

zeitgeist
Minnesota
Film Festival



April 22-26, 2026

5 DAYS 100+ FILMS
PITCH COMPETITION
PANELS, EVENTS, AND MORE!
ZEITGEISTARTS.COM/ZMFF

ZEITGEIST MEMBERSHIP



Membership at Zeitgeist means more than attending events—it means belonging to a space where film, theater, visual art, and dining intersect. Where stories are told, ideas are shared, and community comes alive - where creativity is always in motion.

Whether you're catching an independent film, attending a live theater production, dining before a show, or exploring a new gallery exhibition, membership brings you closer to the experience.

Memberships
start at

\$65
/month



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO LEARN MORE



**Experience more.
See more.
Be part of it all.**

zeitgeiststarts.com/join-support

Welcome to the 2026 Zeitgeist Minnesota Film Festival!



Vera Bianchini
Festival Director

Hello and welcome to Zeitgeist!

It's been a hell of a year and now more than ever we need to amplify and support storytellers who deserve to be seen and heard. The lineup this year is out of this world and I am so honored to be a part of such an incredible program put together by an incredible team of magical, hardworking unicorns.

And with that I invite everyone to join us here at the Zinema at Zeitgeist, a place where local and global stories come together. So buckle up, grab your popcorn, candy, tissues, and get ready to take a wild ride as we cross the universe through films and connection. I better see you there!

Cheers!

Vera Macedo Bianchini



Tony Cuneo
Executive Director

There is nothing like experiencing art and stories with others. It's just more fun. And it's even better when the artists are right there with you. Prime example: Zeitgeist Minnesota Film Festival - films and events and performances of all kinds, making this truly a 5-day cultural celebration unlike anything else that happens in NE MN. I love this time of year!

Stories define how we think about the world around us, which is why we love to highlight stories that deepen our understanding of each other. So join us. I bet you'll have a great time, and feel a little more connected to our community. You're always welcome at Zeitgeist, and we can't wait to see you here.

Sincerely,

Tony Cuneo

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.

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 Zeitgeist Minnesota Film Festival (ZMFF) will take place **April 22–26, 2026** at Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community, in downtown Duluth, MN! Select screenings and events will also take place at The Depot.

ZMFF 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 ZMFF 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.

LOCATIONS & PARKING

Zeitgeist Arts Building
222 E Superior St
Duluth, MN 55802

Medical District Ramp, 302 East 1st Street.
Paid parking, \$12 daily rate.

HART Ramp, 125 E Superior Street.
Paid parking, \$12 daily rate.

Paid street parking available on Superior Street, 3rd Street, and 2nd Street.

The Depot
506 W Michigan St
Duluth, MN 55802

West Parking Ramp, 602 W. Michigan Street.
Paid parking, day rates or hourly rates available.

East Parking Ramp, 402 W. Michigan Street.
Paid parking, day rates or hourly rates available.

Paid street parking available on Michigan Street.

TICKET PRICES

General Tickets.....	\$15
Student Tickets*.....	\$12
Special Event Screenings.....	\$20
Special Event Screening Student*.....	\$15
Spotlight Celebration General.....	\$20
Spotlight Celebration Student*.....	\$15

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

ALL ACCESS PASSES

General All Access Pass.....	\$100
Student All Access Pass*.....	\$35

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

WHAT ARE PASS BENEFITS?

- ★ Invitation to the ZMFF Preview Party on March 25, 2026.
- ★ Access to all Film Screenings & early access ticket reservation before the general public.
- ★ Access to all Special Events including the Pitch Competition, Workshops & Panels, Table Read, Renegade Comedy, Spotlight Celebration, Networking Events and all the parties!
- ★ Access to the Filmmaker Lounge, where there is coffee and light snacks!
- ★ A small popcorn!

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 PICKUP MY PASS?

Passes will be available for pickup during the festival at the Welcome Booth in the Teatro Box Office.

Purchase tickets & All Access Passes online at zeitgeiststarts.com/zmff or by visiting the Zinema box office during hours of operation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can attend the festival?

ZMFF 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 served.

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 for 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@zeitgeiststarts.com!

Block Schedule

 Denotes Guests expected to attend

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Teatro	6:00 PM Opening Ceremony & Drum Group, 30 min	
Zinema 1	7:00 PM, Opening Night Feature Bigfoot Woods, 80 min	
Zinema 2	7:00 PM, Opening Night Feature Bigfoot Woods, 80 min	
Z Bar + Atrium		8:30 PM Toast & Opening Night Party, 60 min

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Teatro	4:00 PM Community Collage Project, 240 min	
Zinema 1	4:30 PM TheyDream, 90 min	7:15 PM, Thursday Thriller Goody Goody, 80 min
Zinema 2	5:45 PM Time & Place Doc Shorts, 99 min	8:00 PM Comedy Shorts, 85 min
Atrium	6:00 PM, Workshop Networking Session 2, 60 min	8:00 PM, Music INF3RNO, 120 min
		9:30 PM Horror Shorts, 109 min

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Teatro	10:00 AM Pitch Session 1, 120 min	1:30 PM Pitch Session 2, 120 min	6:00 PM, Panel Independent Distribution Tips, 60 min	10:00 PM The Reel Comedy Special, 120 min
Zinema 1		4:30 PM A Cree Approach, 75 min	7:00 PM, Friday Focus Feature Boorman and the Devil, 112 min	9:30 PM If I Go Will They Miss Me, 92 min
Zinema 2		5:30 PM Animation Shorts, 90 min	8:00 PM Momentous Shorts, 94 min	
Atrium			8:00 PM, Music DMC Entertainment, 120 min	
Blacklist		3:30 PM UMFO Happy Hour, 120 min		

