



# Minnesota Film Festival March 19th-23rd



**5 DAYS 100+ FILMS PITCH COMPETITION**  
**PANELS, EVENTS, AND MORE! [ZEITGEISTARTS.COM/MFF](http://ZEITGEISTARTS.COM/MFF)**



# **Minnesota Media Arts School**

**Lights, Camera, LEARN!**

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2025 classes and workshops include:

- **Documentary & Video Production**
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**AND SO MUCH MORE!**

**More info at [ZeitgeistArts.com/MMAS](https://ZeitgeistArts.com/MMAS)**

# Welcome to the 2025 Minnesota Film Festival!



**Vera Bianchini**  
*Festival Director*

WELCOME ALL to the best week to come. I can't wait to share the fabulous lineup of films and see what the Pitch Competition has in store for upcoming projects.

Now, more than ever, we need to gather, listen, and share stories. This week, expect to connect with new people, find ways to contribute to your community, and see perspectives through new lenses. I invite everyone to join us at Zeitgeist, a space where communities come together, not only to witness artistry but also to find common ground, celebrate diverse perspectives, and imagine a better future.

Together we will illuminate a path forward through the power of film. All are welcome!

With compassion,  
Vera Macedo Bianchini



**Tony Cuneo**  
*Executive Director*

Yes! It's one of my favorite times of the year: our Film Fest!

There's nothing like coming together to watch movies, catch up with each other, hear from filmmakers, and celebrate the power of stories to take us to new places and see the world in new ways. It is so much fun. But it's also more than fun.

It's about connecting with each other, supporting and building the film industry in NE MN, and amplifying stories from people and communities whose stories aren't typically featured. Stories have power, and when used right, that power should leave our community a more welcoming place. Thank you for being here and helping make that so.

Enjoy those films. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and some popcorn makes every experience even better.

Sincerely,  
Tony Cuneo

**We acknowledge** that we are located on land ceded by the Anishinaabe in the 1854 Treaty and that this land, historically and today, holds great significance for indigenous peoples. Ways to engage past the land acknowledgment include taking the time to research the history of the land you are on, and by supporting local indigenous artists and small businesses.

Here at Zeitgeist we offer complimentary tickets for indigenous folks to every festival screening and event. Additionally, we are hosting a community screening at the American Indian Community Housing Organization, and are always looking for MORE ways to engage with the indigenous community.

**Start today by learning, sharing, and investing in indigenous communities!**

# Festival Information & FAQs

## WELCOME – JOIN US!

The Minnesota Film Festival (MFF) will take place **March 19–23, 2025** at the Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community, in downtown Duluth, MN! Select screenings and events will also take place at The Depot and American Indian Community Housing Organization.

MFF will celebrate a variety of local, national, and international films, host Q&As with visiting filmmakers, community events and parties!

Also plan to attend our MFF Pitch Competition, where emerging filmmakers from the midwest compete for grants to fund their films. This year we will award nearly \$20,000 in cash awards for both film award winners and pitch competition winners.

Mark your calendars of the following dates: **Thursday, February 20, 2025** we announce the film program and lineup of events. February 20th is also the day MFF Pass Holders get to reserve their ticket. MFF Pass Holders have priority to reserve their tickets, so buy a pass today! General tickets can be reserved **Wednesday, February 26, 2025**.

## LOCATIONS & PARKING

**Zeitgeist Arts Building**  
222 E Superior St  
Duluth, MN 55802

**Medical District Ramp**, 302 East Street  
**Metered parking** available on Superior St, 3rd St, and 2nd St.

**The Depot**  
506 W Michigan St  
Duluth, MN 55802

**Ramp parking** 602 W. Michigan St.  
**Metered parking** available on Michigan St.

**American Indian Community Housing Organization**  
202 W 2nd St  
Duluth, MN 55802

**Metered parking** available on 2nd St.

## TICKETS AND PASSES

General Tickets.....\$15  
Student Tickets\*.....\$12  
Opening Night General.....\$20  
Opening Night Student\*.....\$15  
Special Event Screenings.....\$20  
Awards Ceremony & Party.....\$40

General All Access Pass.....\$95  
Student All Access Pass\*.....\$25

**\*Students must show student ID at the box office to receive this rate.**

### WHAT ARE PASS BENEFITS?

- Access to all Film Screenings including early access to reserve tickets before general tickets go on sale!
- Access to all Special Events including the Pitch Competition, Panels & Presentations, The Reel Comedy Special, The Spotlight Celebration, Networking Events and more!
- Access to the Filmmaker Lounge, where there is coffee and light snacks!
- A small popcorn!

**February 20–25 | Passholder Access begins**  
Begin reserving tickets at 10:00 am online

**February 26 | General public ticket sales begin**  
Begin purchasing ticket at 10:00 am online

**Purchase online at [zeitgeistarts.com/mff](http://zeitgeistarts.com/mff) or by visiting the Zinema box office during hours of operation.**

### How do I use my pass?

To reserve your seat, visit the Minnesota Film Festival page and select a film or event you'd like to see.

A pop-up dialog will ask “Are you a Passholder? Click yes to enter your pass number.” Click YES, and log in with your pass number .

### Where do I pick up my pass?

Passes will be available for pick up during the festival at the Welcome Table by the entrance at Zeitgeist.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Who can attend the Minnesota Film Festival?**  
MFF welcomes everyone who is interested in stories and community celebrated through the medium of film.

### Tickets are sold out, but I really wanted to watch that film! Now what?

The Rush Line! Even if a film is sold out, tickets might become available. If a film is sold out, a Rush Line will begin in the lobby. Everything is first come first serve.

### Will films have subtitles?

All non-English language films will have English subtitles.

### Do I still need a ticket as a Passholder?

Yes, passholders will still need to reserve a seat to each screening or event you wish to attend. We strongly recommend booking online ahead of time to guarantee a seat and reduce wait times at the box office.

## FESTIVAL POLICIES

### LATE SEATING

Late seating will be at the discretion of the house manager. All patrons must be in their seats by 10 minutes after the start of the scheduled screening time.

