



*Independent
films from
around the
world.*



November 6-7 2015

Capital City Bar & Grill Theater

3145 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield IL 62703

www.route66filmfestival.net

217-217-679-1834

Tickets online: <http://tinyurl.com/on83onx>



Session 1: 6-10 PM Friday, Sessions 2-5: 10AM-10 PM Saturday.

Receptions at 10 PM both days for evening session attendees.

Full Festival \$40 (\$35 in advance)

Each Session \$10

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Route 66 Film Festival Schedule

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6 – Session 1, 7 to 10 PM

WELCOME, 7 PM -- Festival Director Siobhan Johnson

When Voices Meet: One Divided Country; One United Choir; One Courageous Journey (25)

1:26:00 Directed by Nancy Sutton Smith
South Africa ; Debut Film; Documentary, Musical/Drama/History

Scapegoat (21)

0:05:31 Directed by Khadif Sanders USA ; "Race in Society"; Drama

Tu & Eu (24)

0:14:15 Directed by Edward Shieh
USA ; "Race in Society"; Drama/Romance

Alexandra (10)

0:15:00 Directed by David Silva Spain ; Animation/Drama

Carne de Gaviota (11)

0:25:00 Directed by Felipe Espinosa
Spain ; Foreign Language; Drama/Horror

Intercourse (17)

0:19:40 Directed by David Cain USA ; Comedy; Musical/Drama

After Party until 1 AM

Enjoy complimentary snacks or order from the full menu at the Capital City Bar & Grill. Quaff delicious beverages with filmmakers and other audience members.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 – Session 2, 10 AM

Radio (20)

0:07:00 Directed by Cody Mathieson Packer
USA ; Student Film; Family, Drama/Fantasy



El Pintor de Sombras (14)

0:19:00 Directed by Miguel García de la Calera
Spain ; Foreign Language; Drama

Tick Tock (23)

0:09:15 Directed by zeynep kocak
Turkey; Foreign Language, Animation/Drama

Doug's Christmas (14)

0:24:30 Directed by Calvin Steinken USA ; Made in Illinois; Family

StalkerZ (22)

0:02:59 Directed by Damien Patrik
USA ; Experimental; Family, Drama/Romance

Darka (13)

0:10:00 Directed by Suela Bako
Spain ; Foreign Language; Drama/Romance

Videoclube (24)

0:17:00 Directed by Ana Almeida
Spain ; Foreign Language, Comedy/Drama

Keep It Clean (17)

0:10:00 Directed by Matthew Rivera and Evan Sennett
USA ; Student Film; Comedy

Love at First Sight (18)

0:13:50 Directed by Mark Playne
United Kingdom ; Debut Film; Comedy/Drama/Romance

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 – Session 3, 1 PM

Snooze Tease (21)

0:06:22 Directed by Tim Phillips Canada ; Comedy

Spark and Fade (22)

0:24:50 Directed by Brian Mellen
USA ; Made in Illinois; Drama/Romance

Faith (15)

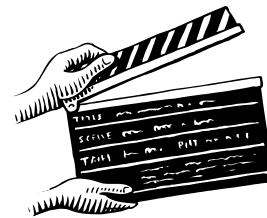
0:12:00 Directed by Gloria Huwiler and Raif Kurt
Zambia, Turkey; Experimental; Family, Drama/Romance

I Am Good (16)

0:10:29 Directed by Noora Albright
USA ; Debut Film; Comedy/Drama

Wildlike (26)

1:38:00 Directed by Frank Hall Green
USA ; Debut film; Adventure, Drama/Thriller



Congratulations on your 14th Annual Festival!

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 – Session 4, 4 PM

Günbatimi (16)

0:15:44 Directed by Sinem Cezayirli
Turkey ; Foreign Language; Drama

Awakenings (10)

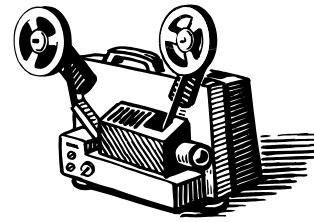
0:13:19 Directed by Bhargav Saikia
India ; Foreign Language; Mystery/Horror

Strapped (22)

0:17:00 Directed by Suk Dhaliwal USA ; Drama

Writer's Cramp (27)

1:45:00 Directed by Darva Campbell USA ; Debut Film; Comedy



About the Route 66 Film Festival:

The festival began as a project of the Reel to Real Film Club at LincolnLand 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 to 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.

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.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 – Session 5, 7 PM

Manias (18)

0:12:00 Directed by Santiago Capuz
Spain ; Foreign Language; Drama/Horror

Devoured (13)

0:13:14 Directed by Alexi Wang USA ; Debut Film; Thriller/Horror

Directors on Directing (13)

0:04:13 Directed by Damien Patrik USA ; Comedy; Musical/Horror

The Casket (23)

0:26:00 Submitted by Tim Morgan USA ; Drama

Coyote Girl (11)

0:17:07 Directed by Robert Biggs
USA ; Made in Illinois; Family/Drama

Mine (19)

0:29:24 Directed by Michael P. Vidler
Canada ; Student Film; Drama/Thriller/Horror

Pale Creatures of the Night (20)

0:20:29 Directed by Tim Troemner
USA ; Made in Illinois; Comedy/Horror

Awards Ceremony - 10:00 PM

After Party - until 1:00 AM

Enjoy complimentary snacks or order from the full menu at the Capital City Bar & Grill. Quaff delicious beverages with filmmakers and other audience members.



