

Independent films from around the world

15th Route 66 Film Festival



November 4-5, 2016

Capital City Bar & Grill Theater

3149 South Dirksen Parkway

Springfield Illinois 62703

**5 sessions, \$10 each or 5 for \$35 by Oct. 31
tickets available at route66filmfestival.net**

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Saturday evening.....	5		

Route 66 Film Festival Schedule

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4 – Session 1, 7 - 10 PM

Welcome, 6:45 PM, Festival Director Siobhan Johnson

Striking a Chord (p. 24)

28 minutes; Directed by Susan Rockefeller; USA; Heroes & Heroines

Democracy in the Driver's Seat (p. 10)

8 minutes; Directed by Gail Gilbert; USA; Made in Illinois

Whoa, I'm Dating a Monogamous Human (p. 25)

6 minutes; Directed by Tim Troemner; USA; Comedy

Any Day Now (p. 9)

20 minutes; Directed by Albert Uria; Spain; Drama

The Rat (p. 21)

8 minutes; Directed by Vasily Chuprina; USA; Drama

Primitive Technology (p. 21)

15 minutes; Directed by Bo Price; USA; Comedy

Petty Scores (p. 20)

15 minutes; Directed by Zach Swiatocha; USA; Debut Film

Broiled (p. 9)

38 minutes; Directed by Megan St. John; USA; Made in Illinois

The Greatest Honor (p. 13)

53 minutes; Directed by Kane Farabaugh; USA; Heroes & Heroines

After Party until 1 AM



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 – Session 2, 10 AM

Solo (p. 22)

6 minutes; Directed by Brendan Kirschbaum; USA; Animation

Moom (p. 16)

14 minutes; Directed by Robert Kondo & Daisuke 'Dice' Tsutsumi; Japan; Animation

Stella Amore (p. 23)

19 minutes; Written & Directed by Cristina Puccinelli; Italy; Foreign Language

Fred (p. 11)

1 minute; Design/Animation by leftchannel, Sound Design by Circa Music; USA; Animation

Wild Horses & Wild Men (p. 26)

13 minutes; Directed by Pat Shannahan; USA; Heroes & Heroines

The Weasel (p. 25)

4 minutes; Directed by Darva Campbell; USA; Drama

In The Blink (p. 14)

5 minutes; Directed by Damien Patrik; USA; Drama

The Bus Stop (p. 10)

14 minutes; Directed by Justin Malone; USA; Drama

Money Time (p. 16)

11 minutes; Directed by Ludovic Houplain; France; Animation

The Last Stop (p. 15)

9 minutes; Directed by Eric Brunt; Canada; Student Showcase

High Signs (p. 14)

13 minutes; Directed by Damien Patrik, USA; Comedy

Festival T-shirts
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 – Session 3, 1 PM

Rocket (p. 22)

29 minutes; Directed by Brenna Malloy; USA ; Student Showcase

Sonnet 134 (p. 23)

3 minutes; Directed by Edward Shieh; USA; Drama

Not a Stranger (p. 18)

86 minutes; Directed by James Russo; USA; Debut Film

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 – Session 4, 4 PM

A Drag Queen for Kids (p. 11)

14 minutes; Directed by Byron Karabatsos; USA ; Comedy

Mind Over Mindy (p. 15)

113 minutes; Directed by Robert Alaniz; USA ; Comedy



Congratulations on your 15th Annual Festival!

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 – Session 5, 7 PM

Paynes Prairie (p. 20)

28 minutes; Directed by Ross Papitto; USA; Debut Film

Things That Nobody Told Him (p. 25)

28 minutes; Directed by Irina Khozyainova; USA; Foreign Language

Over the Bridge (p. 20)

18 minutes; Directed by Maria Lavelle; USA; Student Showcase

Never (p. 18)

20 minutes; Written/Directed by Giulio Poidomani; Italy;
Foreign Language

O (p. 19)

15 minutes; Directed by July Allard; France; Debut Film

Your Money or Your Wife (p. 26)

75 minutes; Written & Directed by Iain MacLeod; Canada; Comedy

Awards Ceremony - 10:00 PM

After Party - until 1:00 AM

Enjoy our 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 PM to 1 AM provided by

John T. Crisp Jr., (keyboard),
Jaro Howse (percussion),
Ada Lou Rogers (vocals)
and Mark Russillo (harmonica & vocals)



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.

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.



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www.springfieldartsco.org



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Film Descriptions & Filmmaker Biographies

Any Day Now (Session 1)

20 minutes; Spain, USA; Directed by Albert Uria; Drama

When Jeff's girlfriend Kate breaks up with him because he's too immature to understand her strange and terminal illness, he purchases a coffin and keeps it in the living room of the apartment he shares with his mother to prove he can master the lessons of mortality. Inspired by his coffin visions and mentored by his girlfriend's new boyfriend Carl, a bizarre fellow whom she prefers because he was struck twice by lightning and experienced clinical brain death, our hero undergoes a crash-course in self-discovery. He's enlightened to his lackadaisical work ethic, inspires a youthful renaissance amongst his mother's decrepit friends, and learns it's never too late to be a new man. But is it all too little, too late? A short, sweet comedy about how short (and sweet) life can be.

Albert Uria was born on July 22nd, 1973 in Barcelona, Spain. He is a director, producer, and writer, known for his commercial work for brands such as Nike, Ford, Nissan, McDonalds, Ikea, Volkswagen, X-box, and Honda. In 2003 he co-founded the production house Garage Films which now has offices in Los Angeles, New York, Barcelona, Madrid, Mexico City, and Colombia. He is known for his documentary *New York Showcase* (2011), and award winning short films *Smoke City* (1999), *Kokoschka* (2002), *Beats* (2004), *72 Horas* (2014), and *Any Day Now* (2014). In 2014 he joined the roster for Jerry Solomon's commercial production company Persuade. He currently lives in Los Angeles where he's working on his next feature film *Mallorca*.

