

**APRIL 2-12, 2025** 



When realities bend and stories bloom, anything feels possible.

CCFF.CO



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## WELCOME TO THE 15TH ANNUAL

# CAPITAL CZTY FILM FESTIVAL

When realities bend and stories bloom, anything feels possible.

From breathtaking films that will transport you to new worlds to soul-stirring music, and poetry that makes you feel every word — the Capital City Film Festival is a journey of creativity and community connection. And this 15th edition is a remarkable one.

Thank you to all of our filmmakers, artists, poets, partners, venues, volunteers, sponsors and of course, the capital city for supporting the festival all of these years. Your involvement allows the festival to continue serving its purpose.

<3 CCFF team





# TICKETS

Red Carpet Premiere Party \$30
Opening & Closing Night Films \$10
All Other Film Events\$5
Special Events FREE-\$10
All-Access Pass \$50
Patron Pass\$100
The CCFF all-access pass includes admission to ALL film

screenings, concerts, and parties. The patron pass includes all that plus unlimited free popcorn (and a donation!) Passes available at ccff.co and at the door.

# VENUES

#### CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 215 N CAPITOL AVE, LANSING, MI 48933

## STAGE ONE

2200 LAKE LANSING RD, LANSING, MI 48912

### IMPRESSION 5 EXPANSION 220 MUSEUM DR, LANSING, MI 48933

THE ROBIN THEATRE 1105 S. WASHINGTON AVE. LANSING, MI 48910

THE AVENUE 2021 E MICHIGAN AVE, LANSING, MI 48912

## **IMPRESSION 5 SCIENCE CENTER**

200 MUSEUM DR, LANSING, MI 48933



View map and get directions at CCFF.CO/map



# **2025 SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

+ 2:30PM	Panel: The New Wave or Entertainment	Central United Methodist Church
<b>+</b> 4:00PM	Opening Night Happy Hour	Central United Methodist Church
6:00PM	Opening Night Feature: OBEX	Central United Methodist Church
★ 7:30PM	Growth Vol. 3 with Jahshua Smith & Friends	The Robin Theatre
8:15PM	'Just a Vibe' Shorts	Central United Methodist Church

## THURSDAY, APRIL 3

ŧ,	6:00PM	Red Carpet Premiere Party	Central United Methodist Church
⊛	6:00PM	Mood Reels	Central United Methodist Church

## FRIDAY, APRIL 4

8 6:00PM	The Compatriots	Central United Methodist Church
8 6:00PM	The Accidental Spy	Impression 5 Expansion
8 6:00PM	'Film Imitates Life' Shorts	Stage One
★ 7:00PM	Ten Pound Fiddle Presents: Tim Eriksen	The Robin Theatre
8:30PM	Absurdly Funny Shorts	Central United Methodist Church
8:30PM	CCFF x Filmetry	Impression 5 Expansion
🛞 8:30PM	Goodbye Julia	Stage One
🛞 10:45PM	Eraserhead	Central United Methodist Church

## SATURDAY, APRIL 5

+	11:00AM	Workshop: 'Folk Music in Film' w/ Tim Eriksen	The Robin Theatre
⊛	1:00PM	Valensole 1965	Impression 5 Expansion
⊛	1:00PM	ReelAbilities Shorts	Stage One
۲	3:30PM	Animated Shorts	Central United Methodist Church
۲	3:30PM	True Believer	Impression 5 Expansion
⊛	3:30PM	Water Lilies	Stage One
⊛	6:00PM	Quality Scary Presents: Final Destination	Central United Methodist Church
⊛	6:00PM	'Forbidden Futures' Shorts	Impression 5 Expansion
⊛	6:00PM	Tell The About Us	Stage One
⊛	8:30PM	Vampire Zombiesfrom Space!	Central United Methodist Church
⊛	8:30PM	Global Shorts	Impression 5 Expansion
⊛	8:30PM	Can I Get A Witness?	Stage One
*	9:00PM	All Dolled Up ft. Mother Cell and moistbreezy	The Avenue
69	10:30PM	'Unraveling Sanity' Shorts	Central United Methodist Church

## SUNDAY, APRIL 6

<b>⊛</b> 1:00P	M The Palestine Exception	Stage One
⊛ 4:00F	M Sneak Preview: The Invisible Ma	ammal Stage One
★ 6:00F	M Symphonic Cinema	Central United Methodist Church

#### 2025 SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE FILM \* MUSIC + MORE/INTERACTIVE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 + 6:00PM **Exploring Environmental Justice Shorts** Central United Methodist Church 6:00PM Maxxie LaWow: Drag Super-shero Stage One 69 8:00PM **MSU Student Shorts** Central United Methodist Church 8:15PM **Bring Them Home** Stage One **THURSDAY, APRIL 10** 6:00PM Vulcanizadora **Central United Methodist Church** ★ 7:30PM CCFF x The Robin Theatre Present: Whorled The Robin Theatre 8:00PM Fortnight Top Films Screening & Awards **Central United Methodist Church** + 9:30PM Filmmaker + Artist Afterglow **Central United Methodist Church** FRIDAY, APRIL 11 5:00PM **Black Metropolis and Phlo** The Robin Theatre 5:30PM **Kill Will Central United Methodist Church** 69 5:45PM 'Pride in Motion' Shorts Impression 5 Expansion 8:00PM Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano Impression 5 Expansion Micro Budget 8:15PM Central United Methodist Church 🛨 9:00PM **CCFF Presents: Love Effect** The Avenue The Royal Tenenbaums Central United Methodist Church 60 10:30PM SATURDAY, APRIL 12 69 10:00AM **Family Friendly Shorts** Impression 5 Science Center @ 10:30AM Fortnight Next Best Films **Central United Methodist Church** 🛞 10:30AM American Film Institute Shorts Stage One + 11:00AM Workshop: Illustration & Comics w/ Tim Fielder The Robin Theatre 12:00PM The Prospect **Central United Methodist Church** 69 1:00PM **Documentary Shorts** Stage One 69 1:30PM **Afrofuturist Short Films & Conversation** The Robin Theatre 69 3:10PM Move Ya Body: The Birth of House The Robin Theatre 69 3:15PM 6 AM Central United Methodist Church 69 3:30PM Your Tomorrow Stage One 69 5:25PM Boys Go to Jupiter Central United Methodist Church 69 5:30PM 'Tear Jerker' Shorts Stage One @ 7:30PM **Closing Night Feature: Firebreak** Central United Methodist Church

★ 9:00PM Atmosphere Stunt: Official CCFF Afterparty The Avenue





CAPITAL CITY FILM FESTIVAL



## PANEL: THE NEW WAVE OF ENTERTAINMENT - CREATORS RESHAPING MEDIA

IN COLLABORATION WITH LEAP

As entertainment consumption shifts from only traditional TV and film, content creators are building massive audiences through social platforms. This panel brings four local creators with millions of combined followers together to discuss the art and business of digital storytelling. They'll reveal what it takes to stand out, the realities of making a living in this space, and where the future of entertainment is headed.

PANELISTS: GxAce, Kierra Lanice, Shanell Henry & Ashley Medina

PANEL 2:30 PM | Central United Methodist Church | FREE

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## **OPENING NIGHT HAPPY HOUR**

Our doors are officially open. Come chill and have a beverage with us before the Opening Night Feature: OBEX

#### DOORS

4:00 PM | Central United Methodist Church | FREE



## **OPENING NIGHT FEATURE: OBEX**

2025 | United States | English | 90 min | Albert Birney

Conor Marsh lives a secluded life with his dog, Sandy, until one day he begins playing OBEX, a new, state-ofthe-art computer game. When Sandy goes missing, the line between reality and game blurs and Conor must venture into the strange world of OBEX to bring her home.

"Baltimore-based writer-director Albert Birney (Strawberry Mansion, 2021 Sundance Film Festival) returns with another delightfully skewed and surreal lo-fi fantasy. Set in pre-internet 1987 and strikingly shot in monochromatic black and white, the film depicts Conor's (Birney) lonely existence of solitary screen time, transfixed by early Macs with slowly rendering graphics and TVs aglow with the horror movie late show. Matching these hypnotic images, Birney immerses us in a dense soundscape of warm droning synths, clacking keyboards, malevolent static, chirping cicadas, and the click and whine of dot matrix printers. The film's dreamy nostalgia soon becomes an analog nightmare as Conor finds himself trapped in a low-tech but high-stakes video game. Audacious and uncanny, OBEX revisits the dawn of personal computing to reflect on the loneliness of our alwaysonline present." — Matt Cornell, Sundance Film Festival

insta: @oscopelabs

SHOWING 6:00 PM | Central United Methodist Church | \$10

Pre-Feature Short continued on next page >



# PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER PROTEUS

2024 | United States | English | 12 min | Tanner Hamilton

Two stranded astronauts descend into paranoia and madness after a mysterious deep-space accident.

insta: @ravinesfilmcollective



## GROWTH VOL. 3 WITH JAHSHUA SMITH AND FRIENDS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ROBIN THEATRE
Music

The soulful variety show returns to The Robin Theatre starring poet and hip-hop educator Jahshua Smith along with a cast of talented friends.

Limited space available - please RSVP to reserve your spot (CCFF passholders included!)

DOORS 7:30 PM | The Robin Theatre | FREE





## **'JUST A VIBE' SHORTS**

6 Films in this Shorts Program | 96 min

What's that emotion you can feel without words? What's that mood that comes from the atmosphere? There's something about the world that these filmmakers have captured, but whatever it is, it's just a vibe.

#### SHOWING

8:15 PM | Central United Methodist Church NOTE: This program contains a film with the Content Warning: Self-Harm

## FACE VALUE

Dark Comedy | 2024 | United States | English | 11 min | Ariel Elmann, Jack Terzi

Avi, a fledgling ticket scalper, juggles his strained relationships, a special date, and floor seats to the hottest Knicks game.

## ALLEYWAYS

Coming of Age, Drama, Social Justice | 2024 | United States | English | 9 min | Beck Espiritu

A teenage boy (Espiritu) is facing transphobia toward his best friend (Wohlwend Zegri) and has no idea how to come face-to-face with the situation.



## YOU CAN'T BEAT THE FEELING!

2024 | Iran, Islamic Republic of | Persian | 7 min | Mohammad Hossein Khodabandelou

A former Coca-Cola teaser actor finds himself addicted to Coca-Cola and involved in everyday life and remembers his past, the beginning of his inquietude.

