
**Independent Films
From Around the World...
The 16th Route 66 Film Festival**



November 3-4, 2017

Capital City Bar & Grill Theater

3149 South Dirksen Parkway,
Springfield, Illinois 62703

4 sessions,

\$10 each / 4 for \$30.

**Tickets at the door or:
route66filmfestival.net**





Welcome from Siobhan Johnson, Festival Director

Welcome to the 16th Annual Route 66 Film Festival. Throughout the years, it's been our goal to select and screen films that will provoke thought, elicit laughter and tears, bring a different point of view to global issues, and simply entertain.

This year is no different. I have served as Festival Director since 2014, and continue to be impressed by the high quality of films submitted for consideration. This year our offerings range from a gripping 3-minute film to a 94-minute foreign language comedy. A few of our films will be easy to watch and a few of them won't.

We hope that the variety we have chosen for this year's festival will demonstrate our commitment to bringing independent films from around the world and here in the United States, to Springfield.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the selection committee or otherwise involved in the Route 66 Film Festival, please talk to me or one of our board members. We are always looking for new reviewers, board members and festival volunteers.

And the Award Winners Are...

Best Animation:	Best Freedom Film:
Best Foreign Language Film:	Best Made in Illinois Film:
Best Comedy :	Best Student Film:
Best Debut Film:	Hugh Moore Best of Fest :
Best Drama:	Audience Favorite:

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Route 66 Film Festival Schedule

For film synopsis and director biography, see the page number after the film title.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3 – Session 1, 7 - 10 PM

Welcome by Festival Director Siobhan Johnson, 7 PM
Complementary hors d'oeuvres available throughout the session –
or order from the full menu at the Capital City Bar & Grill.

Behind the Woods and Across the Sea (p. 10)

20 minutes; Directed by Douglas Philips; USA; Freedom Theme

Good Hands (p. 15)

6 minutes; Directed by Lauren Vanderbrook; Canada; Debut/Experimental

I Got You, Babe (p. 16)

27 minutes; Directed by Ashton Avila; USA; Drama/Student Film

The Lesser Cousin (p. 17)

10 minutes; Directed by Patrick Metcalf; USA; Made in Illinois

Mother Road (p. 17)

10 minutes; Directed by Nathan Cohen; USA; Documentary

Streaker (Flitzer) (p. 19)

94 minutes; Directed by Peter Luisi; Switzerland; Foreign Language/Comedy

The Goldfish (p. 20)

6 minutes; Directed by Thomas Nicol; USA; Drama/Made in Illinois

The Naked Truth (p. 20)

11 minutes; Directed by Daniel Brehm; USA; Made in Illinois

After Party until 1 AM



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 – Session 2, 11 AM

A Summer's Day (p. 9)

10 minutes; Directed by Chip Hackler; USA; Drama

Adventures of Lucy (p. 9)

15 minutes; Directed by Teddy Valentovich; USA; Student Showcase

Catfish (p. 11)

3 minutes; Directed by Sean Roberts; Australia; Student Showcase

Please Don't Call the Cops (p. 18)

15 minutes; Directed by Kartikye Gupta; USA.; Student Showcase

The Tree (p. 21)

94 minutes; Directed by Stephen Pruitt; USA; Drama

Tokri (the Basket) (p. 22)

15 minutes; Directed by Suresh Eriyat; USA; Animation

Waiting for Harold (p. 22)

6 minutes; Directed by Thomas Nicol; USA; Drama

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 – Session 3, 3 PM

Don't Sell My Guitars (p. 14)

20 minutes; Directed by Lynn Montgomery; USA ; Debut Film

Home Cooked (p. 15)

18 minutes; Directed by Justin Otsuka; USA; Made in Illinois

My Country (p. 17)

84 minutes; Directed by Giancarlo Iannotta; USA; Made in Illinois

The Pirate Cruncher (p. 20)

10 minutes; Directed by Howard Cook; USA; Animation

The Sheriff's Children (p. 21)

22 minutes; Directed by Mike Boedicker; USA; Made in Illinois

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 – Session 4, 6:30 PM

Complementary hors d'oeuvres available throughout the session – or order from the full menu at the Capital City Bar & Grill.

2 by 2 (p. 7)

15 minutes; Directed by Mark Playne; UK ; Foreign Language/Comedy

A Pact Among Angels (p. 7)

95 minutes; Directed by Richard Angers; Canada; Foreign Language

Alfred J. Hemlock (p. 10)

14 minutes; Directed by Edward Lyons; Australia; Drama

Crows of the Desert (p. 13)

61 minutes; Directed by Marta Houske; USA; Documentary

Self-Made Man/Rainbow Sunshine Woman (p. 18)

6 minutes; Directed by Carol Pendergrass Caster; USA ; Debut Film

Awards Ceremony - 10:00 PM

After Party - until 1:00 AM

Snack and quaff delicious beverages with filmmakers and other audience members.