Broiled (Session 1)

38 minutes; Directed by Megan St. John; Made in Illinois

When two girls and two boys coincidentally rob the town bank on the same day in small-town, rural America, the result is a love story, some dark twists, and a whole lot of sweet potatoes.

Megan St. John is a Chicago-based writer, director, and producer. Heavily influenced by the works of Tarantino and the Coen Brothers, Megan's stories tend to be dark comedies with quirky characters and intricate dialogue. Growing up in Montana instilled in her a love for rural, untouched places, which are typical backgrounds for her narrative ideas. Megan graduated from the University of Chicago in 2012 and is currently a freelance producer in the Chicago area, specializing in corporate work and music videos. *Broiled* is her first non-student narrative venture.

The Bus Stop (Session 2)

14 minutes; USA; Directed by Justin Malone; Drama

A comedy-drama about two young boys coming to blows due to religious stereotypes learned from their parents.

Justin Malone was born in Dallas, TX, where he currently resides with his wife, two daughters, and newly born son. Justin was raised under the shadows of rock & roll and classic cinema. After studying film at Full Sail University in Orlando, Florida, where his fearless attitude instantly caught the attention of his peers, he returned home to pursue his dream of filmmaking through Malone Pictures. He burst onto the local scene in 2006 with *Undocumented*, his first feature-length film.

Justin approaches his work with an open mind and (for better or worse) an open mouth. He prides himself on tackling all challenges head on, while adeptly balancing modern technological advances with the art of traditional filmmaking. He possesses the eye of a director and the mind of a businessman, all while retaining the heart of a child.

Democracy in the Driver's Seat (Session 1)

8 minutes; USA; Directed by Gail Gilbert; Made in Illinois

On a crowded city street, a woman runs to catch a bus, but misses it. With frustration in her eyes, she climbs aboard the next bus and begs the driver to do his best to catch up to her husband, who is on the bus ahead of them. At first the bus driver is reluctant to even acknowledge her request, but the other passengers urge him to help the woman out. Soon a positive excitement fills the air, and the driver skillfully moves his way through traffic to reach the other bus. A sense of camaraderie builds as more and more people get involved and show their support. It all reaches a climax when they finally pull up behind the bus and the woman hops off to join her husband....

Gail Gilbert has been a film editor in Chicago's advertising community for over 20 years. Her work for many Fortune 500 companies has aired nationally and internationally. Recently Gail opened her own production company, initiating a second career as a director. Her first narrative short film, *Lunch in Lima*, was selected for the Aspen Shortsfest and won the Founder's Choice Award at the Urban Mediamakers Film Festival. Gail has a degree in Radio-TV-Film from Northwestern University, and a certificate in the Basic Program of Western Literature from the University of Chicago.



A Drag Queen for Kids (Session 4)

14 minutes; USA; Directed by Byron Karabatsos; Comedy

A Drag Queen for Kids follows Dito Van Reigersberg and his alter ego, Martha Graham Cracker, as they prepare for and perform their show for kids Martha Graham Cracker Meets Dr. Seuss. Jokes are reshaped, songs carefully altered, innuendos abound. Putting the lie to assumptions about drag and children, this short film shows that what makes a drag queen powerful – and dangerous – isn't her clothes, it's her empathy.

Byron Karabatsos is a Philadelphia based filmmaker. His work blurs the boundaries between fictional and documentary forms in an attempt to tell personal and engaging stories. His films have screened and won awards at several domestic and international festivals, including: the 25th annual Big Muddy Film Festival, the 25th annual Denver International Film Festival, the 10th annual Kansas City Filmmaker's Jubilee, San Francisco's Short Film Festival and Platforma International Video Festival in Athens, Greece. He's also received grants from Philadelphia's Independent Film and Video Association (PIFVA), Temple University, and Microsoft.

He holds an MFA from Temple University's Film Program. He also holds a BA and MPP from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He teaches film courses at Temple University, University of the Arts and La Salle University in Philadelphia. His most recent film, *4021 Parkside Ave*, combines his passion for making films with his desire to effect social change.

Fred (Session 2)

**1 minute; USA; Design/Animation by leftchannel,
Sound Design by Circa Music; Animation**

Who Disturbs My Slumber?

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The Greatest Honor (Session 1)

53 minutes; USA; Directed by Kane Farabaugh; Heroes & Heroines

This is the story of a son's last chance to understand the war experience of his father, John Amm, a veteran of "C" Company of the 260th Infantry Regiment, 65th Infantry Division. John Amm's unit was the "tip of the spear" in the Allied push into Germany during the final stages of World War 2. On the 500 mile path the unit took from Le Havre to Linz, John Amm and his fellow infantrymen witnessed the horrors of the Holocaust, and the cost of the war on the people in towns and camps they liberated, as well as the sacrifices made by his comrades in arms. He remained mostly silent about this experience for almost 70 years. This documentary details the journey of discovering John Amm's silent heroism, and preserving his story, and those he served with, for posterity.

