

★ 2ND ANNUAL ★



PORTLAND

under the stars

F I L M F E S T I V A L

AUGUST 14-15, 2026

AT

MCMENAMINS MISSION THEATER
PORTLAND, OREGON

BOLD STORIES. CREATIVE COMMUNITY. STORYTELLING TOGETHER.

★ OFFICIAL PROGRAM ★

TWO NIGHTS OF INDEPENDENT STORYTELLING



WELCOME TO PORTLAND UNDER THE STARS

Celebrating independent filmmakers, screenwriters,
and the creative community that brings stories to life.

On behalf of our entire team, welcome to the 2026 Portland Under the Stars Film Festival. We're honored to welcome filmmakers, screenwriters, judges, sponsors, and audiences to McMenamins Mission Theater for our first-ever two-day festival.

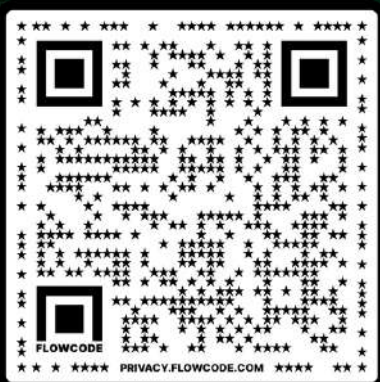
This year's program features 45 Official Film Selections, including our first-ever feature presentations, documentary, animation, music video, comedy, arthouse, horror, and narrative showcases.

We're also proud to introduce our inaugural Screenplay Spotlight, highlighting 47 Officially Selected Screenplays with live scene readings, our first Screenwriter Q&A, and powerful conversations with writers behind the stories.

None of this is possible without the incredible dedication of our judges:
Reagan Sellers, Amanda Sanford, Kelly Love, Kelsey Carbaray, Katelyn Barry, Michael Alexander, Nick Williams, and Lilliana Campos.

Thank you for being part of our growing community.
Let's celebrate independent storytelling—together.

Ali Alkhafaji
ALI ALKHAFAJI
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR



FESTIVAL HUB

SCAN TO EXPLORE

- FULL SCHEDULE
- TICKETS
- FILM GUIDE
- AWARDS
- VENUE INFO
- AND MORE





A SIMPLE GUIDE TO BOTH DAYS OF THE FESTIVAL

DAY 1

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

OPENING NIGHT

5:00 PM	Doors Open Grab a drink and settle in
5:30-7:00	Opening Night Shorts Animation • Documentary • Narrative
7:05-7:35	Filmmaker Q&A Meet the shorts filmmakers
7:35-7:50	Networking Break Concessions and connections
7:50-8:30	Screenplay Spotlight Live selected scene performances
8:30-9:05	Screenwriter Q&A Craft and storytelling conversation
9:05-10:23	The Great Divide Opening Night Feature
10:23-10:43	Feature Filmmaker Q&A
10:45-11:00	Closing Remarks

DAY 2

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

SHOWCASE & AWARDS

12:30 PM	Doors Open Welcome back
1:00-2:47	Short Form Showcase Music Videos • Micro Shorts • Comedy
2:47-3:17	Filmmaker Q&A Audience Choice announced
3:17-3:37	Networking Break
3:37-4:22	Documentary Spotlight Chasing Tables
4:22-4:47	Documentary Q&A
4:47-6:00	Festival Happy Hour Dinner break and networking
6:00-7:23	Twilight Showcase Arthouse • Horror
7:23-7:53	Filmmaker Q&A Audience Choice announced
7:53-8:08	Intermission
8:08-9:39	Narrative Finale Six narrative shorts
9:39-10:04	Filmmaker Q&A Audience Choice announced
10:04-10:49	Awards Ceremony
10:49-11:00	Closing Remarks