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About the Route 66 Film Festival:

The festival began as a project of the Reel to Real Film Club at Lincoln-Land Community College. Inspired by Roger Ebert's film festival in Champaign, the club used a \$10,000 grant from LincolnLand to hold the film festival in 2002 at the old Esquire Theater, and workshops for students at LincolnLand.

The first festival was held on two weekends, in conjunction with the Route 66 Mother Road Festival from which it took its name. Bruce Campbell, star of *Evil Dead* movies and TV's *Burn Notice*, was a special guest, as was Martin Milner and the Corvette from his TV show *Route 66*.

LincolnLand did not continue to sponsor the festival, but founder Linda McElroy (with volunteers) hosted festivals in 2003 and 2004 at the Hilton Hotel, soliciting films from schools across the country. Filmmakers attended from across Illinois, and from New York and California.

Festival entries increased with the advent of internet solicitation and submission. From 2005-2011 the festival was a three-day event at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, with films submitted from all continents except Antarctica. Linda McElroy stepped down as director and a 6-member board has organized the now 2-day festival since 2012, when it was held at the Legacy Theater. Since 2013, the Festival has called the theater adjoining the Capital City Bar & Grill its home. Tom Szyrka was Festival Director from 2012-13, Siobhan Johnson has served since 2014.

The Route 66 Film Festival is proud to introduce Springfield audiences to films from throughout the world and to provide an audience to new and veteran filmmakers. Those interested in becoming board members and volunteers may contact route66filmfestival@gmail.com. We welcome online reviewers/evaluators, festival staffers, sponsors and donors.

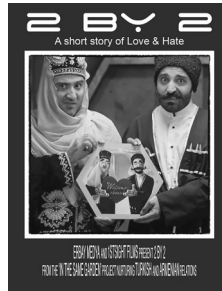


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Film Descriptions & Filmmaker Biographies

2 by 2 (Session 4)

**15 Minutes; Foreign Language;
Directed by Mark Playne; UK**



'There is a thin line between love and hate.'

Two macho shepherds – men divided by history, religion and a border fence – have a chance to be the last two human survivors of a world catastrophe. However, their survival depends on one of them being man enough to dress up as a woman.

Mark Playne's other films include the 120 minute action comedy caper, *False Teeth*, and the debut short film *Love at First Sight* (the 2015 Route 66 Film Festival's Best Foreign Language Film). He also completed *Do Nothing*, a short film about global warming, a UK student commercial film award-winner. His education includes a Screen4all scholarship (Paris 2015), and a BA with honors in Film Production from Manchester.



A Pact Among Angels (Session 4)

**95 minutes; Foreign Language/Drama;
Directed by Richard Angers; Canada**

Solitary, middle-aged Adrien is in the wrong place at the wrong time and is kidnapped by two brothers aged 14 and 18 who have gotten themselves in big trouble. This starts the bizarre trio on a crazy journey that reveals each person's true character. Linked by a common destiny, these three fragile individuals must overcome their prejudices and work together to survive.



Richard Angers worked on many fiction films and documentaries as editor, sound designer, composer, screenwriter, and director. After making a number of shorts, he directed children's programs and wrote two documentary series. He developed the drama, *La Chambre no 13*, (with 10 Gemini nominations and 3 awards), directing two shows in the series – and two documentaries, *Snowbird, non merci* and *Les accros de l'Anachronisme*. Recently, while writing fiction feature films, he wrote and directed the documentary series *Fou des oiseaux* and finished directing *A Pact Among Angels (Le Pacte des anges)*, his first full-length fiction film.



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A Summer's Day (Session 2)

10 minutes; Drama;
Directed by Chip Hackler; USA

A man's life changes while mowing grass.

Chip Hackler teaches screenwriting, directing, and film production at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. He holds an MFA (Creative Writing, Emphasis in Screenwriting) from Goddard College and a BA in English from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. As writer/director, he has explored narrative storytelling in a variety of ways: through drama, comedy, romance, fantasy, period drama, and literary adaptation. His short films have screened at film festivals, been utilized in college curricula, enjoyed invited public screenings, and been broadcast on UNC-TV public television. Awards include the Jury Award for Best Short at the Charleston International Film Festival, Best of Fest at the Route 66 International Film Festival (in 2010, for *Two Hours in the Dark*), Best California Short at the California Film Awards, Best Spiritual Film at the Breckenridge Festival of Film, Best Comedy Short at the Longleaf Film Festival, and the Sunshine Award at the Real to Reel Film and Video Festival ("for making the audience the happiest"). In addition to teaching and making films, Hackler has worked in the film industry since 1984. Credits include *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Interview with the Vampire*, and *Iron Man III*.