Kane Farabaugh is an Emmy award-winning television and radio news reporter, independent documentary producer, writer, and filmmaker, and web content provider. He is a proficient "one-man band" videographer, non-linear video editor and producer, and manages multiple projects and products across various digital platforms. He has reported from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and has covered news events ranging from U.S. Presidential elections to the Olympics. Kane's career began as a broadcaster in the U.S. Air Force in Korea and Japan. After the military, he worked as a network affiliate reporter at WTVO-TV in Rockford, Illinois, Bay News 9 in Florida, KERO-TV in Bakersfield, California, WOWK-TV in Charleston, West Virginia, and at WSYR-TV in Syracuse, New York. Kane was Director of Special Projects for the American Forces Network Europe in Frankfurt, Germany, where he was named the 2002 Department of the Army Civilian Broadcast Journalist of the Year. At AFN-E, he managed a team producing long-form television projects, including a weekly travel show & coverage of military operations in the Middle East. He is currently the Midwest Correspondent for Voice of America. His awards include 2015 and 2014 Emmy Awards, several RTNDA Edward R. Murrow Awards, several AP Awards including Best Enterprise Reporter and Outstanding One Man Band Videographer, the New York Festivals Award, and numerous others. Kane collects rare books and documents signed by historical figures, focusing on U.S. Presidents. He has been featured on several television programs including the popular History Channel reality TV show Pawn Stars. Kane is a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and is a Paul Harris Fellow with Rotary International and recipient of the 2011-12 District 6420 New Rotarian of the Year Award. He serves on the Ottawa Township High School Educational Foundation board.

High Signs (Session 2)

13 minutes; USA; Directed by Damien Patrik; Comedy

A docu-comedy that takes a look at one of America's least coveted professions – costumed characters and sign spinners.

In the Blink (Session 2)

5 minutes; USA; Directed by Damien Patrik; Drama

Time flies...faster than you can ever imagine.

A graduate of the Colorado Film School with degrees in Writing/Directing and Writing/Producing, **Damien Patrik** is the Writer/Director/Producer of a number of short films including *Cheese!*, *StalkerZ*, *Directors on Directing* and *First and Last*, which have collectively been official selections in over 180 film festivals, including prestigious festivals like Taos ShortZ, Phoenix, Sedona, Orlando, Tallgrass and Williamstown, and have won a couple dozen audience choice and judges' choice awards. Additionally Patrik won the distinguished Ken Hendricks Award for Excellence in 2016 from the Beloit International Film Festival. The award was given for the first time to an individual (Damien Patrik) instead of a film, for his body of work and passion for filmmaking. Mr. Patrik has spoken on independent film panels at many festivals, worked as an actor, a casting director, and in production on network television specials with stars like Bette Midler (*The Earth Day Special*), and Milton Berle (*Bugs Bunny's 50th Anniversary Special*). He taught and produced voiceover workshops in Hollywood in collaboration with Dolores Diehl's Voiceover Connection. He is currently working on two feature screenplays, while his recent short films, *Directors on Directing*, *In the Blink*, *StalkerZ*, and *High Signs*, continue their travels on the festival circuit.



The Last Stop (Session 2)

**9 minutes; Canada; Directed by Eric Brunt;
Student Showcase**

Ben has just graduated from university, and is bewildered and deeply troubled by the uncertain future ahead of him. Societal expectations, parental pressure and his own hedonistic desires are pulling him in different directions. In this modern tale reminiscent of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, Ben gets to see how his life would turn out under three different scenarios.

Eric Brunt was born and raised in Victoria, BC. At the age of nine he had developed an obsession with Alfred Hitchcock and the classic Universal horror films. In high school he won a Canada wide film contest sponsored by Yamaha. His love for film took him to Vancouver where he majored in Film Production at the University of British Columbia. His directorial debut, *The Music Box* was accepted by the Montreal World Film Festival and the Miami International Science Fiction Film Festival. He just graduated from the university this past May, having completed his thesis film *The Last Stop*.

Mind over Mindy (Session 4)

113 minutes; USA; Directed by Robert E. Alaniz; Comedy

A middle-aged man's troubled relationship with his fiancée becomes even more complex when his teen-age ex-girlfriend from 1989 literally materializes from out of his dreams and into the 21st century.

Robert E. Alaniz is a director and writer, known for *You Don't Say!* (2013), *The Vision* (2009) and *Barrymore's Dream* (2005). He is the Owner/ President at SOLE Productions, Inc. and Owner at Soundz Good Records. He studied Liberal Arts at Moraine Valley Community College and lives in Chicago, Illinois. His trademark is a white/black Gambler's style hat.

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Money Time (Session 2)

11 minutes; France; Directed by Ludovic Houplain; Animation

It all begins as a marvelous fairy tale. In the icy steppe, a bear and her cub discover a plane that has been there for some undetermined time. All is calm. But this glacial tranquility will soon be disrupted by a train... And then more trains. Silent mechanical monsters converge toward a military base. A strange orbital spaceflight is being prepared.

Ludovic Houplain, (artistic director, film maker, graphic designer), is the founder, owner and creative director of H5; he graduated from ESAG-Penninshgen in 1994. From 2000 – 2016 he produced films or television commercials for Adidas, Lux scène nationale de Valence, Citroën, Lacoste, Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen. H5's animated short film *Logorama* (2010) won a César for best short film, and a 2009 Academy Award for best animation short film. He won a 2002 MTV Award for Best European Music Video, and two Club des DA. 1st Prize Video Clip awards.

Moom (Session 2)

14 minutes; Japan; Directed by Robert Kondo & Daisuke 'Dice' Tsutsumi; Animation

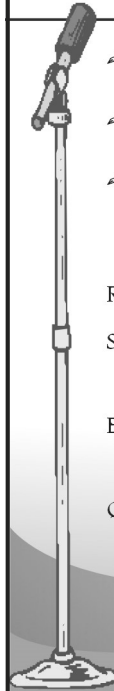
Have you ever wondered what happens to your forgotten objects?