## THE NEWCOMER

Drama, Experimental, Psychological Thriller | 2024 | Canada | English | 14 min | Zoe Cleland CONTENT WARNING: Self-Harm

Amy forges an intense bond with the ghost in her apartment, risking the erosion of her own identity.

## ASPIRATION

Drama | 2024 | France | English | 5 min | Stéphane Mandelkern

Depressed, a young girl wanders the city, facing alone her despair. As she hits bottom, someone comes to meet her.

## PONCE DE LEON

Fantasy | 2024 | United States | English | 15 min | Sammie Hottel

Exiled to a remote villa to spend the summer with her great aunt, a disconnected teen girl uncovers a dark secret surrounding the mysterious fountain flowing in the property's gardens.

## DREAM NOW REVOLUTION TOMORROW

2024 | Italy | Italian | 9 min | Francesco Manzato

A punk angel appears to the maid of a luxury hotel, and for a moment a small revolution seems possible. But how long can a dream last? insta: @gorrilladistribution

## THE WIND WILL CARRY HER

LGBTQIA+, Mystery, Poetry | 2024 | Canada | French | 26 min | Renaud Gélinas

Mother of a 6 year-old, Camille runs away from her daily life and meets Léa, a young musician who sings at a restaurant at night. They develop a particular relationship after talking about their families and their respective escapes.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 3



# RED CARPEN PREMERE PURCHARTY

Here it is. The excuse you've been looking for to dress to the nines and take your next holiday card photo. Join us for our Red Carpet Premiere Party as we kick off the 2025 festival! Fancy clothes, cocktails, music, your favorite people and professional photos on a real red carpet to embrace your inner movie star. You'll feel like the most famous person in mid-Michigan.

Appetizers will be provided. Drinks available for purchase.

This year, we're bringing a unique twist to the celebration with a mix of vibey, experimental, 'Mood Reels' displayed on mounted screens throughout the venue. Immerse yourself in a world of captivating visual and audio media as you explore these one-of-a-kind works.

#### PARTY DEETS

6:00-10:00 PM | Central United Methodist Church | \$20 in advance or \$30 at the door. Entry is included with a CCFF all-access pass!





## MOOD REELS

9 Films in this Shorts Program | 97 min

Immerse yourself in a world of captivating visual and audio media as you explore one-of-a-kind 'mood reels.' These experiential works will be displayed throughout the venue during the Red Carpet Premiere Party.

#### SHOWING

6:00 PM on loop | Central United Methodist Church

# THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND KILOMETERS PER SECOND

2024 | France | 16 min | Clément Courcier

A woman stands at her window, staring out into the summer night, when a luminous body enters and bursts into the atmosphere. Time is suspended, and the woman takes a journey through space and time, at three hundred thousand kilometres per second...

## CHIMERA: PHYLOGENESIS

Experimental | 2024 | United States | English | 13 min | Okyoung Noh

Can AAPI women in solidarity, as connected foreign debris, evolve into a new creature – a Chimera? The performance film explores these questions through an immersive sound/optics environment. insta: @art\_okyoung Mood Reels continued >

## MYSELF TWO SECONDS TO CRY

Experimental, Music Video, Poetry | 2025 | United States | English | 16 min | Erik Sutch

The digital presence left by people I knew who died young has vanished. Songs they uploaded, photo albums, public diary entries, all deleted and all that's left is generic obituaries. When I think of these people, I think of a place. With two cameras, I'm capturing the outline of a memory we shared there in past and in present.

## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF G

Experimental, Environmental | 2024 | Canada | English | 20 min | Ian Johnston

Inspired by Ursula Franklin's concepts of holistic and prescriptive technologies, the piece examines how adaptive, individual-centered processes contrast with rigid, conformitydriven systems that increasingly shape human experience. The work layers this with Iain McGilchrist's exploration of the brain's left and right hemispheres, drawing parallels between the dominance of the analytical, prescriptive left hemisphere and society's shift toward mechanization, control, and efficiency.

## DO NOT FEED THE PIGEONS

Dark Comedy, Horror | 2024 | United States | 3 min | Zahm Waters

An orgiastic mutant monster post-modern pop art pigeonfueled horror apocalypse!!! insta: @brianzahm

## LOST DREAMS

Experimental | 2024 | United States | English | 10 min | Andrew Wakeman Proctor

Lost Dreams is an experimental film which explores the idea that when we sleep we edit our dreams, and, in the context of this film, what is being edited is the idea of the free world of the artist to create and the consumption world of modern society. With consumption and greed does the artist still exist? Conflicting worlds a dreamer might explore in one night's sleep.

## FAITH

Music Video | 2024 | 5 min | Zachary A Clark

THURSDAY, APRIL 3



## VIRTUAL PHASES

Music Video | 2024 | United States | 10 min | Adam Benjamin Fung, Nick Bontrager

Discarded items such as old fabric, scrap metal, foil blankets, and crumpled paper created cave-like scenes that were filmed with a specialty probe lens to further enhance the unusual qualities of these imagined locations. We were invited to create a video to pair with Till MacIvor Meyn's new composition, which was a lovely collaborative process resulting in Virtual Phases.

## SHAPED

#### Environmental, Mystery | 2024 | Taiwan | 4 min | Hsin-Ju Wu

Shaped is an animation about modern life phenomena. The protagonist, Shanshan, enters a glass cup, experiencing various degrees of influence and uncontrollable changes. After a brief escape, he still chooses to return to this cycle.





# THE COMPATRIOTS

Drama, LGBTQIA+, Social Justice | 2024 | United States | English, Spanish | 94 min | Spencer Cohen

Javi, an undocumented immigrant facing imminent deportation, unexpectedly reunites with his longlost best friend, Hunter, a vivacious bachelor seeking deeper connections. Together, they embark on a heartfelt journey to prevent Javi's expulsion from the only country he has ever called home. insta: @thecompatriotsfilm

#### SHOWING

6:00 PM | Central United Methodist Church

## PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER

Coming of Age, Drama, Outdoors | 2024 | United States | English, Spanish | 15 min | Miguel Angel Hernandez, Tessa Elizabeth Osborne CONTENT WARNING: Self-Harm

Mateo, an 18 year old from Mexico, fights his way through challenges that arise in a place (Grand Rapids) he would describe as dull. He works as a part-time cashier and commercial photographer for Supermercado Mexico. While living in a house that's constantly throwing parties, he feels lost and is tempted to leave his dreams for America behind by retreating back to Morelia, Mexico. With the help of his friends Aliyah (Gabi Salazar) and Dbo (Brian Shannon) he finds a new perspective. insta: @pictures\_rice





## THE ACCIDENTAL SPY

Documentary | 2024 | United States | English | 97 min | Anthony Wonke

Days after 9/11, Blerim Skoro was recruited from a Manhattan prison by the CIA. For over a decade, he was America's infidel mole, roaming the Middle East as a spy deep inside al-Qaeda. Blerim lived in constant danger amongst terrorists, leaking intelligence to the US government in the desperate hope of getting a Green Card and a ticket back to his family in Brooklyn. The Accidental Spy is the story of how one man became tangled in a complex geo-political web, how he risked everything to protect his family, and how he was cruelly betrayed by the country he strived to defend.

#### SHOWING

6:00 PM | Impression 5 Expansion

#### PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER CROSSING LAKE ERIE

Adventure, Documentary, Outdoors | 2024 | English | 6 min | Samuel D Nykamp

Local swimmer Bryan Huffman sets out on a journey to raise money to provide kids with swim lessons by swimming across Lake Erie. insta: @samuelnykamp



## FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE 'FILM IMITATES LIFE' SHORTS

6 Films in this Shorts Program | 96 min

Every film was once a story waiting to be told. Whether they come from a lived experience or the mind of a writer, these shorts hold up a mirror that lets us learn more about ourselves and each other.

SHOWING 6:00 PM | Stage One

## RERUN

Narrative, Romance | 2024 | United States | English | 9 min | Meredith Dobbs

Struggling after a breakup, a young woman crafts elaborate fantasies of running into her ex, which her best friend helpfully shatters with doses of reality.

## AN OLD FRIEND

Drama, Fantasy | 2025 | United States | English | 14 min | Nuk Suwanchote

An imaginary friend (Jason Faunt) finds out his sole purpose is to bring happiness to his child, only to discover his child is a 90 year old man (Tom Skerritt) on his death bed. insta: @anoldfriendofficial

## THE PACT

Music Video | 2024 | United States | English | 3 min | Joel Rodgers, Patrick Marsh, Wesley Kersey, Nathan Thompkins, Isaac Maas



### LUMEN Narrative | 2023 | Canada | French | 13 min | Stéphanie Bélanger

It has been raining heavily for months and the sixth wave is depressing humanity. In this prevailing darkness, Claude, 70 years old, compulsively buys lamps online to break his solitude and bring light into his life, at any cost.

## CASTLING

Drama, LGBTQIA+ | 2024 | Italy | Italian | 10 min | Federico Yang

A young man, disappointed in human relations, moves into a tower in the middle of nowhere. However the pleasant solitude gives in to dreams of intimacy, but perhaps for the last time.

## DOMESTIC HELP

Dark Comedy, Drama, Mystery | 2023 | India | English | 20 min | Raveesh Jaiswal

Thomas, a timid clown who wasn't funny enough to make it in entertainment, gets placed in a domestic help position for Jennifer, a woman who needs assistance managing the day-to-day as she works on a never ending to-do list. Thomas is good at taking orders, but his job performance begins to suffer once he 'notices' the abandoned children in Jennifer's backyard.

## JEDO'S DEAD

Coming of Age, Drama, Fantasy, Narrative | 2023 | United States | Arabic, English | 12 min | Francesco Manzato

When a young middle-eastern girl finds her grandfather dead, she is forced to grapple with the earthly rituals and spiritual loose-ends of loss.