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Teatro	10:00 AM, Panel Indigenous Film Today, 60 min	1:00 PM, Table Read Black Apple, 120 min	
Zinema 1		2:00 PM Keep Quiet and Forgive, 90 min	4:30 PM Honeyjoon, 75 min
Zinema 2	12:30 PM Student Showcase, 75 min	2:35 PM Our Stories, 96 min	5:00 PM Documentary Shorts, 96 min
The Depot	12:00 PM Indigenous Shorts, 110 min	3:30 PM Red Power Rising, 90 min	6:00 PM, Spotlight Feature Medicine Ball, 70 min
			6:20 PM A Sad and Beautiful World, 109 min
			7:30 PM The Spotlight Celebration + Awards, 210 min

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Teatro	10:00 AM, Workshop How to Multi-Hyphenate, 240 min	
Zinema 1	11:00 AM Small Town Girl, 85 min	
Zinema 2	11:30 AM Why We Dance, 77 min	
The Depot		2:30 PM, Closing Day Presentation Paralyzed By Hope: The Maria Bamford Story, 124 min

Special Screenings & Events



OPENING NIGHT PRESENTATION: BIGFOOT WOODS

Comedy/Drama, 80 min, 2025, USA **MN Made**

Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00 pm | Zinema 1 & 2 | Tickets, \$20

When Bridget, a teenager struggling with their gender identity, and their dad accidentally capture video evidence of Bigfoot, they become heroes in a small town that would rather believe in Bigfoot than accept someone they once knew as a girl as a boy.

Filmmakers attending! Opening Night Party is included with tickets.

COMMUNITY COLLAGE

Thursday, April 23 at 4:00–8:00 pm | Teatro | Free

This event is free and all are welcome!

Step into Community Collage's immersive pop-up portrait studio, where celebrity photographer Josh Madson will photograph participants in his signature black-and-white portrait style. Guests will have the opportunity to take part in a live portrait session and receive their first digital portraits onsite, becoming part of the growing national project celebrating identity, belonging, and community connection.



THE REEL COMEDY SPECIAL

Friday, April 24 at 10:00 pm | Teatro | Tickets, \$30

Featuring guest performer, Mary Mack!

The Reel Comedy Special is a variety show featuring sketch comedy, silly videos, improv and stand-up comedy by Mary Mack. We'll be making fun of TV, Film, and the industries behind it all; don't miss this laugh riot!



SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION: MEDICINE BALL

Documentary/Drama, 57 min, 2025, USA **MN Made**

Saturday, April 25 at 6:00 pm | The Depot | Tickets, \$20

Medicine Ball follows Native college athletes Lexus and Leroy as they uncover their university's dark history as a former Indian boarding school, revealing how basketball is more than a game — it's a symbol of hope, resilience, and cultural pride in Native communities. Filmmaker attending!

Special Screenings & Events



THE SPOTLIGHT CELEBRATION + AWARDS

Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 pm | The Depot Great Hall | Tickets, \$20

Ticket includes a drink on us!

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 evening we'll be announcing the winners of the film awards and giving out almost \$20,000 in grant awards.

7:30 pm, Doors open, Celebratory Cocktails with food

8:30 pm, Awards Presentation

9:00 pm, Dance Party – let's boogie!

HOW TO MULTI-HYPHENATE WORKSHOP

Sunday, April 26 at 10:00 am–2:00 pm | Teatro | Tickets, \$30

Limited capacity available!

This 4-hour interactive experience helps filmmakers reframe above-the-line strategy with an authentic entrepreneurial vision. Filmmakers walk away with: Tools to develop their authentic voice and build clarity into their creative vision, strategies for team-building, outside-the-box finance and distribution models built for sustainability, goal-setting, and a personalized blueprint to move ideas to execution.



CLOSING DAY PRESENTATION:

PARALYZED BY HOPE: THE MARIA BAMFORD STORY

Documentary/Comedy, 116 min, 2025, USA **MN Made**

Sunday, April 26 at 2:30 pm | The Depot | Tickets, \$20

Blurring the line between performance and personal crisis, *Paralyzed By Hope* follows comedian Maria Bamford as she turns her mental health journey into material that's riotously funny and ultimately inspiring.

Maria Bamford and Sarah Seidelmann attending!



Workshops, Panels, Parties & Performances



OPENING CEREMONY + HONOR SONG

Wed, April 22 at 6:00–6:30 pm | Teatro

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

Free to attend.



TOAST + OPENING NIGHT PARTY

Wed, April 22 at 8:30 pm | ZBar & Atrium

Join us in the ZBar and Atrium to celebrate the beginning of a cinematic adventure!

Included with Opening Night Ticket, \$20



NETWORKING WORKSHOP

Monday, April 20 at 6:00 pm | Zoom

Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 pm | Zeitgeist Atrium

Join us for two Networking sessions to learn, and practice, how to put your best foot forward!

Free to participate! Limited space available.



MUSIC: INF3RNO

Thu, April 23 at 8:00 pm | Club Z (Atrium)

Join us at Club Z (aka the Atrium) from 8:00–10:00pm for a high energy set from Duluth's own, Judy Billington aka INF3RNO.

Free to attend.



UMFO FILMMAKER HAPPY HOUR

Fri, April 24 at 3:30–5:30 pm | Blacklist

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

Free to attend, reserve your spot in advance.



10 TIPS EVERY FILMMAKER NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTION

Fri, April 24 at 6:00 pm | Teatro

This is your chance to get expert insight. No question is too big or too small.

Free to attend, reserve your spot in advance.



MUSIC: DMC ENTERTAINMENT

Fri, April 24 at 8:00 pm | Club Z (Atrium)

Join us at Club Z where DMC Entertainment will be spinning your favorite tunes from 8:00–10:00pm! Come vibe and cut a rug with festival mates, new and old!

Free to attend.



INDIGENOUS FILM TODAY: SYDNEY FREELAND + MIGIZI PENSONEOU

Sat, April 25 at 10:00 am | Teatro

Join Sydney Freeland and Migizi Pensoneou for a wide-ranging conversation on culture, creativity and what's next.

Free to attend, reserve your spot in advance.



TABLE READ: BLACK APPLE

Sat, April 25 at 1:00 pm | Teatro

Join us for a live table read of *Black Apple*, a new screenplay by David Anderson, featuring local actors you'll recognize from the Zeitgeist stage!