In this story, those objects with 'memory' still attached rise from the waters of the magical lake. Scared and lost, memories need help to let go of their objects. Sometimes, it can be as simple as opening a car door or loosening a lid. Other times, memories have a hard time letting go. Those memories might need more help. This is the story of one of those memories stuck in this world. His name is Moom.


In early 2012, art directors **Dice Tsutsumi** and **Robert Kondo** found themselves searching for ways to expand upon their filmmaking experience in Pixar's art department. They decided to write and direct an independent animated short film together: *The Dam Keeper* was an 18-minute short that garnered an Academy Award Nomination. Upon completing the film, they found the experience of building the team and film life-changing, and the two artists found themselves reinvestigating their current path. They began to pursue answers to the question, "why?" related to their ambitions and dreams. The search for an answer led the two away from the comfort of Pixar's gates to challenge themselves with the unfamiliar, and to continue learning. In July 2014, Dice and Robert founded Tonko House as a place to nurture their own growth while telling stories for the world.


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Never (Session 5)

20 minutes; Italy; Written & Directed by Giulio Poidomani; Foreign Language

Claudia travels to a small town in Sicily to get back together with her ex-girlfriend, Anna, who is no longer interested, and abandons Claudia in a town she doesn't know. Wandering around town, Claudia meets Sandro, who questions all her beliefs. Sandro brings Claudia into a personal journey toward acceptance and respect for herself.

Giulio Poidomani is an Italian director and screenwriter. Born in Sicily, he moved to Rome to study Film Studies & Entertainment. After graduation, he worked with Italian Director Roberto Faenza and Oscar Winner Producer Elda Ferri at their Production Company, Jean Vigo Italia. After getting a Master's degree in Screenwriting, in 2010 he moved to the US, where he wrote and directed several shorts, such as *Disruption* and *Pots & Lids*. In the past year he wrote the web series *What You Want?*, wrote and directed the short movie *Never*, and won the Italian Mattador Award for the feature screenplay *Crisci Ranni*.

Not a Stranger (Session 3)

86 minutes; USA; Directed by James Russo; Debut Film

12-year-old Ray Combs always wanted to become a writer. That dream, however, died when his father was killed in a car crash three years before. When Ray and his friends, Jimmy and Kevin, befriend Bob, a down and out former high school teacher they discover slurping coffee in a local cafe, Bob excites the boys about literature and re-ignites Ray's passion in writing. Ray's stepfather, Will, disapproves of Bob, and orders Ray to stop hanging around with him. When Ray ignores him, Will calls in a favor from his friend Harry Evans, a Chicago police detective. After an incident, Harry arrests Bob. When Bob's sister, Jill, comes to the police station to bond him out, she shares the tragic story of Bob's past.

A Manhattan-born character player who attended New York University, actor **James Russo** wrote and starred in a prize-winning short film, *The Candy Store*, while attending college. His first big film break was as a convenience store robber in *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* (1982). Possessed with a stare that induces shivers, he has played a villain over the years, memorably portraying a number of gritty psychopaths and gangsters, among other undesirables. Surprisingly, Russo is not a name or commodity, but is an intense and dependable "tough guy" performer. One only needs to be reminded of his sadistic sexual animal role in *Extremities* on stage (in which he won a 1983 Theatre World award) and in film (in which he terrorized Farrah Fawcett), to experience his chilling effec-

tiveness. His other notable roles include Kevin Costner's *The Postman* (1997) and *Open Range* (2003), *Beverly Hills Cop* (1984), *We're No Angels* (1989), *Donnie Brasco* (1997), *No Way Home* (1996), and a number of low-budget crime films. On stage, he has *Welcome to Andromeda*, *Deathwatch*, *Marat/Sade* and the aforementioned *Extremities* to his credit. Russo appeared opposite Johnny Depp in Roman Polanski's *The Ninth Gate* (1999), and portrayed mobster Victor Mura in TV's short-lived, *Falcone* (2000), the following year. More recently, he offered a penetrating cameo as Frank Sinatra in *Stealing Sinatra* (2003).

O (Session 5)

15 minutes; France; Directed by July Allard; Debut Film

The Parker family lives within different universes. In this multiverse, their lives are subject to radical changes. An infinite number of choices and events are possible, everything can happen depending on their actions.

Born in Grasse in the South of France, **July Allard** began art lessons when she was six years old, developing a particular interest in the medium of plastics. Having completed a Degree in Arts in Aix en Provence, July became passionate about cinema. At nineteen she began an audiovisual course in Nice. In the same year she was honored with a Diploma from the City of Mandelieu, in recognition of her work in plastics, and opened the first studio in Mandelieu for artists working in that medium. Also passionate about astronomy, July decided to link her artistic abilities and interest in space with an exhibition and her first short film *O*, which was selected for several festivals, in France and across the world; July received three awards of Excellence in California. *O* was also awarded Best Short Film of Sci-Fi at the Berlin Short Film Festival. She has also established a film production company, HYPÉRIA, with director Youcef Mahmoudi.


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Over the Bridge (Session 5)

**18 minutes; USA; Directed by Maria Lavelle;
Student Showcase**

A documentary-short exploring homelessness in South Dakota.

Maria Lavelle is a Norwegian filmmaker and student at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She made her directorial debut with *Over the Bridge* in March 2016, for which she won the Jury Award for Social Impact at the Sioux Empire Film Festival in April 2016.

Paynes Prairie (Session 5)

29 minutes; USA; Directed by Ross Papitto; Debut Film

As he prepares for his last day on Earth, twenty-five year old Adam revisits the decisions that led him to this moment, most notably the disintegration of his relationship with girlfriend Lily. His past, present, and future intersect as a mysterious figure Marley intervenes with his plans.