## NANI

Drama | 2024 | United States | Bengali, English, Spanish | 10 min | Mainak Dhar

On the last day of Ramadan, a disowned daughter takes matters into her own hands, kidnapping her bedridden grandmother from her parents' house for one final trip to the beach. insta: @nanishortfilm



## TIM ERIKSEN

PRESENTED BY THE TEN POUND FIDDLE Music

If you remember hearing sacred harp singing in the films "Cold Mountain" or "Behold the Earth," or the distinct sound of the lead vocalist of Cordelia's Dad, that is Tim Eriksen. Tim Eriksen is acclaimed for transforming American tradition with his startling interpretations of old ballads, love songs, shape-note gospel and dance tunes from New England and Southern Appalachia. He combines hair-raising vocals with inventive accompaniment on banjo, fiddle, guitar and bajo sexto – a twelve string Mexican acoustic bass – creating a distinctive hardcore Americana sound.

If you're a CCFF passholder and interested in attending this concert, please email The Robin Theatre at Dylan@ therobintheatre.com to inquire about seating availability.

#### DOORS 7:00 PM | The Robin Theatre







## FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE ABSURDLY FUNNY SHORTS

7 Films in this Shorts Program | 86 min

You'll either be rolling in your seats or picking your jaw up off the floor from the sheer, unadulterated absurdity that these comedies have to offer.

#### SHOWING

8:30 PM | Central United Methodist Church

## SANDRA

LGBTQIA+ | 2025 | United States | English | 12 min | Hannah Levy, Jen Chuck

Sandra is a surreal comedy that follows Jane (Alison Banowsky) whose banal and predictable life with her boyfriend (Andrew Knox) is upended when she finds out that a mysterious and erratic woman has been living in her basement. The film is about getting unstuck, learning to trust your intuition, and most importantly, letting your freaky side flourish. insta: @sandratheshortfilm

#### DROPPED

Coming of Age | 2024 | United States | English | 16 min | Lucy Hirschfeld

Dropped is a comedy that follows Andrew Wallace, a struggling actor who gets dropped by his agent in the middle of teaching a master class to a group of children at his Old Catholic Middle School. Between his crumbling relationship with Laura, best friend turned drama teacher, and rivalry with Bridgit, a young up-and-coming actress in class who just booked a Absurdly Funny Shorts continued >

job on network television, Andrew must face his fears of failure and reconnect with his younger self who found joy in art outside of career success. insta: @droppedshort

## MY SO-CALLED IRAQI WEDDING

Coming of Age, Drama | 2024 | United States | Arabic, English | 14 min | Ayser Salman

As a child, Iraqi-American SAMIRA "SAMI" RAMSEY learned to be an incurable romantic thanks to her rom-com loving, mystical aunt. Now, on the verge of 40, Sami has finally met ADAM, her person. But never mind love, how big is the wedding? That's what her mother wants to know. And Sami finds herself sucked into the lavish, circus-like celebrations. She just needs to get through this wedding and then her life with Adam will be her own… right? My So-Called Iraqi-American Wedding asks the question, "How do you listen to your own heart when everything around you is so damn loud?" insta: @myiraqiweddingfilm

## CAT CUSTODY

Comedy, Romance | 2024 | United States | English | 4 min | Kyle Dubiel

After his partner breaks up with him, a man fights to retain custody of their cats. insta: @kyledubiel

## CIRCLE CIRCLE CIRCLE CIRCLE

Dark Comedy, Horror | 2024 | United States | English | 12 min | Katherine Skelton, Libby Ewing

Four grieving friends gather to release the past year and their night takes a wildly unexpected turn. insta: @circlecirclecirclecircle\_film

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY A LANDLINE?

2024 | United States | English | 10 min | Shane Hillier

Desperate to move up in the world, two accident prone sheet music store employees quit their jobs to pursue an equally irrelevant career path as door to door landline telephone salesmen. Originally made as part of the 2024 Easterseals Disability Film Challenge.

## A FIELD GUIDE TO SASQUATCH STRUCTURES (AND OTHER SERIOUS SIGNS)

2024 | United States | English | 18 min | Joe Van Auken

CAPITAL CITY FILM FESTIVAL



Twoops has dedicated his life to "Squatching," - searching the woods for evidence of the Sasquatch. When two young women hire him as a tour guide with the intent to mock him, they all find something much worse than they bargained for.



# FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE

FILMETRY: A Festival of Poetry and Film is an annual collaborative art-making endeavor that pairs filmmakers with poets to create exciting new pieces of work. This year's theme is EKPHRASIS: Poems About Art. Pre-selected poems were paired with filmmakers for adaptation. The only rule is that filmmakers must include the text of the poem in full.

#### SHOWING

8:30 PM | Impression 5 Expansion | FREE

"My Mother in Dali Vision" film by Olivia York

"Digital" film by Pete Johnston

"Monet's 'Winter on the Seine, Lavacourt'" film by Ronnie Ferguson "Bigfoot Takes His Wife to Mount Rushmore for Their Honeymoon" film

by Matt Mullins

"Self-Portrait With Head and Hands, 1951" film by Kyle Johnson

"Vanitas" film by Charles Olsen

"Beyond the Shore" film by Lexi Smith

"Lincoln Town Car" film by Evelyn Ansari, Riya Patchava, and Parker Beavens

"Seeing Like Cézanne" film by Max Watkins and Naomi Perkins

"Lake Michigan: Sea and Rain" film by Joe Johnston



# FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE

2023 | Sudan | Arabic | 119 min | Mohamed Kordofani

Wracked by guilt after covering up a murder, Mona a northern Sudanese retired singer in a tense marriage tries to make amends by taking in the deceased's southern Sudanese widow, Julia, and her son, Daniel into her home. Unable to confess her transgressions to Julia, Mona decides to leave the past behind and adjust to a new status quo, unaware that the country's turmoil may find its way into her home and put her face to face with her sins. This film is executive produced by Lupita Nyong'o.

#### SHOWING

8:30 PM | Stage One

#### PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER

#### LAPSE Horror, Narrative | 2023 | United States | English | 6 min | Katie Colwell

A star competitive swimmer blacks out alone one night in the pool-the same pool a dead body is found in the next morning.





## ERASERHEAD

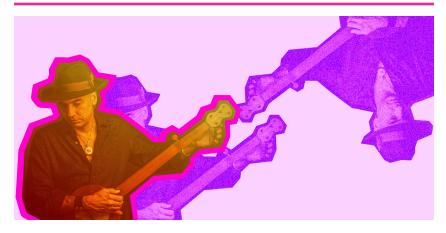
Dark Comedy, Fantasy, Horror | 1977 | English | 89 min | David Lynch

Henry Spencer tries to survive his industrial environment, his angry girlfriend, and the unbearable screams of his newborn mutant child.

This special screening is a tribute to the indelible mark that visionary director David Lynch left on the filmmaking community.

#### SHOWING 10:45 PM | Central United Methodist Church





## "FOLK MUSIC IN FILM" WORKSHOP WITH TIM ERIKSEN

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ROBIN THEATRE
Workshop

Tim Eriksen is acclaimed for transforming American tradition with his startling interpretations of old ballads, love songs, shape-note gospel and dance tunes from New England and Southern Appalachia.

This workshop, addressed to absolute beginners and more experienced singers alike, begins with the basics of the human voice and group singing and includes an introduction to reading shape-note music, notes on important aspects of history, traditional practice and lots of full-on singing. No prior experience required.

#### WORKSHOP 11:00 AM | The Robin Theatre | FREE





## U.S. PREMIERE VALENSOLE 1965

2024 | France | French | 85 min | Dominique Filhol

France, Valensole, 1965. Based on a true story, Maurice Masse, a farmer, discovers a UFO in his lavender field that takes off at an astonishing speed, leaving traces on the ground.

#### SHOWING

1:00 PM | Impression 5 Expansion

## PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER GEEZERS

Documentary | 2023 | United States | English | 13 min | Jason Cooper

The "Geezer Happy Hour" is Ann Arbor's hottest event - especially for the over 70 crowd. Every Friday, from 6p to 9p, a graying generation pull on their dance shoes and rock out to a live band like its 1968. At the center of it all is Randy Tessier. Not only does he organize the event, he's a frequent performer. Randy's been in bands since he was a teenager, but never quite made the big time. Now in his 70s, Randy's getting some of the attention he's long sought, and determined to keep rocking as long as he can. In the wake of the tragic loss of his son, Randy needs the music, and the Geezers, more than ever.





## FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE REELABILITIES SHORTS

7 Films in this Shorts Program | 113 min

ReelAbilities celebrates disability, promotes inclusion, and advances accessibility through film. The short films in this program have been curated in partnership with the ReelAbilities Film Festival. This screening is sponsored by Good Fruit Video.

#### SHOWING

1:00 PM | Stage One ASL interpretation will be provided for this event

## DUNGEONS, GOBLINS AND BROCCOLI

2022 | Australia | English | 9 min | Dan Sanguineti

A group of avid Dungeons and Dragons players embarks on their next quest, but their game takes a turn when a newcomer arrives. Distracted by her presence, the players become embroiled in a competition for her attention, but how far will they go to win her hand?

## TO MY FATHER

2023 | United States | ASL, English | 23 min | Sean Schiavolin

In March 2022, Troy Kotsur became the first Deaf man to win the Best Supporting Actor Academy Award for CODA. During his emotional acceptance speech, Troy paid tribute to his dad, his "hero." To My Father is the story of Troy's father's influence on him beyond the speech that moved millions.



#### DONALD 2023 | United States | English | 9 min | Dylan S. Tuccillo

A dancer moves with his wheelchair in surprising ways, pushing the art form's boundaries, as he prepares for a live performance.

## BEAR

2023 | United Kingdom | English | 11 min | Kate Hammer

Jude, a neurodivergent creative, tries her best to fit into a typical world. While desperately in need of a job, an already tense interview is made even worse by the fact that no one wants to mention the bear in the room.

## WORKING DIFFERENTLY

2023 | United Kingdom | English | 24 min | Hannah Currie

Through a series of interviews with crew and established industry figures, we are exposed to the importance of accessibility and inclusion within the film and television industry and shown why this should become the industry standard.

## DEAF GIANTS

2023 | United States | English | 9 min | Peter Hoffman Kimball

Baseball-loving 10-year-old Bracken and his younger deaf brother investigate the contrast between early 1900s inclusion of deaf players in baseball and the present, seeking to understand why representation has regressed.

## PORTRAITS OF POPPY

2025 | United States | English | 28 min | Thomas Streed

A young woman named Poppy struggles with her crippling ADHD, her unrealized dreams of becoming a robot inventor, and the heartache of a recent breakup – but don't worry, it's funny!





## FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE ANIMATED SHORTS

16 Films in this Shorts Program | 103 min

Straight from the mind! Unlike live action filmmaking, which is limited by the physical laws of our universe, the world of animation knows no such limitations. Come be amazed and bewildered by this eclectic mix of international animation.

#### SHOWING

3:30 PM | Central United Methodist Church NOTE: While the films in this program are animated, they are not family friendly.

## **ODYSSEY EXPRESS**

Action | 2024 | Taiwan | English | 5 min | Wei-Hsiang Hsieh, Chia-Tzu Sun

Lei, who was about to transfer to a new school, felt lost about the future. By a stroke of fate, he boarded the Odyssey Express, a symbol of the unknown, and embarked on an adventure beyond imagination.

## CORE

Action, Fantasy, Sci-Fi | 2024 | Taiwan | 7 min | Yu-Hsiang Chen

Core is a 3D animation that tells the story of a factory robot who, through an unexpected event, seeks to break free and attempt to change its past. However, it encounters numerous obstacles along the way. This animation aims to inspire viewers to muster the courage to break out of their comfort zones. In the daily grind of life, making small changes can lead to unforeseen challenges. Yet, in confronting these limitations, the question arises: can we break free from the constraints that bind us?

## SATURDAY, APRIL 5 ROAD OF LUX



Adventure, Animation, Mystery | 2024 | Taiwan | 7 min | Chia-Hsun Wu

Inspired by the concept of "the road," we have created a protagonist who is a personified coal spirit. The coal spirit is motivated by the "shining light," which serves as a contrast and an attraction. Although there is a pre-planned path, the protagonist is drawn to the light encountered along the way and makes different choices compared to other coals, taking a completely different path. Despite being a dark and unremarkable entity, it has the courage to pursue its own journey. Through trials and tribulations along this journey, the dark coal transforms into a sparkling diamond, becoming its own light.

## THINKLE

Drama | 2024 | Italy | English | 6 min | Chiara Amenta, Claudia Antonioli, Enrica Carpentieri, Giorgia D'Aleo, Fabio La Gattuta, Gabriele Minotti, Bianca Santarelli

An ordinary man's journey in search of his inner well-being.

## HOLY HEAVÊNESS

2025 | Iran, Islamic Republic of | 10 min | Farnoosh Abedi Renani, Negah Khezre Fardyardad

The unbearable lightness of the death of loved ones... There are wounds in life that eat away at you like leprosy... The weight of the death of loved ones sometimes becomes so overwhelming that to get rid of this weight another birth is inevitable.

## MAKE MONEY

Fantasy | 2024 | Taiwan | 3 min | I-Chieh Teng, Tzu-Chin Chou, Yu-Fen Chen

Make Money is a three-minute 2D short animation. The story revolves around a family of three living on a grassland. The playful young boy discovers accidentally that pulling up weeds causes them to transform into various objects. Unaware of his actions, he eventually pulls up all the grass on the entire plain. As a consequence, everything familiar from the past is gone, leaving a changed landscape and circumstances.

## DAMP

Coming of Age | 2024 | Taiwan | 6 min | Xuan Liu, Ru-Sin Chang

The protagonist abandoned their dreams in the past due to an accident, and the trauma made them long afraid to confront the things they once loved. It wasn't until middle age that a chance occurrence allowed them to face their true feelings once again.

Animated Shorts continued >

## SHAPED

Environmental, Mystery | 2024 | Taiwan | 4 min | Hsin-Ju Wu

*Shaped* is an animation about modern life phenomena. The protagonist, Shanshan, enters a glass cup, experiencing various degrees of influence and uncontrollable changes. After a brief escape, he still chooses to return to this cycle

## WEAVE A DREAM

Fantasy | 2024| Taiwan | English | 6 min | Bing-Han Chen

A human girl lives with a furry doll, enjoying happy and warm times until she accidentally loses a button from the doll's body. Despite her efforts to repair it, the doll's cotton keeps leaking out, and its body gradually becomes tattered. Eventually, the doll's cotton runs out, disappearing from the girl's world. Our daily lives are made up of various emotions, but the tiny feelings are often easily forgotten. Therefore, we want to use the concept of capturing these tiny emotions in daily life as the animation's theme, highlighting the core issue: "When a beautiful memory comes to an end, leaving only loss and confusion, how do we face it?"

## AFTERTHOUGHT

2024 United States | English | 3 min | Joslyn Jude Yabut

Bun crashes Cat and Dog's wedding!? Prepare yourself for juicy drama, non-stop action, and heart clenching romance; surely the makings of what could possibly be the perfect wedding!

## AROUND U

Action, Adventure | 2024 | United States | English | 5 min | Li-Wei Chou, Yong-Qing Zhang

In the Candy Kingdom, many candy residents live, but there are rumors of residents disappearing at night. Among them, three close friends decide to find their missing friend. However, on this adventure, they will face many challenges. Will these candies overcome the difficulties and find their friend? Let's wait and see!



CAPITAL CITY FILM FESTIVAL



## SWEETSAMSARA

Adventure, Fantasy | 2024 | Taiwan | Chinese, English | 8 min | Pei-Chi Tsai

Every little piece of dough has the mission of becoming a donut from the moment it is born. Only donuts are good adults and a symbol of greatness! Under the influence of this kind of education, little dough Dobby and his classmates followed the teacher full of longing to participate in the "coming of age ceremony". However, by accident, Dobby discovered the unknown inside story behind the donut factory...

## WHO AM I?

Fantasy | 2024 | Taiwan | 4 min | Wei-Jhen Huang

The protagonist, a popular actress, unexpectedly encounters a strange stray cat in an alley, leading to a magical journey.

## NONO

Horror, Thriller | 2024 | United States | English | 4 min | Aerin Wu

After the birthday party, Nono waves goodbye to his friends. He suddenly feels very empty and disoriented. Growing up is a weird, bittersweet thing. It's worth celebrating, but it also brings so much discomfort and confusion. Nono is about those moments of surreal terror that come with growing up.

## DETLEV

Drama | 2024 | Germany | English | 13 min | Ferdinand Ehrhardt

A constantly freezing man in his forties drives to a lonely petrol station every evening and orders a microwaved Toast Hawaii. Detlev indulges in this in a bizarre ritual, because it's the only thing that warms him in his daily life. But when he is observed by a stranger one night, his world begins to crumble into shameful pieces. insta: @detlev.mov

## SHADOWS

2024 | Germany | Arabic | 12 min | Rand Beiruty

At an over crowded airport, Ahlam, a 14-year old runaway mother, fights the lurking shadows that attempt to steal the only dream that will set her free.



## TRUE BELIEVER

Documentary | 2023 | United States | English | 96 min | Kristen Irving

Born in 1981 just as the Religious Right's culture war crashed into visibility, a then evangelical filmmaker discovers the true origins of the pro-life movement. While disbelief initiates her investigation into a veiled history of white supremacy, betrayal forces a deeply personal examination of her own identity, neither of which can be disentangled from the other. As Roe is overturned and abortion bans become routine, TRUE BELIEVER is a call for reckoning for every American, but especially those within the religious subculture that threatens our very Democracy.

#### SHOWING

3:30 PM | Impression 5 Expansion

#### PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER

REINCARNATE Documentary | 2023 | United States | English | 10 min | Tabitha Blanski

A short documentary about a woman who loses her mother to cancer weeks before giving birth to her first child.





## MICHIGAN PREMIERE

# WATER LILIES

Arthouse, Drama | 2025 | Korea, Republic of | Korean | 119 min | Chanho Lee

The water lilies blooms, even in the filthiest waters. Amid the mire of selfish desires and the indifference to others' suffering, hope begins to bloom anew in the fleeting moment when we recognize the humanity within one another. Hyowon, who dreams of becoming an actress, runs away to Seoul with Eunseo, a high school dropout. The two girls step into the sprawling city with their fragile hopes, clutching at its promises like lifelines. Their first home is a basement room, dim and shabby, the air thick and heavy, but to them, it is a sanctuary, a nest of possibilities. Eunseo begins working odd jobs to keep them afloat, while Hyowon, drawn by her dream, takes on menial tasks at a theater company. They are buoyed by their own visions of tomorrow, their dreams threading through the cracks in the worn walls. Soon, Hyowon starts taking acting lessons from Suyeon, a lead actress at the theater. Suyeon's voice is steady, her words sharp: "Acting is the art of embodying another's suffering." Hyowon listens, but the weight of those words eludes her. She cannot yet grasp the depths of Eunseo's pain, nor can Eunseo fully see hers. The two drift, parallel yet apart, their lives entangled by need and longing but marred by unspoken distance. The city presses in, relentless. Their lives fracture under the strain of survival, yet questions linger in the spaces between them. What does it mean to carry someone else's sorrow? What does it mean to live with your own? For them, life is an unanswered question, fragile as the surface of water, trembling under the weight of its own reflections. insta: @oileau

### SHOWING 3:30 PM | Stage One

Pre-Feature Short continued on next page >

## PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER ARCTURUS BEAMING

Coming of Age, LGBTQIA+, Music Video | 2024 | United States | English | 5 min | Jackson Ezinga

Sam takes a road trip and discovers the beauty and the spectacle of virtual connections crossing into the real world. Set to the song Arcturus Beaming by The Crane Wives.



# QUALITY SCARY AND LANSING FACTS PRESENT: FINAL DESTINATION

Join us for the teen horror classic Final Destination while Lansing Facts and Quality Scary work to divine your Lansingspecific Final Destination death. Will you be decapitated moto-surfing under Penny? Perhaps choking on an olive burger under the Olympic Broil drive-in? Only Lansing Facts and Quality Scary can reveal your impending doom!

### SHOWING 6:00 PM | Central United Methodist Church | FREE





# FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE 'FORBIDDEN FUTURES' SHORTS

7 Films in this Shorts Program | 98 min

Technology has overtaken the world. Humanity relies on it to stay connected, and there is no end in sight to this progress. Is this the digital future we were promised, or a dystopian depiction of our reality?

### SHOWING

6:00 PM |Impression 5 Expansion NOTE: This program contains films with the Content Warnings: Self-Harm and Sexual Abuse

## 528

2024 | United States | English | 13 min | Mack Hastings, Shane Sleger

A young boy's life is thrown into new light after discovering a mysterious sound on a synthesizer.