TIME	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	FILMS	DIRECTOR / WRITER	RUNTIME
5:00 PM	DOORS OPEN	 Grab a drink, say hello, and settle in. The night begins.			
5:30 PM	OPENING NIGHT SHORTS ANIMATION 4 FILMS / 15 MINUTES		1. Coffee Break 2. Get Out My Cave 3. Alienated! 4. Yokaitopia	Ned Hugar Otis Sutter Jones Andrew Erbskorn Glenna Burmer	1:21 2:59 3:15 8:04
5:45 PM	DOCUMENTARY SHORTS 3 FILMS / 31 MINUTES		1. We Are Cyclists: The All Bodies on Bikes Story 2. Glass Quest 3. Mt. Ashland: More than a Mountain	Robin Sansom Georgia Krause Tabitha Wheeler	10:53 12:00 8:30
6:16 PM	NARRATIVE SHORTS 4 FILMS / 45 MINUTES		1. A Fateful Weekend 2. Maple 3. The Lies I Can Hold 4. Simultané	Tony Doupé Jason Calderon Tyler Boruff Thomas Grascœur	13:00 11:23 6:35 14:00
7:05 PM	FILMMAKER Q&A 30 MINUTES	 Stick around for a live conversation with the filmmakers behind the shorts. Ask questions and hear the stories behind the making of their films.			
7:35 PM	NETWORKING & CONCESSIONS 15 MINUTES	 Take a break, connect with fellow guests, and enjoy refreshments.			
7:50 PM	SCREENPLAY SPOTLIGHT 40 MINUTES	 Our inaugural Screenplay Spotlight features live performances of selected screenplay scenes. Celebrate the power of the written word brought to life on stage.			
8:30 PM	SCREENWRITER Q&A 35 MINUTES	 Join selected screenwriters for an engaging conversation about craft, storytelling, and the journey from page to performance.			
9:05 PM	OPENING NIGHT FEATURE (MA) <i>The Great Divide</i> Dir. John M. Skipp 78 MINUTES	 A powerful feature presentation to close the first half of our festival weekend.			
10:23 PM	FEATURE FILMMAKER Q&A 20 MINUTES	 Stay for a conversation with the filmmaker behind <i>The Great Divide</i> .			
10:45 PM	CLOSING REMARKS	 A few final words to thank our guests, filmmakers, and creative community.			
11:00	END OF PROGRAMMING	 Thank you for being part of Opening Night. See you tomorrow!			



FESTIVAL HUB
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- AND MORE

Thank you for kicking off our second annual festival with stories, community, and independent spirit.

LET'S CELEBRATE STORYTELLING.





TIME	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	FILMS	DIRECTOR	RUNTIME
12:30 PM	DOORS OPEN	 Welcome back! Grab a coffee, reconnect with fellow filmmakers, and settle in for another day of independent storytelling.			
1:00 PM	SHORT FORM SHOWCASE Music Videos 6 Films • 28 Minutes Micro Shorts 5 Films • 18 Minutes Comedy Shorts 7 Films • 61 Minutes BLOCK TOTAL 18 Films • 107 Minutes	  	MUSIC VIDEOS He Loves Me He Loves Me Not Parlor Tricks Overgrown by DiscoNap Landlord Not Invincible Edge of the Coulee MICRO SHORTS Hunted Let It Be Me Something I Like Hollywood Love Story 3 MINUTOS COMEDY SHORTS Behold You Shall Not Pass! "TODAY ONLY!" State Rep (MA) Duck & Cover BUSH (MA) Avant Guard	Joe Ensley Jon Meyer David Smith Kevin Jones Tyson Kaup Andrew Ching Darko Kokic Rick L. Sadle & Ian Stout Brenna Whitsett Austin Brown Douglas Ryan Travis Taylor Cary Tusan David Breckman Eric Kenneth Delehoy Vincent Truman Danielle LeBlanc CR Sherman	2:10 3:43 3:13 2:00 4:11 13:00 2:16 2:50 3:53 3:41 5:00 4:39 6:32 4:50 14:34 4:17 14:27 12:21
2:47 PM	FILMMAKER Q&A 30 MINUTES	 Join filmmakers from the Short Form Showcase for a conversation about creativity, collaboration, and the stories behind their films.  Audience Choice voting closes.  Audience Choice — Short Form Showcase announced.			
3:17 PM	NETWORKING & CONCESSIONS 20 MINUTES	 Stretch your legs, grab refreshments, and connect with fellow filmmakers and festival guests before the afternoon feature.			
3:37 PM	DOCUMENTARY SPOTLIGHT Chasing Tables Justin Bergh 44:21	 			
4:22 PM	DOCUMENTARY FEATURE Q&A 25 MINUTES	 A conversation exploring the making of Chasing Tables, the stories behind the documentary, and audience questions.			
4:47 PM	FESTIVAL HAPPY HOUR DINNER BREAK & NETWORKING 1 HOUR 13 MINUTES	 Enjoy dinner, explore the neighborhood, reconnect with filmmakers, and return refreshed for the festival's evening showcases as Portland Under the Stars comes to life.			