Ross Papitto graduated from the University of Miami in 2012, where he studied Psychology and Theater. After playing in bands you haven't heard of and working at restaurants at which you wouldn't eat, he landed his first acting gig touring the country with filmmaking education workshops. He would continue touring throughout 2014 and 2015, working alongside Academy Award winner Frank Serafine, Pulitzer Prize winner Vincent Laforet, and *Saturday Night Live* film unit veterans Alex Buono and Adam Epstein. Most recently, Papitto completed his first production, *Paynes Prairie*, based on a screenplay he wrote. He also directed, acted, edited, and composed music for the film. He currently resides in Gainesville, Florida with his roommate's cats.

Petty Scores (Session 1)

**15 minutes; USA; Written & Directed by Zach Swiatocha;
Debut Film**

A kleptomaniac and his roommate find themselves in over their heads following the theft of a briefcase.

Zach Swiatocha is an aspiring filmmaker who currently resides in Tennessee. He graduated from the University of North Alabama in May 2016 with a B.A. in Communication Arts.



Primitive Technology (Session 1)

15 minutes; USA; Directed by Bo Price; Comedy

Tom has created a movement of misfits who believe they can make any dream come true. All they need is their imagination and *Primitive Technology*. When a new recruit, Wilson, dreams of flying like a big beautiful bird, Tom's philosophy faces the ultimate test. Does Prim Tech really work? Or will poor Wilson 'fly' off a building, only to crash and die?

Bo Price is from Wichita, Kansas. He has made multiple short films, including *The Bootlegger*, *Primitive Technology* (2008), and *Time and Love*. His screenplay, *The Charles Brothers* was a semi-finalist in the Nicholl Fellowship. He has adapted his short film *Primitive Technology* into a feature script, and this latest short-film version is a pilot for that project. He's old enough to have learned editing on a flatbed Steenbeck, but young enough to still have dreams. He lives in Los Angeles.

The Rat (Session 1)

8 minutes; USA; Directed by Vasily Chuprina; Drama

The Rat is a tense thriller, set in modern-day Los Angeles. This is a story of policemen seeking to catch a major drug dealer. It delivers an intense, claustrophobic punch that will make you guess, and guess again.

After a successful career in science, with a PhD in physics and biology, **Vasily Chuprina** pursued his passion for filmmaking. His first drama *A Morning Call* received many awards including best drama at 15-Minutes of Fame, award of Merit at Best Shorts Competition, finalist at Back in the Box and was an official selection at the Sedona International Film Festival, Best Shorts Competition, Beloit and Pasadena International Film Festivals, and many others.

Vasily's latest work, *The Rat*, received attention from the Manhattan Film Festival, the New York City International Film Festival, the Burbank International Film Festival (Nominated best dramatic short), the Austin Revolution Film Festival (nominated best short thriller), Long Island International Film Expo, the Diana Golden Awards (Silver Diana), the Best Shorts Competition (Award of Merit Special Mention), the Orlando Film Festival, Cannes Short Film Corner, and more.

2016 Route 66 Film Festival
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Rocket (Session 3)

29 minutes; USA; Written & Directed by Brenna Malloy; Student Showcase

A bittersweet fairy tale set in the world of 1950's dirt track racing. With a legacy traditionally passed down from father to son, Annie Pankratz strives to build a destiny all her own.

Born and raised in Long Beach, California, at a young age **Brenna Malloy** developed a desire for making movies. She graduated from the University of San Francisco with a BA in Media Studies. During this time, Brenna also had the opportunity to travel to the reputable Drama Centre London, where she spent two terms studying acting and directing, and cultivating a passion for visual storytelling. At Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, Brenna earned an MFA in Film Production with an emphasis on directing. As a director, Brenna prides herself on her attention to subtle storytelling detail, her focus on performance, and passion for bringing female characters with depth to the big screen. She endeavors to tell stories close to the heart, while aiming to reach a wide audience with each film. Her thesis film *Rocket* has won a 2016 Student Academy Award.

Solo (Session 2)

6 minutes; USA; Directed by Brendan Kirschbaum; Animation

Backstage, a nervous elephant prepares for his trumpet solo.

Brendan Kirschbaum is a recent graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Film and Animation program. He enjoys using different forms of animation to share compelling stories. While at RIT, he produced several short films which have premiered in a variety of festivals at which Brendan met some incredible artists from around the world. As he enters the animation industry, he looks forward to learning as much as possible from those who share his love for this work.

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Sonnet 134 (Session 3)

3 minutes; USA; Directed by Edward Shieh; Drama

A visual twist on Shakespeare's Sonnet 134, through the eyes of a young conflicted mother who must repay a debt to a childless mother-in-waiting. The film was created for the New York Sonnet Project, in which filmmakers were tasked to visualize all 154 sonnets using 154 unique actors in 154 landmarks in New York City.

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 has been awarded a NBC Directing Fellowship and a Eugene O'Neill Director Fellowship (both in 2015), and was a 2014 Fox Studio Global Director Initiative Nominee. He is an alumnus of The Barrow Group Theatre Directing Workshops in New York, led by the esteemed Seth Barrish, and the Professional Writer's Boot Camp, whereafter he sold his first dramatic feature screenplay in 2010. His passion for storytelling emerges from an award-winning career as an advertising creative.

Stella Amore (Session 2)

19 minutes; Italy; Written & Directed by Cristina Puccinelli; Foreign Language

Stella Amore is a girl and her shoe size is 28 and a half. Today is a very important day for her, because she's about to fulfill her greatest dream: being an actress. But the magic world of cinema is not as magic as she thought, it is also made of people that no longer believe in dreams; on the contrary, some of them like to destroy dreams. How will Stella react to this new, cruel, and silly reality?