### RUSH LINE

If a film is sold out, a first come, first served Rush Line will begin. If there are open seats 10 minutes after the start of the screening time, an usher will count open available seats. That amount of tickets will then be sold to the first people in the rush line.

### EXCHANGES

We can only exchange a ticket for another film event during the festival week BEFORE the screening takes place.

### REFUNDS

All sales are final, however we may be able to provide a refund on a case-by-case basis. Please contact a manager if you have questions.

### Any more questions?

Reach out to [mff@zeitgeistarts.com](mailto:mff@zeitgeistarts.com)!

# Thank You

to our Funders, Sponsors and Community Partners!



*This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.*



## Festival Cocktails

For every Festival Cocktail ordered, \$1 goes right back to the Minnesota Film Festival!



WHERE FOOD, ART & COMMUNITY COME TOGETHER

222 E. Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802

# Special Screenings & Events



## Opening Night Presentation!

### MISSISSIPPI SPEED RECORD: AN EPIC ADVENTURE

Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm | Zinema 1 & 2 | Tickets, \$20

*Opening Night Ceremony & Party are included with tickets.*

Embark on an epic journey with four adventurous spirits as they undertake the ultimate test of endurance and determination. They paddle 24/7 for over 2 weeks, eating, sleeping, and even going to the bathroom in the canoe. *Mississippi Speed Record: An Epic Adventure* follows their incredible quest to paddle the entire Mississippi River in a single canoe, aiming to set a new Guinness World Record for the fastest time down the river.

**Filmmakers attending!**



## Prescreening Reception hosted by The Current!

### VENUS OF MARS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 pm | Zinema 1 | Tickets, \$20

*Prescreening reception hosted by The Current, 6pm | Atrium*

Follow Venus de Mars, the iconic lead singer of Minneapolis glam rock band All the Pretty Horses, and Lynette Reini-Grandell, author of *Wild Things: A Trans-Glam-Punk-Rock Love Story*, on a relationship-redefining journey. From Duluth to NYC and the UK, with stops at Playboy, a suburban metal bar, and public television, the band's travels offer a lens that reveals wildly divergent reactions to transgenderism at the close of the 20th century.

**Filmmakers attending! Prescreening Reception included with tickets.**



## Ticket includes a drink on us!

### THE SPOTLIGHT CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 22 at 7:00 pm | The Depot Great Hall | Tickets, \$40

Join us at The Depot Great Hall to celebrate another fabulous festival and to honor a diverse group of filmmakers for their accomplishments. During the festivities we'll be announcing the winners of the film awards and giving out almost \$20,000 in grant awards.

7:00 pm, Celebratory Cocktail Hour with food and drinks

8:00 pm, Awards Presentation

9:00 pm, Dance Party – let's boogie!



## Closing Day Spotlight Screening!

### WAVES

Sunday, March 23 at 2:30 pm | Zinema 1 | Tickets, \$15

***Selected for the 2025 Oscars Best International Feature Film Shortlist***

Set in 1968, this suspenseful drama follows the international office at Czechoslovak Radio led by editor Milan Weiner, whose commitment to honest journalism and the truth puts the station in the crosshairs of the secret police.

***After the film join us at Carmody Irish Pub to toast another successful MFF!***

# Parties, Panels & Performances



## OPENING CEREMONY & HONOR SONG

Wednesday, March 19 at 6:00–6:30 pm  
Zeitgeist Atrium

Join us in opening up the festival with a special ceremony led by a local drum group!

Free to attend!



## TOAST & OPENING NIGHT PARTY

Wednesday, March 19 at 9:00 pm  
Zeitgeist Atrium & Restaurant

Join us at the Zeitgeist Restaurant to celebrate the beginning of a cinematic adventure!

Included with Opening Night Ticket, \$20



## VENUS DE MARS ACOUSTIC SET

Thursday, March 20 at 9:30 pm  
Zeitgeist Teatro

Venus is bringing her music talent back to her hometown of Duluth in this special performance.

General Ticket, \$10



## FLAMING THURSDAY PARTY!

Thursday, March 20 at 10:30 pm  
The Flame

Join us for Karaoke and dancing at The Flame!  
28 N 1st Ave W, Duluth, MN 55802

Free to attend!



## FILMMAKER HAPPY HOUR

Friday, March 21 at 3:00–5:00 pm  
Blacklist Brewing Co.

The perfect opportunity to meet local and visiting filmmakers. Hosted by UMFO.

Free to attend, reserve your spot in advance.



## TABLE READ DONE WRITE!

Friday, March 21 at 5:30 pm  
Zeitgeist Teatro

See and hear why table reads are so important for writers! Hosted by Lake Superior Writers.

Free to attend, reserve your spot in advance.



## THE REEL COMEDY SPECIAL

Friday, March 21 at 10:00 pm  
Zeitgeist Teatro

A mix of sketch comedy, silly films, and improv, this show will leave you starstruck!

General Ticket, \$20



## FREELANCING 101: MAKING A LIVING IN FILM

Saturday, March 22 at 1:00 pm  
Zeitgeist Teatro

Join us in conversation on how to start your first, or second, career in film. Hosted by UMFO.

Free to attend, reserve your spot in advance.



## WHAT PROGRAMMERS WANT

Saturday, March 22 at 3:30 pm  
Zeitgeist Teatro

Festival programmers share insider knowledge on the submission process and decision-making.

Free to attend, reserve your spot in advance.

# Feature Films



## AUDREY

Comedy, 97 min, 2024, Australia

Self-appointed Mother of the Year, Ronnie has given her daughter Audrey everything, so when Audrey selfishly falls into a coma, Ronnie has no choice but to keep their dreams alive by assuming her identity.

Friday, March 21 at 7:30 pm | Zinema 2



*Filmmakers Attending!*

## BOUNDARY WATERS

Drama, 98 min, 2024, USA

Set in the Iron Range of Northern Minnesota, Michael Murray relishes in the carefree joys of early adolescence until his mom has a black eye and a busted lip, but won't talk about it. Suspenseful, tender and rapturous.