Adventures of Lucy (Session 2)

15 Minutes; Student Showcase;
Directed by Teddy Valentovich;

Lucy, a young girl going through chemotherapy finds herself embarking on fantastic imaginary adventures whenever she undergoes treatment. When Lucy's friend and fellow cancer patient Danny passes away, Lucy blames "Luke," her dark manifestation of cancer. After Lucy runs from Luke, her doctor encourages Lucy to face her fears and take on Luke one last time.



Teddy Valentovich is a writer and director, who also directed the film *Maria* (2015). He worked in the camera and electrical department on *Thirst* (2016) and *Iress: Loser* (2016). The *Adventures of Lucy* was a student project at the University of California Long Beach.

Alfred J. Hemlock (Session 4)



**14 minutes; Drama;
Directed by Edward Lyons; Australia**

When Emily's boyfriend abandons her in the night, her only way home is through an alleyway where she is terrorized by the mysterious entity Alfred J Hemlock. After reaching the depths of her despair she finds the strength that she never suspected she had.

Edward Lyons started his career as an actor, graduating from the prestigious Victorian College of the Arts. He went on to obtain a degree in English from Sydney University and a Master of Media Arts and Production from the University of Technology, Sydney. His first short film, *Can I Call You*, premiered at the Academy Award Qualifying Chicago International Film Festival and was sold for distribution to *Fangoria* magazine. He went on to write and direct the short films *Delusion* (2012), *Thylacole* (2013) and *Puncture* (2013 -- screened at the Route 66 Film Festival that year). The AWG honored him with an AWGIE nomination for his short screenplay *Drive-By*. His previous short film, *A Man On The Edge* (2014), played in over 50 international film festivals (including Route 66), winning him awards for both directing and editing.



Behind the Woods and Across the Sea (Session 1)

**20 minutes; Freedom Theme/Documentary;
Directed by Doug Phillips; USA**

Born Onufry Filipovich in the Russian Empire, Owen Phillips came to America alone, with nothing, at the age of 16. His story is the story of one man and millions of people. The 20 million immigrants who, like him, arrived in America a century ago fueled the astonishing economic growth that transformed the United States from an economic backwater into the world's leading economy. But today, as the United States admits a million immigrants a year and debate over immigration rages, the immigrants of a century ago are no longer here to answer our questions. Did they, as one recent paper claims, have it easy compared with today's newcomers? Or did they face similar challenges and set an example in how they met them? Through Owen's experience, documented in oral history recordings of Owen and interviews with people who knew him, we find at least some answers. And we learn,



from a visit to Owen's home village in the Republic of Belarus, the surprising story of what happened to the brothers and sisters he left behind, revealing what it meant for him to have come to America.



Douglas Phillips lives in Northern Virginia near Washington, D.C. Born and raised in the American Midwest, he became close to his paternal grandfather, Owen Phillips, who immigrated to the United States at the age of 16 from the Russian Empire and eventually settled in Indianapolis, Indiana. Doug interviewed Owen on audiotape in the early 1970s, interviewed others who knew Owen in later years, and did further research for this documentary on visits to the Republic of Belarus in 2014, 2016, and 2017.

Catfish (Session 2)

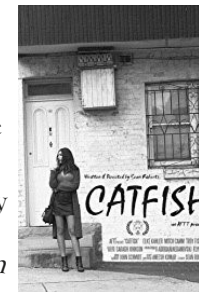
**3 minutes; Student Showcase;
Directed by Sean Roberts; Australia**

A young woman plays the part of a lure in a violent mugging. Getting away with the crime was easy, but she never expected the guilt to follow her.



Sean Leonard Roberts was born on January 27, 1984 in Capetown, South Africa. He is known for his work on *Coping Mechanism* (2017), *Catfish* (2016) and *Red Shirt* (2016).

Sean Roberts is a Bachelor of Media Production graduate from the University of Canberra who has spent many years freelancing in a range of roles from camera operation, editing, sound design, visual effects compositing, graphic design, and directing. His need to explore his creativity and challenge himself artistically has driven him to re-focus his career by pursuing film studies at AFTT (Academy of Film, Television & Theatre). He is motivated to explore all genres and formats, never wanting to create the same thing twice, with a passion for pushing his own imagination and those of his collaborators.



