

Friday Evening November 1

WELCOME, Festival Director Tom Szpyrka, 6:00 p.m.

MILITARY/VETERANS FILMS, 6:15- 8:00 p.m.

A Quest for Peace: Non-violence Among Religions-10 minutes

Matthew Evans-Santa Maria, CA

Young filmmaker, Matthew J. Evans, takes a look at one of the most pressing issues in our modern society: violence among religions.

In Her Boots-14 minutes

Stephen Erdman-CA

Explores the struggles of a military wife working to provide strength for her own growing family while helping other military families through their trying times in her work as a Family Readiness Group leader.

Residue-7 minutes

Robert Thorpe-CA

Unable to cope with the memories of war, a Veteran contemplates suicide while his wife tries to take his mind off the thoughts running through his head.

Dog Tag-31 minutes

Mark Finnell-Ferndale, MI

Dog Tag explores the effects of America's longest war within a middle class, mid-western family, and reveals both the regret and love of a father and his son.

Over the Horizon-5 minutes

Andrew Klein-San Francisco, CA

Over The Horizon uses two characters to explore the power of horizons and what they imply in our way of perceiving the world. A dividing line between a glass half empty, and a glass half full.

Not Anymore: A Story of Revolution-14 minutes

Matthew VanDyke-Baltimore, MD

The story of the Syrian revolution as told through the experiences of two young Syrians, a male rebel fighter and a female journalist, as they fight an oppressive regime for the freedom of their people.

Long Way Home (excerpt from the beginning of the film) - 15 minutes

Thomas R. Jones, Sr.-Springfield, IL

The transformation of Johnny Douglas, the boy that left home, to JD, the soldier that returned a stranger to family and friends. The struggles faced by the family to understand what caused such dramatic changes.

Break (20-30 minutes)

Controversial Films -- The following films, shown after the break, contain mature themes and may not be appropriate for young children.

Heartshot-33 minutes

Thomas Nicol-Champaign, IL

In a not-so-distant dystopian future, a scientist supports his drug habit by poaching genetically engineered unicorns.

Sum Ba Kok Jil-49 minutes

Hanuk Lee-Seoul, South Korea

Some people never repent their sins. But what happens when they become attacker and victim at the same time?

Hangars-16 minutes

John Klein-Chicago, IL

A dark horror comedy about Gabriel, a young wisecrack waging a battle against the ghost of his new apartment's former tenant.

After Party - until 1:00 a.m.

Saturday November 2

DOORS OPEN at 9:30 AM

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FILMS are featured in the morning session, 10:00 a.m.

Virtuous Virtuell - 7 minutes

Thomas Stellmach - Kassel, Hessen, Germany

Synchronizing to the music, abstract ink drawings 'grow' in an interplay of curiosity, timid encounters, dynamic pursuits and confrontation, stimulating many emotions, which carry us off on a poetical journey to a musical world of pictures.

The Olympians - 4 minutes

Karl Maddix - London, London

The Gods of Olympus descend upon London during the Olympic Games. Our heroine Olympia, the embodiment of the Olympic flame must use her athletic prowess to defeat Hades atop Mount Olympus and relight the Olympic torch. A gorgeous and stylized animation of epic proportions.

Naufragos - 3 minutes

Mario Rico - Bilbao, Spain

Two castaways separated by distance. All their hopes are pinned in the bottles that they just launch to the sea. A travel across the ocean looking for a hand to pick them up. Will they get someone to listen?

Wooing Wes Wilson - 11 minutes

Thad Vassmer - Kingston, IL

Delilah, a quirky 13 year old girl, determines to win the affections of her older sister's boyfriend Wes Wilson in any way she can, including drumming.

Fe De Vida - 5 minutes

Elena Frez - Bilboa, Spain

The main character goes to the Civil Registry General Office to request her birth certificate proof of identity.

Libby Girl: Bored Games - 4 minutes

Janet Mayson - Bloomington, IL

Libby Girl is a sweet Jack Russell Terrier who loves to play and explore. She is always looking for something fun and new to do, especially when she can include her little dog friends, Bruno and Rico. This time, Janet is running late, but Libby still finds a way to have her friends over for board game fun.

Beggar and the Road Kid - 10 minutes

Ryan Caldwell - O'Fallon, MO

An old hobo's begging territory is threatened when a young vagabond hitch hikes into town.

Sleight of Hand - 10 minutes

Michael Cusack - Adelaide, SA, Australia

A set of techniques used by someone to manipulate objects secretly to deceive. This is a stop-motion film about illusions. A Man yearns to know his place in the world and how he fits in, when sometimes it's better not to know.

Edgar's Dance - 7 minutes

Josh Mullins - St. Louis, MO

An elderly man becomes frustrated after not being able to leave his own home and it's up to his daughter to try and comfort him.

Things My Father Never Taught Me - 7 minutes

Burleigh Smith - East Perth, WA, Australia

Melvin gives dating advice to his three-year-old son.

Moonlight - 12 minutes

Michele McGovern - Chicago, IL

Set in Chicago in the 1930's, this is the fictional short silent film which reflects the conflicting emotions of love and death.

Chance of Rain - 15 minutes

Phillip Wolter - Brooklyn, NY

Jason ducks into a psychic's parlor to avoid the pouring rain....only to be faced with a choice that will determine the rest of his life.

Break - 11:30 to Noon

Saturday afternoon session, 12:00 noon

Butterfly Dreams - 22 minutes

Venkat Krishnan - Culver City, CA

A nine-year-old girl in rural India, exploited by child labor, must find a way to pursue her dream - how to read and write. She has one last chance when an educated man comes to town.

El Delirio del pez leon - 4 minutes

José Enrique Rivera Rivera - San Juan, Puerto Rico

Inspired by the Lionfish plague, this neo-noir film tells a story about greed and hierarchy in the Caribbean reefs.