Saturday, March 22 at 7:00 pm | The Depot

Sunday, March 23 at 4:00 pm | Zinema 2



*Guests Attending!*

## DECOLONIZING OUR YOUTH

Documentary, 58 min, 2024, Canada

Lyndon Suntjens takes the viewer on a student's journey to learn the important lessons of their Elders and the land they walk upon, while providing a modern education that links to these amazing experiences.

Saturday, March 22 at 3:00 pm | AICHO

*Free Community Screening!*



*Filmmaker Attending!*

## THE DIM

Thriller/Sci-Fi, 81 min, 2023, USA

When the relationship between Troy and Lisa, a Native American couple, deteriorates into toxic shambles, Troy stumbles upon an inter-dimensional object that turns out to be more a curse than a blessing.

Saturday, March 22 at 5:35 pm | Zinema 1



*Filmmaker Attending!*

## THE FISHING HAT BANDIT

Documentary, 80 min, 2024, USA

John Whitrock robbed 23 banks over 18 months in the early 2000s. Finally caught, imprisoned, and now free, Whitrock's story unfolds in utterly surprising ways in director Mark Brown's riveting documentary.

Friday, March 21 at 5:00 pm | Zinema 1



*Cast Attending!*

## FOR GOD'S SAKE WAKE HER UP

Horror, 87 min, 2024, Canada

Haunted by guilt after her mother's death, Rizz and her loyal friend Myles flee the funeral, stumbling upon a deserted house. Inside, they find April, trapped in a nightmarish cycle of sleep paralysis by a malevolent entity.

Friday, March 21 at 9:15 pm | Zinema 2



# Feature Films



## JOIN OR DIE

Documentary, 98 min, 2023, USA

The story of America's civic unraveling through the journey of social scientist Robert Putnam, whose groundbreaking research into America's decline in community connections could hold the answers to our democracy's present crisis.

Saturday, March 22 at 11:00 am | Zinema 1



## MISERICORDIA

Comedy/Thriller, 104 min, 2024, France

A sharp, sinister, yet slyly funny thriller that follows the meandering exploits of Jérémie, an out-of-work baker who has drifted back to his hometown after the death of his beloved former boss, a bakery owner.

Friday, March 21 at 7:00 pm | Zinema 1



*Filmmakers Attending!*

## MISSISSIPPI SPEED RECORD

Documentary, 87 min, 2024, United States

Embark on an epic journey with four adventurous spirits on their incredible quest to paddle the entire Mississippi River in a single 23-foot canoe, aiming to set a new Guinness World Record for the fastest time down the river.

Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm | Zinema 1,2

Friday, March 21 at 3:00 pm | Zinema 2



## ULTIMATE CITIZENS

Documentary, 52 min, 2024, USA

Mr. Jamshid is the charismatic, fiery, and funny guidance counselor in Seattle Public Schools, helping the children of immigrants and refugees find belonging as they train to compete in the world's largest Ultimate Frisbee Tournament.

Saturday, March 22 at 2:30 pm | Zinema 2



*Filmmakers Attending!*

## VENUS OF MARS

Documentary, 105 min, 2003, USA

A transgender pioneer and her wife negotiate the frontiers of love and gender in this award-winning documentary. From Duluth to NYC and beyond, *Venus of Mars* offers a look at divergent reactions to transgenderism at the end of the 20th century.

Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 pm | Zinema 1



*Filmmaker Attending!*

## VILLAGE KEEPER

Drama, 83 min, 2024, Canada

Jean lives in constant fear of what could go wrong, going to great lengths to shelter her children. When violence comes to her doorstep, she is set on a path to expose generational silence, self-discovery and finally putting herself first.

Saturday, March 22 at 3:45 pm | Zinema 1

# Feature Films



## THE VOICE OF GREENLAND

Documentary, 87 min, 2023, Denmark

Rasmus Lyberth went from being an unpopular speaker of taboos to almost a Nordic cult figure celebrated as Greenland's greatest singer/songwriter. At 70, he decides to honor his faithful audience with a magnificent concert in Nuuk.

Friday, March 21 at 5:30 pm | Zinema 2



## WAVES

Drama, 131 min, 2024, Czech Republic

Set in 1968, this suspenseful drama follows the international office at Czechoslovak Radio led by editor Milan Weiner, whose commitment to honest journalism and the truth puts the station in the crosshairs of the secret police.

Sunday, March 23 at 2:30 pm | Zinema 1



*Presents:*

# MARJORIE PRIME

**APR 3 - 12**

BY JORDAN HARRISON

DIRECTED BY ANIKA THOMPSON



It's the age of artificial intelligence, and 85-year-old Marjorie – a jumble of disparate, fading memories – has a handsome new companion who's programmed to feed the story of her life back to her. What would we remember, and what would we forget, if given the chance? In this richly spare, wondrous new play, Jordan Harrison explores the mysteries of human identity and the limits – if any – of what technology can replace.

# Minnesota Film Festival Pitch Competition



**The MFF Pitch Competition** is an annual competition that takes place during the Minnesota Film Festival, in person at the Zeitgeist Arts Center, where emerging filmmakers from across the Midwest have ten minutes to pitch their next film concepts, or works-in-progress, for financial support to a panel of filmmakers and industry professionals.

**Thursday, March 20 at 3:00–5:00 pm | Teatro**

**Friday, March 21 at 1:00–3:00 pm | Teatro**

## Awards & Prizes

**Feature Narrative Pitch** – First Prize \$3000, Runner Up \$500

**Feature Documentary Pitch** – First Prize \$3000, Runner Up \$500

**MN Filmmaker Pitch** – First Prize \$3000, Runner Up \$500

**Indigenous Filmmaker Pitch** – First Prize \$3000, Runner Up \$500

**Short Film Pitch** – First Prize \$1000, Runner Up \$500

## Meet the 2025 MFF Pitch Competition Judges



**Valérie Déus** is a festival programmer and curator based in Minneapolis. She is currently the Shorts Programmer for the Provincetown International Film Festival. In the past, she programmed for Film North's Cinema Lounge and the Minneapolis Underground Film Festival. Alongside programming, she has curated film programs for The Walker Art Center and Public Functionary gallery



**Jim Brunzell III** was born in the 70's, played sports in the 80's, went to school in the 90's, and started working on film festivals in the 2000's. He joined the Twin Cities based music + film festival, Sound Unseen in 2008 as a programmer and became the festival director in 2012. In 2023, he joined the L.A. based film distributor, Dark Star Pictures as Director of Festivals and Theatrical. He has served on numerous film festival juries and is the father to a tabby cat named Bruce.



