilience, creativity, and community in places defined by confinement and marginalization.

This year's filmmakers introduce us to doctors, musicians, activists, journalists, inventors, farmers, mayors, athletes, outsiders, and ordinary folks whose lives become anything but ordinary. They explore justice, humor, family, place, and the remarkable ways people endure, adapt, and occasionally transform the worlds around them.

This year, we're especially pleased to welcome honorees whose work has expanded our understanding of what cinema and storytelling can be. They include Academy Award-winning actor and activist Jane Fonda; *Hadestown* creator Anaïs Mitchell; documentary pioneer Ross McElwee; acclaimed cinematographer Kirsten Johnson; film composer Mason Daring; Hollywood producer Allyn Stewart, and three-time Emmy nominee, master observer, and comic documentarian, John Wilson.

Additional special guests include fearless journalist Amy Goodman; prolific documentary producer and returning MNFF honoree Beth Levison; Emmy-winning filmmaker and returning MNFF honoree Mo Naqvi; Vermont Poet Laureate Bianca Stone; and climate visionary Bill McKibben.

We're proud that our festival remains a home for emerging filmmakers. At a time when independent filmmaking has never been more creatively vibrant—or economically challenging—we believe these voices deserve to be seen, heard, and celebrated. Every ticket purchased, every conversation after a screening, every question asked during a Q&A helps sustain an independent film culture built on curiosity and artistic vision rather than algorithms and commercial certainty.

Start conversations while waiting in line. Continue them over coffee or on the sidewalks of Middlebury. Share laughter, debate, inspiration, and the simple pleasure of experiencing freshly told stories together in a darkened theater.

We encourage you to take chances. See a film you know nothing about. Stay for the Q&A. Introduce yourself to someone you've never met. Visit our parties. Tell us what moved you, surprised you, challenged you, or made you laugh.

Thank you for being here and for helping make the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival such an extraordinary community of artists, audiences, students, volunteers, and friends.



Enjoy every minute.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature of Jay Craven in black ink.

Jay Craven, Artistic Director

There is something wonderfully unpredictable about a Film Festival. You can arrive with a carefully planned schedule and leave having been moved by a film you never intended to see. A conversation on the street between films can become as memorable as something on the screen. A filmmaker you've never heard of can show you a new way of seeing the world.

This sense of possibility is one of the things I love most about the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. For five days, our theaters become places where filmmakers and audiences mingle, where established voices and emerging ones intersect, and where you never quite know what you'll encounter next.

I am delighted to be joining Lloyd, Jay and the remarkable Festival they have built over the past twelve years. To be part of an organization that puts community, discovery, and the work of new filmmakers at its center is both a privilege and a genuine pleasure.

So, as you make your way through the program, leave a little room for serendipity. Take a chance on something unfamiliar, and let a film surprise you.



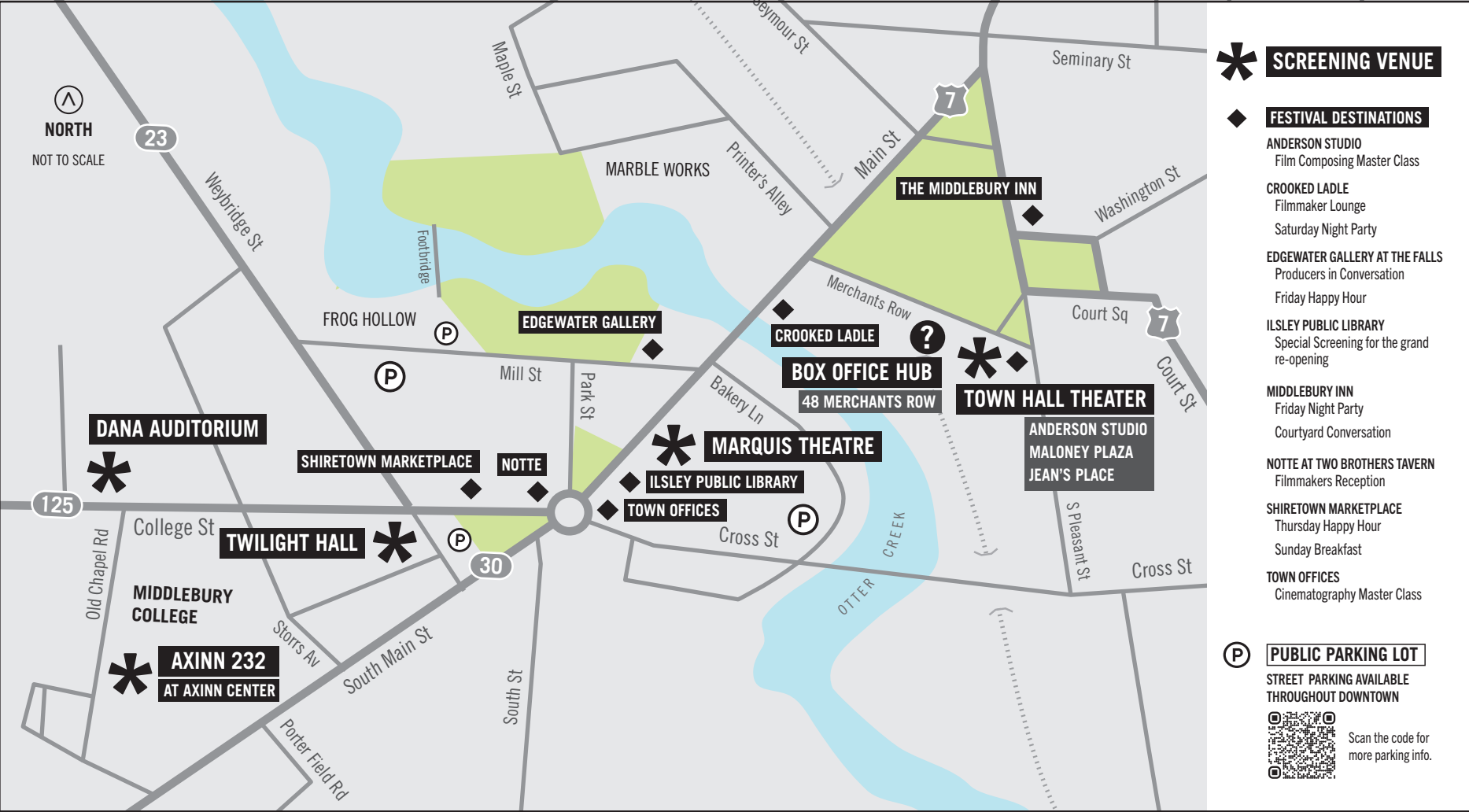
Perhaps you'll discover a new filmmaker whose work you can't wait to see again.

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature of Andy Mitchell in black ink.

Andy Mitchell, Managing Producer

FESTIVAL MAP



PASSES AND TICKETS

THE INTRODUCTION

For 2026, we'll continue using the online platform Eventive to manage our Passes & Tickets! If you're buying a Pass or Individual Tickets to MNFF12, we highly encourage you to do so online, before the Festival begins, at mnff12.eventive.org. By purchasing in advance, you allow our team to properly prepare to meet audience needs! Plus: our online ticketing system enables you to vote for all our eligible films and for us to collect and tally your votes for the Audience Awards more accurately and speedily.

If you'd like to purchase a Pass or Ticket once the Festival begins, you can still do so online, at any time—even minutes before a screening begins. Beginning August 25, from 3-6pm, you can also purchase Passes and Tickets in person at our Box Office Hub,

located at 48 Merchants Row. **All physical Passes and lanyards will be available for pickup here as well for the duration of the Festival, so you can wear it proudly to get you quicker entry into screenings and parties!**

READY TO GET STARTED?

Check out both our Schedule and Film Guide online at mnff12.eventive.org and secure tickets right from your smart-phone or home computer!

More questions? Read on for tips and answers. Still stumped or need extra support before our Festival Box Office opens? Email us at info@middfilmfest.org.

FAQs

DO I HAVE TO MAKE AN ACCOUNT ON EVENTIVE?

When you purchase your first Pass or Ticket online, Eventive will ask you to create an account in order to buy Passes/Tickets, and from then on you will always have an account with us. Be sure to write down your password somewhere handy.

WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE AT EACH SCREENING?

We ask that you arrive at each screening 15 minutes in advance. Please note that even if you've secured a spot online, your seat cannot be guaranteed if you do not arrive 15 minutes prior to showtime.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING TO EACH SCREENING?

Passholders: all you need to bring is your physical Pass!

Ticket Bundle Purchasers: bring your unique scannable code, downloaded on your phone or printed out through your Eventive account where you made your purchase.

Individual Ticket Purchasers: bring your screening specific Ticket as received in your email after your purchase. You can print this out as well, if that's easier!

SO, FOR DAYTIME SCREENINGS, IF I PURCHASED A TICKET, A PASSHOLDER CAN GO IN BEFORE ME?

Correct - that's why a Pass is always the best way to guarantee entry to screenings, and the ultimate Festival experience! If you've purchased an Individual Ticket to an event that fills up, keep in mind that your Ticket is then applicable to another screening of your choice.

IF I'M A PASSHOLDER, HOW DO I MAKE A RESERVATION WHEN NEEDED?

- 1) Go to mnff12.eventive.org/schedule, and make sure you are logged in to your account. This Schedule section is where you make your reservations.
- 2) Select the specific film screening you would like to reserve your spot at.
- 3) Once you have actually clicked on your film selection, then select the big purple button that says "RSVP/Buy Individual Tickets"
- 4) Select "Order 1 ticket with pass"
- 5) In the next pop up, select "Buy (\$0.00)"

You'll receive a confirmation email for each successful reservation you make. Remember - you only need reservations for certain screenings - so be sure to check the admission policy!

WHAT'S A TICKET BUNDLE?

Introducing: Ticket Bundles, our 2026 replacement for Day Passes. A Ticket Bundle is a collection of Individual Tickets in which you receive a discount by purchasing 5 (or 10) at a time. It is NOT a Pass, and therefore does not have Passholder Benefits, like making reservations, or include entry to any Happy Hours or Evening Parties. For entry, a Ticket Bundle holder is the same as an Individual Ticket purchaser!

A Ticket Bundle is best for someone who wants the flexibility of being able to attend 5 or 10 screenings of their choice. You can also use one of your Tickets to bring a friend to a screening! Your Bundle is a scannable code that can be scanned up to 5 (or 10) times; no physical Pass or lanyard, just the code which you can download to your device from your Eventive account, or print.



We all love **MNFF**,
but it's only 5 days
in August.

Where do you watch the
other 360 days of the year?



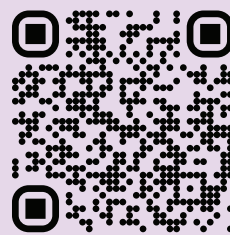
BUILDING COMMUNITY SINCE 2006

IS THERE ASSIGNED SEATING FOR SCREENINGS?

All seating is general admission. We recommend all patrons aim to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the screening time, regardless of whether you have a Pass or Ticket!

IS THE FESTIVAL WALKABLE?

Extremely! All of our screenings and events take place within a 20-minute walk from each other; some venues are only a few minutes away from each other. And Middlebury is a small and very walkable town in general.



MNFF12.EVENTIVE.ORG

WE'RE HERE TO HELP.
EMAIL INFO@MIDDFILMFEST.ORG

ADMISSION POLICY

BOX OFFICE HOURS 48 MERCHANTS ROW

TUES	8/25	3 PM–6 PM
WED	8/26	9:30 AM–5 PM
THU	8/27–SAT 8/29	10 AM–5 PM
SUN	8/30	9 AM–12 PM

OPENING NIGHT (WED 8/26)

OPENING NIGHT FILM *HADESTOWN: THE MUSICAL*

OPENING NIGHT AFTERPARTY

- Ticketed separately from the rest of the MNFF program. An Opening Night Ticket is only included in a Combo Pass (Festival Pass + Opening Night Ticket). Visiting Filmmakers have a complimentary Ticket included in their Filmmaker Pass.

DAYTIME SCREENINGS

WEDNESDAY: 11A, 2P

THURSDAY-SATURDAY: 9A, 11:30A, 2P

SUNDAY: 9:30A, 12P, 2:30P

This includes every screening **except**: Opening Night; all 7:15p screenings on Thursday-Saturday; A Conversation with Jane Fonda, *Klute*, and *Gaslit* on Sunday.

- 1) When the house opens, all Passholders have priority entrance- all you need to do is bring your physical Pass! No reservation through Eventive is necessary.
- 2) Starting **10 minutes prior** to the screening, entry begins for Individual Ticket holders and latecomers.

EVENING SCREENINGS

THURSDAY-SATURDAY: 7:15P

- 1) Passholders **who made reservations online through Eventive** have guaranteed entrance as long as they arrive at least **15 minutes early**.
- 2) Starting **10 minutes prior** to the screening, entry begins for Individual Ticket holders. This includes purchasers of Ticket Bundles.
- 3) Starting **5 minutes prior** to the screening, entry begins for Passholders who did NOT reserve their spot, until the venue is full or everyone is seated.

SUNDAY

A CONVERSATION WITH JANE FONDA

SCREENINGS OF *KLUTE* AND *GASLIT*

- Any Passholder who makes a reservation, as well as any Individual Ticket buyer, is guaranteed a seat.
- **These events WILL sell out before the Festival.** This means that **any Passholder who does not make a reservation will not be able to attend.**
- At the door, we will verify any Passholder reservation AND Individual Ticket.

CLOSING NIGHT

CLOSING NIGHT CEREMONY (VTEDDY AWARDS)

CLOSING NIGHT FILM *THE HISTORY OF CONCRETE*

- Free and open to the public!

HONOREES



MASON DARING

Mason Daring is an enormously accomplished film score composer, musician, producer and author who makes his home in both Marblehead, Massachusetts and Pawlet, Vermont. He has composed music for over 75 feature films, including 16 with renowned director John Sayles, including *Eight Men Out*, *Matewan*, *Lone Star* and *The Secret of Roan Inish*, which he will

screen at MNFF12. Also screening at MNFF12 will be his new documentary film *Marblehead Morning: 50 Years in Harmony*, directed by Tim Jackson, which traces the contours of his memorable fifty year collaboration with fellow musician Jeanie Stahl.



JANE FONDA

Over her truly distinguished career, spanning more than fifty years, Jane Fonda has built a body of film work that includes more than fifty films and significant contributions to political causes such as women's rights, Indigenous rights and environmental protection. She comes to MNFF with her new documentary feature *Gaslit*, directed by Katie Camosy, and a tribute

screening of *Klute*, directed by Alan J. Pakula, for which she won her first Oscar. In addition to her two Oscars for Best Actress in a Leading Role, she has been nominated on seven other occasions and is an Emmy winner for *The Dollhouse*. She is a seven-time Golden Globe® winner and was honored with the Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2021. She accepted The Harry Belafonte Voices for Social Justice Award at the 2023 Tribeca Film Festival. In April of 2024, Fonda accepted the TIME Magazine Earth Award. She also recently received the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award in February 2025.



KIRSTEN JOHNSON

Prolific documentary director and cinematographer Kirsten Johnson comes to MNFF12 with a pair of her acclaimed films. *Dick Johnson Is Dead* premiered at Sundance 2020 where it won the Jury Prize for Innovation in Nonfiction Storytelling. The film went on to nab a Primetime Emmy for Directing, made the Oscar shortlist and is currently showing on Netflix. Kirsten will also

present her highly regarded film *Cameraperson*, named one of The New York Times' Top Ten Films of 2016 and also shortlisted for the Academy Award. Both films are on the Independent Documentary Association's Top 25 Documentaries of the 21st Century list.