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Crows of the Desert: A Hero's Journey Through the Armenian Genocide (Session 4)

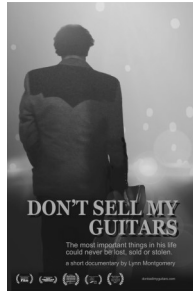
**61 minutes; Freedom Theme/Documentary;
Directed by Marta Houske; USA**

A documentary based on the memoirs of Levon Yotnakhparian. The film recounts the incredible true story of one man's desperate struggle to not only stay alive but to help save his people from near extinction in the 20th Century's first genocide. World War I was raging in the Middle East, as the British fought side by side with the Arabs against the Ottoman Empire. In the midst of the chaos, Levon would lead a small expeditionary group on a daring mission to rescue the scattered, destitute survivors of the Armenian Genocide. Along the way, they would risk their lives countless times, endure unimaginable hardships, and cross paths with some of history's most legendary figures. Extraordinarily rare film footage, much of which has not been seen in a century, as well as recently rediscovered documents, have been recovered from around the world to reveal this harrowing journey that is at once heart-wrenching and inspirational.



Marta Houske has produced, directed and written in the television industry for over twenty five years, working on hundreds of productions. Twice nominated for Emmy Awards for her writing, directing and producing, she has won dozens of national awards recognizing the excellence and effectiveness of her work including a New York Festivals, World Gold Medal and two CINE Golden Eagles. Houske's career began on Leonard Nimoy's classic TV series *In Search Of...* As a Production Executive, she launched the early cable network CHN (now called the Lifetime network), and worked in writing, research & development with Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry. She holds a Degree in Communications - Filmmaking from U.C.S.D. (Magna cum Laude, Revelle. Houske has worked with Anthony Quinn, Tony Curtis, Steve Allen, Della Reese, Jamie Lee Curtis, Tova & Ernest Borgnine, Christina Pickles, Barbara Marx Hubbard, Nichelle Nichols, Majel Barrett Roddenberry, Joseph Campanella, Annette Warren & Paul Smith and many others. She belongs to the Directors Guild of America; the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and the Directors Guild of America Mentor Program, is a past Member of the American Society of Magazine Photographers, and served on multiple EMMY Award judging panels, She received the Directors Guild of America Certificate of Appreciation, and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Honor of Service.

Don't Sell My Guitars (Session 3)



**20 minutes; Debut Film/Documentary;
Directed by Lynn Montgomery; USA**

I was born in a Honky Tonk on Route 66. My dad played guitar in the bar and we lived in the adjacent motel. From those humble beginnings - a storyteller was born. I've written for radio, television, magazines, newspapers and television. I won a local Emmy and a Writer's Guild Award. But there was one more story I just had to tell - the story of my dad, Kenny Montgomery. In the making of this film, I learned how far a father will go to protect and love his family. Kenny picked Oklahoma cotton from the age of 5 and bought his first guitar from the Sears Roebuck catalogue when he was 7. By the time he was 10, preachers came from all over Oklahoma to take him to tent revivals to play his beloved Silvertone guitar. Over the years, he collected and played Gibsons, Martins and Fenders and when he wasn't playing them they hung on the wall of his music room. Now in the final days of his long life, he has one last request, "Don't sell my guitars." This is the story of my Dad, Kenny Montgomery, and the surprising revelation of what happened to his most beloved guitar of all - that old Sears Roebuck Silvertone.

Lynn Montgomery won a Los Angeles area Emmy for the documentary, *Child Abuse, The Day After* about the failings of the child protective custody system in LA. She won a Writer's Guild Award for her children's script for the Showtime series, *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*, starring Jean Stapleton, Shelley Duvall and Joan Cusack. She created a TV series for NBC and Disney called *The Torkelsons*, about her mother's family in Oklahoma. She has written for the *LA Weekly* and the *Big Bear Grizzly*. She wrote and produced a nationally syndicated radio show aired on over 100 rock and roll stations for Westwood 1. Recently she wrote an award winning children's book, *Butt Ugly*. Lynn makes her directorial debut with *Don't Sell My Guitars*.



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Good Hands (Session 1)

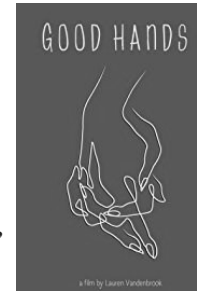
6 minutes; Experimental;
Directed by Lauren Vandebrook; Canada

A woman in the midst of heartbreak discovers what she's really missing.

Lauren Vandebrook is a Toronto-based artist working on all sides of the camera. Upon completing her BFA in Acting from York University, Lauren began her career in front of the camera, appearing in hit TV shows including *Being Erica*, *Saving Hope*, *Reign* & *Nikita*.