Free to attend, reserve your spot in advance.

Zeitgeist Minnesota Film Festival Pitch Competition



The ZMFF 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.

Friday, April 24 | Teatro
Session 1, at 10:00am–12:00 pm | Session 2, at 1:30pm–3:30pm

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 our 2026 ZMFF Pitch Competition Judges



Cleo Chung is currently VP of development at Big Indie Pictures whose production slate boasts a host of credits (*A Complete Unknown*, *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, *Daisy Jones and the Six*) and she previously served as DOD at Viva Maude, covering shows like *His and Hers* on Netflix, as well as the upcoming Orion film *Is God Is*. Before VM, she worked at AMC Studios providing support on their Anne Rice universe shows *Interview with the Vampire* and *Mayfair Witches*, and on sci-fi dystopian adventure *SIL0* on Apple TV+.



Dessane Lopez Cassell is a New York-based editor, writer, and producer. Her work spans the intersections of film and visual art, with a particular interest in artists' moving image, documentary, and experimental film. She was a programmer for BlackStar Film Festival and previously served as Editor-in-Chief of BlackStar's journal, *Seen*. She is currently Executive Producer at Mostly Works, an artist-run production company, and serves as Vice President of the board at The Flaherty.



Migizi Pensoneau is a writer, producer, and founding member of the sketch comedy troupe, The 1491s. Pensoneau is most well-known for his work on the Peabody Award-winning *Reservation Dogs*, for which he served as a Co-Executive Producer and writer. He has also written and produced on the shows *Barkskins*, *Government Cheese*, and *Time Bandits*. Most recently he served as writer and Co-Executive Producer on the award-winning *Alien: Earth*, for FX, which has been renewed for a second season.

2026 ZMFF Pitch Competition Films

Narrative Features



ANOTHER WORD FOR SANDBAR

Presented by Fred Evans | Fri, April 24 at 10:00 am | Teatro

In the mid-2000s Midwest, an awkward teenager undergoes the beginnings of a queer awakening when they tag along on their best friend's family's beach vacation.



GUNNAR ON THE GRASSLAND SEA

Presented by Justin Dobies | Fri, April 24 at 1:30 pm | Teatro

After his schizophrenic son shows up naked in his barn claiming to be the Son of God, a terminally-ill farmer must decide between spending his last days on himself or seeking reconciliation with his estranged son.

Documentary Features



DO YOU THINK I'M WEIRD?

Presented by Ben Taman | Fri, April 24 at 11:00 am | Teatro

A trans filmmaker with schizophrenia turns the camera on himself, blending verité footage, artwork, and archival material in an intimate hybrid portrait about identity, mental illness, and the urgent desire to be understood.



THE QUIET PART

Presented by Rachel Mueller | Fri, April 24 at 2:10 pm | Teatro

When a pagan white supremacist group takes root in a quiet Minnesotan farming town, it sparks an intense struggle over who has the right to belong, offering a warning about the normalization of extremism.

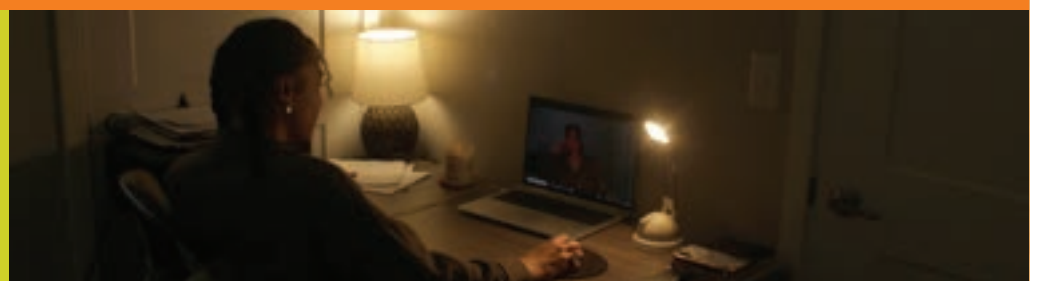
Minnesota Filmmakers



HOW MANY DAYS

Presented by Serena Hodges | Fri, April 24 at 1:50 pm | Teatro

A short, absurdist film about Meera, a constipated South Asian immigrant, who finds obstacles and ultimately solace in a local Indian grocery store, Little India.



SAT.

Presented by Justin Dobies | Fri, April 24 at 2:30 pm | Teatro

In a society that manufactures suffering, Kay, a Black queer twenty-something living with a mental illness, battles their 'inner demons' and existential dread through therapy, ritual, self-reflection, and just plain survival.

2026 ZMFF Pitch Competition Films

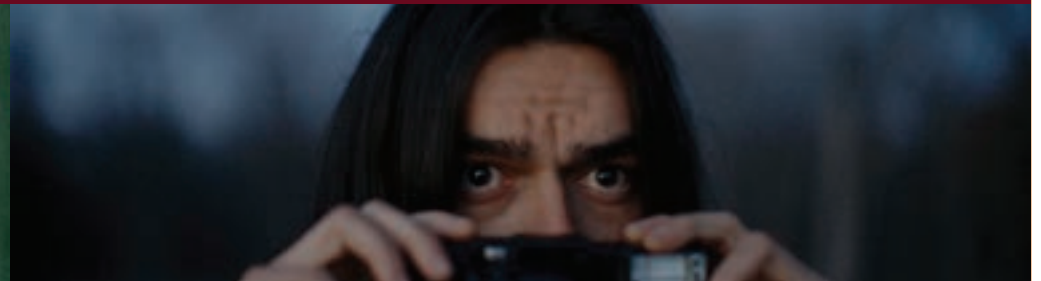
Indigenous Filmmakers



THE GICHIGAMI GAZETTE

Presented by Tashia Hart | Fri, April 24 at 11:20 am | Teatro

Recently fired writer Pam gets a job at The Gichigami Gazette and partners with a ghost named Gary to tell stories from the local Duluth urban Native community that are both mundane and supernatural.