Music from 11 to Midnight provided by
John T. Crisp, Jr., (keyboard),
Lou Humphrey (percussion),
Ada Lou Rogers (vocals)
and Mark Russillo (harmonica & vocals)





Congratulations on a successful SOHO 12 in 2015!
Special thanks for providing chairs to the 14th Route 66 Film Festival.

Special Selection – to be screened later at a special showing

Searching for Eddie Running Wolf

1:38:00 Directed by Thomas Hartmann USA; Debut Film; Drama

Who is Eddie Running Wolf? Many asked that question along the road as the filmmakers search for the elusive Native American artist. Legend told a tale of an artist so talented that he could carve anything out of a piece of wood. Rumors swirled throughout Aspen, Colorado of an artist that raised a 125-pound tundra wolf to keep as his pet and companion. His flowing locks of long black hair were believed to have mystical powers over the female persuasion. Challenged by a commission from an avid art collector, Eddie is tasked with carving a life-size female nude statue from marble. Will Eddie finish his masterpiece? Or will his personal life and a dose of insanity get in the way of true greatness?

Thomas R. Hartmann is the owner and creative director of Blink of an Eye Productions which he founded in 2001. Thomas attended the University of Notre Dame and graduated with a degree in Cinematography and Editing from Columbia College in Chicago. He has worked as a cinematographer and editor on a variety of film and video projects. *Searching for Eddie Running Wolf* is the second feature length documentary he produced, and his directorial debut.

An avid filmmaker and musician, Thomas pours his passion and training into every project. His creative vision and enthusiasm for ideas have helped many clients over the years to create imaginative, enjoyable motion picture media. Thomas lives in Naperville, Illinois with his wife and three children.

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Film List with Filmmaker Biographies

Alexandra

0:15:00 Spain; Animation/Drama; Directed by **David Silva**

Alexandra is a minimalistic audiovisual exploration about female orgasm. A speculative translation of sensations, memories, feelings and emotions manifested through a woman's body at her pleasure's peak by means of plain shapes, complementary colors, simple lines and silhouettes searching for duality between body and mind. An exploration focused on the sensory meaning of orgasm, moving away from representations visually explicit of female sexuality. A route of sensations, cabalistic symbols, constellations, religious analogies and archetypal metaphors surrounding female orgasm.

Born in Bogota in 1992, at an early age, **David Silva** discovered a life's calling: drawing. David's childhood was influenced by Colombian traditions in music and literature -- with which he experimented as he explored drawing and painting. At 7 he discovered that sequential drawings generated movement. At 15, he made several short animated films, frame by frame, learning basic concepts of anatomy, composition and color, drawing tools, and techniques of traditional and digital painting.

At 17, in college, he started professional training as a Graphic Designer, a career in using image to communicate. At 18, he began studying filmmaking at the National University of Colombia in Bogota, where the academic environment, literature, art shows and cultural events enriched his education. With his professional training in filmmaking, David trained himself in animation by experimenting with different techniques, narratives and visuals. He directed three animated films, a short film in 16mm and collaborated in academic and experimental projects that took him to nine international and national film festivals

Awakenings

0:13:19 India; Foreign Language; Mystery/Horror;

Directed by **Bhargav Saikia**

The line between dreams and reality is blurred when a young woman in charge of two children is haunted by mysterious entities.

Awakenings is **Bhargav Saikia's** debut film as a director and screenwriter. In 2014, Bhargav produced the critically acclaimed feature film, *Kaafiron Ki Namaaz (The Virgin Arguments)*, which was showcased at several film festivals in the main competition section, including Jeonju International Film Festival in South Korea and Ladakh International Film Festival, where it won the Best Feature Film award. Bhargav credits Mani Ratnam,

JA Bayona, Tim Burton, Peter Jackson, Roman Polanski and Vishal Bhardwaj as major influences on his work. Bhargav was born in 1988 in Assam, India.

Carne de Gaviota (Seagull Meat)

0:25:00 Spain; Foreign Language; Drama/Horror;

Directed by **Felipe Espinosa**

Roberto, Susana and Marc shipwrecked in a desert beach located somewhere in the world. The beach won't only be witness of a physical survival, their relationship will bring them to subsist emotionally and to discover who they are.

Felipe Espinosa was born in Barcelona in 1992. After completing his Bachelor's degree, he decided to study sound, image and video, quickly realizing that directing interested him.

Remembering a childhood story, he wrote the script of *Carne de Gaviota (Seagull Meat)* in several months. With only his savings and the help of some amazing people, *Carne de Gaviota* was filmed in 2014 and released in 2015 by the Spanish distribution company Mailuki Films.