Cristina Puccinelli was born in Lucca, Italy. In high school she studied English, French and German; her graduation thesis was on *Antigone* by Jean Anouilh. She moved to Rome to follow her passion, cinema. She earned a doctorate in Communication Sciences at La Sapienza University with a thesis about cinema and fashion. Meanwhile, she studied acting with Francesca De Sapio at Duse International, and participated in many seminars in Italy and abroad with acting coaches like Susan Main, Michael Margotta, Juan Carlos Corazza, Bob McAndrew, Matteo Belli, and Mamadou Dioume. She began working in cinema, TV and theatre for Italian and international projects. Interested since she was very young in writing, she prefers short stories and poems. In 2007, she wrote and di-

rected her first short film. Encouraged by good reviews and awards, Cristina continues to direct enthusiastically, and has produced and sold short films in Italy and other countries. She's been a journalist for Alias, and contributed a column on cinema to Loschermo.it. Since 2013 she's organized the event Effetto Cinema Notte; she coordinates educational meetings about cinema and is the artistic director of the festival Il Teatro dei Perché of the Festival del Volontariato.

Striking a Chord (Session 1)

**28 minutes; USA; Directed by Susan Rockefeller;
Heroes & Heroines**

This film shows how veterans with PTSD are finding their way back to themselves through music and art. This inspiring 30-minute documentary offers civilians insight into the trauma of war and the challenges of returning home and re-entering "reality." Soldiers learn that, for those who can find the courage to speak their truths, there are unexpected paths to healing.

Susan Rockefeller is a principal of Susan Rockefeller, Co., a company that creates documentaries and inspires fashion accessories to raise awareness about protecting what is precious to her: family, art and nature. Susan's jewelry and accessories can be found at London Jewelers, Bernie Robbins, Takashimaya and on the company's website. Her films have explored contemporary issues, using both real life heroes and those of myths to confront issues like ocean acidification and the future of ocean health, PTSD and the use of music to heal, the confluence of race, poverty and illness, and global food sustainability. Her films have aired on HBO, PBS, and the Discovery Channel. Susan sits on the boards of Oceana, Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, We Are Family Foundation and is a member of Natural Resources Defense Council Global Leadership Council. She received her undergraduate degree from Hampshire College and her master's degree from NYU.



Things That Nobody Told Him (Session 5)

28 minutes; USA; Directed by Irina Khozyainova; Foreign Language

Andrey, a procrastinating scientist, struggles to find his true self through debates with the Professor who appears to him in the form of hallucination. Everything changes when his loving and down-to-earth wife witnesses it and secretly calls the psychiatrist.

Irina Khozyainova went to school in Voronezh, Russia, and now lives in Los Angeles. Besides writing, producing, and directing *Things That Nobody Told Him*, Irina directed another short film, *The Company I Keep* (2013). She has also worked as a Second Unit or Assistant Director (*Big Brats*, 2013) and was a production assistant on the 2012 film, *The Stunt*.

The Weasel (Session 2)

4 minutes; USA; Directed by Darva Campbell; Drama

Carl's sister disappeared when they were children. This story is about where he finds her, and what she does.

Darva Campbell is a producer and director, known for *Writer's Cramp* (2015), *The Painful Side of the Pillow* (2016) and *Lilies Are for Love* (2014). Her film *Writer's Cramp* won the Hugh Moore Memorial Best of Festival Film Award at the 2015 Route 66 Film Festival.

Whoa, I'm Dating a Monogamous Human (Session 1)

6 minutes; USA; Directed by Tim Troemner; Comedy

Dating a human can be hard. Any android can tell you that. But VEL has an especially perplexing relationship. Her boyfriend is human...and monogamous! How is VEL going to deal with all that?

Tim Troemner is a filmmaker and teacher who is no stranger to the Route 66 Film Festival. His previous horror short, *Pale Creatures of the Night* (2014) was well received -- voted Audience Favorite at the 2014 Route 66 Film Festival -- and his students generally seem to think he's pretty okay. *Whoa...* is the first in a planned series of shorts exploring relationships that are less often seen in films.



Wild Horses and Wild Men (Session 2)

**13 minutes; USA; Directed by Pat Shannahan;
Heroes & Heroines**

A horse whisperer -- a fourth-generation cowboy named Randy Helm -- leads the Wild Horse Inmate Program, which teaches 30 or so prison inmates trust, patience, determination, and how to train and “gentle” wild horses rounded up by the US Bureau of Land Management. In the end, the horses are not the only ones being saved.

Pat Shannahan is photojournalist with an addiction to video storytelling. Over the 13 years he’s been at The Arizona Republic and azcentral.com, he’s covered major stories on wildfires and immigration, and special projects. Currently he is the senior storytelling producer/photographer/videographer on the Digital Innovation team.

Your Money or Your Wife (Session 5)

**75 minutes; Canada; Written & Directed by
Iain MacLeod; Comedy**

When the normally cautious Lionel goes out drinking after his girlfriend dumps him, he mistakenly gets caught up in a home invasion and falls for the woman in the house.

Writer-director **Iain MacLeod** is a film and TV writer from Nova Scotia on Canada’s east coast (and a dual Canadian and EU citizen). He started by making his own short films before writing for the television shows *Street Cents* (sketch comedy) and *Trailer Park Boys* (comedy). He’s co-written two feature films that were produced, *Beatdown* in 2011 and 2014’s *Relative Happiness*. *Your Money or Your Wife* is his feature directing debut, and it’s the fourth film from the First Feature Project of Film and Creative Industries Nova Scotia and Telefilm Canada. He’s also mentored, story-edited, consulted and taught screenwriting.