# LOVER

Animation, Romance, Sci-Fi | 2024 | Taiwan | 5 min | Ching-Wen Yang, Shao-Hua Wang, Zhi-Kou Zhai

This story tells about the relationship between a companion robot, ALICE, and her owner, Hana. Hana, suffering from depression, often releases her stress on ALICE, causing the robot to frequently malfunction. ALICE begins to question her own emotions and purpose, but ultimately chooses to believe that her love for Hana is real. After Hana's suicide, only the deactivated ALICE and the empty room remain.

'Forbidden Futures' Shorts continued >

# THE CHRONOCULAR DEVICE

2024 | United States | English | 16 min | Edward Loupe

A shadowy figure, upon breaking into an abandoned home, finds a strange device which allows him a glimpse into the home's past.

# LOCATIONS

Drama, Horror | 2024 | United States | English, French | 15 min | Danny Bellini, Gore Abrams

An American locations scout in France is haunted by his surroundings, while vying for approval from his expecting girlfriend's mysterious parents.

# STARGAZING. A DIALOGUE ON CREATION BETWEEN SERIAL SILENCE-KILLERS

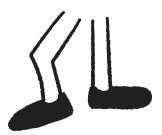
Drama, Experimental, Sci-Fi | 2023 | Italy | Italian | 7 min | Mack Hastings, Shane Sleger

Lying in total darkness, two young immortals discuss whether it is time to create the World once again. A cosmogonic screwball comedy.

# THE FISH TANK (LA PERCERA)

2023 | Mexico | Spanish | 12 min | Victoria Garza CONTENT WARNING: Self-Harm and Sexual Abuse

A mysterious fish woman flees from her exploiters who keep her in a fish tank. Out in the real world she witnesses how society views her kind and returns her fish tank so that she can be consumed as society dictates.





# **UNIVERSE 25**

Drama, Psychological Thriller, Sci-Fi | 2023 | United States | English | 20 min | David Tappan CONTENT WARNING: Self-Harm

A mysterious entity. A bizarre psychological experiment. Imprisoned in "The Room," a woman can't know anyone longer than 30 days. It's difficult to say what's worse: knowing that anyone she cares about will disappear, or that they might be replaced by someone worse. With no hope of escape, she must confront the absurdity of her new existence. Universe 25 is an allegory for a universal human dilemma: how can you find happiness when everything (and everyone) in life is transient? Where is hope in the face of relentless adversity? A must-watch for fans of sci-fi, psychological horror, and character-driven dramas alike. insta: @u25thefilm



## DIRECTOR IN ATTENDANCE

# **TELL THEM ABOUT US**

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MSU WOMXEN OF COLOR INITIATIVE

2024 | Germany, Jordan | English | 92 min | Rand Beiruty

Tell Them About Us is a coming of age story following seven teenage girls adjusting to their new life in Eberswalde, an East German provincial city. Over the period of four years, we witness them steer through friendships, school, finding a career and even marriage. The girls grapple with the pressures and conflicts of being immigrants and refugees while simultaneously navigating their roles as young women within their families and communities.

### SHOWING

6:00 PM | Stage One | FREE

Pre-Feature Short continued on next page > CCFF.CO

## PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER WAIT... WHAT ARE YOU? English | 1 min | Fateema Al-Hamaydeh Miller

## MICHIGAN PREMIERE FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE

# VAMPIRE ZOMBIES...FROM SPACE!

Horror, Sci-Fi | 2024 | Canada | English | 93 min | Michael Stasko

From the depths of space, Dracula has devised his most dastardly plan yet; turning the residents of a small American town into his personal army of vampire zombies! A motley crew consisting of a grizzled detective, a skeptical rookie cop, a chainsmoking greaser, and a determined young woman band together to save the world from - (see title). Packed with gruesome special effects, b-movie miniatures, and gut-busting laughs, Vampire Zombies...from Space! is a bloody comedy that has its foundation in horror films of the 1950s. insta: @vampirezombiesmovie

#### SHOWING

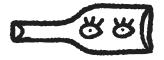
8:30 PM | Central United Methodist Church

### PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER

## DRUNK SKUNK

2024 | United States | English | 2 min | Jack Boyle

A skunk enjoys the college experience.



CAPITAL CITY FILM FESTIVAL





## FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE

# **GLOBAL SHORTS**

6 Films in this Shorts Program | 93 min

Experience stories from around the world, from the comfort of your capital city. From the bold to the intimate, we're certain that this globe-trotting collection of dramatic shorts will stay with you long after you leave the theater.

#### SHOWING

8:30 PM | Impression 5 Expansion NOTE: This program contains a film with the Content Warning: Sexual Abuse

# A SUMMER'S END POEM

Coming of Age, Drama | 2024 | China, Switzerland | Chinese, min Nan | 15 min | Lam Can-zhao

Shortly before the end of the summer holidays, a country boy spends his savings on his dream of a city hairstyle - with surprising results. A story about bidding farewell to childhood and the poetic end of a summer.

# PENTACLUB (THE CLUB OF FIVE)

Adventure, Coming of Age, Narrative | 2023 | Italy | Italian | 25 min | Roberto Strazzarino

The year is 1968. Five teenage boys dream of running a movie theater in which they will not show pro-war films. One summer afternoon Giò, Delfo, Max, Ricky and Paolo learn to become trusted friends, indispensable to one

#### Global Shorts continued >

another. A coming-of-age, adventure film about friendship, one with small but large rebellious acts that signal the end of childhood and the beginning of adulthood.

## COW KILLER

Drama, Mystery | 2024 | Iran, Islamic Republic of | Azerbaijani, Persian | 25 min | Farhad Mohamadzadeh

Naser's sick cow is about to die, but it lives due to Khazar's (his granddaughter) wish for it to be healed. Naser recognizes this as a miracle and goes after other sick cows, along with Khazar, to repeat the miracle.

# DAS FEUILLETON: SEEMANN (SAILOR)

Music Video | 2024 | Germany | German | 5 min | Thadeusz Tischbein, Robert Amarell

Music video for the song "Seemann (Sailor)" of German band "Das Feuilleton": A strange TV cooking show turns into a battle. No one wants to be cooked, right? insta: @dasfeuilleton

## MARASCHINO CHERRIES

Dark Comedy, Narrative | 2023 | Canada | French | 19 min | Vincent Paquette

Pending an eviction from their landlord, a brother and a sister have no choice but to take matters into their own hands to come up with the money and stay out of the streets.

# FATHER'S SON

Coming of Age, Drama | 2023 | Israel | Hebrew | 4 min | Nadan Pines CONTENT WARNING: Sexual Abuse

Yotam Regev, a teenage boy and the son of the town's successful Mayor, has to choose: to tell the truth about his father, or lie and succeed him.





## MICHIGAN PREMIERE

# CAN I GET A WITNESS?

2024 | Canada | English | 110 min | Anne Marie Fleming

In the not-too-distant future, we've solved all the world's problems: mitigated climate change, eradicated poverty, achieved true trans-species equality. There's just one catch... humans have to end life at 50 and teenage artists have to document it. It's Kiah's first day on the job.

## SHOWING

8:30 PM | Stage One

## PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER

## LOST & FOUND

Drama, Narrative | 2024 | United States | English | 11 min | Jaricxel Ramirez-Mataz

Two sisters struggle with how to take care of a red giant doll who turns out to be their ill father.





# ALL DOLLED UP FT. MOTHER CELL AND MOISTBREEZY AND DJMIXKID

PRESENTED BY RINBOSSANOVA X CCFF Music

Lansing's hyperpop royalty does it again! Post-Brat Summer, Rinbossanova lends their craft in DIY party making in celebration with the Capital City Film Festival. Calling all Dolls, Femmebots, and Britney stans to the Avenue for this stunner of a show featuring Y2K pop mixtress moistbreezy and Mother Cell, a rhythmic noise-pop trio based in NYC.

insta: @rinbossanova

insta: @moistbreezy

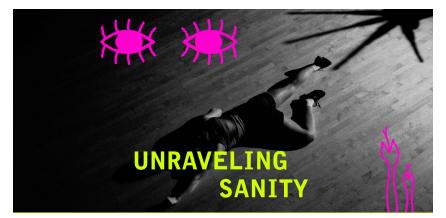
insta: @xxmothercellxx

#### DOORS

8:30 PM | The Avenue | 21+ | FREE with \$5 suggested donation with all proceeds benefitting the Salus Center







# FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE 'UNRAVELING SANITY' SHORTS

6 Films in this Shorts Program | 97 min

Are you a fan of being frightened? Well if you're in for some edge-of-your-seat, anxiety-inducing thrillers, join us to have your sanity unraveled by these eerie shorts.

#### SHOWING

10:30 PM | Central United Methodist Church NOTE: This program contains a film with the Content Warning: Self-Harm

## STRINGS

Horror | 2024 | United Kingdom | English | 15 min | Ava Pearson, Eleanor Smith, Nina Zandvliet

Sally joins a dream summer trip to Sicily with her childhood bestie Poppy, hoping to re-connect before they start university. Confronted with Poppy's volatile new friend Alex, Sally is strangely drawn to the traditional puppets decorating their villa, and the strings that bind the two friends threaten to rip them apart. *Strings* is produced by students aged 16-20 as part of Project Paradiso, a cross-cultural UK-Italy educational filmmaking initiative from Young Film Academy (YFA). insta: @youngfilmacademy 'Unraveling Sanity' Shorts continued >

# TREADMILL

Drama | 2024 | Greece | Greek | 20 min | George Kimissis

Dimitra, a nearly 50-year-old woman living with her manipulative elderly mother, Rea, faces a breaking point when she attempts to install a treadmill in her bedroom.

# TRANSYLVANIE

Coming of Age, Fantasy | 2023 | France | French | 15 min | Rodrigue Huart CONTENT WARNING: Self-Harm

Ewa is a 10-year-old girl living in a high building in a quiet town. She's an odd, lonely child and for good reason: she's convinced of being a vampire. Fascinated by Hugo, 15, she dreams of turning him into a vampire too, so that she can overcome her loneliness. When Ewa opens up to him, she gets bullied by teenagers from the neighborhood. Hurt in her body and soul, she's ready to act in the creepiest, sickest ways to prove her identity to the world.