Espinosa is a regular contributor to the production company Quarto Films and occasional assistant director in short films like *Lo Desconocido* or *Morir Viviendo*. Now his second work as director is in preproduction, a fantastic genre short film about life and death called *Horror Vacui*.

Coyote Girl

0:17:07 USA; Made in Illinois; Family/Drama; Directed by **Robert Biggs**

Huddled in a windswept farmhouse, Riley Ann cares for dementia-ridden dad. He slips away. She falters. Playing his endgame saves her. Magical thinking prevails.

Robert Biggs is an actor, veteran of Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre and Shakespeare & Company of Lenox, MA. His films include *Continental Divide*, *Severance*, *Speck's Last* and the documentary *One Year's Crop*, which won Best Documentary at the Embarras Valley Film Festival in 2013. He founded Outcast Café, a production company making short plays for fools and puppets and even shorter movies. His musical *The Dick and the Rose* premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2011 and played the New York Fringe in 2012. *Coyote Girl* premiered in 2015 at the Snake Alley Festival of Film. A new musical for the fringe circuit, *Riley Ann's Visit*, premieres in 2016. A short movie called *Louie* follows. www.outcastcafe.com.



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Darka (The Dinner)

0:10:00 Spain; Foreign Language; Drama/Romance;

Directed by **Suela Bako**

The dinner: Diana is 16yrs old and she lives with her younger sister and their father. Their mother died a few years ago. One day their father invites to dinner, at their house, his brother and sister-in-law, and a young woman.

Suela Bako was born in 1976 in Tirana, Albania. She completed acting studies in 1999 at the Tirana Academy of Arts. She acted in many short and feature films, and on stage in the National theatre and experimental theaters. She worked as a television director from 2002-2013.

Married since 2003, she has two children.

She recently completed her Master's Degree in Film & Television directing at the University of Arts in Tirana. She wrote & directed *Sea*, (11 minutes, 2012, TIFF), and directed and performed in *Meditation with Shakespeare*, a film etude (3 minutes, 2013).

The Director, (5 minutes, 2013) which she wrote and directed, was shown at TIFF, the Young Albanian Filmmakers Festival in New York.

Darka (The Dinner) which she also wrote, was shown at several film festivals around Europe.

She wrote and directed *Filad* (7 minutes, 2014), and is now working on *Shirtsleeves*, a short film for release by the end of 2015.

Devoured

0:13:14 USA; Debut Film; Thriller/Horror; Directed by **Alexi Wang**

Devoured is a suspense short story that tells the story of Allan Ross who, after a car accident, wakes up in a hospital missing his arm. Only to realize that the hospital at which he's staying is hiding something more horrific and unsettling than just first aid..

Alexi Wang is a director and actor, known for *Devoured* (2014) and *Azriel* (2013)

Directors on Directing

0:04:13 USA; Comedy; Musical/Horror; Directed by **Damien Patrik**

Pontificating film directors, dancing nuns, sweet little girls and puppy dogs. Who could ask for anything more? Three successful film directors explain the REAL secrets to success.

Damien Patrik is a director and writer, known for *Directors on Directing* (2014), *Cheese!* (2010) and *Vivian and Her Secret Friend* (2012).

Doug's Christmas

0:24:30 USA; Made in Illinois; Family; Directed by **Calvin Steinken**

Doug's Christmas is a short film that portrays a Korean War veteran who still struggles at Christmas time with the loss of his friend Kim who died in combat on Christmas day 1951 during the Korean conflict while he survived. The Korean War, Kim's dying words mixed with his passing on Christmas Day, still haunt Doug. Searching for answers, Doug meets a struggling young mother and her two daughters. The love and hardship of this young family inspire Doug to find meaning in his life, of all times, at Christmas..

Calvin Steinken is a director, writer, videographer and editor from Wilmette, Illinois, who lives in Chicago. His other films are: *A Child Lies Here* and *4 Seconds: Ricky Hustile's Last Shot at the NBA* (both 2013).

El Pintor de Sombras (The Painter of Shadows)

0:19:00 Spain; Foreign Language; Drama;

Directed by **Miguel García de la Calera**

Federico is a Spanish painter living in the Dominican Republic since his youth. Despite his unique ability, he spends his days painting at a park. His paintings reflect a dark inner world, true reflection of a traumatic past that he cannot forget. Suddenly, he meets someone that makes him face his destiny...and the opportunity to redeem from that dark past.

Miguel García de la Calera, 26, has many projects as a director, director- assistant and editor. Miguel has directed several short films, most of them selected by international film festivals: *Mysteries of the Mind*, *The Pre-established Persecution*, *Mycology*, and *Memories of Robberies*. He's directed video-clips, commercials, and documentaries. He has participated in several feature films in Spain and the Dominican Republic as assistant director and editor, working with some famous Spanish and Dominican actors.

He edited for television's Discovery Max and Discovery Channel this year, and has been a production assistant in some Hollywood movies shot in Spain. This young Spanish filmmaker has several feature films in progress: one about white slave traffic (a Puerto Rico-Dominican Republic-Spain co-production), a crazy comedy co-produced with the Dominican Republic, and he's co-directing a social drama about Down syndrome, and pitched an ambitious science fiction project to producers.