ROSS MCELWEE

Ross McElwee is a pioneering and revered American documentary filmmaker, widely celebrated for creating deeply personal, autobiographical and diary-style films. Blending his own diverse life events with broader historical and cultural subjects, his work - most notably the award-winning *Sherman's March*, which will screen at MNFF12 - has fundamentally expanded the vo-

cabulary of the personal documentary. In 2000, *Sherman's March* was selected for preservation by the Library of Congress National Film Registry. He will also screen his most recent film, *Remake*.



ANAÏS MITCHELL

Anaïs Mitchell, raised in Addison County and a graduate of Middlebury College, is a Vermont-based singer-songwriter and the Tony and Grammy Award winning creator of the hugely successful Broadway musical *Hadestown*. She was named to Time magazine's prestigious TIME100 list in 2020. Her first book, *Working On A Song - The Lyrics of Hadestown* was published

by Penguin/Plume the same year. Heralded by NPR as "one of the greatest songwriters of her generation," Mitchell comes from the world of narrative folksong, poetry and balladry. She has released multiple albums and toured worldwide both as a solo artist and with her folk-rock band Bonny Light Horseman. *Hadestown: The Musical* will be the Opening Night film at MNFF12.



ALLYN STEWART

Accomplished film producer Allyn Stewart will be attending MNFF12 for several days, screening her 2016 box office hit *Sully*, starring Tom Hanks, and her 2021 Robin Wright starrer, *Land*. Additionally, Allyn developed and produced *Trial by Fire*, starring Jack O'Connell and Laura Dern. Her most recent film *Lilly*, distributed by Netflix, portrays the story of renowned cham-

pion of fair pay, Lilly Ledbetter, and stars Patricia Clarkson.

HONOREES

CONTINUED



JOHN WILSON

John Wilson is one of America's most original documentary filmmakers. He comes to MNFF with his new documentary feature *The History of Concrete*. Best known as the creator, director, cinematographer and narrator of HBO's acclaimed *How To with John Wilson*, he transforms the seemingly ordinary moments of everyday life into deeply funny, surprising and profound-

ly human observations. Blending street photography, personal essay and documentary storytelling, Wilson's work reveals unexpected connections between strangers, cities and modern life. His singular vision has earned widespread critical acclaim, including Peabody and Gotham awards, while establishing him as one of the most inventive new voices in nonfiction filmmaking.

RETURNING HONOREES



BETH LEVISON

Beth Levison is a prolific, award-winning filmmaker based in NYC. A director and producer both, her producing practice focuses on independent documentary films and also includes fiction shorts and theater. She returns to MNFF with the documentary feature film *threeASFOUR: FULL CIRCLE*, directed by Sean Ono Lennon, and the narrative short *Kiloran Bay*, starring

Alan Cumming. A 2023 MNFF Honoree for Sustained Excellence in Documentary Producing and Directing, Beth has brought significant work to the Festival every year since 2017.



MO NAQVI

Mohammed Ali (Mo) Naqvi is a director-producer, cultural architect and curator, whose work spans powerful documentaries and fiction films, while also shaping the cultural landscape for Asian and diaspora filmmakers. A 2018 MNFF Honoree for Courage in Filmmaking, Mo returns to MNFF for the first time since, with his latest documentary feature *Hanging by a Wire*.

SPECIAL GUESTS



AMY GOODMAN

Amy Goodman is the host and executive producer of *Democracy Now!*, an influential national daily independent award-winning news program airing on over 1,400 public television and radio stations worldwide. She comes to MNFF with her new documentary feature *Steal This Story, Please!*, directed by Carl Deal and Tia Lessin. The Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard

honored Goodman with the 2014 I. F. Stone Medal for Journalistic Independence Lifetime Achievement Award. She is also the first journalist to receive the Right Livelihood Award, widely known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize' for "developing an innovative model of truly independent grassroots political journalism that brings to millions of people the alternative voices that are often excluded by the mainstream media."



BIANCA STONE

Bianca Stone is a Vermont-based poet and scholar currently serving as Vermont's poet laureate. Appearing at MNFF for the second consecutive year, she will be leading a discussion following the screening of the new documentary *Mary Oliver: Saved by the Beauty of the World*. Bianca is the author of many books, including the poetry collections *What is Otherwise Infinite* which received

the 2022 Vermont Book Award, and *The Near and Distant World* (Tin House in January, 2026). Her poetry and writings have appeared widely in such magazines as *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Poets and Writers* and *The Nation*.

SUPPORT MNFF

THE MNFF ENDOWMENT FUND

LAUNCHED JULY 2025 WITH A MAJOR LEAD GIFT FROM
MICHELE HERNANDEZ AND BRUCE BAYLISS

NOW AT \$500,000 AND GROWING!

INVEST IN MNFF AND HELP MAKE THE FESTIVAL
PERMANENT.

LET'S BUILD THE FUTURE TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY!

CONTACT MNFF CO-FOUNDER
LLOYD KOMESAR AT LK@MIDDFILMFEST.ORG



**all natural wood-fired pizza
featuring local ingredients**

fresh salads & housemade desserts
craft cocktails & beer, select wines
indoor and outdoor seating



CHEERS, MNFF!

Join us for great food and drinks after the show!



LUNCH Wed-Sat 11-2 | DINNER Tues-Thur 5-9, Fri-Sat 4:30-9
marble works | 802-388-3300 | americanflatbread.com @ f



EVENTS



WED 8/26

5:30 pm
DOORS OPEN

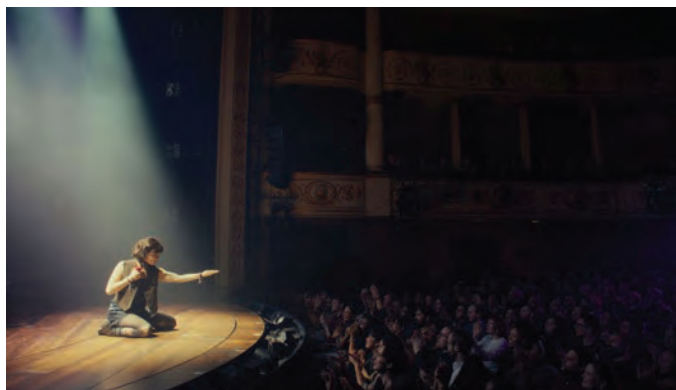
6 pm
OPENING
REMARKS &
CONVERSATION

DANA
AUDITORIUM

ADDITIONAL
SCREENINGS

MARQUIS
THEATRE

AXINN 232



OPENING NIGHT TICKET HOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE.

Includes both Combo Pass and complimentary Filmmaker Pass holders.

MNFF12 OPENING NIGHT FILM ***HADESTOWN: THE MUSICAL***

The live theater capture from the West End production of the hit musical *Hadestown*, which won eight Tony Awards in 2019 including Best Musical and the 2020 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album, featuring the five original principals of the Broadway company. The genre-defying musical blends modern American folk music with New Orleans-inspired jazz to reimagine a sweeping ancient tale. Following two intertwining love stories — that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone — *Hadestown: The Musical* invites audiences on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back.



WED 8/26

9:30 pm
THE WINTER
GARDEN AT
AXINN CENTER

OPENING NIGHT TICKET HOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE.

Includes both Combo Pass and complimentary Filmmaker Pass holders.

MNFF12 OPENING NIGHT AFTERPARTY

Join us for our Opening Night AfterParty at the Axinn Center's Winter Garden, located on the Middlebury College campus, and catered by Two Brothers Tavern and music by Brett Hughes. The Winter Garden can be found just inside the Old Chapel Rd entrance.



THU 8/27

11:30 am

AXINN 232
SCREENING
ROOM

LAND

HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH ALLYN STEWART

In the wake of a tragic event, Edee finds herself bereft and unable to stay connected to the world, so she retreats to the Rocky Mountain wilderness. After a hunter brings her back from the brink of death, she struggles to live again. Allyn Stewart produced this first feature directed by actor Robyn Wright.



THU 8/27

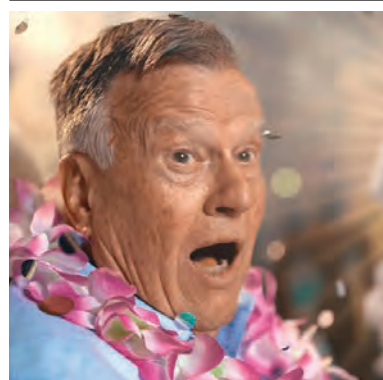
11:30 am

TWILIGHT HALL

THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH

HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH MASON DARING

Young Fiona lives with her grandparents in a small fishing village where she takes an active role to unravel its mysterious secrets. Mason Daring has described the score he wrote for this film as one of his favorites.



THU 8/27

2 pm

TOWN HALL
THEATER

DICK JOHNSON IS DEAD

HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH KIRSTEN JOHNSON

The darkly funny and wildly imaginative *Dick Johnson is Dead* is a love letter from a daughter to a father, creatively blending fact and fiction to create a celebratory exploration of how movies give us the tools to grapple with life's profundity. Kirsten Johnson reveals the challenges of making this deeply personal, playful and illuminating film. A 2021 Emmy Award winner.



Two Brothers Tavern

main st., middlebury | www.twobrotherstavern.com | 802-388-0002

Dinner
Weekend Lunch
Late-Night Bites
Take-Out

Bravo to the Filmmakers of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival!

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



EVENTS



THU 8/27

2 pm

**AXINN 232
SCREENING
ROOM**

SHERMAN'S MARCH

HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH ROSS MCELWEE

Documentary filmmaker Ross McElwee sets out to make a movie about Union General Sherman's March to the Sea towards the end of the American Civil War, but keeps getting sidetracked by his own love life. A fascinating epic film. Winner of the 1987 Sundance Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary.



THU 8/27

4 pm

**TOWN OFFICE
BUILDING**

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

CINEMATOGRAPHY MASTER CLASS

Join Honoree Kirsten Johnson and MNFF Managing Producer Andy Mitchell for a Master Class on documentary cinematography. An extraordinary opportunity to connect with seasoned professionals with decades of experience!



THU 8/27

5 pm

**SHIRETOWN
MARKETPLACE**

PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE.

THURSDAY HAPPY HOUR

Thursday's Happy Hour will take place at and be catered by Festival Sponsor Shiretown Marketplace. Always a fun place to gather!

EVENTS



THU 8/27

7:15 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER

MARBLEHEAD MORNING: 50 YEARS IN HARMONY

HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH MASON DARING AND JEANIE STAHL, FOLLOWED BY MINI-CONCERT LIVE ON-STAGE

Marblehead Morning looks back at the careers of singer-songwriters Mason Daring and Jeanie Stahl and their half century journey as both a New England Folk duo and as independent artists. A warm and encompassing look at a splendid partnership.



THU 8/27

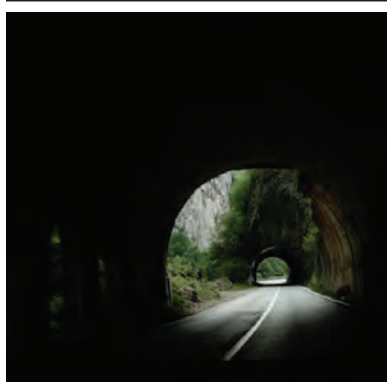
9:15 pm

MALONEY PLAZA AT TOWN HALL THEATER

PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE.

THURSDAY NIGHT PARTY

Our Thursday Night Party will be hosted outside of Town Hall Theater on Maloney Plaza. Food by Mexico in Vermont and music by Noble Rot.



FRI 8/28

2 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER

CAMERAPERSON

HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH KIRSTEN JOHNSON

A major, multi award-winning work that combines documentary, autobiography and ethical inquiry, *Cameraperson* is both a moving glimpse into one filmmaker's personal journey and a thoughtful examination of what it means to train a camera on the world. Directed and shot by MNFF Honoree Kirsten Johnson.



Upcoming Events at **TOWN HALL THEATER**



THT Presents 5 Fridays Music Series

BILLY WYLDER & MORE

Friday Sept 4 3-8pm

Outdoor Maloney Plaza

FREE!



THT Presents

BREAD + PUPPET: THE UPSIDE DOWN WORLD CIRCUS

Saturday Sept 5 3:30pm

Middlebury College Snow Bowl

\$20



THT & Valley Stage Present

SESSION AMERICANA WITH KRIS DELMHORST

Sunday Sept 13 5:30pm

Rothrock Main Stage

\$10-\$50



THT Presents

YOUNG MASTERS: BEN & ROMY MUNKRES

Saturday Sept 19 7pm

Anderson Studio

\$10-\$25



THT Presents

ZIG ZAG ISSUE 21. RELEASE PARTY

Sunday Sept 27 4pm

Anderson Studio

\$5-\$20 suggested



THT Presents 5 Fridays Music Series

VOICES OF CHANGE: THE SONGS OF BOB DYLAN

Friday Oct 2 5:30-7pm

Outdoor Maloney Plaza

FREE!

townhalltheater.org | 802-382-9222
72-76 Merchants Row Middlebury VT

EVENTS

FRI 8/28

2 pm

**AXINN 232
SCREENING
ROOM**



REMAKE

HONOREE SCREENING & INTRODUCTION BY ROSS MCELWEE

For nearly forty years, Ross McElwee has made closely observed and profoundly subjective documentaries about how his personal life intersects with the world at large. But the death of his son suddenly causes him to reassess his approach to filmmaking and to his own life's work.

FRI 8/28

4 pm

**ANDERSON
STUDIO AT
TOWN HALL
THEATER**



FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

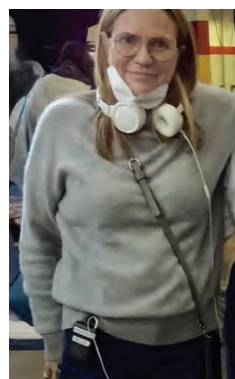
FILM COMPOSING MASTER CLASS

Spend an hour with MNFF Honoree Mason Daring for a highly informative Master Class on composing for film.

FRI 8/28

4 pm

**EDGEWATER
GALLERY AT
THE FALLS**



FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PRODUCERS IN CONVERSATION

Join MNFF Honoree Allyn Stewart, Returning Honoree Beth Levison, and Producer Kahane Cooperman for an in depth conversation about producing feature films.



HOURS:

Lunch: Thursday-Friday, 11:30 am-2:30pm. Saturday-Sunday, 12:30 pm- 3:00 pm

Dinner: Wednesday to Sunday, 4:30-8:00 pm

Please make reservations for parties of 6 or more.



**22 Merchants Row
Middlebury
802-989-7376
SabaiSabaiThai.com**



Check us out at Sabai Sabai Thai Cuisine

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HOMESERVICES

VERMONT REALTY
GROUP
Middlebury

**Location.
Location.
Location.**

It matters in filmmaking.
It matters in real estate.

Best wishes to all
the filmmakers,
storytellers, and guests
of the Middlebury New
Filmmakers Festival.

*May your next
great story
find the perfect
setting.*

Proudly sponsored by BHHS agents

Deb Hillman
Sue Mackey
Galina Mancel
Nikhil Plouffe
Sue Walsh



VT REALTY GROUP – MIDDLEBURY

32 Merchants Row, Middlebury, VT 05753

802-388-9836 | www.vtregroup.com



EVENTS



FRI 8/28

5 pm

**EDGEWATER
GALLERY AT
THE FALLS**

PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE.

FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR

Friday's Happy Hour will take place at the Edgewater Gallery at the Falls, and feature wine and chocolate pairings from Shelburne Vineyard and Adagio Chocolates. Food by Grapevine Grille.



FRI 8/28

5 pm

**NOTTE AT
TWO BROTHERS
TAVERN**

FILMMAKERS ONLY, PLEASE.

FILMMAKERS RECEPTION

Meet and greet with fellow visiting filmmakers at Middlebury's underground hotspot.



FRI 8/28

9:15 pm

**THE
MIDDLEBURY
INN**

PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE.

FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY

Our rousing Friday Night Party will be hosted and catered by the Middlebury Inn.



SAT 8/29

2 pm

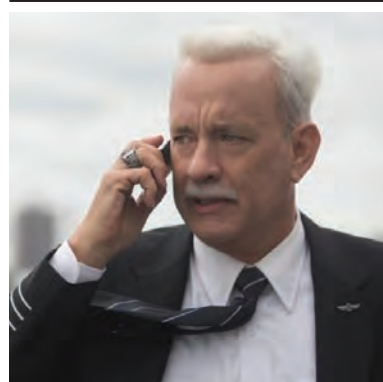
ILSLEY LIBRARY

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

STORYBOARD: THE MUSICAL

Come celebrate the grand re-opening of the Ilsley Public Library with a screening of this family friendly short in their brand new community room.

About the film: After hearing about a local film competition, Everly Easton, fresh out of high school, takes a leap of faith and makes her first animated short film with the help of her friends.



SAT 8/29

2 pm

**DANA
AUDITORIUM**

SULLY

HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH ALLYN STEWART

When pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger lands his damaged plane on the Hudson River in order to save the flight's passengers and crew, some consider him a hero while others think he was reckless. Produced by Allyn Stewart, this massive box office hit was directed by Clint Eastwood and starred Tom Hanks.



SAT 8/29

2 pm

**TOWN HALL
THEATER**

THE GENERAL WITH LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

SPECIAL EVENT

A screening of Buster Keaton's 1926 silent classic *The General* paired with a unique live musical performance by the Anvil Orchestra. A real treat.

EVENTS



SAT 8/29

4 pm
**THE COURTYARD
AT THE
MIDDLEBURY
INN**

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A CONVERSATION WITH AMY GOODMAN

Renowned, multi-award winning journalist Amy Goodman, creator of the *Democracy Now!* daily global independent news hour, discusses the lasting significance and impact of the program, now in its 30th year. Presented at one of the town's most convivial outdoor spaces. Hosted by Journalist Jasper Craven.



SAT 8/29

5 pm
**MALONEY PLAZA
AT TOWN HALL
THEATER**

PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE.

SATURDAY HAPPY HOUR

Saturday's Happy Hour will take place outside Town Hall Theater on Maloney Plaza, and is generously underwritten by IPJ Real Estate, MNFF's Presenting Sponsor. Food by Sushi Maru and A Taste of India. Music by the Fab 5.



SAT 8/29

9:15 pm
CROOKED LADLE

PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE.

SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY

Festival Saturday wraps up with our wonderful evening Party, hosted and catered by Crooked Ladle. Music by DJ Serena. You don't want to miss this one!



SUN 8/30

8:30 am
**SHIRETOWN
MARKETPLACE**

PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Join us for a yearly MNFF tradition: Sunday Breakfast at Shiretown Marketplace hosted by the MNFF Board of Directors.



SUN 8/30

10:30 am
**TOWN HALL
THEATER**

A CONVERSATION WITH JANE FONDA

Join an exciting conversation with the one and only Jane Fonda on the main stage at Town Hall Theater, hosted by MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven.

Securing your seat in advance is required for both passholders and ticket buyers.



SUN 8/30

12 pm
**TOWN HALL
THEATER**

KLUTE

HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH JANE FONDA

A high-priced call girl is forced to depend on a reluctant private eye when she is stalked by a psychopath. An Oscar-winning performance, Jane Fonda's first of two for Best Actress in a Leading Role.

EVENTS



SUN 8/30

2:30 pm

TOWN HALL
THEATER

GASLIT

HONOREE SCREENING & ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH JANE FONDA,
DIRECTOR KATIE CAMOSY AND NOTABLE FILM PARTICIPANT, ROISHETTA
SIBLEY OZANE

MODERATED BY BILL MCKIBBEN

Gaslit is the story of the shrimpers, cattle ranchers, former oil workers,
faith communities, community organizers, self-described "reluctant
activists," and people across political and cultural spectrums who have
come together in defense of the communities and coastlines they love.



SUN 8/30

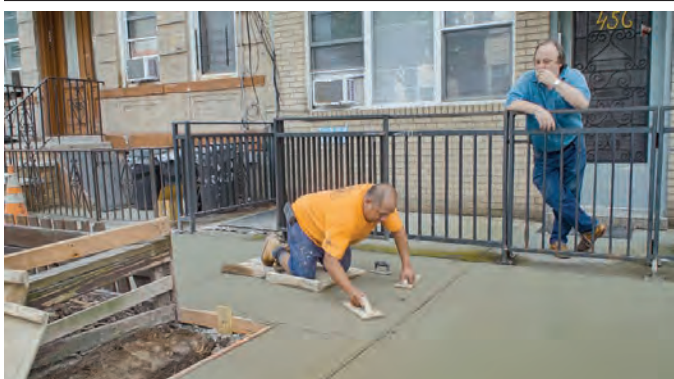
6:30 pm

TOWN HALL
THEATER

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MNFF12 CLOSING NIGHT CEREMONY

Be a part of the joyful MNFF Closing Night Ceremonies, where the
famous VTeddy Awards are given out to our winning filmmakers.



SUN 8/30

7:30 pm

TOWN HALL
THEATER

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MNFF12 CLOSING NIGHT FILM *THE HISTORY OF CONCRETE*

Filmmaker John Wilson looks to the bedrock of his beloved New York
City for inspiration and structure. Concrete, the world's most widely
used building material, appears as an ever-present life force, and John
sets out to make the definitive documentary on the matter.

ILSLEY GRAND OPENING

AUGUST 29

9:30
AM

BRISTOL BAND

Hear Ilesley's March and other favorites leading
up to the ribbon cutting.

10
AM

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

10:30-
12 PM

OPEN HOUSE

Explore the building, do some crafts, and enjoy
refreshments and live music on the roof terrace.

11
AM

STORYTIME

Join Miss Tricia in the Community Room for
the new library's inaugural Storytime!

2 PM

FILM SCREENING

MNFF screening of *Storyboard: The Musical*,
a 20 minute family friendly short film

WELCOME to Middlebury

We hope you enjoy our eclectic local shops, delicious
food, world-class outdoor recreation and vibrant art!

Experience all that Middlebury has to offer!

Thank you to the organizers of the MNFF for their hard work in bringing
another wonderful festival to Middlebury this year.

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JURY

JILL CAMPBELL



Jill Campbell is an award-winning filmmaker whose latest documentary, *Beyond the Gaze: Jule Campbell's Swimsuit Issue*, screened at more than 30 film festivals, received multiple Best Documentary and Jury Awards, earned two Telly Awards and was released theatrically at IFC Center in New York and AMC Theatres nationwide before premiering on PBS and major streaming platforms. Campbell holds an MFA in Integrated Media Arts from Hunter College, is a Killer Films 20/20/20 Fellow and also directed *Mr. Chibbs* and *Seat 20D*.

MARGOT HARRISON



Margot Harrison has been a film critic at Vermont paper Seven Days for nearly 20 years and is a past winner of the Jim Ridley Award for arts criticism from the Association of Alternative Newsmedia. She is also the author of *The Midnight Club* and five other novels, and her book reviews have appeared in the *New York Times* and elsewhere.

JEREMY HOLM



Jeremy Holm is best known for portraying Nathan Green on the Golden Globe®-nominated Netflix series *House of Cards* and Mr. Sutherland on the Golden Globe®-winning USA series *Mr. Robot*. His theatre work includes appearances at Arena Stage, Shakespeare Theatre Company, St. Louis Repertory Theatre, Cherry Lane Theatre, and BAM in New York City, to name a few. He also appears in numerous feature films, including *Silo*, *The Ranger*, *The Judge*, *Among the Beasts* and most recently *Redux Redux*, now streaming on Hulu.

STEPHANIE KAZNOCHA



Stephanie Kaznocha is an award-winning filmmaker and editor. Her first short film, *Confessions*, premiered at Palm Springs Shortfest and went on to win several awards, including the Audience Award at Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. Some of her editing credits include HBO's *Room 104*, Comedy Central's *Awkafina* is *Nora from Queens*, Roshan Sethi's *A Nice Indian Boy*, and, most recently, Katie Aselton's *Their Town*, which premiered at SXSW.



JENIFER MCSHANE

Jenifer McShane is an award-winning, independent filmmaker committed to using film to bridge understanding in situations where divisions typically keep people apart. McShane's Emmy nominated film, *The Quilters* (Netflix) follows a men's quilting group in a maximum-security prison in Missouri. Her most recent feature film, *Ernie & Joe: Crisis Cops* (HBO), won a Jury Award

at South By Southwest and an Emmy for Outstanding Editing. Her previous feature film, *Mothers of Bedford* (PBS), explores the impact of incarceration on mothers and their children. Jenifer lives in Guilford, CT.



NIKHIL MELNECHUK

Nikhil Melnechuk is an award-winning director and producer whose work spans the independent film landscape. His Spoken Word documentary production *Don't Be Nice* (Dir. Max Powers; Winner, Best Doc, MNFF 2018) can be seen on Amazon Video and Fuse+. His Nashville-set, singer/songwriter biopic *The Easy Kind* (Dir. Katy Chevigny; World Premiere, Telluride 2024) is on Apple

TV. His narrative feature directing debut, *Daisy*, follows the story of woman bull rider Daisy Ryder and is in post-production.



ALEXIS NEOPHYTIDES

Alexis Neophytides is a New York City-based documentary filmmaker. Her films include the award-winning *Fire Through Dry Grass* (POV/PBS), a *New York Times* Critic's Pick and BlackStar Jury Award winner, and *Dear Thirteen* (DOC NYC), distributed by Journeyman Pictures and Grasshopper Film. She also co-created the Emmy-nominated documentary series *Neighborhood Slice*

and won a New York Emmy for 9.99. Alexis is currently directing her third feature-length documentary, *American Fall*.



HILARY NERONI

Hilary Neroni is Professor of Film and Television Studies at the University of Vermont. She is the author of *Realist Film Theory and Bicycle Thieves*, *Feminist Film Theory and Cléo from 5 to 7*, *The Subject of Torture* and *The Violent Woman* and has also published numerous essays on film and theory.



BESS O'BRIEN

Bess O'Brien is an award-winning independent documentary filmmaker. Her latest film *Every Day: Big and Small* focused on Vermonters creating community, resilience and possibility and will tour the state in Fall 2026.



BEN SILBERFARB

Ben Silberfarb runs SILBERFARB FILMS located in Norwich, Vermont. He produces videos for television, cinema, the internet and independent clients. Ben's projects range from producing and directing feature films (*The Arrest Machine*, 2026; *Whitman Brook*, 2023) to television commercials. His background in environmental conservation—including a Master of Environmental Studies (Yale University) and employment by The Nature Conservancy (1992-97) and The Lyme Timber Company (1999-2006)—has fueled a special interest in filmmaking about the outdoors.



BENJAMIN DREW THOMPSON

Benjamin Drew Thompson is a producer and filmmaker based in Brooklyn. His works have premiered at dozens of film festivals including SXSW, Tribeca, Cinequest, Flickers Rhode Island International Film Festival, Provincetown Film Festival and Woodstock Film Festival. Ben has also mentored emerging screenwriters in the development of their short

screenplays and pilots as the Development Director of the New York New Stories Screenplay Contest. He is a founding member and owner of Keep or Destroy, a Brooklyn-based independent film production company and a multiple time alum of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival.



MAXIMUS ZEVON-POWELL

Raised in rural Vermont, Maximus Zevon-Powell's early films earned awards for Cinematography and Most Original Screenplay. He studied at the Purchase Film Conservatory. His work has screened at the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival for three consecutive years and at Lincoln Center in New York City through Onward and Upward Productions and Purchase Film.

STAFF



JAY CRAVEN

CO-FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jay is Co-Founder and Artistic Director of MNFF and an independent filmmaker with 12 narrative feature films, a comedy TV series and six documentaries to his credit. His films have played Sundance, SXSW, AFI, Lincoln Center, the Cinematheque Francaise, Constitutional Court of Johannesburg and others. He also founded and di-

rects the Semester Cinema program where, every two years, 30 professionals mentor and collaborate with 45 students from 14 colleges to make an ambitious feature film for national release.



ANDY MITCHELL

MANAGING PRODUCER

Andy is a 5-time Emmy Award winning documentary filmmaker. After attending Middlebury College in the 90's, he traveled the world making films for National Geographic, before moving back to Middlebury, VT to start a family. He's the Co-Founder of the 501(c)3 nonprofit Middlebury Underground, an arts and event production company

that he runs with his wife, Lisa. When not working, he can be found making his own movies, building unnecessary things, and foraging mushrooms in the 1000 acre woods.



LLOYD KOMESAR

CO-FOUNDER

Lloyd Komesar spent nearly 30 years as a sales, research and distribution exec in the film and television programming industry, first at Blair Television in New York, then, for the next 25 years, at the Walt Disney Company in New York and Los Angeles. MNFF has become the greatest second chapter he could ever have wished for. A graduate of

Wesleyan University with a Masters from Brooklyn College, his life is anchored by family, friends, film, music and sports. Fly, Eagles, Fly!



ANNIKA ELLIS

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Annika is a 2023 graduate of the University of Vermont's Film and Television Studies program, and first became involved with MNFF as an intern in 2022. She is passionate about the potential of film festivals to foster connection and enlightenment. Outside of working as much as humanly possible, Annika loves animals of any kind, the color pink, and reruns of Forensic Files.



SIMEON HUTNER

SENIOR PROGRAMMER

Simeon Hutner is the Senior Programmer at MNFF. He is also a film editor, director, and producer with thirty years of film and television credits. His work has screened at Sundance, Tribeca, SXSW, Telluride, and numerous other film festivals, and has appeared on HBO, BBC, Bravo, A&E, and PBS. His editing credits include the

documentaries *Vessel* and *Revolution on Canvas*, and his personal film *Traces of Time* won Best Vermont Film at MNFF last year.



WILL HARVEY

VIDEOGRAPHY INTERN

Will is a rising senior at the University of Vermont, where he studies Film and French. A Vermont native, Will is an avid football fan (the English kind) and supports a team that chronically underperforms. A sucker for a sad movie, Will avoids confronting his feelings by cooking the same four meals, sitting on a porch or wasting

away the day reading books he doesn't understand.



SOPHIA FEIER SHEN

PRODUCTION & VIDEOGRAPHY INTERN

Sophia is a rising senior at Middlebury College majoring in Film and Economics. Originally from Shanghai, China, she grew up with lots of television in her grandma's living room. When not watching a movie, she enjoys sitting alone in galleries, exploring hiking trails around the world, and talking about trips to Central Asia.