**Mandy June Turpin** is a producer/actor/director/writer based in Duluth, MN. She holds a degree in Theater, Film and Television from UCLA. Her recent producing credits include the feature films, *Murder on the Great Lakes*, *Merry Kiss Cam*, *Body Language*, and *Rescuing Christmas*, which were all filmed in St. Louis County. She has several films in development including her feature directorial debut, the dark comedy, *Beach In Winter*.

# 2025 MFF Pitch Competition Films

## Narrative Features



### NO CEILINGS

Presented by Fred Evans

An action film about student loans from the perspective of a corrupt loan company.

Friday, March 21 at 1:10 pm | Teatro



### RUBY: PORTRAIT OF A BLACK TEEN IN AN AMERICAN SUBURB

Presented by Raven Johnson

In the summer of 2020, 15-year-old Ruby copes with her parents' recent separation by seeking Tik-Tok fame alongside her best friend, Kiki. But when Kiki starts dating a much older man, Ruby resolves to do anything to keep her best friend by her side.

Thursday, March 20 at 3:10 pm | Teatro

## Documentary Features



### EJ LEE: ALL-AMERICAN

Presented by Jason Rhee

*EJ Lee: All-American* explores the life of EJ Lee, a basketball legend who Sports Illustrated called the "Korean Magic Johnson of NCAA women's basketball."

Friday, March 21 at 2:20 pm | Teatro



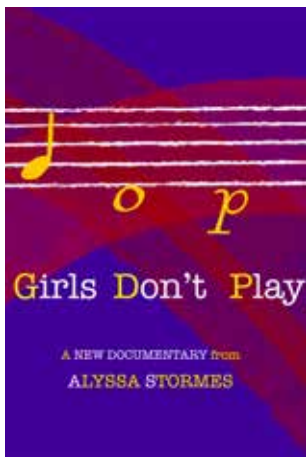
### WILD GOOSE CHASE

Presented by Mikah Meyer

The closeted son of the pastor at America's largest Lutheran campus ministry takes a 200,000-mile, 3-year road trip to all 400+ National Park Service sites to cope with the loss of his father to cancer and learn to love himself.

Thursday, March 20 at 3:50 pm | Teatro

## Minnesota Filmmakers



### BLACK GIRLS DON'T PLAY BASS

Presented by Alyssa Stormes

*Black Girls Don't Play Bass* is a new, data-driven documentary exploring gender and racial inequities in orchestral music and beyond.

Thursday, March 20 at 4:40 pm | Teatro



### THE FAIR

Presented by Christine Delp

A modern look at the traditions of the American Midwest, as told through the whimsical world of the Minnesota State Fair.

Friday, March 21 at 1:30 pm | Teatro

# 2025 MFF Pitch Competition Films

## Indigenous Filmmakers



### THE BOOM

Presented by Ajuawak Kapashesit

An Indigenous man investigates a mysterious sound echoing through the city that reverberates through space and time.

Thursday, March 20 at 4:20 pm | Teatro



### RIDERS OF THE DAWN

Presented by Katrina Lillian Sorrentino & Prairie Rose Seminole

Four Native female motorcyclists unite to confront the harrowing realities of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives crisis in the U.S. As they prepare for their 2025 pilgrimage through the iconic Sturgis motorcycle rally, they interweave personal loss with advocacy and ceremony, demonstrating the power of Native sisterhood.

Friday, March 21 at 1:50 pm | Teatro

## Short Film Filmmakers



### THE GIRL SCOUT & THE TOMBOY

Presented by Bhodi Werner

When two tween girls with opposing personalities find a strange man in a hazmat suit in the woods, they're thrown into a life-threatening situation and must work together to survive.

Thursday, March 20 at 3:30 pm | Teatro



### OVER AND OUT

Presented by Callie LeClaire

A lost hiker's only chance for survival is a neurodivergent child and a two-way radio.

Friday, March 21 at 2:40 pm | Teatro



## YOUTH DAY @ MFF

A festival experience just for high schoolers! Where they spend a day watching films, attending workshops, and engaging with visiting filmmakers... all on a school day!



**Want to get your students involved next year?**  
**Email [vera@zeitgeistarts.com](mailto:vera@zeitgeistarts.com)!**



# Block Schedule

 Denotes Filmmakers expected to attend

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

Atrium	6:00 PM Opening Ceremony & Drum Group, 60 min		
Zinema 1		7:00 PM Mississippi Speed Record, 87 min	
Zinema 2		7:00 PM Mississippi Speed Record, 87 min	
Z Restaurant			9:00 PM Toast & Opening Night Party, 60 min

## THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Atrium		6:00 PM Venus of Mars Reception, 60 min	
Teatro	3:00 PM Pitch Competition Day 1, 120 min		9:30 PM Venus de Mars Acoustic Set, 60 min
Zinema 1		5:15 PM MN Media Arts Shorts, 57 min	7:00 PM Venus of Mars, 105 min
Zinema 2		5:30 PM Performance Shorts, 70 min	7:30 PM Horror Shorts, 112 min
The Flame			10:30 PM Flaming Thursday Party!, 120 min

## FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Atrium				8:00 PM Social Hours, 120 min
Teatro	1:00 PM Pitch Competition Day 2, 120 min	5:30 PM Table Read Done Write!, 75 min		10:00 PM The Reel Comedy Special, 90 min
Zinema 1	3:00 PM Mississippi Speed Record, 87 min	5:00 PM The Fishing Hat Bandit, 80 min	7:00 PM Misericordia, 102 min	9:15 PM For God's Sake Wake Her Up, 95 min
Zinema 2	3:15 PM Momentous Shorts, 90 min	5:30 PM The Voice of Greenland, 60 min	7:30 PM Audrey, 90 min	9:30 PM Queer Gaze Shorts, 90 min
The Depot			7:00 PM OUR Stories Shorts, 97 min	
Blacklist	3:00 PM UMFO Happy Hour, 120 min			

## SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Teatro		1:00 PM UMFO Panel, 60 min	3:30 PM What Programmers Want, 60 min	
Zinema 1	11:00 AM Join or Die, 100 min	1:30 PM MN Made Shorts, 85 min	3:45 PM Village Keeper, 80 min	5:35 PM The Dim, 81 min
Zinema 2	12:00 PM Indigenous Shorts, 102 min	2:30 PM Ultimate Citizens, 72 min	4:30 PM Time & Place Shorts, 117 min	7:20 PM Francophile Shorts, 93 min
The Depot			5:00 PM Boundary Waters, 98 min	7:00 PM The Spotlight Celebration, 240 min
AICHO		3:00 PM Decolonizing Our Youth, 80 min		

## SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Zinema 1	11:30 AM MinnAnimate x MFF Mixtape, 120 min	2:30 PM Waves, 131 min	
Zinema 2	11:00 AM MN Media Arts School Shorts, 87 min	1:30 PM OUR Stories Shorts, 104 min	4:00 PM Boundary Waters, 98 min
Carmody			5:00 PM Closing Day Celebration, 120 min

# Short Film Blocks



*Filmmakers Attending!*

## FRANCOPHILE SHORTS | 94 MIN

A collection of French language films that will leave you charmed.

Saturday, March 22 at 7:20 pm | Zinema 2

### HEALING JOURNEYS (15 min)

Jeanne takes us on a chaotic journey of care to get a diagnosis of her pain, which she describes as a pine cone cutting through her guts.

### COFFEE GRAPEFRUIT CACAO (24 min)

Samuel used to form a couple with Laetitia before she left him for Gaëlle. Today he's been invited to their home to try to perform an act of love.

### TERMINAL (11 min)

René, unable to cope with his recent divorce, decides to contact an agency specializing in time travel. He wants to prevent meeting with his ex-wife.

### GOLDEN FINGERS (6 min)

Three friends are sitting on a beach, practicing for a coming out.

### TRUE LIES (9 min)

In a world of lies, a young woman takes her boyfriend to see a specialist as her last hope to cure him of the strange malady: he's stopped lying.

### MIMOSA/NATTE (6 min)

An old man writes a letter in a small cottage in a clearing, before setting off on a long journey to take it to its destination.

### CREAM BLUE (23 min)

Sketchbook in hand, 10 year old Nina embarks on a journey to surprise her boyfriend Gabriel, on his summer vacation.

## INDIGENOUS SHORTS | 103 MIN

Stories from Indigenous and First Nation filmmakers.

Saturday, March 22 at 12:00 pm | Zinema 2

### HOW DID I GET HERE? (20 min)

Earth has been abandoned and a corporation took all the humans to space. A researcher retells his story of the surface after he crash lands on Ex-Terra.

### WHEN THUNDERBIRD DANCES (21 min)

When her older sister goes missing, Em has to work through her grief and travel through the spirit world to try to get her sister back

### FOUR NIGHTS AND A FIRE (13 min)

A young Ojibwe photographer stubbornly takes on the responsibility of keeping a sacred fire alive in mourning of his father.

### SILENT CRIES | KIAYUNIK TUHANAK (17 min)

Navalik Tologanak, journalist and filmmaker, shares her experience as a residential school survivor.

### AZHE-MINO-BIINIKAMIGITON: RETURN OUR EARTH TO ITS PRISTINE CONDITION (5 min)

An Anishinaabe elder sharing teachings with their grandchild about the impacts of our changing planet/climate on all of our relations.

### A WILDERNESS ACT (13 min)

Anishinaabe educate current and future generations about how returning fire to the land, and returning the land to its people, can be healing for all.

### OKIHTCITAWAK / WARRIORS (14 min)

Okihtcitawak means warriors in Cree. This non profit started from a call to action after an incident involving a young girl. Urban Indigenous warriors were called to watch over the most vulnerable.

# Short Film Blocks



**Filmmakers Attending!**

## MN MADE SHORTS | 94 MIN

A collection of shorts from filmmakers across Minnesota.

**Saturday, March 22 at 1:30 pm | Zinema 1**

### **THE ALI'I KING** (27 min)

A Mormon family of Hawaiian German immigrants embark on a road trip through the Utah desert to attend the opening of Tikiland.

### **THE THERAPY ROOM** (7 min)

A mistake when booking a family therapy session brings new tensions and solutions in bringing a family closer together.

### **BLUES FOR THE BLUES** (29 min)

Facing their decline in the Blues music performance business triggers a struggle between two brothers and breaches their relationship.

### **AFTER THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS** (12 min)

A young alcoholic confronts the root of his drinking in search of a life beyond it.

### **PURRICANE!** (12 min)

In this purrfectly hilarious disaster comedy, chaos ensues when a massive hurricane merges with a group of experimental cats.



**Filmmakers Attending!**

## MN MEDIA ARTS SCHOOL SHORTS | 103 MIN

Films created and supported by MN Media Arts School students.

**Thursday, March 20 at 5:15 pm | Zinema 1**

**Sunday, March 23 at 11:00 am | Zinema 2**

### **RETURN TO BIKINI BOTTOM** (3 min)

SpongeBob and Patrick must find their way back to Bikini Bottom after a day of frolicking goes wrong at Jellyfish Field!

### **THE MESSENGER** (2 min)

He said, she said, they said - don't kill the messenger!

### **THE TEST** (2 min)

Two students attempt to cheat on a retake test.

### **HARBOR CITY: MINI DOCS** (18 min)

Seven documentaries in five days by a class of Harbor City International students as part of a film symposium in partnership with Zeitgeist.

### **THE PHILANTHROPIST** (6 min)

A shelter needs to be saved, a choice needs to be made, good or bad, someone will pay.