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Faith

0:12:00 Zambia, Turkey; Experimental; Family, Drama/Romance

Directed by **Gloria Huwiler** and **Raif Kurt**

Two souls journey to reconcile divine and earthly love.

A multimedia artist and videographer, **Raif Kurt** has produced and directed various experimental interpretative videos and also works in painting and sculpture. He founded Hanger in Istanbul as both a studio and exhibition space for Turkish artists. His 2013 exhibition *Karma* was featured at Bon Art gallery, then *Kaos* at Arc gallery in Istanbul. Raif Kurt's work caught the attention of Paolo Coelho; his video was selected in an online competition based on the title of Coelho's new novel *Aleph*.

An actress and writer, **Gloria Huwiler** has worked in various theatre productions, starring in Okwui Okpokwasili's off Broadway play *Pent Up: A Revenge Dance*, which went on to win the New York Dance and Performance Award. Besides her theatre work, she has acted in several independent films and wrote and produced the short film *Angst* which won several awards, including Best Short Film at the Milan film festival. Her latest project, starring in Mete Sozer's debut feature *And the Circus Leaves Town* premieres at Warsaw Film Festival 2015.



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Günbatimi

0:15:44 Turkey; Foreign Language; Drama; Directed by **Sinem Cezayirli**

On a warm summer day on the beach, Zeynep and her nephews spend a day enjoying the sun, the sea and the moment. When they return home in the afternoon, suddenly Zeynep must confront a reality that she cannot accept. The film shows us her rejection process until she confronts the reality.

Sinem Cezayirli was born in 1975 in Ankara. She graduated from the Hacettepe University Faculty of Letters English Language and Literature department. In 2001, with the TRT Young Filmmakers Project, she entered *Frame*, the first short film she wrote and directed, in the 13th Ankara International Film Festival. She is currently working on documentary and feature film projects.

I Am Good

0:10:29 USA; Debut Film; Comedy/Drama; Directed by **Noora Albright**

Never underestimate the power of a simple human interaction.

Growing up in Finland, **Noora Albright** was always drawing and pursuing creative outlets, playing sports in school and dancing ballet. She was on a children's morning show on YLE (Finnish National Television), and was a lead singer on an album named *Tutti*, arranged by Esa-Pekka Jalkanen. In school plays she was The Princess in *The Sleeping Beauty* and Pippi in *Pippi Longstocking*. She studied piano, flute and singing for many years and sang in a church choir.

In 1998, at New York's Stella Adler Conservatory, Noora studied Scene, Technique, Voice and Movement, and acted in full length and short independent productions in New York. In 2001, at the International Model & Talent Association (IMTA) convention in New York, Noora won awards in dramatic monologue and cold read competitions.

Noora moved to California in September 2002 and has since co-starred in Spike Lee's Showtime pilot *Sucker Free City*, in USA Network's *Monk*, and in Showtime's *Sleeper Cell*, and independent film productions.

In 2006, *Curious*, the first short film Noora wrote and produced, won an award at the 2007 Houston International Film Festival and was an official selection at the 4th Annual Poppy Jasper Film Festival in Morgan Hill, California. In 2008 Noora's screenplay *Small Town Surprise* was an Official Selection and a Finalist at the 2009 Beverly Hills Film Festival.

In 2011 Noora wrote and produced her second short film, *Life Mission*, which won an award at the 45th WorldFest-Houston International Independent Film Festival in 2012 and was an official selection at the 8th Annual Action on Film International Film Festival.

Intercourse

0:19:40 USA; Comedy; Musical/Drama; Directed by **David Cain**

Life. Is. Improvised. Recurring dreams of a young woman barraged by strangers create challenges, for better or worse. *Intercourse*. Life. Is. Spontaneous. All acting and music are 100% improvised. Featuring improvised music by 7-time Grammy winner Paul Wertico, David Cain & Larry Gray.

David Cain creates organic movies, music and wordscapes. Exploring life in images, sounds, words and feelings in real-time is his bliss. With a B.A. in Music Composition, an M.A. in Communication, and 30 years of experience, David creates with what he calls an "Unbroken Media." David's media production company, UMEDIA, has pioneered multimedia since 1988. He's been a Resident Artist in The Hoogland Center for the Arts since 2005. Formerly with Geffen Records, David now performs with 7-time Grammy Award winner Paul Wertico and Larry Gray as Wertico Cain & Gray: 2014 Independent Music Awards winners of "Best Album, Live Performance." His work on the Internet Series, *Inventing the Future*, was nominated for an Emmy Award. David wrote the book, *Who Moved My Illusion?* and numerous stage plays and screen plays. Besides teaching at the University of Illinois at Springfield and Robert Morris University, David was a founding faculty member of the Illinois Summer School for the Arts at Illinois State University. More information is available at www.umedia.net and www.wcg.band.