Lauren made the transition to filmmaking after a successful decade of working professionally as a photographer. She makes her directorial debut with *Good Hands*, which she also wrote & executive produced. As a director/writer, Lauren has multiple projects currently in development. A member of both Women in Film & Television (WIFT-T) and the Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT), Lauren continues to expand her knowledge and skill set as an emerging filmmaker. [photo]



Home Cooked (Session 3)

HOME COOKED **18 minutes; Student Showcase/Made in Illinois;**
Directed by Justin Otsuka; USA



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Agreeing to cook the last meal for her ex-husband on death row, a skilled chef and single mother returns to her hometown and brings her son with her, unsure of how to tell him that this ill-fated murderer is the father he believes to be dead.

Justin Otsuka grew up in Albuquerque, NM, where he earned a BA in Cinematic Arts at the University of New Mexico. After some time off, which included an internship at a local TV station and a small position on a major motion picture, he knew he was ready to get back to school and learn more about how movies are made. Justin recently graduated with his MFA in Cinema Directing from Columbia College Chicago, where he wrote and directed numerous original short films, including two thesis projects -- *Home Cooked* and *Stuck*. His interests lie in themes and stories surrounding family dynamics, truth, death, and the things that help us create meaning in a world that does not always offer any.



I Got You Babe (Session 1)

**10 minutes; Comedy/Made in Illinois;
Directed by Ashton Avila; USA**

An ambitious young woman must decide what she is willing to sacrifice should she marry her boyfriend before midnight, to save him from the Vietnam War draft, due to an executive order. [photo]



Ashton Avila was born and raised in southern California where she discovered filmmaking and fell in love with storytelling as a child. In search of adventure, she left California in 2009 to study film at the University of Rhode Island. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts from the Harrington School of Communication and Media at URI, she moved back to Los Angeles where she began working as a freelance production assistant and spent a year as a production assistant for NBC's *Access Hollywood/Access Hollywood Live*. In 2014 she was accepted into the graduate program at Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts where she is currently working towards her Master of Fine Arts in Film Production with an emphasis in Directing. She's always had a fascination with 1960s and is beyond excited to have finally had the opportunity to make the film she's spent years dreaming of.



Congratulations on your 16th Annual Festival!

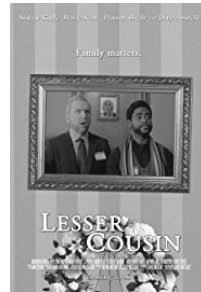
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Lesser Cousin (Session 1)



**10 minutes; Comedy/Made in Illinois;
Directed by Patrick Metcalf; USA**

A man comes to his estranged aunt's deathbed only to receive an uncomfortable dying wish.

Patrick Metcalf is a producer and writer, known for *Ver-nacular* (2014), *Trust (and Other Lies We Tell Ourselves to Sleep at Night)* (2017) and *Lesser Cousin* (2017).

Mother Road (Session 1)

**10 minutes; Student Showcase/Documentary;
Directed by Nathan Cohen; USA**

Business owners and travelers along Route 66 reflect on their lives lived on the historic road and its evolution through the years. A journey down Route 66, *Mother Road* explores the history of the iconic road, the interstate system's effect on local business, and human's need for movement. Focusing on the people who live and work on the road, the film covers half the country, from Chicago to L.A.

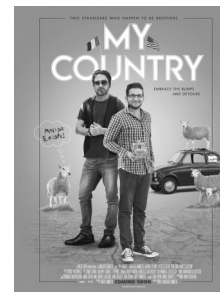
Nathan Cohen wrote, directed, edited and produced *Mother Road*.

My Country (Session 3)

**84 minutes; Student Showcase/Made in Illinois;
Directed by Giancarlo Iannotta; USA**

Two brothers – one American, one Italian, who've never met – journey from Rome on a road-trip through the picturesque region of Molise, Italy to spread the ashes in the birthplace of their late father. Filming locations: Chicago, Rome, Lazio, Molise.

Giancarlo Iannotta was born on April 23, 1989 in Chicago, Illinois. He is a producer and director, known for *My Country* (2017), *One Nightstand* (2012) and *My Big Red Purse* (2011). He is a first generation American, proficient in multiple instruments: Guitar, Bass, Drums, Saxophone and Trombone. He attends Columbia College, Chicago where he is majoring in Film.