Harlequin - 16 minutes

Tara Alexis - Los Angeles, CA

Feeling entitled to more than she truly deserves, Claudia Davis decides to take on a new persona and begin robbing convenience stores.

88 Miles to Moscow - 20 minutes

Karen Glienke - Los Angeles, CA

15-year-old Niki gets more than she bargained for when she sneaks off a train for a quick smoke, stumbling into an offbeat adventure involving her ex-con dad, troubled mother, and a young Russian garbage man.

Blackbird - 19 minutes

Andrew Dena - Illinois

An artistic young woman struggling with the constraints of her small town is forced to decide about her future when a mysterious stranger rolls into town.

Le Train Bleu - 18 minutes

Stephanie Assimacopoulo - Paris, France

Paris - Gare De Lyon. Helie behaves as a true bounder, Selena, evermore in love, still wants to pick up the pieces. At the bar of 'Le Train Bleu', where they stop to have a last drink, neither one cannot imagine what will happen.

The Interviewer - 12 minutes

Genevieve Clay - Petersham, NSW, Australia

Thomas Howell gets more than he's bargained for in a job interview at a prestigious law firm; an insult about his tie, a rendition of Harry Potter and the chance to change the lives of a father and son.

Rose, Mary and Time - 38 minutes

Hardeep Giani - London, United Kingdom

The film is a story of second chances. Barney is married - unhappily. He lost the love of his

life around six years ago - she was murdered. Through the magic contained within a clock he inherited, and with the help of an old Indian shop keeper, Barney finds himself back in time, with the opportunity to save her... but life isn't always as easy as that.

The Brother - 25 minutes

Michael Stevanti - Campbell River, BC, Canada

Mark Saddler left home when he was 18, dreaming of being a success in the city. Wanting a fresh start, he became estranged from his family. Now he is forced to return home when he learns of his brother's death. Mark has to deal with the loose ends he left behind, beginning with facing his father and an old high school flame.

Al final del dia - 16 minutes

Alvaro Garcia - Bilbao, Spain

A story about the last opportunities we are given along our lives which we cannot miss. Those opportunities for liberation, for reunion, to fill the gaps, and silences of the past.

The Rose of Turaida - 6 minutes

Ryan Grobins - Adelaide, SA, Australia

Based on a true story set in 17th century Latvia, The Rose of Turaida tells of the tragedy of a beautiful young woman who makes the ultimate sacrifice for love and honor.

The White Room - 10 minutes

Tom Doherty - Rockford, IL

'The White Room' is a powerful, emotional, psychological drama, that follows a young man who wakes up trapped and confused in a mysterious room with no recollection as of how he came to be there. The events of the film play out in an unforeseeable direction that will leave a lasting impact on your life.

They Will Outlive Us All - 73 minutes

Patrick Shearer - New York, NY

New York City. 2016. In the years since Hurricane Sandy, the city has been brought to its knees by a series of 'Frankenstorms.' Roommates Margot and Daniel attempt to survive this 'new' New York by avoiding it at all costs. But with the advent of three strange deaths in their Brooklyn building, the world they've been hiding from begins knocking hard on the back door.

Break 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Saturday Evening Session 5:30 pm

Wind Up- 20 minutes

Hadley Hillel – Seattle, WA

Wind Up' follows the story of Jacob, a boy whose father has just died, leaving his mother unable to function. When he finds a toy monkey in the woods, dark events soon begin to unfold around him.

Puncture – 5 minutes

Edward Lyons - Cronulla, NSW, Australia

When a self-reliant business woman breaks down on a dark and isolated country road, she discovers that help can come from the strangest of strangers.

Only thunder – 14 minutes

Chris Ramirez – Elmwood Park, IL

Only Thunder tells the story of a mysterious woman who pays a visit to a small town sheriff, where she confronts him with the knowledge of a secret he's kept for 7 years.

Broken – 6 minutes

Josh Wolff – Chicago, IL

When Abel comes home unexpectedly to find a horrible surprise, he must literally deal with the fallout.

Thinking About You – 20 minutes

Harrison Atkins – Brooklyn, NY

Teenage Brandon's telepathy has rendered him a social outcast who must wear a bulbous helmet at all times to prevent his subjectivity from leaking into other peoples' minds. When he meets a new student, Janet, who suffers from the same condition, their love affair is instantaneous and explosive.

Worth – 17 minutes

Nic Barker – Surrey Hills, VIC Australia

A couple kidnap a young woman to hold her wealthy father for ransom - but this seemingly simple crime holds grave consequences, when secrets and loyalties are tested.

Ella y el espejo – 30 minutes

Hector Dominguez-Viguera – Bilbao, Spain

SHE and HE have never spoken to each other because they don't know language. It seems they are going to spend the rest of their lives together without any setback. But one day, SHE finds a strange object that will change her life forever.

Retrovisor – 6 minutes

Alberto Lavin – Bilbao, Spain

A look in the rearview mirror.

El Lado Frio de la Almohada - 12 minutes

Herminio Cardiel - Bilbao, Spain

A couple who just met is going to share a bed and its pillow that same night..

Hatboxes - 18 minutes

Susana Darwin - Forest Park, IL

Nadine, a secular Jewish lesbian, meets Orthodox Miriam through Miriam's children. Nadine wants to cultivate her Jewish identity, where Miriam is dealing with doubts about her place in the world after her husband has left her. Their friendship grows and the chemistry between the women takes weight.

You Don't Say - 112

Robert Alaniz - Frankfort, IL

A successful career woman gets caught up in a comedic whirlwind of events, when a mystical necklace given to her as a gift from her boyfriend that may be causing her to uncontrollably speak her mind in the politically-correct world of corporate business.