Keep It Clean

0:10:00 USA; Student Film; Comedy;

Directed by **Matthew Rivera** and **Evan Sennett**

Keep it Clean communicates to the germophobe that resides in us all. What does an extremely OCD, neurotic clean freak do when a greasy, disgusting, salesman comes into his apartment...and dies? Inspired by the work of Pierre Etaix and Jacques Tati, filmmakers who paid homage to and further developed the silent comedies of Chaplin and Keaton, *Keep it Clean* is a visually driven retro comedy shot on 16mm.

Matthew Rivera has written, directed, produced, and been part of the technical crew on several films, including *Everything's Relative* (2013), *Writing the Big One* (2012), *The Executive* (2012), *The Hero* (2011), and *The Knife* (2010).

Evan Sennett is a writer, director, actor, editor and producer who worked with Rivera on *Keep It Clean* and *Everything's Relative*, and acted in the film *Lofa Boy* (2014).



Love at First Sight

0:13:50 United Kingdom; Debut Film; Comedy/Drama/Romance;

Directed by **Mark Playne**

A heartwarming story of a lonely young man's increasingly creative attempts to attract the attention of the girl of his dreams.

A gentle film of hope and optimism.

Mark Playne attended Film School from 1987-1990 at Manchester Capital. In 1989 he won the Lloyds bank national student commercial award for *Do Nothing*.

After film school, he 'ran away with the circus,' travelling to many countries, and sold his hand-made jewelry on the street worldwide, eventually retailing it at major music events.

He founded several enterprises, training and managing teams of body painters at Europe's music events and around the coasts of Spain and Portugal, all the while continuing his writing and photography.

In 2003 he tossed a coin: Film or Fashion? Fashion won: he started an underwear company that the *Daily Mirror* soon referred to as a major competitor to Marks and Spencer's.

Unable to stop thinking about film, he went to Cannes a few years later and felt kinship with a group of mad, obsessed film-fanatic ideologues who believed they could make their impossible dreams come true – and make films. He closed his company, looked up old film friends, and gathered a team. *Love at First Sight* is his debut film.

Manias

0:12:00 Spain; Foreign Language; Drama/Horror

Directed by **Santiago Capuz**

Obsessions is a short film about those little things that we can't stop doing, just like Félix does. Everyone has obsessions. Félix is one of those. He is addicted to human meat. Intrigued by this behavior, a small team decides to interview him to learn more about his life and surroundings.

Santiago Capuz has a degree in Film, Radio and TV from the University of Navarre, and a Master's Degree in Digital Cinema from the Cinema School of Madrid. In 2012, he directed his first TV spot. Since then he's worked as director/scriptwriter for different clients such as Real Madrid, Santander Bank, BBVA, Google, Endesa and Mercedes Benz. He studied acting for 15 years, including courses in the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in Los Angeles. He has been directing short films since 2006; some of them received international awards.

Mine

0:29:24 Canada; Student Film; Drama/Thriller/Horror

Directed by **Michael P. Vidler**

A middle aged real estate agent's obsessive and destructive search for a baby. Diane Johnson is a 45 year old real estate agent living alone in Vancouver, BC, Canada. She has never been married, and has no kids. At work Diane is surrounded by twenty-something girls who bob around and talk as if life will pass them by if they don't have kids, or get married soon. As Diane listens to them she feels sure that her life has passed her by. There is nothing that Diane would like more than to have a kid of her own but she has been assured that this is no longer possible. She is out of options and alone when Kevin and Eva (a young newlywed couple) enter her life looking for a house. When Diane becomes aware that Eva is pregnant she does everything she can to become part of their life. She sells them a house at a lower price. She parks outside their house and observes the progress of Eva's pregnancy. As Eva's due date approaches Diane's motives become clearer. She does not just want to be a part of Kevin and Eva's life; she wants to have their baby for herself.

Michael Paul Vidler was born and raised in Vancouver, Canada. He is a creative, enthusiastic, and highly skilled filmmaker who enjoys exposing the unexamined moment. In his films, he likes to explore the meaning behind the unremarkable gesture, thought, silent or unspoken word. At a young age Michael took a fervent interest in film and storytelling, writing short narratives from his bedroom in the attic, and casting unsuspecting friends and family members to act in said narratives. He completed a degree in Digital Film and Video at the Art Institute of Vancouver.

Michael is currently completing his masters degree in the Raindance MA program, and continues to explore both his writing and directing through the making of short films. He's also developing a feature film which he will also direct.



Pale Creatures of the Night

0:20:29 USA; Made in Illinois; Comedy/Horror;

Directed by **Tim Troemner**

Sam and Carrie just wanted to spend a quiet evening watching a marathon of horror films. However, something gets in the way of their plans. Is it Carrie's obsessive ex? Is it Sam's apathy toward the film genre? Or is it something altogether more deadly?

Tim Troemner is a teacher, a writer, and a filmmaker who has been making short films since he was old enough to pick up a camcorder. He would like to think that his films have gotten better since those childhood days. Some people agree. He resides outside Chicago, Illinois.

Radio

0:07:00 USA; Student Film; Family, Drama/Fantasy

Directed by **Cody Mathieson Packer**

A lonely old man comes across his father's radio, which resurfaces a cherished memory from his youth.