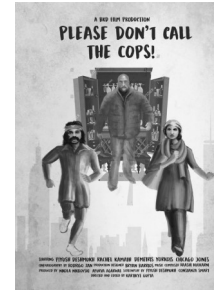
Please Don't Call the Cops (Session 2)

**15 minutes; Student Showcase;
Directed by Kartikye Gupta; India**

Arranged marriage has gotten God-fearing techie Nikhil a kleptomaniac wife from India. The only way for him to save his wife and marriage is going to be the biggest adventure of his life. [Photo]



Director/editor **Kartikye Gupta**, born in Bhopal, India, is pursuing his dream as a filmmaker to inspire and entertain people. Gupta has directed and edited a number of short films in Los Angeles, which received accolades at several film festivals. He's based in Los Angeles, completing his Bachelors in filmmaking from the New York Film Academy.



Self-Made Man/Rainbow Sunshine Woman (Session 4)

**6 minutes; Debut Film;
Directed by Carol Pendergrass Caster; USA**

Spencer is a self-made man. He doesn't need anything or anybody but himself, and his money. At least that's what he thinks! He doesn't realize how many people we all rely on everyday for even the basic things in life, including food and clothing. Sequoia sees things differently. She is grateful for everything that comes into her life. When he comes to her counter for some pizza, strange things happen as she gets a brief glimpse of what his life would be like if he truly only needed money, and he puts her rainbow and sunshine optimism to the test!

Carol Pendergrass Caster is a first-time filmmaker. She currently works in TV, and this is her first narrative short film. She wrote, directed and produced it. Its alternate title is *Attitude & Gratitude, Dude*.

**2017 Route 66 Film Festival
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Streaker (Session 1)



**94 minutes; Foreign Language/Comedy;
Directed by Peter Luisi; Switzerland**

To get out of a financial crisis, high school teacher Balz Naef (53) starts recruiting and training streakers for illegal sports betting. While he and his team help streaking become the new trend sport, his situation does not improve. On the contrary: His troubles have only just begun. Especially when he falls for the police inspector in charge of his case.

Peter Luisi was born in Zurich, Switzerland in 1975. From 1994 -1996 he attended the University of North Carolina in Wilmington. In 1996 he transferred to the University of California in Santa Cruz, and graduated 1998 in Film and Video Production with 'University & College Honors'.



In 2003 Peter wrote the screenplay to *Verflixt Verlieb (Crazy Love Crazy)*, which he directed in 2004. The Film won numerous prizes (Film festival Max Ophüls Jury prize, International Film festival Braunschweig: First place/ Audience award, Zurcher film prize: Best feature film. Rome International Film festival: Best feature film and beste director. Swiss film prize 2005: Three nominations: best feature/ best actor/ best supporting actor, Additional screenings due to popularity at film festivals in Cuba und Paraguay Variety.com wrote: "Peter Luisi [is] a talent to watch." In 2004 Peter also co-wrote the film *Vitus* with Fredi Murer. Murer's last two movies (*Höhenfeuer*, *Vollmond*) won the Film festivals of Montreal and Locarno. *Vitus* has been sold to over 65 countries, with many theatrical releases, and was shortlisted for a best foreign language film Oscar Nomination in 2007. It opened in US Cinemas (Sony Picture Classics) in June 2007. Columbia Pictures purchased its remake rights, with a new screenplay by Ed Solomon.

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The Goldfish (Session 1)



**6 minutes; Drama/Made in Illinois;
Directed by Thomas Nicol; USA**

To her father's dismay, a young girl tries to understand death through playing with a dead goldfish.

Thomas Nicol also directed the film *Waiting for Harold*.

The Naked Truth (Session 1)

**11 minutes; Made in Illinois;
Directed by Daniel Brehm; USA**

This unorthodox film is about the day in the life of a woman who lives in a society consumed by the distractions of social media. Through a series of unfortunate events, our main character unintentionally and unaware spends her entire day naked, from riding the subway to going out for dinner with her girlfriend.



Everyone is so glued to their phones that no one notices...including our main character! Who can see: The Naked Truth?

Daniel Brehm was born and raised in Illinois. This, his latest movie, was made entirely in Chicago, is an unorthodox, comical, poignant satire.



The Pirate Cruncher (Session 3)

**10 minutes; Animation/Student Showcase;
Directed by Paul Conner; USA**

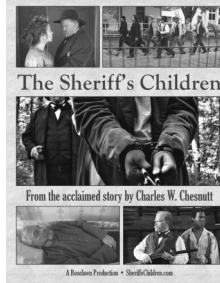
One night in Port Royal a band of pirates meets an old fiddler with a map leading to treasure. As they set out across the sea they learn that the treasure is guarded by a monster called the Pirate Cruncher and that not everything is what it seems.

Paul Conner assembled many talented artists and technicians to complete *The Pirate Cruncher*.