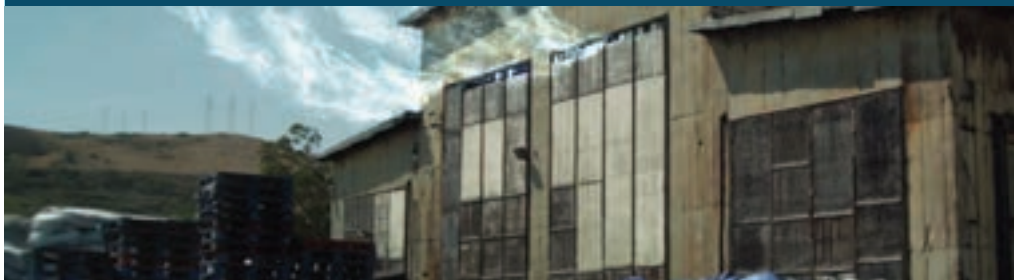


SPIRAL

Presented by Alex Nystrom | Fri, April 24 at 2:50 pm | Teatro

In a secluded cabin, an Ojibwe photographer struggles to care for his dementia-ridden grandmother, who insists his father's spirit is hunting him.

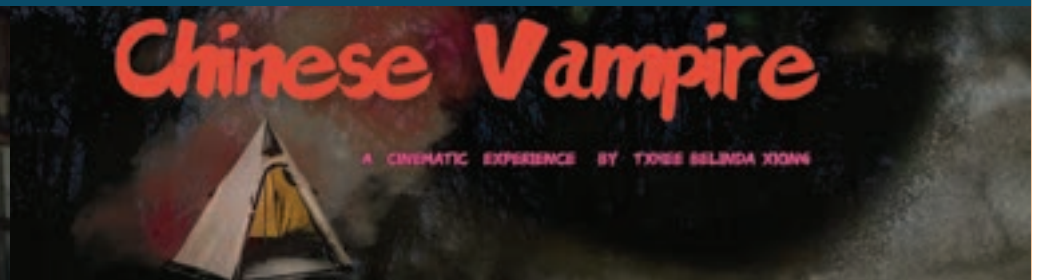
Short Film Filmmakers



BODY SHOP

Presented by Laura Fries | Fri, April 24 at 10:20 am | Teatro

In an alternate reality where “body shops” replace hospitals, a young mechanic discovers a wealthy client is pressuring her boss to loan her a Latina body for a night out. Appalled, she takes matters into her own hands.



CHINESE VAMPIRE

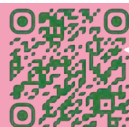
Presented by Txhee Xiong | Fri, April 24 at 10:40 am | Teatro

Two Hmong-American female college students venture into the wilderness of Minnesota for a camping trip, only to encounter a disturbed 400-year-old Chinese Vampire who's seeking to find answers.



WITCH

BY JEN SILVERMAN
DIRECTED BY ANIKA THOMPSON
JULY 30-AUGUST 8



grab your tickets

A charming devil arrives in a quiet village, trading dark wishes for souls. Elizabeth, an outcast labeled a witch, refuses to give in—sparking unexpected passion, shifting alliances, and a reckoning that will change the town forever. A sharp, inventive fable about what our souls are worth when hope runs thin.



ZEITGEIST CENTER FOR ARTS AND COMMUNITY | 222 E. SUPERIOR ST., DULUTH, MN 55802 | ZEITGEISTARTS.COM/THEATER

Read full descriptions and get tickets by visiting: [ZEITGEISTARTS.COM/ZMFF](https://zeitgeistarts.com/zmff) 11

Zeitgeist Minnesota Film Awards



The Zeitgeist Minnesota Film Awards honor and celebrate excellence in storytelling through the art of filmmaking, recognizing outstanding achievements in direction, screenwriting, performance, cinematography, and overall vision. These awards are given to films that shed light on important issues, amplify underrepresented voices, and captivate audiences with compelling characters, engaging plotlines, and emotional resonance. The awards highlight filmmakers who push creative boundaries, inspire meaningful conversations, and leave a lasting impact on the art of cinema. The awards categories and prizes include:

Minnesota Filmmaker Award - \$500 | Best Documentary Feature - \$500 (Juried) | Best Narrative Feature - \$500 (Juried)
Best Documentary Short - \$500 | Best Narrative Short - \$500

Films in competition for Best Documentary Feature:

Boorman and the Devil, Keep Quiet and Forgive, Ni-Naadamaadiz: Red Power Rising, TheyDream

Films in competition for Best Narrative Feature:

A Sad and Beautiful World, Goody Goody, Honeyjoon, If I Go Will They Miss Me

2026 Minnesota Filmmaker Award Winner:

Leya Hale, *Medicine Ball*

Meet our 2026 ZMFF Film Award Jurors

Documentary Feature Jury

Elizabeth Day was born on the Leech Lake Reservation and raised in the Twin Cities. Day is an emerging light in documentary cinema. She merges the intimate storytelling traditions of her Native American heritage with modern cinematic expression.

Dawn Mikkelson has produced and directed seven award-winning independent character-driven feature documentaries. She has been a finalist for the Project Greenlight Digital Studios and Seed&Spark Untold Story Crowdfunding Rally.

Sam Sanders has written/produced/directed documentary programs for networks including National Geographic, The History Channel, MSNBC, A&E and PBS. Her most recent short documentary, *Swimming Through*, has screened at 40+ festivals worldwide.

Narrative Feature Jury

Valérie Déus is a poet, festival programmer, and curator based in Minneapolis. She is currently the Shorts Programmer for the Provincetown International Film Festival. Alongside programming she has curated film programs for the Walker Art Center.

Miguel Silveira is an award-winning independent filmmaker, arts educator, and Assistant Professor in the film department at Loyola University Chicago. Miguel's work celebrates topics related to human dignity and development.