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.

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Special Selections – to be screened later at two special showings

American Road

**97 minutes; USA; Directed by Kurt Jacobsen
& Warren Leming; Made In Illinois**

Winner of several Best Documentary awards, this feature documentary explores the artistic, musical and literary resonances of the myth of the road – and especially of going off the beaten track - in American lore: Westward expansion, the Dust Bowl era, hobos, post-war suburbanization and the Beat critique of it, hitchhiking, the upheavals of the 1960s and early 1970s, and the current generation of backpackers clutching their *Lonely Planet* and *Rough Guides*. The American road - from the frontier iconography of John Ford's films through rent-a-car cross country itineraries of the US – has inspired poetry, art, folk music, novelists and playwrights. In Hollywood the road film is a major genre.

The thematic touchstone is the egalitarian ideal of the “open road” first expressed by poet Walt Whitman. Whitman clearly inspired Woody Guthrie through the hard traveling times of the 1930s, the purposeful meanderings of Jack Kerouac and his scruffy associates through the early post-war years, and the adventures and misadventures of much of the 1960s generation. There is a coda on travel today. Whitman's open road, said D. H. Lawrence, was “the bravest doctrine man ever proposed to himself.” *American Road* is an exploration of that doctrine in action. The road is a physical thing but it also is a metaphor for personal and national transformation. This film ultimately examines what it means to be an American, not just a wayfarer. Interviewees include poet Anne Waldman, legendary musician Tom Paley, award-winning writer Achy Obejas, cultural critic Russell Jacoby, novelist John Nichols and many other savvy travelers.

Kurt Jacobsen, co-producer and co-writer, is author or editor of nine books and has written about cinema for the *Chicago Reader*, *London Guardian*, *New Politics* and many other publications. He has worked on half a dozen documentaries, including the forthcoming *Legend of Charlotte Bach*, from Malachite Productions in the UK.

Warren Leming, co-producer and co-writer, is a Second City-trained actor, a founder of the band Wilderness Road (Columbia and Warner Brothers), a theater director, author, and creator (with Denis Mueller) of seven earlier documentaries. He is producer of the forthcoming documentary *Nelson Algren: The End is Nothing, the Road is All* from Bulletproof Film.

Attached at the Soul

11 Minutes; USA; Directed by William Leon; Student Showcase

Donald Kline struggles with leaving his wife Margie's death bed to attend a ceremony at which he and his wife will be honored for their lifetime achievements, promoting diversity, equal rights, and acceptance. Donald's daughter Theresa convinces him that attending the ceremony is the right thing to do. Donald reluctantly goes to the ceremony, but he is only there physically; mentally, he is back in the 1950's when he first met Margie. We see their struggles as two teenagers from different ethnic backgrounds growing up in the racially divided South. They open their hearts to find acceptance, friendship, compassion, and love. When Donald becomes both physically and mentally present again, we realize just how closely attached he and Margie, the love of his life, really are.

William Leon has been an actor in the Los Angeles area since 2012. After being on over 60 sets, including films, commercials, and public service announcements, William decided he wanted to experience the other side of the camera. At 15, William made his directorial debut with *Attached at the Soul*, an original screen play he labored on for over a year.

Hank & Rita

17 minutes; USA; Directed by J.J. Painter & Terri Ryburn; Drama

Through parallel narratives of a pre-show interview and a live show, Hank and Rita reveal how they met and quickly rose to fame in the late 1970s as a country-pop duo. In summer 1986, musical tastes have changed. Hank and Rita haven't hit the charts since 1978 but they continue touring, playing to ever smaller audiences in increasingly smaller venues, hoping for a resurgence in their popularity. Rita's unhappy with Hank's continuing indiscretions and tired of being on the road. Their loyal fans are about to find out that anything can happen at a live show.

Terri Ryburn is a director and actor who taught at Illinois State University in Normal for 25 years. When she was 5, a drive with her parents on Route 66, from Bloomington, Illinois to California in a Model A truck (at 40 miles per hour), was unforgettable. She's driven it several times, and wrote a history of the Mother Road for her doctoral dissertation. She's written several books about the Mother Road, including *Route 66: Goin' Somewhere (The Road in McLean County)*, and is actively working to preserve it. She owns Sprague's Super Service, a historic gas station in Normal, on old Route 66, and plans to remodel it into a Route 66 visitor center, gift shop, restaurant, bed and breakfast, and tea room.

Kiss of Death

10 minutes; USA; Directed by Timothy Collins & Jillian Kibler; Student Showcase

A black-and-white neo-noir short film about a young thief and his wife who prepare to flee town by sunrise, until the arrival of a mysterious stranger changes everything.

Timothy Collins & Jillian Kibler, student filmmakers at the Art Institute of Atlanta, together wrote, directed and produced *Kiss of Death*, which was featured at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival Short Film Corner.

Last Days

11 minutes; Spain; Directed by Arturo Leon Llerena; Foreign Language

Ramón is a veteran tailor who created gentlemen's clothing for decades, but recently, his tailor shop has become anachronistic and his profits scarce. Germán, the son of his longtime landlord and friend, arrives one day to telling him he's raising the rent and won't renew Ramón's lease. Ramón now has a month to find solutions to his financial problems before Germán returns and throws him out. Young people don't seem to appreciate Ramón's craft, and his long standing clients are dying, but a young crowd is the ultimate solution to Ramón's problems, in a twisted and trendy way.