The Sheriff's Children (Session 3)

**22 minutes; Made in Illinois;
Directed by Mike Boedicker; USA**



Based on the acclaimed story by Charles Chesnutt published in 1889, "The Sheriff's Children" dramatizes the conflict between duty and family, as a sheriff guarding a prisoner from a lynch mob faces a crisis of conscience.

Michael Boedicker is an actor and director, also known for *House of Thaddeus* (2013), and *Revolt-ing* (2010, which was featured in that year's Route 66 Film Festival).

The Tree (Session 2)

**94 minutes; Drama;
Directed by Stephen Pruitt; USA**

Inspired by an actual friendship between the director's mother and his mother's best friend, 'The Tree' is a poignant, heart-warming story about an 88 year-old widow (Dorothy Thorp) who takes a road trip from Wamego, Kansas, back to Terre Haute, Indiana, to visit her oldest and dearest childhood friend.



Although always an artist at heart and a college economics and finance professor (Ph.D.) by training and trade, **Stephen Wallace Pruitt** entered the film world very late in life. Indeed, he did not begin shooting his first film until he was 51 years of age and his wife and co-writer/co-producer, **Mary Settle Pruitt**, was 48.

Unlike most reasonable individuals, Stephen and Mary literally went from zero to feature film with their first effort, *Works in Progress*. *The Tree* is their third feature film.

**Route 66 Film Festival extends heartfelt thanks to
Dorene Gillman-Campbell and family**

You have helped make this year's festival possible!

Tokri (The Basket) (Session 2)

15 minutes; Animation;
Directed by Suresh Eriyat; India

Synopsis: Two insignificant lives lost and found in time.

Born in November 1973, **Suresh Eriyat** is a



1997 graduate of the National Institute of Design, and founder of the Famous House of Animation in 1999. He created many animated ads, shorts, music videos, among them many firsts, bringing national and international recognitions and also changed people's perceptions about animation in India. In 2009 he founded Studio Eeksaurus, winning in 2015 the first ever Annecy Cristal for India, and the 2016 President's national award for best animated film.



Specializing in Animation Film Design, Suresh came to Mumbai seeking opportunities to make animated films. Prospects in 1998 were few.

His dream of creating original animation films slowly unfolded.

Eeksaurus is well known, and one of the top advertising film production companies in India.

Having experienced several prestigious jury panels, like Clio, Apollo, LIA, Promax, and others, and educating students and aspiring filmmakers across India, Suresh has won over 100 national and international awards, with a portfolio of more than 350-films. He is also a trained Carnatic musician, deeply interested in philosophy, anthropology and culture.

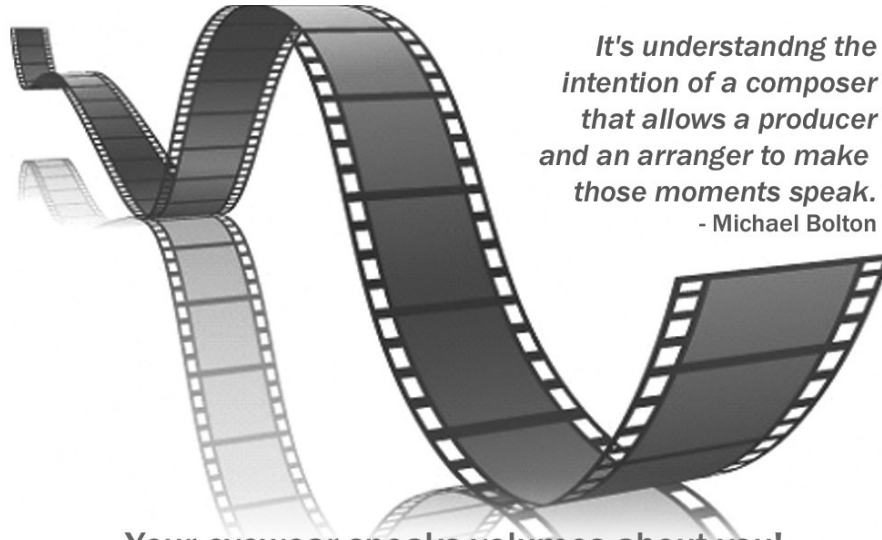
Waiting for Harold (Session 2)

6 minutes; Drama;
Directed by Thomas Nicol; USA

Edna sits with her best friend at the grave of her husband, waiting for his return.

Thomas Nicol is a director and writer, known for *The Window Into Time* (2011), *Upgrade* (2011) and *Bedtime for Timmy* (2010). His film *The Goldfish* is also an entry in this year's Route 66 Film Festival. Previous films Nicol has screened in the Route 66 Film Festival include *Carrot Corn* (2014) and *Heartshot* (2013).