Hailing from the Kapiti Coast in New Zealand, **Cody Mathieson Packer** is a critically acclaimed director who began making films at 16. Cody's passion lies in telling stories about people on the outer edge of society, and examining facets of the human condition. His first independent short film, *The Centre Line*, which he wrote, directed, produced and edited at 17, was an Official Student Showcase Selection at the 2011 Hawaii International Film Festival; he's the first New Zealand student to gain entry into the festival.

At the New Zealand Broadcasting School in Christchurch, Cody earned a Bachelor of Broadcasting Communications in Digital Film and Television. Here Cody made *Gloriavale*, a short that won the 2012 CineYouth International Film Festival award for Best Documentary, and was an Official Student Showcase Selection at the 2012 Chicago International Film Festival.

While in America, Cody met Bruce Sheridan, Chair of the Columbia College Chicago Cinema Arts + Science Department. This meeting, and a tour of the Columbia College Chicago film department, catalyzed Cody; he is now completing the last year of a Cinema Arts + Science BA, majoring in Film Directing. Cody's first short film at Columbia College, *Stutter*, was an Official Selection of the 2014 Carmel International Film Festival and the 2014 Maryland International Film Festival, where it won Best Student Film.

Scapegoat

0:05:31 USA; "Race in Society";
Drama; Directed by **Khadif Sanders**

An Asian store owner is robbed after arguing with a black customer he racially profiled, and the customer must decide if he will intervene.

Khadif Sanders is an ardent lover of all things hip-hop, and when he's free from the madness of a film set, he spends his spare time break dancing, or free styling. A native of the multicultural metropolis of Miami, Florida, Khadif has a strong street sensibility, and enjoys observing the way people come into contact with one another. He now lives and works as a freelance filmmaker in Atlanta, Georgia.



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Snooze Tease

0:06:22 Canada; Comedy; Directed by **Tim Phillips**

Snooze Tease inhabits the apartment and mind of Chester, a burned out young professional, who dreams about a sexy burlesque dancer and an uncouth slob. Unfortunately for poor Chester, his alarm clock always interrupts the most exciting moments of his fantasy (until he foolishly attempts to solve the situation). Actions speak for themselves in this dialogue-free production.

Writer-producer-director **Tim Phillips** is delighted to return with another short comedy. He premiered *High and Dry*, a quirky comedy, at the Route 66 Film Festival in 2012, and the Great Ongoing Guelph Independent Film Festival (Go-GIFF) in 2013.

Since *High and Dry*, Tim co-produced a dance film called *Eternal Return*, featuring the music of Hungarian composer Bela Bartok and wrote, produced and directed the trailer and pilot episode of the irreverent web series *The Joy of Sax*. In 2015 Tim produced a poetry film and directed two short comedy films, including *Snooze Tease*, premiering at this year's Route 66 Film Festival.

Tim is passionate about infusing seemingly silly comedies with deeper themes and emotions. He was born and raised in Stratford, Ontario, Canada and now resides in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Spark and Fade

0:24:50 USA; Made in Illinois; Drama/Romance;

Directed by **Brian Mellen**

High school senior Ian decides to go all out to win childhood pal Fiona's affections. The pursuit leads to cataclysmic consequences with Fiona's drug dealer boyfriend Brad. The process sends Ian and Fiona on a downward spiral. A web of drugs, lies, and irresponsibility puts their relationship to the test. Friendship runs deep.

A native of Seattle, **Brian Mellen** is a filmmaker in Chicago. He also teaches film classes at DePaul University and works as a freelance videographer and video editor.

StalkerZ

0:02:59 USA; Experimental; Family, Drama/Romance;

Directed by **Damien Patrik**

A gritty new soundtrack completes StalkerZ. A man is being stalked through downtown Denver -- by himself.

Damien Patrik is a director and writer, known for *Directors on Directing* (2014), *Cheesel* (2010) and *Vivian and Her Secret Friend* (2012).

Strapped

0:17:00 USA; Drama; Directed by **Suk Dhaliwal**

Strapped is a short film about a Chicago cop who finds himself strapped to a ticking bomb around his neck. Strapped is the story of the past and present colliding for a corrupt undercover Chicago detective. When Bill finds himself strapped with an explosive device around his neck inside a Hummer in a lonely alley, it's a race against time for the bomb squad and his partner, Hudson, to save his life and put the pieces of the puzzle together in the midst of a tense hostage crisis. Joe Farina and Tom McElroy headline this gritty thriller about buried truths.

Suk Dhaliwal, from Malaysia is the son of civil servants. He found escape from crushing academia in the films of the French New Wave and Hollywood genre films. Inspired to become a rule-breaking filmmaker, he dedicated himself to learning the rules so that he might break them with some artistic flair.

He enrolled in Southern Illinois University, where he made one stylish and inscrutable film. Suk wrote several screenplays and *Strapped* is his first short film after a very long absence from filmmaking. With *Strapped* in the release circuit, he is currently in production with his next short, *El Sicario*, and is also developing his first feature.