Rhiana Yazzie is an award-winning playwright, director, filmmaker, and Artistic Director of New Native Theatre in the Twin Cities. A Navajo Nation citizen (Ta'neezahnii bashishchiin dóó Táchii'nii dashinalí), her work has been staged from Alaska to Mexico.

Feature Films



Filmmaker Attending!

A CREE APPROACH

Documentary, 75 min, 2026, Canada

An investigative documentary following director Tristin Greyeyes' quest to understand why Cree is not her first language through the story of her late grandmother, Freda Ahenakew. Freda was a mother of 12 children, a high school dropout, and would become a world-renowned Indigenous scholar, Cree language linguist and advocate.

Friday, April 24 at 4:30 pm | Zinema 1



A SAD AND BEAUTIFUL WORLD

Rom-Com/Drama, 109 min, 2025, Lebanon

This sweeping love story spans three decades of passion, heartbreak, and hope, as Nino and Yasmina find themselves drawn together. Facing an impossible choice between love and survival, they must decide if they want to build a family and chart a path to happiness in Lebanon, despite the tragedies ravaging their country.

Saturday, April 25 at 6:20 pm | Zinema 1



Filmmaker Attending!

BOORMAN AND THE DEVIL

Documentary, 112 min, 2025, USA

After the success of *Point Blank* and *Deliverance*, Warner Brothers offered John Boorman the opportunity of a lifetime: the chance to direct a sequel to their smash hit, *The Exorcist*. The result was one of the biggest disasters in movie history that not only changed how Hollywood did business, but nearly ended Boorman's film career.

Friday, April 24 at 7:00 pm | Zinema 1



Filmmaker Attending!

GOODY GOODY

Horror, 80 min, 2026, USA **MN Made**

Lulled into a necessary sense of comfort during a long home birth process, expecting parents and their midwife begin to realize something may be horribly wrong. A blizzard rages outside, trapping the family in their home as increasingly sinister complications arise.

Thursday, April 23 at 7:15 pm | Zinema 1

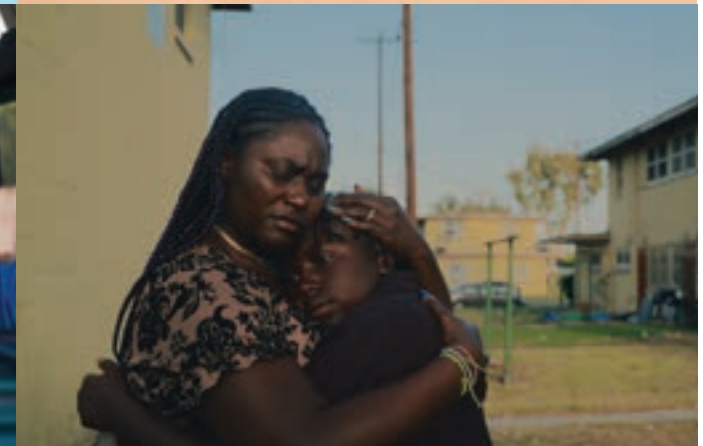


HONEYJOON

Rom-Com/Drama 75 min, 2025, Portugal

June and her Persian mom Lela travel to the Azores for a grief anniversary, with contrasting ways of coping. A charming surfer brings balance as they (and we) surf the waves of life, loss, and flirting. An unforgettable ride for anyone who lives with loss. For anyone who wants to feel free. For anyone who has tried, and failed, to flirt.

Saturday, April 25 at 4:30 pm | Zinema 1



IF I GO WILL THEY MISS ME

Fantasy/Drama, 92 min, 2026, USA

12-year-old Lil Ant transforms his working-class neighborhood beneath the LAX flight path into a living mythology, where family members become gods. As he searches for connection with his god-like yet conflicted father, he finds support in his close-knit community that helps him reconcile myth and reality.

Friday, April 24 at 9:30 pm | Zinema 1

Feature Films



Filmmaker Attending!

KEEP QUIET AND FORGIVE

Documentary, 90 min, 2025, USA **MN Made**

Thirty years after being assaulted, Lizzie, an Amish woman-turned-leader, breaks her silence, igniting a movement of Amish and Mennonite survivors who challenge a deeply rooted culture of secrecy and demand accountability. Lizzie and other survivors navigate trauma, faith, and family ties to fight for healing and justice.

Saturday, April 25 at 2:00 pm | Zinema 1



Filmmaker Attending!

NI-NAADAMAADIZ: RED POWER RISING

Documentary, 90 min, 2025, Canada

Using rare footage, first-hand interviews and the recently discovered manuscript of charismatic leader, Louis Cameron, this documentary shouts out a story of Indigenous power and resilience, telling the little-known story of Anishinaabe youth who staged an armed occupation at a Kenora, Canada park in 1974.

Saturday, April 25 at 3:30 pm | The Depot



Filmmaker Attending!

SMALL TOWN GIRL

Drama, 85 min, 2026, USA **MN Made**

In a small Midwestern town in 1973, the disappearance of a 14-year-old girl unravels buried secrets, forcing an unlikely local to confront disturbing truths and implicate two suspects, only for an unexpected twist to shock the community years later.

Sunday, April 26 at 11:00 am | Zinema 1



THEYDREAM

Documentary/Animation, 90 min, 2026, Canada

TheyDream is a deeply personal documentary presented in a variety of animation styles, that examines the transformative nature of grief for the director, his mother, and other members of their tight-knit Puerto Rican family in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Thursday, April 23 at 4:30 pm | Zinema 1



Filmmakers Attending!

WHY WE DANCE

Documentary, 77 min, 2025, USA **MN Made**

On land marked by erasure and ignorance, a letter arrived in 1923 ordering hundreds of Tribal Nations to stop dancing. The Meskwaki people refused to be silenced. They organized one of the largest powwows of their time, a celebration that drew thousands from neighboring towns and Tribal Nations.

Sunday, April 26 at 11:30 am | Zinema 2



Shorts with Features

Don't miss these fabulous short films that play with feature films!



REDBIRD

Narrative, 13 min, 2023, United States

A Cherokee woman fights to protect her niece from an unlawful adoption by her white grandparents as she reckons with feeling distant from her own culture.