### **A KIDNAPPING** (26 min)

On the Minnesota Iron Range, two police officers are called to investigate a seemingly random break-in at a warehouse.



**WATCH NOW AT**  
[www.youtube.com/@LightSkinPod](http://www.youtube.com/@LightSkinPod)

Light Skin is a podcast ran by Pez Davila and Joe Macor, where they interview local business owners, politicians, community leaders and more; in hopes of having authentic conversations about everyday life. The goal is to get to know these individuals outside of a professional setting and help others learn more about the people they see and hear about everyday.



# Short Film Blocks



*Filmmakers Attending!*

## MOMENTOUS SHORTS | 90 MIN

Stories that capture the outcome of events that shift the future.

Friday, March 21 at 3:15 pm | Zinema 2

### **CLAIMANT** (20 min)

When a father confronts the man who assaulted his teenage daughter, he is made painfully aware of how the law protects her attacker.

### **100 UNDER 13** (9 min)

Young track runner Lucy makes a painful discovery, forcing her to choose between herself and the people close to her.

### **OXBLOOD** (20 min)

Ingrid returns to her family farm and her aging father Oscar. The farm holds a dark secret that continues to haunt their fragile world.

### **THE STEAK** (8 min)

A birthday party preparation is thrown into chaos by a surprising attack.

### **YA HANOUNI** (3 min)

While Mom and Dad try to put their baby to sleep, a competition arises between them: who will manage to get the baby to say the first word?

### **MADRINA** (7 min)

A young woman stirs up bitter resentment in a failed attempt to reconnect with her estranged family at Christmas.

### **THE FLOWER DARKENS** (14 min)

Alice, a graduating high school student, will receive news during class that will mark the start of a complex relationship with absent grief.

### **SO, THAT HAPPENED** (9 min)

Sheila and Imran haven't seen each other since college, but an opportunity arises for the pair to get acquainted once more.



*Filmmakers Attending!*

## PERFORMANCE SHORTS | 70 MIN

Powerful performances and a look into the worlds around them.

Thursday, March 20 at 5:30 pm | Zinema 2

### **RED, BLACK & BLUE** (6 min)

An experimental representation of Black Americans' violent experiences within the American justice system.

### **3 POEMS BY DICKINSON** (5 min)

Three poems by Emily Dickinson, presented as a cinematic monologue exploring the facets of grief.

### **SHAME** (4 min)

In the 19th century, in the Levant region, Salma Zahore removes her coat after having her photo taken unaware of the chaos this gesture would bring.

### **SAVIOR** (4 min)

Meshing images of the Latino community and U.S. Border Patrol activities, this film takes viewers on a journey through the eyes of U.S. immigrants.

### **CORNFED PUNK** (11 min)

Explore the surprising hardcore punk scene of Iowa City; a haven for many who might otherwise find themselves stranded in a red stronghold.

### **MEMPHIS BLUES** (5 min)

Sean G. Phillips, a Minneapolis-based artist, responds to the news of another Black man's murder through poetry and painting.

### **SOMBER TIDES** (12 min)

A battle waged against winds. A cry from the species, startled into survival against the elements. One last breath before being trampled by the Earth.

### **BEIJING STORY** (22 min)

Cong Pai, an aspiring punk-rock guitarist, drops out of high school after his mother's sudden death. Being in a punk band gives purpose to his life as well as an escape from it.

# Short Film Blocks



## MINNANIMATE X MFF MIXTAPE | 103 MIN

Animated films from the MFF submissions mixed with the 2024 MinnAnimate program!

**Sunday, March 23 at 11:30 am | Zinema 1**

### **GETTIN' IT DONE WITH ALBERT ORDEAN** (3 min)

An animated retelling of young Albert Ordean's adventures.

### **THE MISTLETOE DART** (11 min)

A mother's quest to save her son from a jealous trickster god and a seemingly harmless plant.

### **THE ADVENTURES OF HARE AND BARE: GOOD JOB** (3 min)

Hare & Bear are two friends on an adventure without a plan.

### **MILKY WAY ADVENTURES TO MEOWTER SPACE: HIGH STEAKS** (2 min)

Kash and his cow, Belly, encounter some galactic trouble!

### **CUCUMBER & MR. HATTS** (4 min)

A girl with cucumbers for eyes and her sleep paralysis bestie help a dreamer overcome her night terror of performing to a crowd.

### **KIT & SPOON AND THE WAYWARD MOON** (3 min)

When the moon blocks their path, a star farmer and her cow must find a way back home.

### **SPAGHETTI WITH SEEDS** (1 min)

A pigeon walks into a diner and orders spaghetti with seeds.

### **ENGRAM** (3 min)

A girl who falls into the Forgotten Land finds her lost memories of a dog in her childhood.

### **TRASH** (4 min)

Out of laziness, a character does not sort his trash and his action have serious consequences on the worlds that live in the trash.

### **HOW WE WERE MADE** (1 min)

The birds and the bees of dumpster living.

### **EYE PAUSE** (2 min)

A man with poor vision gets fired from his video game job while his ant boss finds his wife having an affair.

### **ROVER** (8 min)

On a distant planet, a rebellious explorer makes a shocking discovery and sticks it to the man.

### **BOOTS** (2 min)

I had a pair of boots for 10 years and wore them out. Saying goodbye to precious things is hard to do.

### **LA FRONTERA** (2 min)

A mother and son journey across the Rio Grande, immigrating to the United States from Mexico in hopes of searching for a better life.

### **STITCHED** (2 min)

Voile, a plush fox, wakes up on their bed in an unfamiliar body.

### **PEEL ME SLOWLY TO SEE: PARTS I-III** (6 min)

Explore the three part thriller of bananas absorbed into brainwaves!

### **DISSOLVE** (3 min)

Follow someone on a journey to find the end of a trail of brightly glowing mushrooms through a forest towards another version of themselves.

### **DOOMSCROLLING** (8 min)

A film about procrastination, social media and capitalist realism.

### **EVEN STILL** (3 min)

A short film about creating a life that is joyful to live through the experience of transness.