# A LIGHT THAT DOESN'T DIM

Drama, Experimental, Horror | 2024 | Spanish | 19 min | Colby Barrios

Sister Jones has a life-changing decision: to go home and disappoint her family or to continue as a Mormon missionary in Mexico and betray herself amidst various familial and cultural pressures. insta: @alightthatdoesntdim

# STRANGERS LIKE US

2024 | Austria | German | 22 min | Pipi Frostl, Felix Krisai

In their early 30s, Laura and Elias settle into a new suburbian life by inviting another couple over for dinner. When the night gradually turns into an evening full of mysteriously surreal events, Laura feels like a stranger in her own life...

# SHADOW DANCER

Horror, Psychological Thriller | 2024 | United States | English | 6 min | Nikki Groton

An underestimated tap choreographer must fight her surreal and violent hallucinations in order to keep her grip on reality before she loses the biggest opportunity of her life. insta: @aflyingwomanprods

# SUNDAY, APRIL 6



## MICHIGAN PREMIERE FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE THE PALESTINE EXCEPTION

Documentary, Social Justice | 2024 | United States | English | 71 min | Jan Haaken, Jennifer Ruth

As students across the country organize protests against Israel's war on Gaza, decades-long taboos in academia around criticism of Israel-the "Palestine exception"-are shattered. This film features professors and students as they join calls for a ceasefire and divestment from companies that do business with Israel and face waves of crackdown from administrators, the media, the police and politicians. Scholars from diverse disciplines explain what is at stake in these protests and why so many young people identify with the Palestinian cause. The documentary unfolds as a story of college campuses as sites of both rebellion and repression, places where personal and collective histories converge in unexpected ways. insta: @palestineexceptionfilm

### SHOWING 1:00 PM | Stage One

### PRE-FEATURE SHORT

# MAWTINI (MY HOMELAND)

Drama | 2023 | Canada | Arabic, English | 19 min | Fateema Al-Hamaydeh Miller

Together Nawal, a young Palestinian woman, and Tanya, an older Indigenous woman, start a guerrilla garden on the lawn of their apartment building and battle middle management to make it to harvest. insta: @khafeefdamproductions

## SUNDAY, APRIL 6



# SNEAK PREVIEW THE INVISIBLE MAMMAL

Documentary, Environmental, Outdoors | 2024 | United States | English | 102 min | Kristin Tieche, Matthew Podolsky

Against the backdrop of the sixth mass extinction, an allwoman team of biologists set out to save bats from a deadly fungal disease, but when the COVID-19 pandemic interrupts their work, they are sent down a path of discovery that illuminates the connections between bat conservation and the spread of infectious disease. insta: @theinvisiblemammal

### SHOWING

4:00 PM | Stage One

# PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER

2024 | United States | English | 16 min | Aaron Peterson

Kiko Silvelet rides elite endurance events on his beloved BMX bike, plays accordion, makes a little trouble and tells truths we all probably need to hear.





# SYMPHONIC CINEMA FT. JAMES GARDIN AND CASH AND THE LOUD PACK Music

An experience like no other. Composer Timothy Blackmon Jr. and hip hop producer James Gardin are re-telling a cult classic through a live, original soundtrack. The 2025 installment of Symphonic Cinema will reimagine the original score for *The Brother From Another Planet*. To capture the essence of the 1984 futurist film, the reimagined live score will utilize vocal performance, trumpet, synthesizers, and pads reminiscent of the 80s era of electronic, dub, and techno subculture.

insta: @jamesgardinmusic

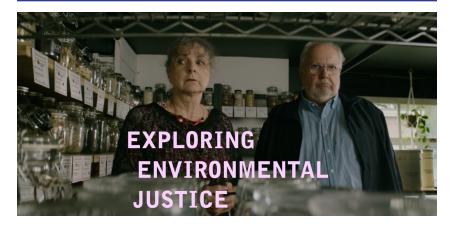
insta: @cash\_blackmon

Note that this film is Rated R.

SHOWING 6:00 PM | Central United Methodist Church | FREE



CAPITAL CITY FILM FESTIVAL



# EXPLORING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WITH ARTISTS, ACTIVISTS, AND SCIENTISTS

3 Films in this Shorts Program | 60 min

Presented in partnership with Lansing Community College, this event features three short films centering on environmental justice. Join us for a powerful event including a panel discussion with filmmakers following the screening.

Part of LCC's annual Take A Stand! Sit In! forum exploring issues of social justice and racial injustice. This year's Take A Stand theme focuses on climate change through the varied lens of different cultures, science, the arts, and humanities. In addition to this collaborative event, Take A Stand continues the following day with four virtual sessions featuring the work and perspectives of guest artists, LCC faculty and staff, and community leaders. These sessions are open to everyone.

### SHOWING

6:00 PM | Central United Methodist Church | FREE ASL Interpretation will be provided for this event

Exploring Environmental Justice Shorts continued on next page >

Exploring Environmental Justice Shorts continued >

# THE FORGOTTEN: SUSTAINABLE CLEAN ENERGY FOR THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

Documentary, Environmental | 2024 | United States | English, Portuguese | 29 min | Dave Wasinger, Judy Walgren

The Forgotten is a documentary short showcasing the hard work and research of the team behind The Convergence for Innovative Energy Solutions project funded by the National Science Foundation under their Growing Convergence Research (GCR) program. Headquartered out of the Michigan State University in Michigan, the convergence team's goal is to deliver transformative advances in science and technology to off-thegrid communities, where energy is too expensive or unreliable. Presently, the team is focused on in-stream turbines (without dams) that permit fish and vessels to move freely, allow fishers to maintain their livelihoods, and eliminate the need for resettlement. The Forgotten follows the team as they finalize installation of small solar arrays in villages in the Brazilian Amazon and the installation of their in-stream turbine – the first in the Amazon in nearly 20 years – at one village.

# SOMETHING IN THE WATER

Documentary | 2024 | United States | English | 12 min | Nateya Taylor

Five water justice advocates discuss how Milwaukee's Black communities are disproportionately being lead poisoned, and the debilitating effects it has on residents' health, with hopes to see equitable change that will heal the water and Black resident's relationship with it.

# THE LAST RHINO

Narrative | 2023 | Canada | French | 19 min | Guillaume Harvey

The last of the northern white rhinos is dead. Lili, a rather well-off 70 year-old grandmother, led a comfortable retired life until these news have her dive deep into eco-anxiety. What kind of world will she leave for her granddaughter Gaby?







## MICHIGAN PREMIERE DIRECTOR IN ATTENDANCE MAXXIE LAWOW: DRAG SUPER-SHERO

Animation, Fantasy, LGBTQIA+ | 2024 | United States | English | 90 min | Anthony Hand

When drag queens start disappearing, a shy young barista must summon his inner super-shero to rescue them from an ambitious evil drag queen bent on harvesting their magical anti-aging tears. insta: @maxxielawow

# SHOWING

6:00 PM | Stage One



# FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE MSU STUDENT SHORTS

A celebration of student films from Michigan State University. Undergraduate micro-shorts will precede senior level projects in documentary and fiction.

#### SHOWING

8:00 PM | Central United Methodist Church | FREE NOTE: This program contains a film with the Content Warning: Gun Violence

"If Only" by Max Watkins "DO NOT" by Liam White, Jonathan Urbin and Victoria Shannon "Hippo Crazy" by Kasper Schneider "Bartholomew's Shoes" by Tim McKay "The Last Bite" by Cadie Ellis "Partner in Crime" by Parker Beavens "What Happens Next" by Stella Govitz, Aleesa Luecker, and Sophie Scureman-Stoops "Not My Type" by Brad Laplante "Unheard" by Max Doerr "Your Girlfriend Sucks" by Benjamin Nathan "Perfect Strike" by Jake Spelke, Ethan Hodge, and Kolby Wandel "star born brutal" by Antonio Dimovski "The Art of Gender" by Karson Ionetta Sims "The Waiting Room" by Troy Wells "Mr. Incognito" by JJ Van Dyke "Brush" by Thomas Zarzycki

"What's Left Behind" by Cassidy Howard and Aidan Tripp CONTENT WARNING: Gun Violence





# BRING THEM HOME

Documentary | United States | English | 86 min | Ivan MacDonald, Ivy MacDonald, Daniel Glick

Bring Them Home tells the story of a small group of Blackfoot people and their mission to establish the first wild buffalo herd on their ancestral territory since the species' near-extinction a century ago, an act that would restore the land, re-enliven traditional culture and bring much needed healing to their community.

### SHOWING

8:15 PM | Stage One

## PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER SACRED WATERS: ANISHINAABEG NAAGDAWENMAANAANIG GIIGOONHKEWIN (THE FIRST PEOPLE TAKING CARE OF THE FISHERY)

Documentary | 2024 | United States | English | 14 min | Finn Ryan, Aaron Peterson

The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians is the largest indigenous tribe east of the Mississippi and has been stewarding the fisheries of their Great Lakes territory for generations. This project explores the cultural and economic importance of the fishery to the tribe and how they're working to ensure a healthy fishery for the next seven generations in the face of climate change and invasive species.

# THURSDAY, APRIL 10



# NICHIGAN PREMIERE

Narrative | 2024 | United States | English | 85 min | Joel Potrykus CONTENT WARNING: Self-Harm

"One of my biggest concerns about fatherhood is that I'd soften up and start telling stories of hope and inspiration. Five years after the birth of my one and only son, and I'm mostly consumed with fears of inadequacy, abandonment, and mortality; going to prison by accident, falling off a cliff by accident, jumping off a cliff by accident. *Vulcanizadora* is my most heartfelt and personal, but not in a good way. It's my most sincere and emotional, but also my bleakest and most haunting." - Director Joel Potrykus insta: @oscopelabs

#### SHOWING

6:00 PM | Central United Methodist Church

# PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER MILLY

9 min | Hannah Scout Dunaway CONTENT WARNING: Self-Harm

## THURSDAY, APRIL 10





# WHORLED

PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CCFF AND THE ROBIN THEATRE. Music

Described by Local Spins as "a road trip for the ears," Whorled transports their audiences around the globe with fresh interpretations of re-imagined Celtic, bluegrass, French Café, and jazz influences. Whorled is guitarist and digeridooist Thom Jayne, fiddler and bodhrán player Keala Venema, and accordionist Mariko Venema. They met by chance at a traditional Irish session; the magic was immediate. Now, in their third year playing in public, Whorled has gained swift critical acclaim, winning two Jammie Awards for their 2023 debut album, "Reimagined" and having three tunes landing on WYCE's top 100 spins of 2023.