TIME	PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	FILMS	DIRECTOR	RUNTIME
6:00 PM	TWILIGHT SHOWCASE Arthouse Shorts 3 Films • 31 Minutes Horror Shorts 5 Films • 52 Minutes BLOCK TOTAL 8 Films • 83 Minutes	 	ARTHOUSE SHORTS		
			The Crow and the Butterfly	Jude Madonna	7:00
			Beautifully Ugly	Adalberto Angulo	8:00
			The Winemaker	Sarey Martin	16:20
			HORROR SHORTS		
			Ghost Fork	Michael L. Bayouth	7:00
			Boy Trouble	Blake Mertens & Stephanie Rose Rexus	11:43
			The Hand of Darkness	Rowan Kelley	8:00
			A Seat at the Table (MA)	Hayes Tufts	9:36
			Tooth-Hurty!	Jude Madonna	15:44
7:23 PM	FILMMAKER Q&A 30 MINUTES	 Join the filmmakers from the Twilight Showcase for a conversation about arthouse filmmaking, horror, visual storytelling, and audience questions.  Audience Choice voting closes.  Audience Choice — Twilight Showcase announced.			
7:53 PM	INTERMISSION 15 MINUTES	 Refreshments and a brief reset before the festival's final showcase.			
8:08 PM	NARRATIVE FINALE Narrative Shorts 6 Films • 91 Minutes		A Different Palate		
			Redbird	Emma Barrow	13:26
			In Person	Rollyn Stafford	20:00
			In Your Hands	Anna Musky-Goldwyn	13:23
			The Hard R (MA)	Adad Warda	15:38
			Love, Bigfoot	Daniel James Jackson	18:36
9:39 PM	FILMMAKER Q&A 25 MINUTES	 Celebrate the festival's final showcase with the filmmakers behind this year's Narrative Finale.  Audience Choice voting closes.  Audience Choice — Narrative Finale announced.			
10:04 PM	AWARDS CEREMONY APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES	 Join us as we recognize the filmmakers and screenwriters whose work made this year's festival unforgettable.	• Best Narrative Feature • Best Documentary Feature • Best Narrative Short • Best Documentary Short • Best Animation • Best Horror • Best Comedy • Best Arthouse • Best Music Video • Best Micro Short • Best Student Film • Best Screenplay • Jury Awards • Special Recognition • Audience Choice Awards		
10:49 PM	CLOSING REMARKS 11 MINUTES	 A final thank you to our filmmakers, screenwriters, judges, volunteers, sponsors, and audience for making the second annual Portland Under the Stars Film Festival an unforgettable celebration of independent storytelling.			
11:00 PM	FESTIVAL CONCLUDES	 Thank you for celebrating with us. We'll see you under the stars in 2027.			