Arturo León Llerena is a Peruvian screenwriter and director living in Madrid, Spain. He attended the University of Lima, first in journalism and later in audiovisual studies. As a journalist he wrote for local newspapers and news websites; as a filmmaker, he worked on the sets of TV series like *La Muñeca del Pueblo*, and developed pilot episodes for sitcoms like *El Abuelo Fantasma*. He's shot independent video clips, a short documentary, *El 'Disípulo'*, and small animation projects.

In 2011, León Llerena moved to Madrid to study screenwriting at the Escuela TAI. During this time, his animation script *El Héroe Meado* was a finalist in various screenwriting contests. After his master's degree from TAI, he embarked on a master's in production and directing at Escuela Cice, also in Madrid. He then released his first short film, *Amigo* (2014), still in distribution, which was selected by the San Francisco Immigrant Film Festival (United States, 2014), Opuzen Film Festival (Croatia, 2014), Indian Cine Film Festival (India, 2015), and others.

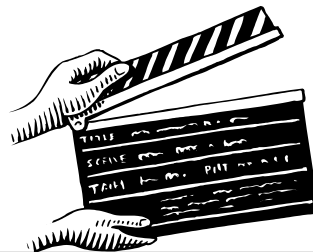
In 2014, León Llerena wrote four episodes in the only season of Peruvian TV series *Somos Family*. In 2016, he completed his second short film, *Últimos Días* (*Last Days*). He currently develops television and film projects for Peruvian production companies.

Racing Through the Forest: The History of the 1950-56 Pebble Beach Road Races

**77minutes; USA; Directed by Dean Kirkland;
Documentary**

Inspired by the memoirs of the Del Monte Forest Road Race history, the Pebble Beach Concours and Pebble Beach Company teamed up with K&K Productions. Blending interviews with racers and incredible footage of the events, the film recalls the glories of this forgotten race with a video archive of its history. With over 50 interviews of legendary names in road racing such as Fred Knoop, Mick Marston, Bill Pollack, Jim Hall and Phil Remington. It chronicles the events from the first through the last Pebble Beach Road Races, which included legends like Carroll Shelby, Phil Hill and Bill Pollock in 1956.

Dean Kirkland has become a highly accomplished commercial, television and film director by applying his keen visual eye to unusual and powerful subject matter. With unique style and a sophisticated approach, he transitioned from A-list photographer to well-respected filmmaker with an esteemed client list that includes the Home Depot, Lamborghini, Antonio Tetro, Clint Eastwood and Martin Sheen. Dean is recognized for his innovative and unique automotive photography and is regarded by many high-profile collectors throughout the nation as one of the most distinguished in his craft. His ongoing passion for the storied history of automobiles sent Dean on a metaphorical vision quest. In 2012, he combined his talents with the knowledge and racing experience of his production partner, Rick Knoop; the two men established K&K Productions. *Racing Through The Forest*, released in spring 2015, is their first collaboration. Dean photographed, interviewed and filmed some of the world's greatest cars and drivers. Dean is developing documentaries which include Parnelli Jones, Bobby and Al Unser, Mario Andretti and Sir Sterling Moss. Capturing and preserving this valuable automotive history is the goal of K&K Productions, and a living dream for Dean Kirkland.



Thanks to all who made this festival possible

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Venues Hosting the Festival and Special Screenings

- ◆ Capital City Bar and Grill
- ◆ ZBistro (second Thursdays, Feb.-Oct.)
- ◆ Dritwood Cocktail & Eatery (Oct. 27)

Photographer

Laura Kay Coffey

15th Annual Festival Illustration

Thomas Szyrka, Past Festival Director

Program Book, Posters and Flyers

Design and layout by The Rainbow Writer

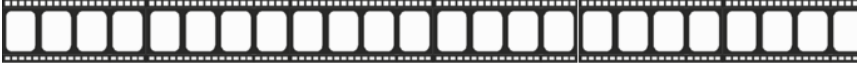
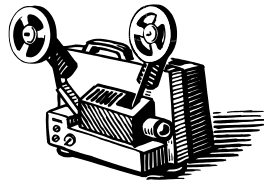
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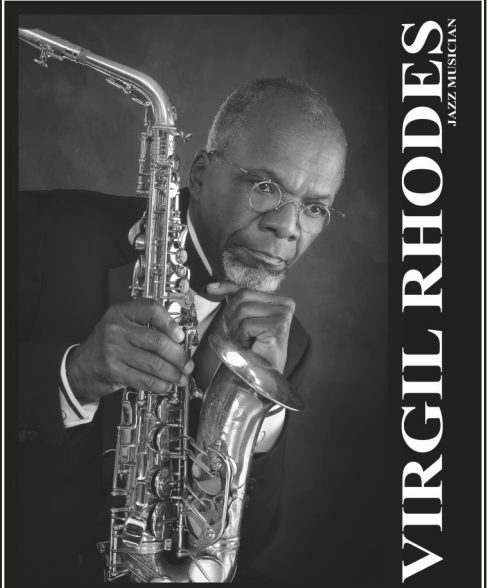
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VIRGIL RHODES
JAZZ MUSICIAN

Born October 1, 1943, jazz performer, promoter and historian Virgil Rhodes is also a retired college professor, supporting our festival.

He performs at jazz venues with the group **Footprints**.

He studied with the late Max Schonfeld, Illinois State University Professor of Flute, and with world-renowned jazz saxophonist Ronald Bridgewater.

Virgil never played musical instruments until he was 35. Now he plays flutes and saxophones, and is learning to play acoustic bass and piano.

**Route 66 Film Festival extends
heartfelt thanks to**

Dorene Gillman-Campbell and family

**and to Eric Welch and SOHO
for additional theater chairs**

You have helped make this year's festival possible!



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