The Casket

0:26:00 USA; Drama; Directed by **Danial A. Miller** and **Timothy Morgan**

How much can one casket hold? Three estranged brothers receive word that their wealthy, powerful father has died. He left them everything in his will, but under one condition: they return to their childhood home and build his casket from scratch, together. Under the supervision of their father's unorthodox lawyer, the brothers must put their differences aside, bury their past and remember what brotherhood is all about.

Danial A. Miller has been involved in Chicago film for over 35 years. Some of the notable filmmakers he's worked beside are John Hughes, Christopher Columbus, John McNaughton and The Wachowskis.

Timothy Morgan wrote *The Casket* and has been a professional writer for 10 years. His start in the entertainment industry was working with the writers on the FOX television show *Prison Break*.

Danial and Timothy co-founded GripWrite Productions in 2013 and *The Casket* is their first film.

Tick Tock

0:09:15 Turkey; Foreign Language, Animation/Drama

Directed by **Zeynep Kocak**

The beautiful thing is not the goal you achieve, it is the road that takes you there with hope!

Zeynep Kocak was born in 1982 in Ankara, Turkey. She graduated from TED Ankara High School in 2000. After completing her bachelor studies at Cankaya University Law School, while she was a legal practitioner, she became culture & arts editor of the magazine *Hukuk Gundemi*, published by Ankara Law Society.

She completed her first short animated film called *Müdahale (Intervention)* in 2007. In 2008, she became a member of Besiktas Kultur Merkezi (Besiktas Cultural Center) and received training from Yilmaz Erdogan on writing and acting.

She worked as a writer and an actor for four years in a TV comedy sketch show called *Cok Guzel Hareketler Bunlar* starting in 2008. In 2015 she completed the animated movie *Tik Tak (Tick Tock)*, on which she had been working for a year.



Tu & Eu

0:14:15 USA; "Race in Society"; Drama/Romance

Directed by **Edward Shieh**

Does love conquer all? Through one brief phone conversation, *Tu & Eu* follows several star-crossed lovers around the world whose differences have put their long time love affairs at a critical impasse.

Eddie Shieh is a director and screenwriting member of the Writer's Guild of America East and WGA Digital Caucus.

His direction has been praised as cinematic, visceral, introspective, textured, and "French New Wave." His work has won Best Direction, Ensemble Cast, and Soundtrack, with numerous nominations for Best Film, Actor, Actress, and Music from Academy Qualifying and international festivals.

Eddie is 2015 NBC Directing Fellow, 2015 Eugene O'Neill Director Fellowship, and a 2014 Fox Studio Global Director Initiative Nominee, alumnus of The Barrow Group Theatre Directing Workshops in New York, led by the esteemed Seth Barrish, and the Professional Writer's Boot Camp. He sold his first dramatic feature screenplay in 2010.

His passion for storytelling springs from a career as an award-winning advertising creative.

Videoclube

0:17:00 Spain; Foreign Language, Comedy/Drama

Directed by **Ana Almeida**

On a spring night of 1999, two teens – a video store clerk and a film buff - set out on an unusual adventure: to deliver obsolete VHS-tapes to the people who rented those movies the most. In their walk through the streets of Oporto, they discover each others' fears and anxieties... and love for movies.

Ana Almeida was born on a snowy night in Castelo Branco, Portugal, in 1982. She graduated in "Sound and Image" from the School of Arts of the Catholic University of Oporto.

In 2007, she directed her first short film, *A Noiva (The Bride)*, a seven-minute short that was featured in over 40 film festivals around the world and became part of the Women in Horror Recognition Month movement. Ana has worked as a film and television producer and a journalist. In 2011, she co-founded the independent filmmaking and content creation production company Anexo 82. *Videoclube (Video store)* is her second short film.



***When Voices Meet: One Divided Country;
One United Choir; One Courageous Journey***

1:26:00 South Africa; Debut Film; Documentary, Musical/Drama/History

Directed by **Nancy Sutton Smith**

When Nelson Mandela was finally released from prison, South African musician and music therapist Sharon Katz joined with singer/educator Nonhlanhla Wanda to bring together 500 courageous Black and White youth and form a multiracial choir that would break through Apartheid's barriers. Threatened with bombs and thwarted at every turn, they prevailed and railroded across the country aboard The Peace Train.

Singing their way into the hearts, minds and soul of a divided nation in the midst of a civil war, they promoted a peaceful transition to democracy and went on to become Mandela's face of the new nation.

When Voices Meet documents the trials, tribulations and triumphs of those musician activists and young choir members. They performed together for seven years; never lost touch with one another; and then reunited 20 years later to tell their stories and reflect upon The Peace Train's impact on South Africa today. It's an inspiring global story of hope and determination despite tremendous obstacles.

Nancy Sutton Smith, with a Master's degree in education, teaches digital cinema, video editing, graphics, journalism and mass media at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska. Before teaching, she spent 30 years as a television news broadcaster, producer and video editor in Dallas, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Philadelphia. Working for Comcast in Delaware, she was the Executive Producer of a daily half hour feature show called *CN8 Extra*, which focused on history, non-profits and human interest video features. When Nancy produced a piece for *CN8 Extra* that featured Sharon Katz and the Peace Train, a decade-long collaboration was born. During her career, Nancy collected 6 regional Emmys, and an Associated Press Best Editor Golden Mic statue for the first gang documentary ever produced in Los Angeles (which then won a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award). She recently won Best Documentary and Best Director awards at the US Premiere of *When Voices Meet* in Washington, DC.