#### DOORS

7:30 PM | The Robin Theatre | FREE



## THURSDAY, APRIL 10



## WORLD PREMIERES FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE FORTNIGHT FILM CONTEST SCREENING

Screening & Awards

The Capital City Film Festival's Fortnight Film Contest is a competition for teams of amateur, student, and professional filmmakers in Michigan. Do a good job, win some money. \$5,000+ in cash prizes up for grabs!

### SHOWING

8:00 PM | Central United Methodist Church



# FILMMAKER + ARTIST AFTERGLOW

SPONSORED BY ASCENSION LIGHT

Be the main character of your own social capital! Just kidding. But for real, come on out and hang with filmmakers and artists in a chill, no pressure-networking kinda way.

## DOORS

9:30 PM | Central United Methodist Church | FREE



### WORLD PREMIERES ARTISTS IN ATTENDANCE

DISTANT PLANET PROJECT PRESENTS

Join us for a Fielder Brothers double feature! The documentary Black Metropolis tells the history of the Afrofuturist movement through the perspective of comic artist and graphic novelist Tim Fielder.

Phlo is a coming-of-age horror film following a high school student from Brooklyn who is faced with a life-altering decision.

After the screening, Tim and Jim Fielder welcome audience feedback on the visual storytelling devices and themes used in Phlo. They'll also share their vision and patronage to the Afrofuturist movement.

#### SHOWING

5:00 PM | The Robin Theatre | FREE

# **BLACK METROPOLIS**

Documentary | 60 min | Jim Fielder

Black Metropolis is a feature length Documentary about the 30+ year career of pioneering Visual-Afrofuturist and graphic novelist, Tim Fielder. Fielder blazed a path as he worked the margins of science fiction, race, and technology within the comics and concept design mediums. Featuring revealing interviews with some of the groundbreaking cultural critics, afrofuturists, colleagues, and family who saw the OG playing the art game during the burgeoning Hiphop, Black Rock, and Digital Animation movements. Sure to be an expose for the Ages. Metropolis and Phlo continued >

# PHLO

102 min | Jim Fielder

*PHLO* is a feature length horror story blended with a poignant coming-of-age tale the chronicles the of a young child, Ezekiel, who is taken and raised by the Father figure, Esrel, and Mother figure, Lupo. The kidnappers raise Ezekiel into a highly intelligent, yet apathetic young man, who has a world of opportunity in front of him. Further, the young man, who has fallen in love with a beautiful classmate, Genesis, who challenges him to expand his options; against the desire of Lupo. Ezekiel is faced with a life altering question. Should he leave home or stay? This is a difficult task as his parents also happen to have an insatiable taste for human blood.

## PRE-FEATURE SHORTS PLANET PLEASURE

Music Video | 2022 | United States | English | 3 min | Nicole Lipp

A popstar performs on a distant watery planet, or is it all just moistbreezy's fantasy? insta: @moistbreezy

# IWYTK (I WANT YOU TO KNOW)

Music Video | 2024 | Canada | English | 3 min | Joshua Alexander

A film about friendship, road trips and the time we will never get back. insta: @project\_takerasef

# COTTAGE GROVE

2023 | United States | English | 13 min | George Ellzey Jr.

A young man struggles to communicate with his stroke-afflicted father, and at the same time, stay true to himself.







# U.S. PREMIERE FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE KILL WILL

Action | 2024 | English | 93 min | Dave Fairman

When former assassin Will's location in the witness protection program is compromised and two hitmen descend on his small new hometown, he and Annie are forced on the run. Together, they must escape the killers and reach Will's handler before they, and the rest of his former crew, are murdered.

## SHOWING

5:30 PM | Central United Methodist Church



# **'PRIDE IN MOTION' SHORTS**

6 Films in this Shorts Program | 104 min

Pride is more than a summer festival and LGBTQIA+ is so much more than an acronym. These shorts explore the nuances, beauty, and heartbreak of those of us who exist within the LGBTQIA+ spectrum around the world.

### SHOWING

5:45 PM | Impression 5 Expansion NOTE: This program contains films with the Content Warning: Self-Harm

# EITR

Drama, LGBTQIA+, Romance | 2022 | Canada | Arabic, English | 15 min | Fateema Al-Hamaydeh Miller

Grinding away at the inherited family business, Mohamed works tirelessly making sales of knock-off perfume, while living as a knock-off version of his true self. His doting mother Marwa brings him lunch everyday and sets up chay dates with potential romantic interests (and their families) what seems like every night. Inside of this monotony Mohamed is lying to himself about his sexuality and leaning into the mask of masculinity in order to maintain the expectations of those around him, but in reality the biggest expectations of how he should be are set by himself. We follow Mohamed on a day where the monotony comes to a screeching halt, when an unexpected charming customer enters his shop. Mohamed shares a connection with this beautiful stranger who lives in self-acceptance and who truly sees him underneath the many layers of Polo Sport adjacent cologne. In Eitr, Mohamed's fear of his true desires will be tested as he is caught off guard by the power of being seen, but can this connection break him out of his performative shell, even for a lingering moment? insta: @khafeefdamproductions



THE YELLOW SPONGE IS THE DISH SPONGE

Drama, LGBTQIA+, Romance | 2024 | United Stages | English | 17 min | Michele Noble

Do we really need to wash sheets every week? Why would you ever have to clean a shower head? What is the difference between the blue sponge and the yellow sponge? These are the questions that haunt Jason. He doesn't understand the world's obsession (and his husband Erik's obsession) with cleanliness. So, on the day of their big party Jason launches his campaign to open Erik's eyes to this problem. What starts as disagreements about Lysol Wipes and Febreze scented trash bags turns into something bigger as *The Yellow Sponge is the Dish Sponge* looks at a couples conflict as old as time...fighting about household chores. insta: @theyellowspongeisthedishsponge

# **HIGH DIVER**

Coming of Age, Drama, LGBTQIA+ | 2024 | Germany | 5 min | Oscar Bittner

Since early childhood, Tuan and Felix have been inseparable. As they train to become Olympic high divers, however, their budding love for each other suffers under the weight of the competition. Professional sport is a harsh business, and Tuan will sacrifice everything for it ... or will he?

# THIS IS JAN

Drama, LGBTQIA+, Narrative | 2024 | United States | English | 22 min | Robert Larriviere

Set in the conservative world of the 1950s, Jan checks into a hotel seeking to escape the outside world. Once alone, they are free to shed the identity society has imposed upon them. Jan embraces the chance to explore who they truly believe they are. As they relish this new identity, a surge of confidence emerges, but they soon realize that not everything is as it seems. Faced with a choice between internal pressures and embracing their authentic self, Jan takes a bold step forward. insta: @thisisjanmovie

# MÉLANGE

Drama, LGBTQIA+, Romance | 2024 | United States | English | 15 min | Deshon Leek

Two estranged men reconnect in a jazz bar where they embark on a forbidden dance. insta: @melangeshort

'Pride in Motion" Shorts continued >

# HEARTS OF STONE

Drama, Fantasy, LGBTQIA+ Romance | 2024| Belgium, Croatia | English | 30 min | Tom Van Avermaet CONTENT WARNING: Self-Harm

In the heart of a bustling metropolis, Paula, a lonely street artist, entertains people as a living statue. She longs with an impossible love for Agatha, a stone sculpture next to which she can be found every day. One day, when reaching her familiar spot, she finds her stone companion replaced by an abstract, modern sculpture. After a frantic search, she discovers Agatha cast aside amidst a group of discarded, classical statues who have lost their place in the modernising sculpture park. As the sun sets, Paula finds herself trying to wake the lonely statue from her stone slumber.



# DANCING ON THE EDGE OF A VOLCANO

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MSU AESTHETICS OF SOLIDARITY CONVENING

2023 | Germany | Arabic, English, French | 87 min | Cyril Aris

In the aftermath of the catastrophic explosion from August 4th 2020 in Beirut, a film crew is facing a serious dilemma: should they defy the chaos and move forward with the shooting of their film or surrender to the multiple crises that are spreading all over the country? Dancing on the Edge of the Volcano captures their relentless battle to keep making cinema in a shattered city.

## SHOWING

8:00 PM | Impression 5 Expansion





# MICHIGAN PREMIERE MICRO BUDGET

Mockumentary | 2024 | United States | English | 89 min | Morgan Evans

"Epic Ambition. Major Delusion. Micro Budget." When Terry (Patrick Noth) discovers he's about to be a father, he does what any other sane person would do. He moves himself and his nine-months-pregnant wife from Iowa to Los Angeles to shoot a low-budget indie movie and sell it to a streamer for a "fuckton of money." Documented by his cousin Devin's behind-thescenes camera crew, Terry suddenly finds that his beliefs about diversity, the #MeToo movement, and what technically qualifies as a properly financed film production put him at odds with, well, every single person who meets him. Featuring a cast of comedy MVPs, the uproarious *Micro Budget* follows Terry's disastrous attempts to make a disaster movie, and his inability to serve a decent lunch. insta: @MicroBudgetMovie

## SHOWING

8:15 PM | Central United Methodist Church

## PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER YOU DON'T MESS WITH JAMES Animation | 2023 | United States | English | 4 min | Weston Auburn, Myles Hi

A young production assistant has a confusing day while on set.



# LOVE EFFECT

PRESENTED BY CCFF Music

Witness the power of Kive and alchemy in this funk-fusion set by the quartet Love Effect. Music starts at 9:00 PM. Keep the night pulsating with funk, hip hop and dub selections by Local Hero DJ Ruckus and Ganja Girl, co-founder of Femmetronica Music Festival.

insta: @loveeffectband insta: @mvw\_ruckus insta: @ganjagirlofficial

### DOORS

9:00 PM | The Avenue | FREE







# THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS

2001 | United States | English | 155 min | Wes Anderson

Royal Tenenbaum (Gene Hackman) and his wife, Etheline (Anjelica Huston), had three children-Chas, Margot, and Richie-and then they separated. Chas (Ben Stiller) started buying real estate in his early teens and seemed to have an almost preternatural understanding of international finance. Margot (Gwyneth Paltrow) was a playwright and received a Braverman Grant of \$50,000 in the ninth grade. Richie (Luke Wilson) was a junior champion tennis player and won the U.S. Nationals three years in a row. Virtually all memory of the brilliance of the young Tenenbaums was subsequently erased by two decades of betrayal, failure, and disaster. The Royal Tenenbaums is a hilarious, touching, and brilliantly stylized study of melancholy and redemption from Wes Anderson.