NARRATIVE FEATURE

- ★ 1. *Bavarian Mist*
Nick Squires
 - ★ 2. *Bend in the River*
Jeff Barker
 - ★ 3. *BROTHERS*
Gary Miranda
 - ★ 4. *Deuce*
John A. Kinney
 - ★ 5. *Easy Money*
Connor Carpenter
 - ★ 6. *Eternal Blessings*
M. R. Hilow
 - ★ 7. *Familiar Stranger*
Jacob Kantor & Hayden Bone
 - ★ 8. *Fault Lines*
Jess Thomas
 - ★ 9. *Felony Flats*
Jared Lowery
 - ★ 10. *Forever Young*
Jason Lor
 - ★ 11. *Hard Working Canadian*
Alex Bulger
- 12. *Integrity Brotherhood*
Timothy Nyquist
 - 13. *Red Gold*
Nick Squires
 - 14. *Requiem, Redwood*
Nick Squires
 - 15. *The Composition of Dance*
Chelsea Wayant
 - 16. *The Owners*
Nick Nelsen
 - 17. *The Reckoning*
Nick Nelsen
 - 18. *The Silent Season*
Avory Bays
 - 19. *This Is Not a Ghost Story*
Ellori Mae Smith
 - 20. *Towards Galaxy's End –
Towards the Beginning*
Kennedy Jade Freeman &
Tariq Morrell
 - 21. *73 Seconds*
Martin Bannon Beaudet



GENRE FEATURE

- ★ 1. *A Superfluity*
Dawn Sellers
- ★ 2. *CHOMP! Charlie Carter and
the Monster Pike*
David Rogers
- ★ 3. *Feral Mountains*
Terry Luke Podnar
- ★ 4. *SACRED SUN*
Michael Louis Gould
- ★ 5. *The Faded*
Steven K. Jackley
- ★ 6. *The Geranium Deaths*
Vicki-Ann Bush
- ★ 7. *The Shadow Over Chamberton*
Noah Nathan Hale
- ★ 8. *VOODOO VALENTINOS*
Michael Louis Gould



TV PILOT

- ★ 1. *BiggsFaith.exe*
Bongo Jack Hooper
 - ★ 2. *Dorm Rats*
Brian Beesley
- ★ 3. *Grown-Ass Theatre Kids*
Benjamin Mark Adams
 - ★ 4. *Paranormal Podcast Show*
Shelby Malta
- ★ 5. *U.S. Grant*
Levi Gordon
 - ★ 6. *With You*
Megan Condit



NARRATIVE SHORT

- ★ 1. *Baby Mine*
Christine Longoria
- ★ 2. *Henching*
Jason Lor
- ★ 3. *LOWSPRINGS*
E. C. Auld
- ★ 4. *Past/Future*
Faye Merridan
- ★ 5. *The Shadow of the Sun*
Honghu Mao & Mingna Su
- ★ 6. *Thin Walls Thick*
Hana Hahn



GENRE SHORT

- ★ 1. *Asleep At The Wheel*
Kit Wilson
- ★ 2. *Birthday Wish*
Jessica Perez
- ★ 3. *Pluto Boy vs. Earth Kid*
Veronica Park Anderson
- ★ 4. *VOID*
Carter Lowe
- ★ 5. *Welcome To The Night*
Rickey Dawkins



SPECIAL MENTION

Every screenplay submitted
represents courage, creativity,
and a commitment to storytelling.
Thank you to all writers who
shared their stories with us.



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★ **THANK YOU** ★

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US UNDER THE STARS

Over the past two days, we've celebrated filmmakers, screenwriters, artists, audiences, and the creative community that makes independent storytelling possible.

To every filmmaker who trusted us with your work...

To every screenwriter who shared your imagination...

To every audience member who laughed, cried, applauded, voted, and stayed for the conversations...

*Thank you for making our Second Annual
Portland Under the Stars Film Festival unforgettable.*

We hope the connections made this weekend continue long after the credits roll.

See you under the stars in 2027.

★ OUR SPONSORS ★



THOUGHT
& VISION CO



PORTLAND
EVENTS
& FILM



SPECIAL THANKS TO



McMenamins
Mission Theater



Our
Judges



Our
Volunteers



Filmmakers
& Screenwriters



Festival
Team



Our
Community



AUGUST
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PORTLAND
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