NATALIE RICHARDSON-WYMORE

PRODUCTION INTERN

Natalie is a student at the University of Vermont, where she studies English and Film. When not in Burlington, she can be found enjoying one of the many lakes in her hometown of Minneapolis, Minnesota. In addition to bodies of fresh water, Natalie loves movie theaters, mass market paperbacks and talking on the phone.



MOLLY KAPLAN

PRODUCTION INTERN

Molly Kaplan is a rising senior at Middlebury College, where she majors in Film and American Studies. She is from Kennett Square Pennsylvania, the mushroom capital of the world. In her free time, Molly can be found losing on Trivia Night at the Marquis, mountain biking, or writing sketch comedy.

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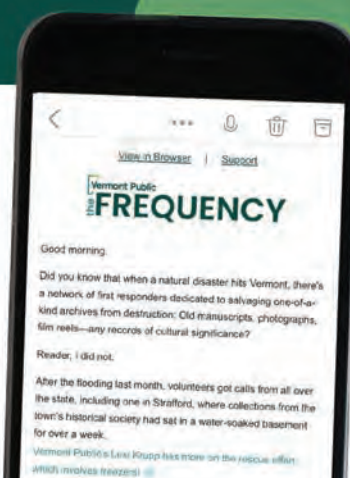
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BRUNCH: SAT & SUN 8AM-2PM | **DINNER:** TUE-SAT 5:30PM-8:30PM

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SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY 8/26

MNFF12.EVENTIVE.ORG ■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

11 am

MARQUIS THEATRE	Diamond Diplomacy (86m)		
AXINN 232	SEED (13m) ■	Joybubbles (77m)	Filmmaker Q&A

2 pm

MARQUIS THEATRE	Stalin Boys (22m) ■★	The Lives of My Father (86m)	Filmmaker Q&A
AXINN 232	CASI SEPTIEMBRE (30m)	Barbara Forever (108m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A

Opening Night Film Doors open 5:30 pm Remarks & Honoree Conversation 6:00 pm

DANA AUDITORIUM			
MARQUIS THEATRE	Hadestown: The Musical (141m) ■	Opening Night ticketholders only, please	
AXINN 232			

9:30 pm

WINTER GARDEN AT THE AXINN CENTER	Opening Night AfterParty	Opening Night ticketholders only, please	
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SCHEDULE THURSDAY 8/27

MNFF12.EVENTIVE.ORG ■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

9 am

TOWN HALL THEATER	Glorious Obscurity (10m) ■	Prickly Mountain and My Design/Build Life (97m) ■★		Filmmaker Q&A
MARQUIS THEATRE	Gatorville (19m)	Old Friends (18m) ■	Runa Simi (81m)	Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	Italiano (20m)	Silent Rebellion (98m)		
TWILIGHT HALL	The Spanish Lesson (12m)	Mango (11m)	God I Want You (88m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
AXINN 232	Peter (11m)	Cahill's Lanes (11m) ■	American Yodel (52m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A

11:30 am

TOWN HALL THEATER	A Grieving Heart (12m) ■	A Place of Absence (86m) ■☆☆	Filmmaker Q&A	
MARQUIS THEATRE	On The Tide (12m)	A Wildlife Calling (8m) ■	Nuisance Bear (90m)	Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	Lily's House (13m)	The Last Day (99m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A	
TWILIGHT HALL	Honoree Screening w/ Mason Daring The Secret of Roan Inish (103m) ■			Honoree Q&A
AXINN 232	Honoree Screening w/ Allyn Stewart Land (89m) ■		Honoree Q&A	

2 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER	Honoree Screening w/ Kirsten Johnson Dick Johnson is Dead (89m) ■		Honoree Q&A	
MARQUIS THEATRE	Cold Feet (12m) ■	Blue Heron (90m)	Filmmaker Q&A	
DANA AUDITORIUM	Returning Honoree Screening w/ Mo Naqvi Hanging by a Wire (77m) ■		Filmmaker Q&A	
TWILIGHT HALL	Like Friend, Like Deer (13m)	Sunshine Express (98m)		
AXINN 232	Honoree Screening w/ Ross McElwee Sherman's March (157m) ■		Honoree Q&A	

4 pm

TOWN OFFICES	FREE Cinematography Master Class with Kirsten Johnson and Andy Mitchell
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SCHEDULE THURSDAY 8/27

CONTINUED

5 pm

SHIRETOWN MARKETPLACE Thursday Happy Hour **Passholders only, please**

7:15 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER	Honoree Screening w/ Mason Daring and Jeanie Stahl Marblehead Morning: 50 Years In Harmony (90m) ■	Honoree Q&A	Mini-concert Daring & Stahl
MARQUIS THEATRE	TOWNIES (Or, My Little Town) (21m) ■	The Siege of Paradise (82m)	Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	Returning Honoree Screening w/ Beth Levison threeASFOUR: FULL CIRCLE (95m) ■		Filmmaker Q&A
TWILIGHT HALL	Portrait (20m) ■	The Friend's House is Here (97m)	Filmmaker Q&A
AXINN 232	Nostaljia (19m)	If I Go Will They Miss Me (90m)	

9:15 pm

MALONEY PLAZA AT TOWN HALL THEATER Thursday Night Party **Passholders only, please**

SCHEDULE FRIDAY 8/28

MNFF12.EVENTIVE.ORG ■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

9 am

TOWN HALL THEATER	JOHN (17m)	Admission Possible (93m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
MARQUIS THEATRE	Born Secret (20m) ■	Kenny: The Marxist Who Would Be Mayor (96m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	A Short Documentary About A Giant Pencil (22m)	Land of Canaan (87m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
TWILIGHT HALL	LINUS (14m) ■	In Excess (72m) ■★	Filmmaker Q&A
AXINN 232	Flight (12m) ■	Memory Foam (10m) ■	Sweet Störy (72m) Filmmaker Q&A

11:30 am

TOWN HALL THEATER	North Star (18m) ■	Acting Like Women (90m) ■★	Filmmaker Q&A
MARQUIS THEATRE	Women Laughing (38m) ■	A Savage Art: The Life and Cartoons of Pat Oliphant (88m)	Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	The Boys and the Bees (19m)	Born That Way (98m) ■★	Filmmaker Q&A
TWILIGHT HALL	Date 3 (16m) ■	Dear Lara (94m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
AXINN 232	Made in America (11m) ■	The Butcheress of Trois-Pistoles (78m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A

2 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER	Honoree Screening w/ Kirsten Johnson Cameraperson (102m) ■	Honoree Q&A
MARQUIS THEATRE	Mary Oliver: Saved by the Beauty of the World (91m) ■	Post film discussion with special guest Bianca Stone
DANA AUDITORIUM	A Life Aloft (13m) ■	I Follow Rivers (92m) Filmmaker Q&A
TWILIGHT HALL	Sound & Color (15m) ■	Take Me Home (91m) Filmmaker Q&A, Sensory Friendly Screening
AXINN 232	Honoree Screening w/ Ross McElwee Remake (114m) ■	Honoree Intro

4 pm

EDGEWATER GALLERY AT THE FALLS **FREE** Producers in Conversation w/ Allyn Stewart, Beth Levison, Kahane Cooperman

ANDERSON STUDIO **FREE** Film Composing Master Class w/ Mason Daring

SCHEDULE FRIDAY 8/28

CONTINUED

5 pm

EDGEWATER GALLERY AT THE FALLS	Friday Happy Hour	Passholders only, please
NOTTE AT TWO BROTHERS TAVERN	Filmmakers Reception	Attending filmmakers only, please

7:15 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER	Give Me The Ball! (102m)		
MARQUIS THEATRE	Bucks Harbor (98m) ■★	Filmmaker Q&A	
DANA AUDITORIUM	Special Event Screening w/ Amy Goodman Steal This Story, Please! (98m) ■		Filmmaker Q&A
TWILIGHT HALL	Jail Time Records (94m) ★		
AXINN 232	Broken Dawn (16m)	Nandauri (93m) ★	

9:15 pm

THE MIDDLEBURY INN	Friday Night Party	Passholders only, please
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SCHEDULE SATURDAY 8/29

MNFF12.EVENTIVE.ORG ■ FILMMAKER ATTENDING ★ AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

9 am

TOWN HALL THEATER	By, Alongside (10m) ■	PULPA (4m)	Robots (65m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
MARQUIS THEATRE	Meow (12m) ■	The Floaters (101m)	Filmmaker Q&A	
DANA AUDITORIUM	One Last Farm (17m) ■	The Lake (88m) ★	Filmmaker Q&A	
TWILIGHT HALL	Beautiful and Neat Room (118m) ■		Filmmaker Q&A	
AXINN 232	The Shoe Thief (12m) ■	My Sunnyside (92m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A	

11:30 am

TOWN HALL THEATER	Kiloran Bay (13m) ■★ The Last Critic (82m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A			
MARQUIS THEATRE	Birthday Boy (14m) ■	Glitch Baby (12m) ■	Fitting (6m)	Edie Arnold is a Loser (73m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	Si la Isla Quiere (Island Willing) (29m) ■	Holding An Edge: A Documentary about Ting Cui (24m) ■		Best Day Ever (48m) ■ Filmmaker Q&A
TWILIGHT HALL	TRUANT (19m) ■★	Coming Home (8m) ■	Landscapes of Memory (78m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A
AXINN 232	Somewhere To Be (9m) ■★		My NDA (99m) ■	Filmmaker Q&A

2 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER	The General (78m)	Special Film/Music Event w/ The Anvil Orchestra		
MARQUIS THEATRE	Boys of Summer (25m) 	The Baker's Hotline (12m) 	Definitely Gangster (70m) 	Filmmaker Q&A
DANA AUDITORIUM	Honoree Screening w/ Allyn Stewart Sully (96m) 		Honoree Q&A	
TWILIGHT HALL	Yas King! (17m) 	Creede U.S.A. (94m) 	Filmmaker Q&A	
AXINN 232	Neuman (16m) 	Union County (97m)		
ILSLEY LIBRARY	FREE Special Screening at Ilsley Library Grand Re-opening		Storyboard: The Musical (19m)	

SCHEDULE SATURDAY 8/29

CONTINUED

4 pm

THE COURTYARD AT THE MIDDLEBURY INN **FREE** A Conversation with Special Guest Amy Goodman

5 pm

MALONEY PLAZA AT TOWN HALL THEATER Saturday Happy Hour **Passholders only, please**

7:15 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER Space Cowboy (98m)

MARQUIS THEATRE Seized (94m) **★** Filmmaker Q&A

DANA AUDITORIUM Billy Preston: That's the Way God Planned It (105m)

TWILIGHT HALL Everybody to Kenmure Street (99m)

AXINN 232 The President's Cake (105m)

9:15 pm

CROOKED LADLE Saturday Night Party **Passholders only, please**

SCHEDULE SUNDAY 8/30

MNFF12.EVENTIVE.ORG **■** FILMMAKER ATTENDING **★** AWARD/PRIZE WINNER

8:30 am

SHIRETOWN MARKETPLACE Sunday Breakfast **Passholders only, please**

9:30 am

MARQUIS THEATRE Wood Street (100m)

AXINN 232 Faux Bijoux (22m) A Mosquito in the Ear (90m)

10:30 am

TOWN HALL THEATER A Conversation with Jane Fonda

12 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER Honoree Screening w/ Jane Fonda | Klute (114m) **■** Honoree Q&A

MARQUIS THEATRE Who Moves America? (87m)

AXINN 232 Dark Frequency (12m) **■** The Humbug (9m) Sender (95m) **■** Filmmaker Q&A

2:30 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER Honoree Screening w/ Jane Fonda and Katie Camosy | Gaslit (115m) **■ ★** Filmmaker Q&A

MARQUIS THEATRE American Doctor (91m)

AXINN 232 Maddie's Secret (100m)

Closing Night Ceremony 6:30 pm

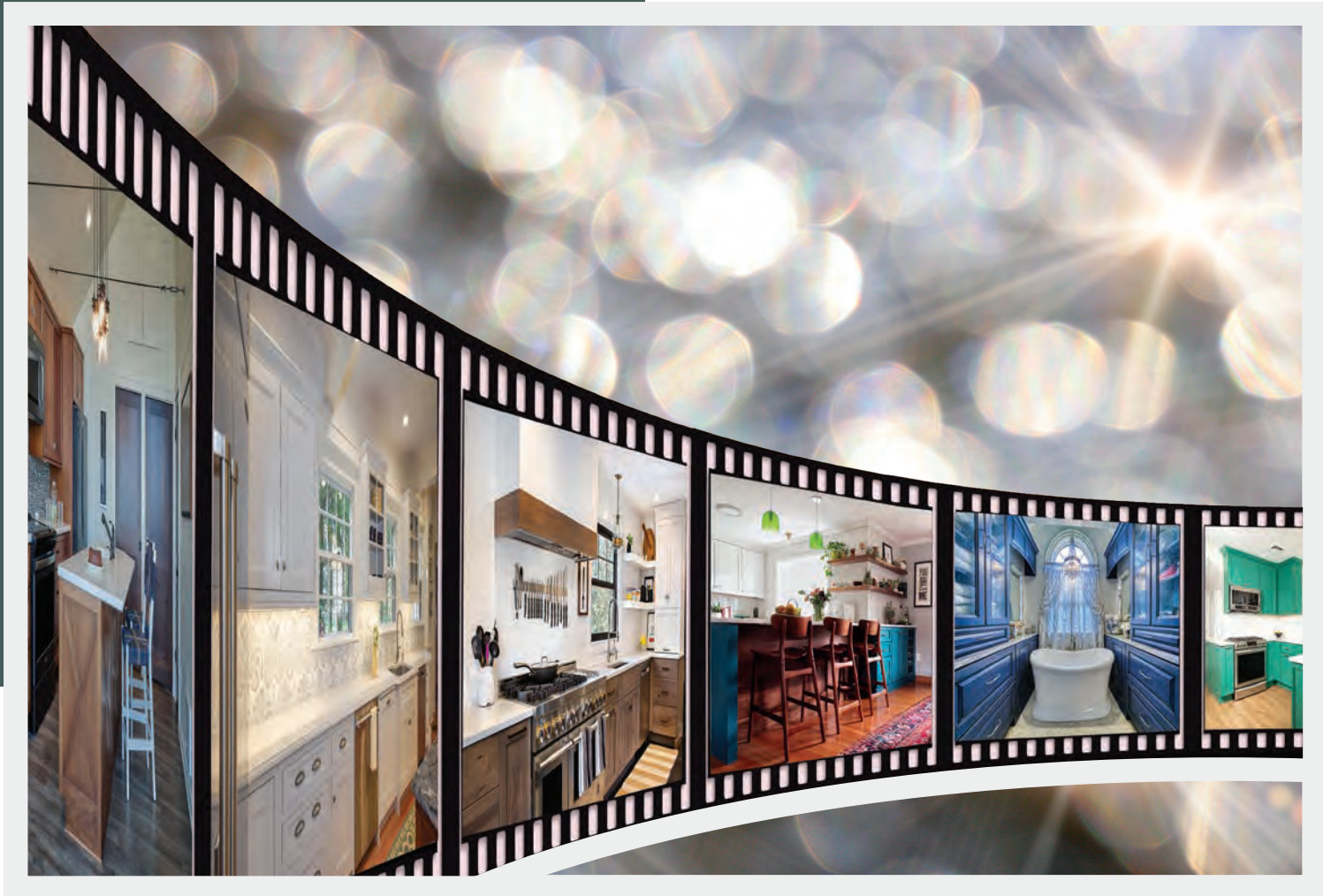
TOWN HALL THEATER **FREE** MNFF12 VTeddy Awards