Plays with MEDICINE BALL (pg 6):

Saturday, April 25 at 6:00 pm | The Depot



FOLLOW YOUR FEEL GOOD: THE ART OF SARAH SEIDELMANN

Documentary, 8 min, 2024, United States

Follow Your Feel Good: The Art of Sarah Seidelmann is a short documentary about Sarah's mission to create art that "makes love visible" and how it came about.

Plays with PARALYZED BY HOPE: THE MARIA BAMFORD STORY (pg 7):

Sunday, April 26 at 2:30 pm | The Depot

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Medicare Advisor



MN

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Read full descriptions and get tickets by visiting: ZEITGEISTARTS.COM/ZMFF 15

Short Film Blocks



Filmmakers Attending!

TIME & PLACE DOC SHORTS | 99 MIN

These shorts examine our relationships to spaces, our past, and our future.

Thursday, April 23 at 5:45 pm | Zinema 2

REASONS FOR MOVING: IMMIGRANT STORIES FROM THE MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY (25 min) **MN Made**

Reasons for Moving poetically links bird migration and expert testimonies with immigrant family histories.

AT THE DOORWAY (15 min)

At the Doorway depicts Hmong women who serve as txiv neeb—spiritual healers and mediators between ancestors, spirits, and living people—in Northern Thailand.

PERISHABLE IDOL (18 min)

As the blue sky meets the surrounding seas, the native turned archaeologist Hassan Al-Failakawy returns to his abandoned island of Failaka, off the coast of Kuwait.

BACK IN NOGLIKI (21 min)

Zoya, a Sakhalin journalist and Nivkh woman, returns to Nogliki to care for her disabled mother. Recording her people's stories helps her write a book and accept her identity.

FOREVER YOUNG (20 min)

She began studying literature late in her life and debuted as a poet at 67. Now 86, her unwavering creativity fills each day with the truth of a life fully lived.



Filmmakers Attending!

COMEDY SHORTS | 85 MIN

These short films will have you giggling in your seat and begging for more!

Thursday, April 23 at 8:00 pm | Zinema 2

NINA (6 min) **MN Made**

At a remote lakeside lodge, a woman fields a steady stream of requests, small talk, and invisible expectations.

STINKY FISH (20 min)

Lucy and Barbara make for an odd pairing—forced together to play music each Sunday, but kept apart by their mutual disdain for each other.

TIME IS MONEY (12 min)

Jace, a financially challenged filmmaker, delivers packages to survive while struggling to secure funds for his first indie feature.

DON'T BURY IT (10 min)

Dumped by his girlfriend, Doug's mental health deteriorates and he begins burying his problems, quite literally, in his garden.

RING RING (12 min) **Midwest Made**

The simple mistake of tossing wedding rings into a trash compactor spirals into a fight for survival when the best man dives in after them.

DEEPLY TROUBLED (11 min) **MN Made**

12-year-old Oliver is convinced that his changing voice killed his goldfish Walter. To prevent further harm, he goes on a journey to buy a helium balloon.

GIVING MOM THE TALK (14 min)

In this literal coming-of-age film, an Indian woman gives her mom “the talk.”

Short Film Blocks



Filmmakers Attending!

HORROR SHORTS | 110 MIN

Get ready to shriek with horror, delight, and laughter at this year's collection of ooky spooky tales.

Thursday, April 23 at 9:30 pm | Zinema 1

ARSON (10 min)

Aging boy band Actual Size can't seem to reach the level of stardom they think they deserve. After biding their time they decide to sell their souls.

GOODNIGHT MY DEMONS (7 min) **MN Made**

An insomniac and anxious woman faces her fears and sleep demons as she struggles to get a good night's sleep.

DINNER TABLE SYNDROME (12 min) **MN Made**

A lonely deaf boy armed with "miracle cure" cochlear implants navigates a Thanksgiving dinner with the strangers who call themselves his family.

BUGABOO (5 min)

A woman uses a cursed doll to seek revenge on the man who wronged her.

SALT CIRCLES (21 min) **MN Made**

Betty, a high school student from a strict family, discovers that she is pregnant and finds help in an unlikely ally: Emma, her sullen goth classmate.

I SAW ESAU (19 min) **MN Made**

An unsuspecting Alpine wanderer stumbles upon an intriguing haunted mansion on a rainy night and finds himself in the center of a ribald night of creepy rhymes and riddles.

LOOKER (13 min) **Midwest Made**

Anna is inexplicably cursed to melt when not being perceived. She must go to greater and greater lengths to be seen... with terrifying consequences.

CAMP MINNESHANKA (19 min) **MN Made**

The reluctant new owner of Camp Minneshanka stumbles upon an old training video, accidentally unleashing a vengeful spirit that wants just one thing: to make a music video.



HELP US KEEP THE REELS ROLLING ON WHAT COMES NEXT

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Short Film Blocks



Filmmakers Attending!

ANIMATION SHORTS | 91 MIN

A curated mix of animations from local, national and international filmmakers.

Friday, April 24 at 5:30 pm | Zinema 2

INNER PEACE (7 min) **MN Made**

A hardworking farmer mouse discovers the joys of relaxation through the power of cheese in this charming animated short.

PINK CHRISTMAS (NOËL ROSE) (5 min)

A little pink bear arrives in the land of the polar bears. Unwelcome, he sets off in search of other friends. He meets Father Christmas, who offers him a deal...

NESTING (4 min) **Midwest Made**

A heartwarming short that follows a curious pigeon on a journey to rest in a busy urban environment.

PINHOLE AT THE EDGE OF THE EARTH (3 min) **MN Made**

A young photographer contemplates the subject and purpose of her work as she reconnects with a neglected personification of her own artistic "eye".

LIKE FRIEND, LIKE DEER (13 min)

The story of a wildlife ranger in a critical situation who kills an illegal hunter during a confrontation.