*It's understanding the
intention of a composer
that allows a producer
and an arranger to make
those moments speak.
- Michael Bolton*

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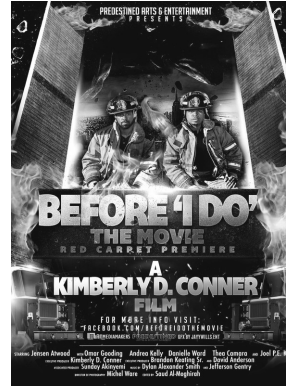
Special Selection

Screening at Z Bistro, early 2018

Before 'I Do'

**62 minutes; Drama/Made in Illinois;
Directed by Kimberly Conner; USA (Springfield IL)**

A game of Russian roulette. There are scandalous secrets and a cover up, and two people, bound to take them to the grave. Before 'I Do' draws you into the realm of passion and love, lust, lies, and friendship. A fast-paced, colorful drama with a splash of comedy and a myriad of surprises, surrounding two midwestern Firefighters.



Kimberly Conner,

An honors graduate of Eastern Illinois University, **Kimberly D. Conner** is a writer, director, producer, a self-published author, and filmmaker. She has been a finalist in several screenwriting competitions including the Hollywood Black Film Festival, the Urban Media Makers Film Festival, and the University of Southern California Screenwriting Program. She was a semi-finalist in Creative Screenwriting Magazine Screenwriting Competition. In 2005, Kimberly started a production company, Predestined Arts & Entertainment, releasing the book, *Naked Poetics – Poetry, Expression and Illustrations*, in 2006, available at Barnes & Noble online. In 2007, Predestined Arts & Entertainment produced *Real Brothers Wear Pink*, a male calendar honoring breast cancer survivors. A portion of the proceeds were donated to breast cancer research. *This Life Ain't Pretty*, her film debut, which she wrote, directed, and produced, premiered in 2009, on World AIDS Day. Based on an award-winning script, the socially conscious short film challenges stereotypical beliefs associated with HIV/AIDS in young, Black, heterosexual America. The film was named Top 5 Best Short Film of the Year by Blacktrospective. Kimberly's second film, *Jump In*, premiered in 2013, receiving nationwide distribution. A story about a recent law school graduate, a single mother, on a quest to pass



the Bar exam when she is blindsided by the unthinkable, the film is based on an award-winning script. *Jump In* is available at Wal-Mart, Best Buy online, Amazon, Flixster, Vudu, and Family Video.

Her third film, *Before 'I Do'*, was released in 2016. In this award-winning story, a Firefighter, in search of his passion, finds love. Kimberly is in pre-production on her fourth film, a suspense thriller, tentatively scheduled for production in 2016.

A two-time breast cancer survivor, Kimberly is an advocate and spokesperson. She volunteers with the American Cancer Society. She is a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.



The Central Illinois Film Commission is a membership organization dedicated to promoting central Illinois as a historic and film-friendly region, attracting and serving the film, television, video, photography, documentary, and music industries, while promoting and supporting the talent, services and experience of our members.

<http://www.centralillinoisfilmcommission.com/>

Zbistro

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Thursday & Friday: 11am-3pm; 5-8pm

Saturday: 9am-3pm; 5-8pm

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Thanks to all who made this festival possible

Board Members

- ◆ Siobhan M. Johnson -- Festival Director
- ◆ Théa Chesley -- Communication and Marketing Director
- ◆ Christine Samoore -- Director at Large
- ◆ Crissie Trigger -- Director at Large
- ◆ Lana Wildman -- Director at Large

2017 Movie Judges

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| ◆ Théa Chesley | ◆ Linda McElroy |
| ◆ Laura Kay Coffey | ◆ Scott Morris |
| ◆ Corky Corr | ◆ Donna Pleshe |
| ◆ Tom Corr | ◆ Christine Samoore |
| ◆ Susan Heiden | ◆ Scott Stahlman |
| ◆ Siobhan Johnson | ◆ Crissie Trigger |
| ◆ Nancy Machura | ◆ Lana Wildman |

Venues Hosting the Festival and Special Screenings

- ◆ Capital City Bar and Grill
- ◆ ZBistro (second Thursdays, Feb.-Oct.)

Projectionist

Scott Morris

Photographer

Laura Kay Coffey

16th Annual Festival Illustration

Thomas Szpyrka, Past Festival Director

Program Book, Posters, Flyers, Signs

Design and layout by The Rainbow Writer

Other Volunteers

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| ◆ Hannah Anderson | ◆ Cody Rogers |
| ◆ Mark Russillo (M.C.) | ◆ Andrew Samoore |



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