Closing Night Film 7:30 pm

TOWN HALL THEATER **FREE** Honoree Screening w/ John Wilson | The History of Concrete (101m) Filmmaker Q&A

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FILMS A-Z

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- 🕒 SHORT FILM
- FEATURE FILM

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WINNER: SWIFT HOUSE PRIZE FOR
BEST DEPICTION OF THE ARTS

Acting Like Women ■



FRI 8/28
11:30 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 90 MIN

Through interviews, archival footage, and personal reflections, feminist artist Cheri Gaulke revisits the 1970s Los Angeles foundational art space, The Woman's Building, laying bare how a collective of artists transformed their bodies and voices in performance to a powerful tool for activism, reshaping the cultural landscape for generations of women.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Liz Yale Marsh,
Cheryl Bookout, Meg Linton,
Anne Gauldin, Cheri Gaulke
Directed by: Cheri Gaulke

United States
English
**New England
Premiere**

Admission Possible ■



FRI 8/28
9 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 93 MIN

Admission Possible follows high-achieving, first-generation college applicants from a single NYC public high school as they strive to secure a future once unimaginable for their immigrant families.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Jim Czarnecki
Directed by: Matthew Syrett,
Bowie Alexander

United States
English
**Vermont
Premiere**

American Doctor



SUN 8/30
2:30 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 91 MIN

American Doctor is a vérité non-fiction film following three prominent physicians—Palestinian, Jewish, and Zoroastrian—friends who couldn't be more different but are bound by the shared oath to save lives.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Poh Si Teng,
Kirstine Barfod, Reem Haddad
Directed by: Poh Si Teng

United States,
Palestinian
Territories,
Malaysia, Qatar,
Denmark
English, Arabic,
Hebrew
**Vermont
Premiere**

American Yodel ■



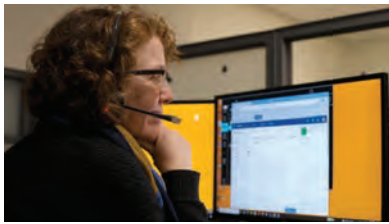
THU 8/27
9 AM
AXINN 232
● 52 MIN

In Indiana, one town is called Bern and another Geneva. Fanny, Tristan, and their guide Jacques set out to trace the history of Anabaptist immigration, a religious movement born in Zurich and forced into exile from the late 17th century onward. What remains of Swiss heritage among the Mennonites and the Amish, the two branches of this movement that crossed the Atlantic? And why does Jacques share such a rare and unique connection with the Amish?

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Gaëlle Mafunu
Directed by: Tristan Miquel

Switzerland,
United States
English, French,
Swiss, German
U.S. Premiere

The Baker's Hotline ■



SAT 8/29
2 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 12 MIN

At a hotline for baking emergencies, a small team fields calls from strangers in crisis, only to discover that behind each kitchen catastrophe lies a tender, messy slice of someone's life.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Emily Schuman
Directed by: Emily Schuman,
Dave Schuman
United States
English
**Vermont
Premiere**

Barbara Forever ■



WED 8/26
2 PM
AXINN 232
● 108 MIN

An intimate, dream-like, and masterfully crafted look at the iconic life, work, & legacy of the pioneering feminist experimental filmmaker responsible for some of the most prominent early works in the history of lesbian cinema.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Elijah Stevens,
Brydie O'Connor
Directed by: Brydie O'Connor
United States
English

Beautiful and Neat Room ■



SAT 8/29
9 AM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 118 MIN

In order to be able to afford a small 2BR Brooklyn apartment, a fiercely artistic woman decides to cohabitate with one seemingly harmless but secretly unhinged roommate after the next and finds herself in some bizarre boundary-pushing experiences, forcing her to question her own norms and the human psyche.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Maria Petschnig
Directed by: Maria Petschnig
United States
English
U.S. Premiere

Best Day Ever ■



SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 48 MIN

Allie and Greg navigate disability and regain independence with humor, attitude, and grit on mountain bike trails that dismantle ableism, build community, and become a blueprint for trails anywhere.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Berne Broudy
Directed by: Ben Knight, Berne
Broudy
United States
English

Billy Preston: That's the Way God Planned It



SAT 8/29
7:15 PM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 105 MIN

An exhilarating documentary about the legendary GRAMMY-winning musician whose signature sound shaped the work of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Ray Charles, Sly Stone, Aretha Franklin, and countless others.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Stephanie Allain,
Jeanne Elfant Festa, Nigel
Sinclair, Cheo Hodari Coker
Directed by: Paris Barclay
United States
English

Birthday Boy ■



SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 14 MIN

It's Rae's birthday, and their narcissistic father Jeff is coming to visit, with disastrous results. After tragedy strikes, Rae struggles to hold their family together through a tense dinner, while dealing with the non-stop stress of Jeff's personality.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Logan Fyn
Directed by: Rosa Brooke
United Kingdom
English
**New England
Premiere**

Blue Heron



THU 8/27
2 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 90 MIN

A family of six moves into a new home on Vancouver Island, but the eldest son's disruptive behavior gradually throws their lives off balance.

This film is presented in partnership with the Vermont International Film Festival.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Ryan Bobkin, Sara
Wylie, Sophy Romvari, Gábor
Osváth
Directed by: Sophy Romvari
Canada, Hungary
English, Hungarian

Born Secret ■



FRI 8/28
9 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 20 MIN

A filmmaker returns to his hometown that built the atomic bomb. There he meets the workers who created humanity's greatest weapon that now wrestle with their legacy, while their grandchildren inherit a world on the brink of nuclear catastrophe.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Grant Conversano,
Adam Conversano
Directed by: Riley Fitchpatrick
United States
English
**Vermont
Premiere**

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

Born That Way ■



FRI 8/28
11:30 AM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 98 MIN

Over Patrick Lydon's final year, he reflects on a life that took him from rock journalism in the US to driving the radically inclusive Camphill Movement in Ireland, sharing life with people of diverse needs and abilities. Patrick's lens on the world raises searching questions about ideas of disability and inclusion and shines a special light on the otherness in our society.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Adrian McCarthy
Directed by: Éamon Little
Ireland
English

The Boys and the Bees



FRI 8/28
11:30 AM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 19 MIN

The Boys and the Bees chronicles the changing seasons in the life of the Ray Family as they pursue their dream of freedom; raising bees on a farm in rural Georgia while teaching their young sons what they need to steward the planet they call home.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Sean Weiner
Directed by: Arielle C. Knight
United States
English
New England Premiere

Boys of Summer



SAT 8/29
2 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 25 MIN

Two boys arrive at a remote summer camp in the Vermont woods. Free from screens and societal expectations, they learn to open up, support one another, and redefine what it means to be a boy. *Boys of Summer* is a tender vérité portrait of vulnerability, friendship, and the quiet rebellion of feeling deeply in a world that often tells boys not to.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Tsering Bista, Razi Jafri
Directed by: Annabel Edwards, Mito Habe-Evans
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

Broken Dawn



FRI 8/28
7:15 PM
AXINN 232
● 16 MIN

At dawn in Seoul, an elderly substitute driver faces indifference and quiet prejudice as she struggles through another night of work. Through a small but meaningful act of letting go, she begins to reclaim the dignity and direction of her own life.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Jeong-seo Park
Directed by: Hae-Oh Park
South Korea
Korean
New England Premiere

WINNER: BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Bucks Harbor



FRI 8/28
7:15 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 98 MIN

In coastal Maine, harsh winters, fishing traditions, and strict paternal values mold young men. *Bucks Harbor* shows life where physical strength determines a man's value.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Nathan Golon, Pete Muller, Noel Paul
Directed by: Pete Muller
United States
English

The Butcheress of Trois-Pistoles



FRI 8/28
11:30 AM
AXINN 232
● 78 MIN

Renée LeBlanc-Paulin has made a radical choice: to work exclusively with whole local carcasses. Around her, a network of committed women — a chef, a livestock farmer, a slaughterhouse manager, an institutional cook — helps sustain a supply chain as fragile as it is essential.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Evelynne Lafleur Guy
Directed by: Karine Lamontagne
Canada
French
U.S. Premiere

By, Alongside

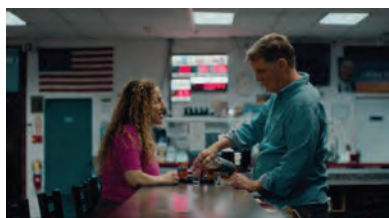


SAT 8/29
9 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 10 MIN

Art therapist and founder of ArtVan Jamie Silvestri reflects on her organization's mission to bring art therapy to low-income communities in rural Maine, and the meaning of art in her own life.

Documentary Feature
Directed by: Matt Didisheim
United States
English
World Premiere

Cahill's Lanes

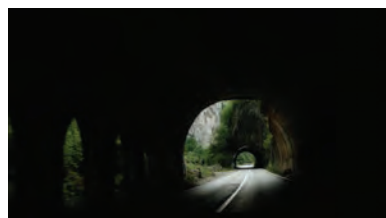


THU 8/27
9 AM
AXINN 232
● 11 MIN

Set in a small-town bowling alley, *Cahill's Lanes* follows a young woman's attempt to connect with her estranged father as he resists accountability and emotion.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Joseph White, Sage Spielman, Marco Jo Clate, Elizabeth Wiseman
Directed by: Marco Jo Clate
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

Cameraperson



FRI 8/28
2 PM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 102 MIN

A work that combines documentary, autobiography, and ethical inquiry, *Cameraperson* is both a moving glimpse into one filmmaker's personal journey and a thoughtful examination of what it means to train a camera on the world.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Kirsten Johnson, Marilyn Ness
Directed by: Kirsten Johnson
United States
English

CASI SEPTIEMBRE



WED 8/26
2 PM
AXINN 232
● 30 MIN

At a campsite near luxury resorts, Alejandra juggles family responsibilities and casual flirtations with tourists. Then, her life takes an unexpected turn.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Sergi Casamitjana, Aintza Serra, Carlos Fernández, Laura Fernández Brites
Directed by: Lucía G. Romero
Spain
Spanish

Cold Feet ■



THU 8/27
2 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 12 MIN

Kitty has always followed her best friend Ramona's lead. When an impromptu double date goes awry, she has to find her own way home for the first time.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Rachel Lee, Gili-Jo Froman
Directed by: Heather Hill
United States
English
New England Premiere

Coming Home ■



SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 8 MIN

Coming Home is an intimate portrait of displacement, marriage under pressure, and the invisible wounds of war—following two refugees caught between memory and survival, searching for a place where they can finally belong.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Lena Abraham, Vadym Babaiev, CJ Lin
Directed by: Lena Abraham
United States
English, Russian, Ukrainian

Creede U.S.A. ■

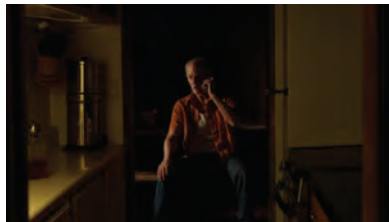


SAT 8/29
2 PM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 94 MIN

Welcome to Creede - a remote, once-booming mining town with no stop light, a theater company and 300+ folks at 9,000 feet. This unlikely setting – with its miners, ranchers and theater people – offers an unexpected lens on divisions felt by Americans everywhere.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Innbo Shim, Kahane Cooperman
Directed by: Kahane Cooperman
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

Dark Frequency ■



SUN 8/30
12:00 PM
AXINN 232
● 12 MIN

A once robust older man descends into paranoia after reporting a crime to the cops. Is he right, or is he losing his mind?

Narrative Short
Produced by: Rebecca Lafon
Directed by: Thomas Bayne
United States
English
World Premiere

Date 3 ■



FRI 8/28
11:30 AM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 16 MIN

Ella psyches herself up for a third date with Harry but boundaries get crossed. Is it simply a case of miscommunication or something more sinister?

Narrative Short
Produced by: Kali Reid, Madeleine de Wilde Barr
Directed by: Cristabel Sved
Australia
English
U.S. Premiere

Dear Lara ■

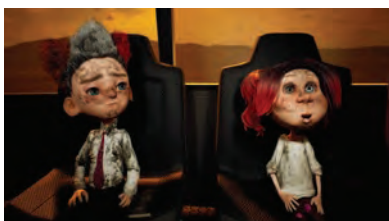


FRI 8/28
11:30 AM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 94 MIN

When violinist Lara St. John goes public about her own assault as a child at an elite music school, she uncovers a global pattern of abuse in the classical music world and joins fellow survivors to confront an entrenched culture of silence.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Patrick Hamm, Christy McGill
Directed by: Lara St. John
Canada, United States
English
Vermont Premiere

Definitely Gangster ■



SAT 8/29
2 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 70 MIN

Terminally ill eight-year-old Zander and his best friend Julie use a magical cardboard box to embark on an adventurous quest to fulfill his dream of becoming "a little bit gangster," in this heartwarming comedy about friendship, love, and finding courage along the way.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Brenda Goodman
Directed by: JLee MacKenzie
United States
English

Diamond Diplomacy

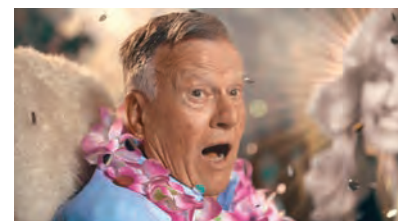


WED 8/26
11 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 86 MIN

Diamond Diplomacy explores the long and complex relationship between the U.S. and Japan through the shared love of baseball, revealing a moving diplomatic history that spans generations.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Yuriko Gamo Romer, Marc Smolowitz, Loi Ameera Almeron
Directed by: Yuriko Gamo Romer
United States, Japan
English

Dick Johnson is Dead ■



THU 8/27
2 PM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 89 MIN

Filmmaker Kirsten Johnson is ready to use every escapist movie-making trick in the book - staging inventive and fantastical ways for her 86-year-old psychiatrist father to die while hoping that cinema might help her bend time, laugh at pain and keep her father alive forever.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Katy Chevigny, Kirsten Johnson, Marilyn Ness
Directed by: Kirsten Johnson
United States
English

Edie Arnold is a Loser ■

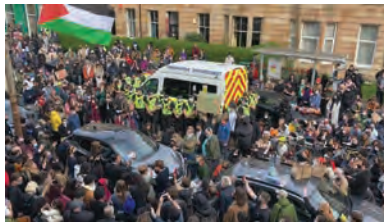


SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 73 MIN

Timid dork Edie accidentally takes the spotlight when she starts a punk band with her fellow “turds”, becoming an icon to the rest of the losers at her all-girls Catholic school while managing to piss off the hot girls, the nuns, and the horniest altar boy you’ve ever seen.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Bryson Alejandro
Directed by: Megan Rico, Kade Atwood
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

Everybody to Kenmure Street



SAT 8/29
7:15 PM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 99 MIN

Glasgow residents abandon their daily routines to gather on Kenmure Street after learning authorities plan to deport their neighbors, sparking an impromptu grassroots movement.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Ciara Barry, Felipe Bustos Sierra, Emma Thompson, Hugh Bonneville
Directed by: Felipe Bustos Sierra
United Kingdom
English