NOBODY (7 min)

A devastating airstrike shatters a family's life in Gaza. A haunting journey of survival, love, and the will to rebuild a life torn apart by tragedy.

HOLY HEAVÊNESS (9 min)

Sometimes the weight of a loved one's death becomes so overwhelming that to get rid of this weight another birth is inevitable.

THE LITTLE ANCESTOR (11 min)

An ancestral house comes to life, builds itself and unveils its long life of one hundred and fifty years.

TIMUN MAS (11 min) **Midwest Made**

The story of a miracle child born in a golden cucumber, and of a lonely widow's questionable deal with a magical ogre.

MY CHAIR (13 min) **MN Made**

Tired of being sat on, a man's chair makes its move, and the tables are turned.

BLANCHED (5 min) **MN Made**

An arrogant executive chef, Charlie, must learn to overcome the challenge of a mixed-up food order in a fine dining environment.

EEL PATROL (3 min) **MN Made**

A giant eel attacks a beach and there's only two dudes that can save the day: The Eel Patrol!

Short Film Blocks



Filmmakers Attending!

MOMENTOUS SHORTS | 94 MIN

These stories explore unexpected moments that shift future outcomes.

Friday, April 24 at 8:00 pm | Zinema 2

SHOOT, SHOVEL, AND SHUT UP (15 min) **Midwest Made**

When a struggling family's future depends on selling their farm, teenage son Andy must decide whether to save a rare bird that threatens the deal or bury the truth.

RUUNTA (15 min) **MN Made**

A portrait of a young Somali man fighting to live his truth, torn between who he is expected to be and who he knows he is, in a city that knocks him down and lifts him up.

SUPERCONSCIOUS (22 min) **MN Made**

In 1973, a study in clairvoyance begins to unravel as the participants test the limits of what can be discovered with "psi" energy.

THE SEVENTH TURN (19 min) **MN Made**

An allegory about the psychological violence of gaslighting, the fragile space between perception and reality, and the redemption of self-belief.

UNFRAYED (8 min)

A woman on the run stumbles into a camp late in the dead of night desperate to find sanctuary but instead finds an unlikely ally.

FIREWALL (15 min)

Ani, an Iranian-American girl in Texas, longs for her father, lost and unreachable due to an internet firewall in politically turbulent Iran.



Filmmakers Attending!

INDIGENOUS SHORTS | 110 MIN

Explore storytelling from this year's Indigenous and First Nation filmmakers.

Saturday, April 25 at 12:00 pm | The Depot

ONE: A SPOKEN WORD (7 min)

Based on my multi-part spoken-word piece about the time Crazy Horse visited me at my apartment.

CORN HUSK DOLL (14 min)

The story of a young, beautiful girl who neglects her community responsibilities and slowly begins to turn into a corn husk doll with no face.

RIPPLE EFFECTS (5 min) **MN Made**

A powerful short film that explores the deep and irreplaceable connection between clean water and Minnesota's communities, culture, and future.

FACING THE STORM: MAZASKA TALKS (12 min)

Mazaska Talks explores the rise of the divestment movement in Seattle as part of the strategy to fight the Dakota Access Pipeline.

BLUE SILENCE (7 min)

A beach day follows Jaci, a troubled teenager, embarking on a journey of self-discovery of the freedom found within the ocean waters.

THE BOOM (12 min) **MN Made**

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

NOTHING IS HERE. (4 min)

Summer Wetherby just wants to be a kid and hang out with her friends, but she is given responsibilities she isn't old enough to have and it is taking a toll on her.

COYWOLF (15 min) **Midwest Made**

Jaime walks home and finds more than he was looking for after a night of too many drinks and microaggressions.

LET MY PEOPLE GO SKIING (18 min)

Confronted with the frustration of false narratives and intergenerational trauma, Tlingit skier and scientist Ellen Bradley returns to her traditional homelands in Southeast Alaska.

ISH MEETS A MERMAID (16 min) **MN Made**

An artist in a slump meets a mysterious woman from a realm beneath Lake Superior and finds success in the last place he ever expected.

Short Film Blocks



Filmmakers Attending!

STUDENT SHOWCASE SHORTS | 77 MIN

Showcasing the talents of student filmmakers from across the Midwest and beyond.

Saturday, April 25 at 12:30 pm | Zinema 2

SILVER BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY (3 min) **MN Media Arts School**

The Silver Bay Public Library is not a “quiet” library!

MY PEOPLE (10 min) **MN Made**

In early 2025, Cleveland Cliffs announced that over 600 Iron Range steelworkers were set to be laid off.

FRAGMENTS (6 min) **MN Made**

An experimental film on the divide between Mother Nature and the man-made.

FOUNDATIONS TO LEARN, PLAY & GROW (2 min) **MN Media Arts School**

The story of the outsized impact children’s sections play in local public libraries and how these spaces should be preserved and improved upon.

TIMUN MAS (11 min) **Midwest Made**

The story of a miracle child born in a golden cucumber, and of a lonely widow’s questionable deal with a magical ogre.

GHOSTLY SURPRISE (2 min) **MN Made MN Media Arts School**

The kids are minding their own business at their local library when all of a sudden they begin to experience ghostly things...

NESTING (4 min) **Midwest Made**

A heartwarming short that follows a curious pigeon on a journey to rest in a busy urban environment.

“JUST LISTEN” (12 min) **MN Made**

The story of a drummer who gave up his passion, but his history catches up to him after uncovering the truth of his past.

BLANCHED (5 min) **MN Made**

An arrogant executive chef, Charlie, must learn to overcome the challenge of a mixed-up food order in a fine dining environment.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB HORROR (7 min) **MN Media Arts School**

When their teacher mysteriously vanishes, DASH Filmmaking Camp students explore the historic school to find what happened to him.

FINDING RHYTHM (3 min)

Amid the pressure of his band’s debut performance, a drummer strains to keep time and rhythm under the scrutiny of an unforgiving audience.

REVOLUTION (3 min)

After a simple command crosses a line, one boy becomes witness to a revolution that he never meant to start.