Wildlike

1:38:00 USA; Debut film; Adventure, Drama/Thriller

Directed by **Frank Hall Green**

Mackenzie, a troubled but daring teenage girl, is sent by her struggling mother to live with her uncle in Juneau, Alaska. Although Uncle seems like a supportive caretaker and friend, the relationship turns and Mackenzie is forced to run. Trying to make her way back to Seattle alone to find her absent mother, Mackenzie only winds up deeper in the Alaskan interior. Lost and with no one else to turn to, she shadows a loner backpacker, Bartlett, an unlikely father figure with scars of his own. Together, they cross the wilderness and find sanctuary in the last frontier.

Frank Hall Green is a writer/director, producer and partner at Catch & Release Films. *Wildlike*, his directorial debut feature, screened at over 100 festivals, won over 60 awards and comes to theaters in Fall 2015 via Amplify, Level Film and Inception Film Partners. Produced by Christine Vachon/Killer Films, Tandem Pictures (*Sleepwalker*) and Joseph Stephans, it was filmed on 35mm in Alaska.

Producer Tom Heller (*Foxcatcher*, *Precious*, *127 Hours*, *Mud*), is his partner at Catch and Release Films in New York. They are now producing the adaptation of *Boy21* by Matthew Quick (*Silver Linings Playbook*).

Frank is also a producer of *Remittance*, a feature of writing/directing team Joel Fendelman and Patrick Daly (*David*). Recently he produced *Ghetto Klown* on HBO, John Leguizamo's award-winning one-man show. He was a producer of *Allegiance*, starring Aiden Quinn, Bow Wow, Seth Gabel and Pablo Schreiber and *1-900-TONIGHT* (starring John Turturro) and based on the film by Theo Van Gogh, and other films. Frank has produced many short films and has an MBA from NYU's Tisch School of Film & Television. Before NYU's Graduate Film Program, Frank worked in Venture Capital and emerging technology. He is also an alumnus of NYU's Gallatin School, an avid backpacker and a member of MENSA.



Writer's Cramp

1:45:00 USA; Debut Film; Comedy; Directed by **Darva Campbell**

Amy and Scott, short on money and talent, hatch a desperate scheme to commit the perfect murder. As they toggle between colorful fantasies and hopeful delusions, the kids discover their plot to commit murder most foul. The ineptitude of the adults is no match for the kids' covert operations, culminating in a hysterical comeuppance in the final scene. This uniquely entertaining family film is a treat for the eye, featuring a plethora of richly textured one-liners, clever malapropisms and wild costumes from the fantastical world of *Writer's Cramp*.

Darva Campbell grew up in an arts-centered family.

A classically trained musician, she taught music and theater to students of all ages for over three decades before making the shift to cinematic media. *Writer's Cramp*, Darva Campbell's first film, was voted Best Feature Film at the Fort Myers Beach Film Festival in April, and made its world premier in March 2015 at the Maryland International Film Festival-Hagerstown. Since its completion she has made several shorts. She has four feature films in development, and is currently shooting a web-series, *Scary Tales and Nursery Crimes*, a tongue in cheek look at the darker side of fairy tales, nursery rhymes, and children's folklore.

The first installment of her web-series is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHIR33oDLsl>.



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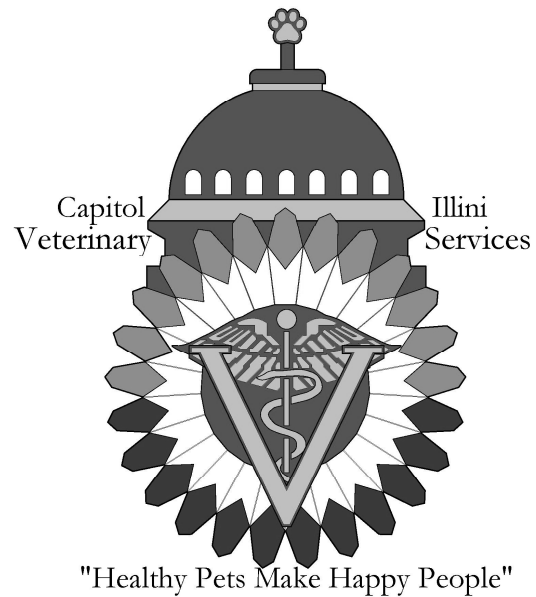
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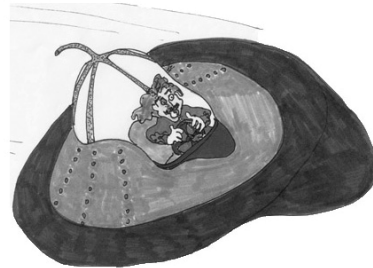
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