Faux Bijoux



SUN 8/30
9:30 AM
AXINN 232
● 22 MIN

Mireille promises Johnny the big screen, dragging him to an audition whose rules only she truly knows.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Jean-Baptiste Savary, Olivier Muller
Directed by: Jessy Moussallem
France, Lebanon
Arabic, English, Finnish

Fitting



SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 6 MIN

Fitting is a coming-of-age comedy about Toni, a self-conscious young woman experiencing her first ever bra fitting, which unexpectedly evolves into a unique bond with her bra fitter.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Jane Ryan, Kasra Firouzyar
Directed by: Kasra Firouzyar
United Kingdom
English
U.S. Premiere

Flight ■



FRI 8/28
9 AM
AXINN 232
● 12 MIN

A small town cafe owner unexpectedly faces her fears, changing her life forever. This film was made collaboratively by the students and mentors of Semester Cinema. The Q&A following will include the owners of the featured cafe.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Maximus Zevon-Powell
Directed by: Kahane Corn Cooperman
United States
English
World Premiere

The Floaters

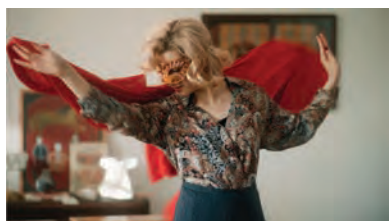


SAT 8/29
9 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 101 MIN

When struggling musician Nomi is abruptly kicked out of her band on the eve of a European tour, her childhood best friend Mara convinces her to take a last-resort job as a fill-in counselor at Camp Daveed.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Becky Korman, Lily Korman, Shai Korman, Andra Gordon
Directed by: Rachel Israel
United States
English

The Friend's House is Here



THU 8/27
7:15 PM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 97 MIN

In Tehran’s underground art scene, two young women build a blissful world of freedom and sisterhood. But when their creative circle is exposed, they must fight to save each other.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Maryam Ataei, Hossein Keshavarz
Directed by: Hossein Keshavarz, Maryam Ataei
Iran
Persian
Vermont Premiere

WINNER: GAIA PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FILMMAKING Gaslit ■



SUN 8/30
2:30 PM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 115 MIN

As the world teeters on the brink of irreversible climate disaster, actor and activist Jane Fonda ventures deep into oil and gas country, meeting the people who are exposing the fossil fuel industry’s lies.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Katie Camosy
Directed by: Katie Camosy
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

Gatorville



THU 8/27
9 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 19 MIN

In Colorado’s forgotten valley, two siblings face alligators and the ache of leaving youth behind.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Chloe Campion, Freddie Gluck, Matteo Moretti
Directed by: Freddie Gluck
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

The General



SAT 8/29
2 PM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 78 MIN

After being rejected by the Confederate military, not realizing it was due to his crucial civilian role, an engineer must single-handedly recapture his beloved locomotive after it is seized by Union spies and return it through enemy lines.

Narrative Feature United States
Produced by: Buster Keaton, Joseph M. Schenck
Directed by: Buster Keaton, Clyde Bruckman

Give Me The Ball!



FRI 8/28
7:15 PM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 102 MIN

This uniquely intimate portrayal of tennis legend and trailblazer Billie Jean King reveals the inner turmoil behind the immense sacrifices she made to transform her sport and the world.

Documentary Feature United States
Produced by: Liz Garbus, Elizabeth Wolff, Dominic Crossley-Holland, Dan Cogan, Gentry Kirby, Chris James
Directed by: Liz Garbus, Elizabeth Wolff
English
Vermont Premiere

Glitch Baby



SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 12 MIN

In this queer coming-of-age story, an unexpected show of affection leaves a young tomboy humiliated and questioning her place in the universe. In this self-defining moment, she triggers a quantum phenomenon that brings her face to face with a celestial version of herself, through this encounter, the possibility of self-acceptance.

Narrative Short United States
Produced by: Yaél Bermudez, Heather Francis
Directed by: Celine Sutter
English
Vermont Premiere

Glorious Obscurity

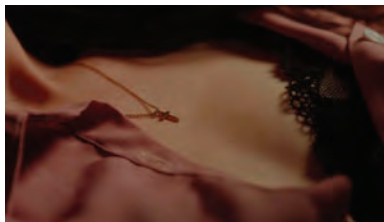


THU 8/27
9 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 10 MIN

Nestled in the hills of rural Vermont, the Museum of Everyday Life is dedicated to chronicling the minutia of our lives. *Glorious Obscurity* transports you into this unique world and follows Clare, the museum creator, as she wrestles to balance her own everyday life with her artistic goals.

Documentary Short United States
Produced by: Ronan Furuta
Directed by: Ronan Furuta
English

God I Want You



THU 8/27
9 AM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 88 MIN

When his ex-fiancée gets engaged to the most insufferable man in his church, a devout pastor's son forms an unlikely connection with a free-spirited woman outside his faith community, forcing him to choose not only between two relationships, but between the life he's always known and the beliefs that define him.

Narrative Feature United States
Produced by: Wes Auburn, Victoria Britton, Kurtis Bowersock, Shalyn Grow, Asya Hildenbrand, Josh Riedford, Alex Rodgers
Directed by: Zac Cooper
English
World Premiere

A Grieving Heart

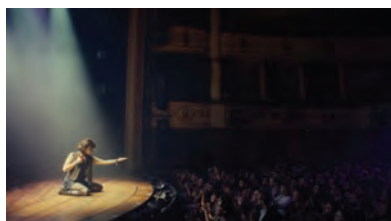


THU 8/27
1130 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 12 MIN

An immigrant woman examines her past in the wake of her American ex-boyfriend's death. The film explores how love and loss impact the ways she confronts her identity, memories, insecurities, and regrets.

Narrative Short United States
Produced by: Wendy Cong Zhao
Directed by: Wendy Cong Zhao
English
Vermont Premiere

Hadestown: The Musical



WED 8/26
6:30 PM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 141 MIN

A musical juxtaposition of the Orpheus/Eurydice and Hades/Persephone myths that examines the way real life can impact our quest for a perfect world.

Narrative Feature United States
Produced by: Hunter Arnold, Dale Franzen, Mara Isaacs, Tom Kirdahy
Directed by: Brett Sullivan
English
Vermont Festival Premiere

Hanging by a Wire

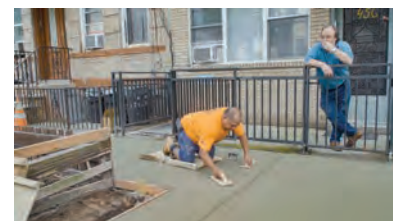


THU 8/27
2 PM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 77 MIN

A routine school commute turns terrifying when a cable car's wire snaps, leaving eight passengers — including six schoolboys — dangling 900 feet above a ravine in the remote Himalayan foothills.

Documentary Feature Pakistan, United Kingdom, United States
Produced by: Mohammed Ali Naqvi, Bilal Sami
Directed by: Mohammed Ali Naqvi
English, Urdu, Pashto

The History of Concrete



SUN 8/30
7:30 PM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 101 MIN

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

Documentary Feature United States
Produced by: John Wilson, Clark Filio, Shirel Kozak, Allie Viti
Directed by: John Wilson
English

Holding An Edge: A Documentary About Ting Cui ■



SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 24 MIN

Holding an Edge is a portrait of Ting Cui, a former Team USA figure skater navigating the pressures of competition, the aftermath of injury, and the transition into life beyond the rink.

Documentary Short United States
Produced by: Lucy Curtis-Cherry English
Directed by: Lucy Curtis-Cherry

The Humbug



SUN 8/30
12:00 PM
AXINN 232
● 9 MIN

Two elderly women in a care home grapple with magical mint humbugs, setting off an absurd journey through pleasure and peril.

Narrative Short United Kingdom
Produced by: Geoff Stickler English
Directed by: Cole Paviour **New England Premiere**

I Follow Rivers



FRI 8/28
2 PM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 92 MIN

After becoming a mother of two, world-class kayaker Mariann Sæther sets out to conquer one of Iceland's most dangerous waterfalls, forcing her to confront the balance between ambition, family, and risk.

Documentary Feature Iceland, Norway
Produced by: Filip Christensen English, Norwegian
Directed by: Barbora Hollan **U.S. Premiere**

If I Go Will They Miss Me



THU 8/27
7:15 PM
AXINN 232
● 90 MIN

As Lil Ant searches for connection with his god-like yet conflicted father, he finds support in his close-knit community that helps him reconcile myth and reality.

Narrative Feature United States
Produced by: Josh Peters, Saba Zerehi, Ben Stillman, Walter Thompson-Hernández English
Directed by: Walter Thompson-Hernández

In Excess ■



FRI 8/28
9 AM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 72 MIN

What can our trash tell us about who we are? In this experimental documentary, Philadelphia based filmmaker Melissa Langer asks her audience to confront what it means to consume and discard.

Documentary Feature United States
Produced by: Nora Wilkinson English
Directed by: Melissa Langer **Vermont Premiere**

Italiano



THU 8/27
9 AM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 20 MIN

Two Iranian gay boys during the Women's Freedom Movement want to smuggle themselves out of Iran due to the difficult living conditions for gays, but they face difficulties in financing the smuggling trip.

Narrative Short Iran
Directed by: Mehdi Davachi Persian

WINNER: GAMBLE-PAISON PRIZE FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM

Jail Time Records

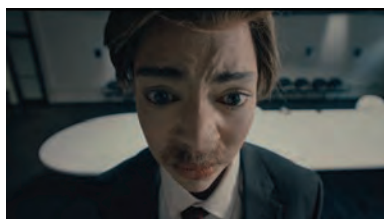


FRI 8/28
7:15 PM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 94 MIN

Jail Time Records is a documentary musical that follows recording artists emerging from one of the world's toughest settings. Inside the crammed alleyways of the Central Prison of Douala in Cameroon, the film immerses itself in the lives of the inmates-turned-artists that make up Jail Time Records.

Documentary Feature Cameroon, United States
Produced by: Tabitha Breese, Dione Roach, Giacomo Stucchi-Prinetti, Steve Happi, Uberto Rapisardi French
Directed by: Dione Roach, Steve Happi **New England Premiere**

JOHN



FRI 8/28
9 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 17 MIN

Abigail, a black female lawyer, navigates systemic racism and discrimination in a predominantly white and male corporate law office.

Narrative Short United States
Produced by: Nellie Luna, Tosin Omolola, Yennefer Fang English
Directed by: Amirah Adem **New England Premiere**

Joybubbles



WED 8/26
11 AM
AXINN 232
● 77 MIN

A boy discovers he can control the global telephone system by whistling a magic tone. Born blind and yearning for connection, his early obsession with the telephone sparks a subculture that shapes the future of hacking and technology. Presented with open audio description and open captions.

Documentary Feature United States
Produced by: Sarah Winshall, Will Butler, Annie Marr English
Directed by: Rachael J Morrison

Kenny: The Marxist Who Would Be Mayor ■



FRI 8/28
9 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 96 MIN

Combining rare footage and interviews with those who knew him best, Kenny charts the unbelievable rise to prominence of a radical Marxist and brilliant legal mind.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Katy Cockrel, Sheila Cockrel, Erin Henneghan, Christopher Gruse, Caleb Dewart, Branden McClure, Ben Ellenberg, Jesse Ford
Directed by: Christopher Gruse
United States
English
World Premiere

WINNER: KATE HEARST PRIZE FOR HUMAN CONNECTIVITY

Kiloran Bay ■



SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 13 MIN

A musical short film starring Alan Cumming and Jack Wolfe. After decades away, a gay man returns home to Scotland to attend a traditional wedding and faces a past he spent a lifetime avoiding.

Narrative Short
Produced by: David Harwood, Beth Levison, Rebecca Wolff
Directed by: Michael Bruce
United Kingdom
English

Klute ■



SUN 8/30
12:00 PM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 114 MIN

A high-priced call girl is forced to depend on a reluctant private eye when she is stalked by a psychopath.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Alan J. Pakula
Directed by: Alan J. Pakula
United States
English

WINNER: GAIA PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENT FILMMAKING

The Lake ■



SAT 8/29
9 AM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 88 MIN

Two intrepid scientists and a political insider race the clock to save their home from an unprecedented catastrophe.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Fletcher Keyes, Abby Ellis
Directed by: Abby Ellis
United States
English

Land ■



THU 8/27
11:30 AM
AXINN 232
● 89 MIN

In the wake of a tragic event, Edee finds herself bereft and unable to stay connected to the world, so she retreats to the Rocky Mountain wilderness. After a hunter brings her back from the brink of death, she struggles to live again.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Allyn Stewart, Leah Holzer, Lora Kennedy, Peter Saraf
Directed by: Robin Wright
United States, United Kingdom, Canada
English

Land of Canaan ■

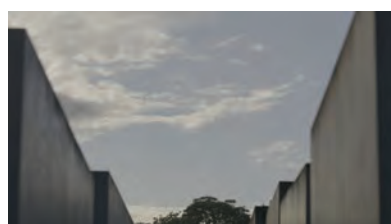


FRI 8/28
9 AM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 87 MIN

As Palestinian culture and land are threatened with systematic destruction, this documentary feature film presents a rare and intimate view of Palestinian farmers and their ancient olive trees - symbols of resilience, heritage, and home.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Maggie Lemere, Nasser Abufarha
Directed by: Maggie Lemere
United States, State of Palestine
Arabic, English

Landscapes of Memory ■

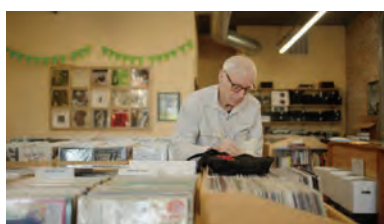


SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 78 MIN

Landscapes of Memory follows filmmaker Leah Galant's journey through Germany as she reckons with family trauma and the weight of historical memory of the Holocaust. Interwoven stories of a Holocaust-survivor descendant, a Nazi-descendant historian, exiled Palestinian artists and her father's ALS reveal the uses and abuses of memory culture.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Elijah Stevens
Directed by: Leah Galant
Germany, United States
English, German, Arabic
New England Premiere

The Last Critic ■



SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 82 MIN

Robert Christgau, The Dean of American Rock Critics, whose work has inspired and infuriated readers for sixty years—is still at it in his eighties, grading records, interrogating commas and listening to absolutely everything (except metal and prog).

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Paul Lovelace, Ben Wu
Directed by: Matty Wishnow
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

The Last Day ■



THU 8/27
11:30 AM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 99 MIN

On the Fourth of July in New York, Julia, a writer and mother, encounters figures from her past and a troubled young mother, prompting her to confront her lack of creative purpose and rediscover herself within the life she has.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Lucie Elwes, Pamela Koffler, Mason Plotts, Rachel Rose, Christine Vachon
Directed by: Rachel Rose
United States
English

A Life Aloft ■



FRI 8/28
2 PM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 13 MIN

A portrait of Paul Stumpf, hot air balloon pilot and New England's last balloon repairman, reflecting on a life lived aloft within a close-knit community of balloon builders and flyers.