EEL PATROL (3 min) **MN Made**

A giant eel attacks a beach, and there’s only two dudes that can save the day: The Eel Patrol!

PINK CHRISTMAS (NOËL ROSE) (5 min)

A little pink bear arrives in the land of the polar bears. Unwelcome, he sets off in search of other friends. He meets Father Christmas, who offers him a deal...

Short Film Blocks



Filmmakers Attending!

OUR STORIES | 96 MIN

Highlighting stories from filmmakers across Minnesota.

Saturday, April 25 at 2:35 pm | Zinema 2

MY PEOPLE (10 min) **MN Made**

In early 2025, Cleveland Cliffs announced that over 600 Iron Range steelworkers were set to be laid off. This short doc speaks with two miners who were affected.

MEMORIALIZING THE MOVEMENT (24 min) **MN Made**

The story of Leesa Kelly and her team as they attempt to collect and preserve the globally recognized protest art in Minneapolis following the murder of George Floyd.

CLAIRE BIKES (11 min) **MN Made**

Two people, one homeless and one not, share a brief connection while fixing a bike together one night in the Twin Cities.

I & ME (10 min) **MN Made**

In order to "heal" Sam must embrace her inner Me and kill her I.

ELSKAN (7 min) **MN Made**

Elskan explores love, loyalty, and the weight of tradition.

TEB CHAW (LAND) (11 min) **MN Made**

An immersive portrait of Hmong refugee farmers transforming local foodways in a diversified Minnesota—home to one of the largest populations of the Hmong diaspora.

CORNFIELDS (8 min) **MN Made**

In his debut documentary, a professional cornfield photographer reveals the methods and purpose behind his life's work.

INNER PEACE (7 min) **MN Made**

A hardworking farmer mouse discovers the joys of relaxation through the power of cheese in this charming animated short.

BETTER WATCH OUT (9 min) **MN Made**

When Santa's top elves learn a disturbing secret about Santa, they are forced to make a difficult decision for the sake of the world's children.



Filmmakers Attending!

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS | 91 MIN

A collection of short docs that take us around the world to explore stories near and far.

Saturday, April 25 at 5:00 pm | Zinema 2

CRISIS (31 min) **MN Made**

With U.S. healthcare in flux, Minnesota has become a frontline in the fight for universal care.

ADAS FALASTEEN (8 min)

The story of a Palestinian chef and his role in using his hobby as a shield against the famine caused by the war on Gaza.

THE DAY IS NOT LOST (15 min) **MN Made**

As the call to prayer echoes throughout the village, a cold January day becomes a poetic meditation on tradition and transformation high in the Rhodope mountains of Bulgaria.

WHERE THE WIND TAKES YOU (12 min)

Just 10 degrees shy of the North Pole, a sailboat captain sails North dodging icebergs, exploring remote fjords, and experiencing a close encounter with the ultimate apex predator.

THE THIRD CHILD (25 min)

Mehdi is the only hearing child in a completely deaf family. Since childhood, he has struggled with pronunciation and speech due to his family's circumstances. Now, he is on a new path to become a professional voice actor and dubbing artist.

Meet the Team

FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING

Vera Bianchini, Festival & Minnesota Media Arts School Director
Matthew Berg, Programming Director
Elizabeth Chatelain, Film Competitions Programmer
Khayman Goodsky, Indigenous Programmer
Kelly Florence, Horror Programmer
Megan McGarvey, Guest Programmer

FESTIVAL OPERATIONS

Matthew Dressel, Technical Director
Jessica Peters, Project Manager
Blake Thomas, Teatro Tech
Campbell Florence, Projectionist
Agatha Pokrzywinski, Volunteer Manager
Annika Hansen, Ticketing Assistant
Lindsey Bergen, House Manager
Katie Lindow, House Manager

FESTIVAL MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

Heather Drangin, Marketing Manager
Sydney Carlino, Social Media Manager
Kelsey Kramer, Marketing Assistant
Shelbie Swogger, Outreach Coordinator
Jonathan Thunder, Poster Artist
Matthew Berg, Festival Guide Designer

FESTIVAL MEDIA TEAM

Asher Carlson, Media Team Manager
Billie Jo Laitinen, Festival Photographer
Megan Salmela, Festival Photographer

FESTIVAL MEDIA TEAM INTERNS

Alison Armstrong, Jack Gilbert, Ryan Marshall,
Peter Petracek, Cheyanne Warner

SCREENING TEAM

Andy Sell, August Turner, Avery Wageman, Brian Gilbert, Charlie Jacobs, Chris Walters, Christian Iversen, Christina Goltare, Dain Black, Deano Pape, Ed McGee, Erin VanGuilder, Heather Trieschmann, Henry Johnson, Isabella Zizi, Jay Krajic, John Cox, John Watt, Katelyn Kirchberg, Kendra Shoemaker, Lori Sam, LuAnn Alsleben, Lynn Johansen, Marlana Boedigheimer, Matthew Bachman, Mickey Pearson, Miles Burger, Morgan Reardon, Morgan Vee, Nicole Straub, Reanna Madson, Sadie Willkomm, Tylar Frame

ZEITGEIST EXECUTIVE TEAM

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

ZEITGEIST OPERATIONS

Stevie Twining, Financial & Facilities Manager
Jill Bellefeuille, Patron Services Manager
Jessica Peters, Project Manager

ZEITGEIST MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

Heather Drangin, Marketing Manager

ZEITGEIST LIVE THEATER

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

ZEITGEIST COMMUNITY TEAM

Andrea Crouse, Community Placemaking Manager
Vyen Hayag, Zeitgeist GreenCorps
Cyndy Klinsiek, Age-Friendly Outreach Specialist

ZEITGEIST RESTAURANT

Cody Packingham, Executive Chef
Layla Packingham, Front of House Manager
Jon Schelander, Bar Manager

ZEITGEIST BOX OFFICE STAFF

Lauren Dargontina, Heiko Edwardson, Annika Hansen,
Henry Kneiszel, Griffin Woolverton

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