### **MR. L'ESPÉRANCE** (9 min)

Mr. L'Espérance hopes to inspire gentleness as he crafts a gift for his neighbor.

### **KABEKONA BAY 1970** (4 min)

In the final days of her life my mother fixates on a memory from 50 years earlier.

### **FANNY PACK PLATYPUS** (6 min)

Hazel is a recent college graduate with a passion for children stories. However, lately she's been having a difficult time finding balance in what she loves in life.

### **THE SHEPARD'S FLOCK** (4 min)

When a dragon attacks a village in the dead of night, a shepherd and a lamb come out as the lone survivors.

# Short Film Blocks



*Filmmakers Attending!*

## **HORROR SHORTS | 110 MIN**

Films curated across the genre to make you laugh and shriek!

Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 pm | Zinema 2

### **HOLLOW** (19 min)

Two women on opposite sides of grief face real demons in an inpatient eating disorder clinic.

### **COPYCAT** (2 min)

A short folk horror about a curious girl who must deal with the consequences of meddling with natural forces.

### **LEFT OUT!** (5 min)

A group hosts a girl's weekend and someone gets left out.

### **STICKY** (17 min)

A horror desktop documentary that explores the lingering evocative affliction by images of highly mediated societal disaster.

### **THE BURIED RIVER** (13 min)

Frightened that his mother is possessed by a bloodthirsty monster, a young boy runs away from home and embarks across a vast and engulfing city.

### **TRIP** (1 min)

Margaux is consumed by guilt after kidnapping and murdering a young girl.

### **THE EVENTS OF THAT NIGHT, AS BEST AS I CAN REMEMBER** (9 min)

On her way home from a housewarming party, Elise observes—and is observed by—something bizarre, inexplicable, and familiar in the night sky.

### **LEAF MAN** (20 min)

A metaphysical monster movie following a man's odyssey through a world of organic existential transformations.

### **FLESH AND BLOOD** (16 min)

An anxious young man must choose between forging his own path or the path of his parents - the country's most notorious serial killers.

### **FIELDTRIP** (8 min)

When a young man is given a new medication for his diagnosis, it appears to be the perfect escape from reality...or is it?



*Filmmakers Attending!*

## **OUR STORIES | 104 MIN**

Highlighting stories from local artists in our community.

Friday, March 21 at 7:00 pm | The Depot

Sunday, March 23 at 1:30 pm | Zinema 2

### **ON THE WATER** (2 min)

This short film captures the rhythmic, meditative act of fishing and the intimate connection with the water

### **TO BE A GOOD HOME** (15 min)

To Be A Good Home follows three women who farm and steward land in northern Minnesota

### **BOLD NORTH: A YEAR IN WILD MINNESOTA** (23 min)

Accompanied by an original orchestral score, Bold North accentuates the beauty, drama, and magnificence of the wilds of Minnesota.

### **SAVING SILENCE** (15 min)

Join Emily Tidwell as she returns to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, reflecting on how this wild landscape saved her life.

### **NØRTH PØRT 1999** (7 min)

While searching for a lost hiker, Sheriff Blackwood is paralyzed by a humanoid creature and dragged to an underground bunker.

### **SECOND AMENDMENT, RIGHT?** (15 min)

Jimmy, a recent widow, vows to protect his 18 year old daughter at any cost. A film about the responsibility that comes with our rights.

### **MISFITS** (14 min)

A Marine Corps combat veteran and avid outdoorsman in Ely, Minnesota, pursues a life of dogsledding with his donated huskies.

### **FOLLOW YOUR FEEL GOOD: THE ART OF SARAH SEIDELMANN** (8 min)

A short documentary about Sarah's mission to create art that "makes love visible" and how it came about.

### **SCORCHING SAFETY** (5 min)

A post-apocalyptic traveler discovers an oblivious oasis—the city of Duluth—and inspires her new friend there to take action.

# Short Film Blocks



*Filmmakers Attending!*

## TIME & PLACE SHORTS | 118 MIN

Films that look at our relationships to spaces, our past, and our future.

Saturday, March 22 at 4:30 pm | Zinema 2

### **GOODBYE, HUNTER** (19 min)

For the Frigon, hunting is a family tradition that forges and strengthens the bonds between the generations.

### **BROKEN FLIGHT** (18 min)

The Chicago Bird Collision Monitors work alongside the Field Museum and Willowbrook Wildlife Center to rescue birds that collide with windows.

### **CANYON CHORUS** (17 min)

Set against the backdrop of Desolation Canyon, UT, friends reflect on their stories and the power of mentorship within the queer community.

### **THE GIFT** (20 min)

A story about trust, friendship, and the liberating power of giving offers insight into modern day reindeer herding practices and Sámi traditions.

### **LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU GET HOME** (5 min)

This experimental documentary invites you to reflect and immerses you in the emotions of those caught during this migration crisis.

### **FINDING HOME** (15 min)

Forced to leave their old home due to hostile LGBTQ+ legislation, this touching short chronicles a family's journey in a new state.

### **VALE OF SUMMER** (11 min)

Best friends wrestle with goodbyes during their final summer camping trip together. An honest and refreshing ode to queer-trans friendship and self-determination.

### **BIBLE CAMP** (13 min)

Young Korean immigrants assimilate to baseball, burnt hot dogs and hostility at a discount daycare.



*Filmmakers Attending!*

## QUEER GAZE | 115 MIN

Stories told from and about the 2LGBTQAI+ experience.

Friday, March 21 at 9:30 pm | Zinema 2

### **EMERALD CITY** (21 min)

Two lone hitchhikers, unknowingly connected by the secrets they carry, cross paths near the US/Mexico border.

### **DON'T CRY FOR ME ALL YOU DRAG QUEENS** (7 min)

Weaving together the present and past, this homage to the legendary Mother Cavallucci, provides a striking portrait of belonging and memory.

### **FLAG ACT** (29 min)

A porch-side conflict escalates beyond annoyance to absurdity, with free-spirited Simone's sass remaining intact to the end.

### **PASTOR'S KID** (12 min)

When Joseph returns to his childhood home one last time, he is faced with a traumatic memory and must persevere to rediscover joy and heal.