Documentary Short
Directed by: Clayton Simoncic

United States
English
**Vermont
Premiere**

Like Friend, Like Deer



THU 8/27
2 PM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 13 MIN

Like Friend, Like Deer tells the story of a wildlife ranger in a critical situation who kills an illegal hunter during a confrontation. This short film explores the deep connection and hidden similarities between humans, animals, and the environment they share.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Malek Eghbali
Directed by: Malek Eghbali

Iran
English, Persian
**Vermont
Premiere**

Lily's House



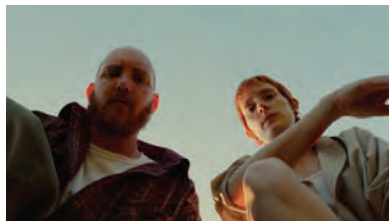
THU 8/27
11:30 AM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 13 MIN

As her father's mental health spirals, 7 year old Lily uses her favourite game to try and bring back the dad she knows.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Jo Hartland,
Matthew Howell
Directed by: Matthew Howell

United Kingdom
English
U.S. Premiere

LINUS ■



FRI 8/28
9 AM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 14 MIN

A downcast Vermont groundskeeper contemplates his own mortality on the job. When he accidentally collides with a migrating hummingbird on his lunch break, he and his annoyed co-worker decide how to proceed.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Corey Quinn
Farrell
Directed by: Corey Quinn Farrell

United States
English
World Premiere

The Lives of My Father



WED 8/26
2 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 86 MIN

When Didrik Hallstrøm discovers a box of hidden tapes and documents, he begins to unravel the extraordinary double life of his father, a celebrated TV journalist who may have spent decades working as a CIA spy. But as truth and fiction blur, one question remains: can any of his father's story be believed?

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Hilde Håbjørg,
Kristian Karlsen
Directed by: Magnus Skatvold

Norway
English, Norwegian

Maddie's Secret



SUN 8/30
2:30 PM
AXINN 232
● 100 MIN

A plucky dishwasher leaps to viral superstardom at a trendy food content creation company, but mounting professional pressures threaten to reawaken a hidden secret from her troubled past.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: John Early,
Luca Intili, Harris Mayersohn,
Jeffery Pinto-Lobo
Directed by: John Early

United States
English

Made in America ■



FRI 8/28
11:30 AM
AXINN 232
● 11 MIN

When Ana goes missing after staying for an extra shift, 'Xo' searches for her friend, only to uncover Ana never made it home.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Care Dorghalli,
Elizabeth Uribe
Directed by: Maritza Cruz

United States
English, Spanish
**New England
Premiere**

Mango



THU 8/27
9 AM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 11 MIN

Zadie is an independent florist who is privately suffering from fibroids but is determined to take her career to the next level. When a dream job arrives, Zadie searches for help in order to control her morphing body but the unwanted growths threaten to take over.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Joan Iyiola, Laura
Jumel, Alison Holder, Mary Iyiola
Directed by: Joan Iyiola

United Kingdom
English

Marblehead Morning: 50 Years in Harmony ■



THU 8/27
7:15 PM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 90 MIN

Marblehead Morning looks back at the careers of singer songwriters Mason Daring and Jeanie Stahl and their half century journey as both a New England Folk duo and as independent artists. Beyond their respective achievements, *Marblehead Morning* is also a story of friendship, family, creativity, aging and the power of music to entertain, inspire and connect.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Bill Aydelott
Directed by: Tim Jackson

United States
English

Mary Oliver: Saved by the Beauty of the World



FRI 8/28
2 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 91 MIN

Featuring interviews with her friends, never-before-seen photos, notebooks, and recitations of her work, *Mary Oliver: Saved by the Beauty of the World* considers the poet's long lifetime of work in context, capturing the uniqueness of her world and the natural beauty that inspired her.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Sasha Waters
Directed by: Sasha Waters
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

Memory Foam



FRI 8/28
9 AM
AXINN 232
● 10 MIN

When a young opera singer throws his mattress down his apartment stairs in a fit of grief, he hopes to leave behind the memories of a love that slipped away.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Lubomir Rzepka
Directed by: Lubomir Rzepka
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

Meow

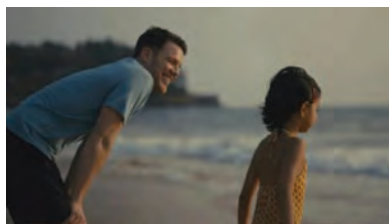


SAT 8/29
9 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 12 MIN

The search for her lost cat changes the path of a Hasidic girl's world.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Michael Uchenik, Eviatar Moncaz, Mika Nesher
Directed by: Sarah Meital Benjamin
Israel
Hebrew
New England Premiere

A Mosquito in the Ear



SUN 8/30
9:30 AM
AXINN 232
● 90 MIN

A Mosquito in the Ear follows Andrew and Daniela as they travel to Goa, India to bring home their newly adopted four-year-old daughter, Sarvari. But when Sarvari refuses to leave the only home she's ever known, their long-awaited journey takes an unexpected turn.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Darren Dean, Emily Dillard, Frank Hall Green, Laurens C. Postma, Sunitha Ram, Ali K. Rizvi, Stephen Stanley, Jomon Thomas
Directed by: Nicola Rinciari
United States
English, Hindi
Vermont Premiere

My NDA



SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
AXINN 232
● 99 MIN

Bound by non-disclosure agreements that forbid them from acknowledging they signed one, three individuals risk everything by breaking their silence to expose how NDAs have been weaponized to conceal rape, racial discrimination, and corporate crimes - reclaiming their voices from the institutions that tried to bury them.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Elizabeth Woodward, Hanna Gray Organschi, Julianne Dressner, Miriam Shor
Directed by: Julianne Dressner, Miriam Shor
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

My Sunnyside



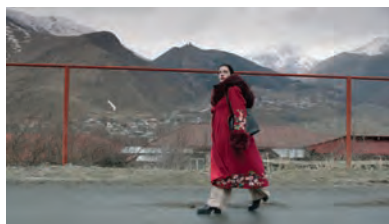
SAT 8/29
9 AM
AXINN 232
● 92 MIN

My Sunnyside is an intimate love story about Allie and Jo, a trans couple in Queens who meet in midlife and build a marriage, family, and shared future against the odds. Filmed over eight years, it's a tender portrait of resilience, chosen family, and a bond that endures even as the unexpected reshapes their lives.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Matylda Kawka, Marc Smolowitz, Jude Hope Harris, Anna Wereda, Alicja Gancarz
Directed by: Matylda Kawka
United States
English
New England Premiere

WINNER: BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE

Nandauri

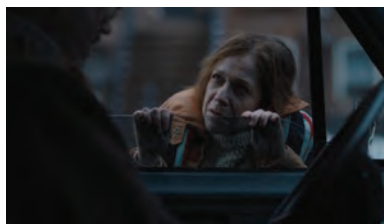


FRI 8/28
7:15 PM
AXINN 232
● 93 MIN

Marina, an Israeli lawyer who has spent her life in denial about her past and identity, returns to Georgia to bring back to Israel an 11-year-old boy who was abandoned by his mother Nino as a baby.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Amir Harel, Ayelet Kait
Directed by: Eti Tsicko
Israel, Italy, Georgia
Georgian

Neuman



SAT 8/29
2 PM
AXINN 232
● 16 MIN

A recovering alcoholic clings to her daily routine after a well liked newcomer disappears just days before his first sober anniversary.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Alexander Spenser Gould
Directed by: Timothy Jacob Elledge
United States
English
New England Premiere

North Star



FRI 8/28
11:30 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 18 MIN

North Star follows a team of researchers as they uncover the true never-before-told story of their hometown heroine—legendary sharpshooter Annie Oakley.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Naveen Chaulal
Directed by: Bryn Silverman
United States
English
New England Premiere

Nostaljia



THU 8/27
7:15 PM
AXINN 232
● 19 MIN

Back in his childhood home, Michaël confronts old grudges and contradictions within a family he never truly left. Between laughter, tension and memories, he wavers between rejection and attachment in a tale where nostalgia is both refuge and burden.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Jeremy Assoun
Directed by: Pierre Audouin

France
French

Nuisance Bear



THU 8/27
11:30 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 90 MIN

A polar bear is forced to navigate a human world of tourists, wildlife officers, and hunters as its ancient migration collides with modern life. When a sacred predator is branded a nuisance, it becomes unclear who truly belongs in this shared landscape.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Michael Code, Will N. Miller, Teddy Leifer
Directed by: Gabriela Osio Vanden, Jack Weisman

United States,
Canada
English, Inuktitut

Old Friends



THU 8/27
9 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 18 MIN

Two friends reconnect after more than a decade and are forced to confront their relationship, both past and present.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Graydon Hanson, Omi Clark
Directed by: Graydon Hanson

United States
English
World Premiere

On The Tide



THU 8/27
11:30 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 12 MIN

Partnered with the Wellfleet Oyster Alliance, a non-profit that supports shellfishing on Cape Cod, this film gives an insiders look at the experience of local farmers and how this practice supports life both physically and spiritually.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Mimi Malicoat Bois
Directed by: Mimi Malicoat Bois

United States
English
**Vermont
Premiere**

One Last Farm



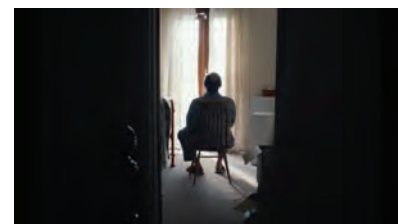
SAT 8/29
9 AM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 17 MIN

Facing pressure from developers, Catherine must fight to save her family's farm. It is her home, her livelihood, and a haven for wildlife.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Nikki Dodd
Directed by: Nikki Dodd

United Kingdom
English
**New England
Premiere**

Peter



THU 8/27
9 AM
AXINN 232
● 11 MIN

A trans man caring for his father with alcohol induced Dementia finds unexpected re-connection when the disease grants him temporary anonymity.

Narrative Short
Produced by: George Somner
Directed by: Hannah Van Der Westhuysen

United Kingdom
English
**New England
Premiere**

**WINNER: HERNANDEZ/BAYLISS PRIZE FOR
PORTRAYING TRIUMPH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT**
WIINNER: CLIO PRIZE FOR VISUALIZING HISTORY

A Place of Absence



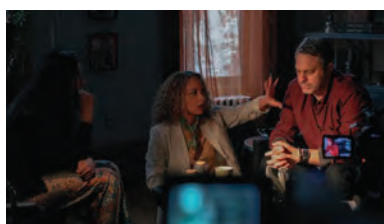
THU 8/27
11:30 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 86 MIN

Decades after her uncle's disappearance under Argentina's military dictatorship, filmmaker Marialuisa Ernst joins Anita and Leticia—two Central American mothers—on a perilous journey along the migrant trail. As they search for their missing children across Mexico and the U.S., the film traces a lyrical line across generations, revealing a shared geography of loss and the profound resilience found in female solidarity.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Brenda Avila-Hanna, Marialuisa Ernst, Cecilia Aldarondo, Susan Margolin, Kirsten Johnson
Directed by: Marialuisa Ernst

Bolivia, Chile,
United States
English, Spanish
**Vermont
Premiere**

Portrait



THU 8/27
7:15 PM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 20 MIN

After winning the World Press Photo of the Year for a portrait of a deceased victim, a renowned war photographer confronts his guilt and superstitions.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Rianjali Bhowmick, Saman Hasan, Ishq Pradhan, Sophie Fazio, Jamie Buckner
Directed by: Ishq Pradhan

United States
English
**Vermont
Premiere**

The President's Cake



SAT 8/29
7:15 PM
AXINN 232
● 105 MIN

In 1990s Iraq, 9-year-old Lamia must bake the President's birthday cake. She scrambles to find ingredients for this compulsory task while facing potential punishment if she fails.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Leah Chen Baker
Directed by: Hasan Hadi

Iraq
Iraqi dialect of
Arabic

WINNER: CADWELL FAMILY PRIZE FOR BEST VERMONT MADE FILM, IN HONOR OF STEVE CADWELL

Prickly Mountain and My Design/Build Life ■



THU 8/27
9 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 97 MIN

Both nostalgic and full of momentum, *Prickly Mountain and My Design/Build Life* is a celebration of making cool stuff, messing up, and making more cool stuff—a reminder that the best way to build is to start.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Amy Brand
Directed by: Allie Macrae Rood
United States, New Zealand
English

PULPA



SAT 8/29
9 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 4 MIN

A glimpse into the life of Maria, a street vendor who sells mangoes.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Charlie Manrique Douglas, Brianna Benitez, Bowie Maitland
Directed by: Brianna Benitez
United States
Spanish
Vermont Premiere

Remake ■



FRI 8/28
2 PM
AXINN 232
● 114 MIN

For nearly forty years, Ross McElwee has made closely observed and profoundly subjective documentaries about how his personal life intersects with the world at large. But the death of his son suddenly causes him to reassess his approach to filmmaking and to his own life's work.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Ross McElwee, Mark Meatto
Directed by: Ross McElwee
United States
English

Robots ■

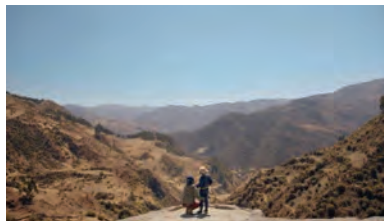


SAT 8/29
9 AM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 65 MIN

At Johannesburg's busy traffic intersections (locally known as Robots), a street performer named Gift balances spectacle with survival, as he navigates fatherhood, safety, and identity amid the fragile economy that comes alive when the lights turn red.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Yaseen J Khan, Kopedi Aphane, Kirsten Rose
Directed by: Yaseen J Khan
South Africa
English, Southern Sotho, Zulu
U.S. Premiere

Runa Simi



THU 8/27
9 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 81 MIN

Fernando, a voice actor from Cusco, Peru, is trying to save his indigenous language from extinction. He dreams of dubbing *The Lion King* to Quechua, the language of the Incas. His journey to achieve this will make him re-examine his role as a father and an activist.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Paloma Iturriaga, Claudia Chávez Lévano
Directed by: Augusto Zegarra
Peru
Quechua, Spanish

A Savage Art: The Life and Cartoons of Pat Oliphant



FRI 8/28
11:30 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 88 MIN

A Savage Art chronicles the incredible life and career of political cartoonist Patrick Oliphant, spanning fifty years and ten U.S. presidents.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Paul O'Bryan
Directed by: Bill Banowsky
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

The Secret of Roan Inish ■



THU 8/27
11:30 AM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 103 MIN

Young Fiona lives with her grandparents in a small fishing village where she takes an active role to unravel the mysterious secrets.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Sarah Green, Maggie Renzi
Directed by: John Sayles
United States, Ireland
English

SEED ■



WED 8/26
11 AM
AXINN 232
● 13 MIN

A man is inducted into a surreal collective to prepare him for fatherhood, but his newfound sense of identity is tested when tragedy strikes.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Louise Palmkvist Hansen
Directed by: Martin Lohse
United Kingdom
English
New England Premiere

Seized ■

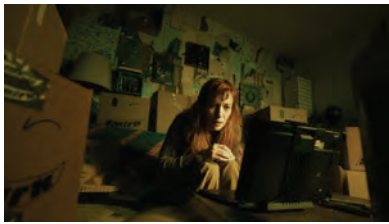


SAT 8/29
7:15 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 94 MIN

Balancing the absurdity of small-town politics with the gravity of a constitutional crisis, the small town of Marion, Kansas is thrust into the international spotlight after a police raid on the Marion County Record and the death of its 98-year-old co-owner.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Sharon Liese, Sasha Alpert, Paul Matyasovsky
Directed by: Sharon Liese
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

Sender ■

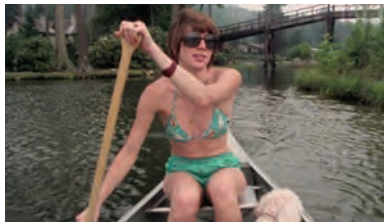


SUN 8/30
12:00 PM
AXINN 232
● 95 MIN

After receiving a series of unnervingly personal packages she never ordered, a woman, newly sober and starting over, spirals into paranoia, convinced someone is watching her. As the online retailer denies responsibility, her search for the anonymous sender sends her down a dangerous rabbit hole, forcing her to confront her past and the fragile reality she's trying to rebuild. A tense psychological descent into surveillance, recovery, and self-doubt.