### **QUEEN** (12 min)

A teenager searches for their father's ethos amid socioeconomic, environmental, racial, and gendered binaries.

### **THE SPACE BETWEEN** (12 min)

Two college students, who happen to meet at a party, form a connection where they find self-discovery, forgiveness and hope for the future.

### **SULTANA'S REIGN** (12 min)

Sultana of New York is a Palestinian drag queen, performer, and artist, reflects on her journey from Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and then New York.

### **AUGANIC** (12 min)

A married couple examines an unusual phenomenon when they discover a special ability during an intimate moment.

# Shorts with Features

Don't miss these fabulous short films that will be screening with feature films!



## EXPANDING SANCTUARY

Documentary, 20 min, 2023, United States

An immigrant mother becomes a powerful community leader in the fight to end police data-sharing with ICE. The film captures her transformation from personal desire to bring her mother to the U.S. into a passionate, collective movement for immigrant rights and family protection.

**PLAYS BEFORE ULTIMATE CITIZENS (pg 9):**  
Saturday, March 22 at 2:30 pm | Zinema 2



## WARRIOR UP! ISAAC GARCIA

Documentary, 22 min, 2024, United States

In this episode, sixteen-year-old Dakota/Ojibwe Isaac Garcia rallies his classmates to collect essentials and pack them into 'Blessing Bags'. Then he brings the bags to those who need them most- those living on St. Paul, Minnesota's streets.

**PLAYS WITH DECOLONIZING OUR YOUTH (pg 8):**  
Saturday, March 22 at 3:00 pm | AICHO



# COMMUNITY VOICE

# DOC & TALK FILM SERIES

Inspiring documentaries about communities transforming their cities from the ground up and post-show talks with Duluth community leaders

[ZEITGEISTARTS.COM/COMMUNITY](http://ZEITGEISTARTS.COM/COMMUNITY)

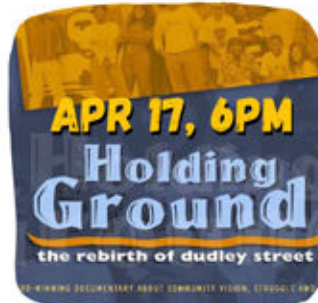


A film about why you should join a club...and why the fate of America depends on it

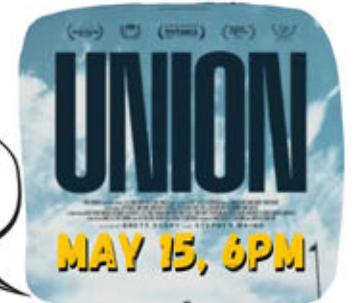
**JOIN or DIE**  
MAR 22, 11AM



A cautionary tale of urban policies gone wrong and a message of hope for all American cities



Up against one of the most powerful companies, Amazon workers embark to unionize



A remarkable movement of people advocating for Black children's futures



The innovative, grassroots efforts of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI)



Tales of Detroiters remaking their city with vision and spirit



A documentary about the rise and fall of the Black Panther Party



# Meet the Team

## FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING

Vera Bianchini, Festival & Minnesota Media Arts School Director  
Matthew Berg, Programming Director  
Mackenzie McCullum, Pitch Competition Programmer  
Khayman Goodsky, Indigenous Programmer  
Kelly Florence, Horror Programmer

## FESTIVAL OPERATIONS

Matthew Dressel, Technical Director  
Jessica Peters, Project Manager  
Jody Kujawa, Theaters Manager  
Dane Torgerson, Theater Supervisor  
Joe Birdseye, Teatro Tech  
Agatha Pokrzywinski, Volunteer Manager

## FESTIVAL MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

Blake Thomas, Marketing Manager  
Sydney Carlino, Social Media Manager  
Maelo Cruz, Poster & Cover Artist  
Matthew Berg, Festival Guide Designer

## BOX OFFICE STAFF

Joe Birdseye, Tony Chudomelka,  
Jonny Cornelius, Annie Guiney,  
Annika Hansen, Henry Kneiszel,  
Jadie Schwarzkopf

## SCREENING TEAM

Adam Wicker, Alex Carlson, Aliya Khan, Andy Sell, Brian Gilbert, Camila Guillen, Catherine Krummey, Charles Anderson, Chris Kustritz, Christy Rounds, Deano Pape, Douglas Fifield, Dylan Sjolie, Eliza Patiiuk, Gary Kruchowski, Gerri Williams, Heather Trieschmann, Ingrid Overchuk, Jay Krajic, Joe Beres, John Watt, Judy Bednarek, Kai Haigh, Karen Sunderman, Kendra Shoemaker, Laila Davis, Lori Sam, LuAnn Alsleben, Lynn Johansen, Mark Jensen, Matt Bachman, Matthew Cartwright, Maxwell Vast, Maya Eatherton, Michelle Pulkkinen, Mickey Pearson, Micki Schneider, Natalie Chin, Nathan Carroll, Raenel Williams, Reanna Madson, Renee Gellatly, Shanna Kottke, Steven White, Stevie Janish, Tad Johnson, Tana Lucero, Todd Fremling, Victor Spencer

## ZEITGEIST EXECUTIVE TEAM

Tony Cuneo, Executive Director  
Sarah Lueck, Communications & Creative Director  
Sara Rolfson, Business Director

## ZEITGEIST OPERATIONS

Stevie Twining, Financial & Facilities Manager  
Jessica Peters, Project Manager  
Molly Koop, Administrative Coordinator

## ZEITGEIST MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

Blake Thomas, Marketing Manager

## ZEITGEIST LIVE THEATER

Mary Fox, Producing Artistic Director  
Robert Lee, Renegade Managing Director

## ZEITGEIST COMMUNITY TEAM

Andrea Crouse, Community Development Manager  
Thomlin Swan, Creative Community Collaborator  
Val Langer, Transforming Transportation GreenCorps  
Cyndy Klinksiek, Age-Friendly Outreach Specialist

## ZEITGEIST RESTAURANT

Sam Courtney, General Manager/Executive Chef  
Layla Packingham, Front of House Manager



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