Narrative Feature United States
Produced by: Jamie Lee Curtis, Molly Hallam, Jake Katofsky English
Directed by: Russell Goldman **Vermont Premiere**

Sherman's March ■



THU 8/27
2 PM
AXINN 232
● 157 MIN

Documentary filmmaker Ross McElwee sets out to make a movie about Union General Sherman's March to the Sea towards the end of the American Civil War, but keeps getting sidetracked by his own love life.

Documentary Feature United States
Produced by: Ross McElwee English
Directed by: Ross McElwee

The Shoe Thief ■



SAT 8/29
9 AM
AXINN 232
● 12 MIN

When a girl who steals shoes from her one-night-stands discovers a pair she doesn't remember taking, she stomps through her small town to track down the owner — and straight into the family confrontation she's been avoiding her whole life.

Narrative Short United States
Produced by: Adelle Yan, Joesephine Kim, Ethan Nählinger, Isaac Park English, Mandarin Chinese
Directed by: Adelle Yan **New England Premiere**

A Short Documentary About A Giant Pencil



FRI 8/28
9 AM
DANA AUDITORIUM
● 22 MIN

A Lake of the Isles homeowner and a Minneapolis chainsaw sculptor shape meaning (and a twenty foot tall pencil) from the twisted trunk of a fallen oak tree.

Documentary Short United States
Produced by: Daniel Straub, Austin Straub, Bryce Cyrier English
Directed by: Daniel Straub

Si la Isla Quiere (Island Willing) ■

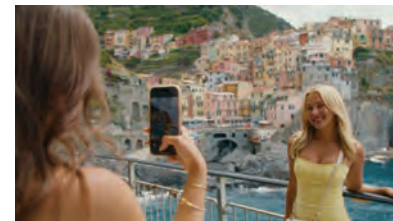


SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
DANA AUDITORIUM
● 29 MIN

On Chile's Robinson Crusoe Island—home to more endemic species per square kilometer than the Galápagos and where the sailor once washed ashore—the community defends its culture of stewardship against outside pressures, with the island as setting and protagonist.

Documentary Short Chile
Produced by: Elsa Hana Chung Spanish
Directed by: Cece King **New England Premiere**

The Siege of Paradise



THU 8/27
7:15 PM
MARQUIS THEATRE
● 82 MIN

In Cinque Terre, on Italy's northern Riviera, fewer than three thousand locals contend with over four million tourists each summer. Across one chaotic season, six very different lives play out in parallel, revealing a sharply funny and surprisingly tender story of paradise under pressure in the age of social-media driven tourism.

Documentary Feature Ireland, Italy, Switzerland
Produced by: Andrew Freedman, Ken Wardrop, Jessie Hayden Italian, English
Directed by: Gar O'Rourke **New England Premiere**

Silent Rebellion



THU 8/27
9 AM
DANA AUDITORIUM
● 98 MIN

15-year-old Emma-pregnant after a rape-defies her repressive rural Protestant community to carve a path of self-determination, transforming trauma into a catalyst for emancipation while confronting the moral hypocrisy of the village and the spectre of World War II around her.

Narrative Feature Belgium, France, Switzerland
Produced by: Elena Tatti, Nicolas Wittwer German, French
Directed by: Marie-Elsa Sgualdo

WINNER: BEST NARRATIVE SHORT

Somewhere To Be ■

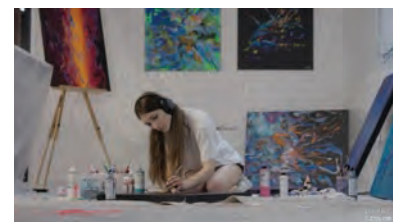


SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
AXINN 232
● 9 MIN

When the gas station attendants refuse to serve a family for looking 'foreign,' Shelly's mom refuses to leave.

Narrative Short United States
Produced by: Keith Wilson, W. Kamau Bell, Jeremy Summer, Gordon Yamate English, Chinese
Directed by: Christy Chan **Vermont Premiere**

Sound & Color ■



FRI 8/28
2 PM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 15 MIN

Sound & Color follows synesthesia artist Sarah Kraning as she collaborates with our film team to animate her visual experience of sound— a nuanced process that is both technically challenging and profoundly personal.

Documentary Short United States
Produced by: Claire Odgen, Catherine Sillars, Madeline Kahn English
Directed by: Alissa Fagin **Vermont Premiere**

Space Cowboy



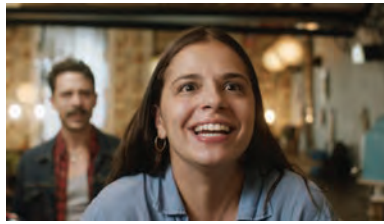
SAT 8/29
7:15 PM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
● 98 MIN

A pioneer of skydiving cinematography, Joe Jennings looks back on a lifetime of creating iconic moments in film and television, while he tries to pull off his most ambitious stunt yet, turning a dreamlike vision into reality.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Bryce Leavitt, Tyler Measom, Marah Strauch
Directed by: Marah Strauch, Bryce Leavitt

United States
English

The Spanish Lesson



THU 8/27
9 AM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 12 MIN

When Marisol's tutoring session is interrupted by a strange man accusing her of salacious goings on with his wife, a page of Spanish homework turns a confrontation of pride and jealousy into an unexpected communion of loss between strangers.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Matt O'Shea, Joey Rotter, Simone Stadler, Ella Smith, Rachel Gatewood, Next Door Pictures
Directed by: Simone Stadler

United States
English, Spanish
Vermont Premiere

WINNER: BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

Stalin Boys



WED 8/26
2 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 22 MIN

Four middle school boys in a Texas border town have developed an unusual obsession: Joseph Stalin. As the boys write and rehearse a play about Stalin for the Texas State History Fair, they are forced to confront their own relationship with power and control.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Sam Osborn, Alejandra Vasquez
Directed by: Bianca Giaever, Ora DeKornfeld

United States
English

Steal This Story, Please!



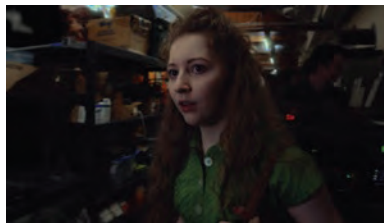
FRI 8/28
7:15 PM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 98 MIN

Fiercely independent journalist Amy Goodman has spent three decades holding the powerful to account, reporting from war zones and the *Democracy Now!* newsroom. In *Steal This Story, Please!*, Oscar-nominated filmmakers Carl Deal and Tia Lessin craft a riveting portrait of journalism's power – and peril – in an era of corporate control and political attacks on truth.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Diana Cohn, Carl Deal, Tia Lessin, Karen Ranucci, Caren Spruch
Directed by: Carl Deal, Tia Lessin

United States
English

Storyboard: The Musical



SAT 8/29
2 PM
ILSLEY PUBLIC
LIBRARY
● 19 MIN

After hearing about a local film competition, Everly Easton, fresh out of high school, takes a leap of faith and makes her first animated short film with the help of her friends.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Jordan Gibbs
Directed by: Jordan Gibbs

United States
English
Vermont Premiere

Sully



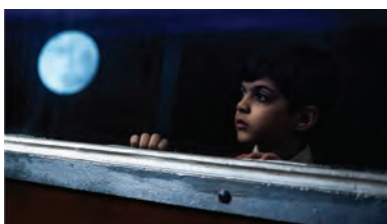
SAT 8/29
2 PM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 96 MIN

When pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger lands his damaged plane on the Hudson River in order to save the flight's passengers and crew, some consider him a hero while others think he was reckless.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Clint Eastwood, Frank Marshall, Allyn Stewart, Tim Moore
Directed by: Clint Eastwood

United States
English

Sunshine Express



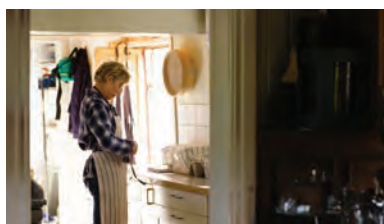
THU 8/27
2 PM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 98 MIN

A group of passengers embark on a unique journey to Hermia, a mythical land of dreams, guided by a show director, symbolizing their struggles and aspirations, completing in a quest for redemption under the totalitarian show's strict rules.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Sina Sharbafi
Directed by: Amirali Navaee

Iran
Persian
Vermont Premiere

Sweet Störy



FRI 8/28
9 AM
AXINN 232
● 72 MIN

Bay Area baker Meg Ray discovers enchantment at a tiny Swedish island café, where pastries and ocean breezes blend into pure magic on Rödlöga's remote shores.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Sarah Justine Kerruish, Matt Maude
Directed by: Sarah Justine Kerruish, Matt Maude

United States, Sweden, United Kingdom
English, Swedish
Vermont Premiere

Take Me Home



FRI 8/28
2 PM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 91 MIN

When a Florida heat wave shatters their family and Anna's routine, her future is uncertain until she creates a world where she can thrive.

This is a sensory friendly, low stimulation screening.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Apoorva Guru Charan, Minos Papas, Liz Sargent
Directed by: Liz Sargent

United States
English
Vermont Premiere

threeASFOUR: FULL CIRCLE ■



THU 8/27
7:15 PM
DANA
AUDITORIUM
● 95 MIN

threeASFOUR: FULL CIRCLE follows the visionary New York City fashion collective whose designs are an expression of unity; stitching an unshakeable ideology of peace into every garment.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Beth Levison, Lauren Evangelista, Brian C. González, Daniel Sheppard
Directed by: Sean Ono Lennon
Co-Director: Brian C. González
United States, Egypt, Germany, Israel
Arabic, English, German
New England Premiere

TOWNIES (or, My Little Town) ■



THU 8/27
7:15 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 21 MIN

During the off-season in a popular ski-town, a struggling local comes face-to-face with the wealthy seasonal homeowner of the house she's robbing.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Mark Freeman, Brandon St. Cyr
Directed by: Callum Adams
United States
English
New England Premiere

WINNER: JEANINE BASINGER PRIZE FOR
BEST STUDENT FILM

TRUANT ■



SAT 8/29
11:30 AM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 19 MIN

Stranded with a defiant, abandoned boy, a burnt-out social worker is forced to confront the emotional avoidance she's built her life around.

Narrative Short
Produced by: Carl Rennie
Directed by: Robyn Wholey
United States
English
New England Premiere

Union County



SAT 8/29
2 PM
AXINN 232
● 97 MIN

Assigned to a county-mandated drug court program, Cody Parsons embarks on the tenuous journey toward recovery amid the opioid epidemic in rural Ohio.

Narrative Feature
Produced by: Brad Becker-Parton, Stephanie Roush, Sean Weiner, Faye Tsakas, Martha Gregory
Directed by: Adam Meeks
United States
English

Who Moves America



SUN 8/30
12:00 PM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 87 MIN

In an era of deepening inequality, UPS Teamsters stand on the brink of a historic strike. As the deadline looms, *Who Moves America* shadows UPS workers in New York, Kentucky, California and across the country as they navigate the challenges of building solidarity with their 340,000 co-workers.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Yoni Golijov, Jeremy Flood, Mars Verrone
Directed by: Yael Bridge
United States
English

A Wildlife Calling ■



THU 8/27
11:30 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 8 MIN

In Tanzania, a wildlife scientist works to earn the trust of Maasai communities in an effort to save lions - the very predators that threaten their livelihoods.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Kate Hearst
Directed by: Kate Hearst
Tanzania
English
New England Premiere

Women Laughing ■

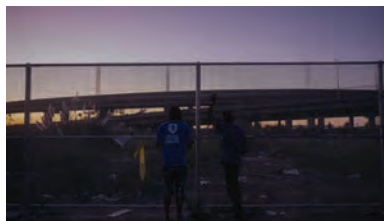


FRI 8/28
11:30 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 38 MIN

In *Women Laughing*, New Yorker cartoonist Liza Donnelly talks, draws and laughs with some of the most celebrated and groundbreaking cartoonists at the iconic magazine, as they reflect on the essential work of women cartoonists today and over the last century.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Judith Mizrachy, Liza Donnelly, Nathalie Seaver
Directed by: Kathleen Hughes, Liza Donnelly
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

Wood Street



SUN 8/30
9:30 AM
MARQUIS
THEATRE
● 100 MIN

Two unhoused men turned community leaders—John and LaMonté—organize their neighbors in the face of displacement, addiction, and a failing social system.

Documentary Feature
Produced by: Caron Creighton, Estevan Padilla
Directed by: Caron Creighton
United States
English
New England Premiere

Yas King! ■



SAT 8/29
2 PM
TWILIGHT HALL
● 17 MIN

Forget everything you thought you knew about drag. *Yas King!* pulls back the curtain on one of drag's most overlooked communities, through intimate interviews and electrifying performances, the film celebrates a vibrant community that is expanding the boundaries of drag.

Documentary Short
Produced by: Tinamarie Ivey
Directed by: Tinamarie Ivey
United States
English
Vermont Premiere

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SCREENING VENUES



TOWN HALL THEATER

72-76 MERCHANTS ROW



MARQUIS THEATRE & CAFE

65 MAIN STREET



AXINN 232

AXINN CENTER AT
STARR LIBRARY
15 OLD CHAPEL ROAD



DANA AUDITORIUM

356 COLLEGE STREET



TWILIGHT HALL

50 FRANKLIN STREET

VENUE ACCESSIBILITY

We strive to provide as detailed information as possible regarding the accessibility of each of our screening venues. If you have an access need or accessibility question that's not answered below, please send us an email at info@middfilmfest.org.

TOWN HALL THEATER

townhalltheater.org/accessibility

- Accessible parking and a ramp into the main floor lobby
- Elevator available to access all performance/gathering spaces
 - with the exception of the third level balcony
- Accessible seating and companion seating available upon request
- Accessible restrooms
- Equipped with an FM hearing system

MARQUIS THEATRE

middleburymarquis.com

- Fully accessible Main Theater
- Accessible bar/café; features two short steps with a foldable ramp available upon request
- Accessible restrooms
- Equipped with an FM hearing system
- Equipped with visual assist (Main Theater only)

AXINN 232

middlebury.edu/college/arts/accessibility

- Fully accessible theater
- One space for a wheelchair and some floor-level seating
- Ramp in front of building
- Accessible restrooms
- Equipped with visual assist (upon request)

DANA AUDITORIUM

middlebury.edu/college/arts/accessibility

- Fully accessible theater
- 1 wheelchair space at the front; 8 Auditorium seats can be removed to create 4 additional wheelchair seating spaces
- Ramp into building
- Accessible restrooms
- Equipped with visual assist (upon request)

TWILIGHT HALL

middlebury.edu/college/arts/accessibility

- Space for wheelchairs/floor-level seating available
- Ramp in back of building
- Accessible restrooms
- Equipped with visual assist (upon request)

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