This special screening is a tribute to the late Gene Hackman, one of the greatest actors of our time.

SHOWING 10:30 PM | Central United Methodist Church



# FAMILY FRIENDLY SHORTS

9 Films in this Shorts Program | 40 min

This family friendly shorts loop contains nine creative and engaging animated films from Taiwan. From a bored student daydreaming of animals to a raindrop dancing through the city, these imaginative stories will delight young and old alike. Children are invited to take part in a mask-making craft as part of the program!

## SHOWING

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM on loop | Impression Science Center | FREE

# THE JOURNEY OF WHITE SESAME

Adventure, Animation, Fantasy | 2024 | Taiwan | No Dialogue | 5 min | Wei-Rou Huang

On the table lies a half-eaten sesame pancake; a sesame seed, shaken loose by chewing, falls to the ground. When it awakens, it finds itself in a space resembling a mirrored sky. Filled with curiosity, it explores its surroundings and encounters a humanoid simulation simulator with a hole in its chest, filled with colorful liquid. Through the simulator, the white sesame seed transforms into a strawberry caterpillar and embarks on a fantastical journey of searching for and realizing dreams in this magical world.



# DROPLETS DANCE

Animation, Fantasy, Music Video | 2024 | Taiwan | No Dialogue | 3 min | Tsai-Yeah Liu, Yu-Tong Lee

After the rain, puddles form on the ground. The puddles, like mirrors, gradually take shape. A group of water spirits dances joyfully, flowing down the stairs, through every corner of the town, converging into a river. The river flows past the lower eyelid, slides over the eyelashes, and crystal-clear tears fall.

# RAINBBIT

Animation, Coming of Age | 2024 | Taiwan | No Dialogue | 5 min | Yi-Shiuan Wang

"Noise is life, and so is silence" is the theme. The protagonist, Rebi, is a rabbit boy with social anxiety. Various accidents disrupt his life rhythm, and he ultimately chooses to remain in solitude, finding comfort in being alone.

# **ODYSSEY EXPRESS**

Action, Animation | 2024 | Taiwan | English | 5 min | Wei-Hsiang Hsieh, Chia-Tzu Sun

Lei, who was about to transfer to a new school, felt lost about the future. By a stroke of fate, he boarded the Odyssey Express, a symbol of the unknown, and embarked on an adventure beyond imagination.

# WHO AM I?

Animation, Fantasy | 2024 | Taiwan | No Dialogue | 4 min | Wei-Jhen Huang

The protagonist, a popular actress, unexpectedly encounters a strange stray cat in an alley, leading to a magical journey.

# CATFEINE

#### Animation | 2024 | Taiwan | No Dialogue | 3 min | Yen-Chi Chen

After an exhausting day, the protagonist drags their tired body home, longing for their plump "family member." Ignoring the family member's resistance, the protagonist hugs them tightly, finding comfort in the embrace. In this healing moment, the protagonist feels a sense of euphoria, seeing a warm sky surrounded by paw-shaped clouds. A paw-shaped cloud floats towards the protagonist, playing with them. A beam of light catches the protagonist's attention, revealing a giant Family Friendly Shorts continued >

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version of Little Orange beckoning them. The protagonist can't resist feeling the paw's texture and sinks into it, making snow angels on Little Orange's fluffy fur, falling asleep in comfort. However, reality soon douses the protagonist with cold water.

# RADIANCE

Adventure, Animation, Fantasy | 2024 | Taiwan | No Dialogue | 5 min | Tzu-Han Wanh

Awakening at dawn, a sunflower is attracted by the sparkling dewdrops before it. On its journey to collect the dewdrops, it encounters the sun. Mesmerized by the sunlight, the sunflower spends a brief time with the sun before it gradually fades away with the arrival of night. Determined, the sunflower embarks on a quest to find the light... The night forest is full of dangers, and the sunflower continues its journey in search of the light but never finds the sun. The sounds in the grass make it increasingly fearful, and it falls down a slope, closing its eyes in fear... Suddenly, fireflies emitting a warm glow appear, dancing around the sunflower.

# DREAMING

Animation, Fantasy | 2024 | Taiwan | No Dialogue | 5 min | Pei-Wen Lin, Ai-Li Tian

Dreaming is a 2D animation inspired by the whimsical imagination of middle school years. Through vibrant scenes and characters, it presents a fantastical and fun world. We hope this animation can become a topic of shared joy among viewers, allowing them to revisit the wonderful imagination of childhood.

# AROUND U

Action, Adventure | 2024 | Taiwan | No Dialogue | 5 min | Li-Wei Chou, Yong-Qing Zhang

In the Candy Kingdom, many candy residents live, but there are rumors of residents disappearing at night. Among them, three close friends decide to find their missing friend. However, on this adventure, they will face many challenges. Will these candies overcome the difficulties and find their friend? Let's wait and see!





### WORLD PREMIERE FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE FORTNIGHT FILM CONTEST NEXT BEST FILMS

Screening & Awards

The Capital City Film Festival's Fortnight Film Contest is a competition for teams of amateur, student, and professional filmmakers in Michigan. Do a good job, win some money. \$5,000+ in cash prizes up for grabs!

#### SHOWING

10:30 AM | Central United Methodist Church





# AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE SHORTS

8 Films in this Shorts Program | 131 min

The American Film Institute DWW+ educates traditionally underrepresented filmmakers through the production cycle of a short film, providing hands-on instruction led by industry experts. Since the program's inception in 1974, DWW+ has trained over 350 filmmakers who give voice to historically underrepresented perspectives. DWW+ is proud of its legacy as one of the first gender impact programs in the cinematic arts, as well as one of the longest-running and preeminent film and television workshops nationwide. All of the films in this collection at CCFF are directed by DWW+ alumni.

#### SHOWING

10:30 AM | Stage one

#### THE LONG WAY HOME

2024 | United States | English, Spanish | 20 min | Chloe de Carvalho

Even whistle-blowers need childcare.

#### EVIL, I

2024 | United States | English | 13 min | Vanessa Beletic

A gifted Haitian girl has one day to discover the key to her dangerous psychic power and decide once and for all who she really is: good or evil.



## SIXTEEN

2024 | United States | English | 14 min | Naomi Iwamoto

A sixteen year old girl is outed at church one Sunday morning.

## **UKRANIAN DANCE MOVIE**

2024 | United States | English, Ukrainian | 19 min | Roxy Toporowych

A professional dancer, whose career was cut short by war, is urged to take the reins of her spirited fathers folk dance school, after he announces his own life-altering decision.

## MADE IN USA

2024 | United States | English, Mandarin | 16 min | Desdemona Chiang

After getting abruptly fired from her job of over 20 years, a dutiful Chinese-American casino host turns her home into a birth hotel to regain control of her life.

## INTERLOPER

2024 | United States | English | 16 min | Kerry O'Neill

A troubled 16 year old girl disrupts the harmony in her new foster home.

# CHOCOLATE WITH SPRINKLES

2024 | United States | English | 19 min | Huriyyah Muhammad

On their 25th wedding anniversary, a bickering married couple is given one day to do something they haven't done in 25 years – work on their marriage.

## **BLOOMED IN THE WATER**

2024 | United States | Korean | 14 min | Joanne Mony Park

Bloomed in the Water is a portrait of a young Korean- American woman finding self-worth through the moments of difficulty, shame, and humor that inform the first-generation immigrant experience.



# "ILLUSTRATION & COMICS" WORKSHOP WITH TIM FIELDER

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DISTANT PLANET PROJECT

A coffee social hour with CCFF filmmakers including OG Afrofuturists Jim and Tim Fielder and Focus Feature Award Winner Jay Najeeah. Learn the basics of storyboarding from graphic novelist Tim Fielder (DieselFunk Studios). Witness live illustrating and walk through the first steps of nailing your next pitch deck. Participants are encouraged to bring their own iPads or digital illustration devices. Paper and pencils provided.

#### WORKSHOP

11:00 AM Coffee Hour, 12:00 PM Workshop | The Robin Theatre | FREE







#### MIDWEST PREMIERE

# THE PROSPECT

Coming of Age | 2025 | United States | English | 94 min | Robert Schultz, Dana Donnelly

When high school senior Jerry Vanetti gets rejected from every college he applied to, he hatches a scheme to pose as an elite baseball prospect in order to trick a school into giving him an athletic scholarship...despite the fact that he's never played a sport in his life. From bribing the AV Club to create fake highlight videos with special effects to getting the theatre department to perform a fake exhibition game for college scouts, this small-town kid will do whatever it takes to scam his way to the big leagues.

#### SHOWING

1:00 PM | Central United Methodist Church

#### PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER

#### THE GOLD ONES

Coming of Age | United States | English | 6 min | Wallace Hill V

After weeks of anticipation, the time has finally come for John to go over Jasmines house, but first he has to make a stop to pick something up for their special night.



# FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

9 Films in this Shorts Program | 117 min

No reality bending here! Open your eyes to new perspectives at this wonderful block of documentary shorts films.

SHOWING 1:00 PM | Stage one

## WALKING ON THE MOON

Poetry | 2024 | United States | English | 7 min | Frank Parkinson

A short documentary about a young man diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. His battle rages on until he is faced with his destiny or what seems to be left of it. insta: @filmsby.frankie

## WHY MY DAD LOVES

Documentary, Animation | 2024 | United | English, Hmong | 21 min | Nkaujoua Xiong

At the age of 13, my father left his homeland, Laos, seeking a brighter future in the United States. Throughout the years, he devoted himself to supporting his family, seldom sharing the details of his past. This film intimately explores the experiences that shaped my father's understanding of love.



### MAHSA - WOMAN LIFE FREEDOM 2024 | United States | English | 9 min | Shahrad Fredotti

The Persian empire, known for its kindness, tolerance, and respect for women, led for thousands of years by a monarchy, was overthrown by an Islamic revolution in 1979. The new regime started imposing strict laws upon the Iranian people, violating their basic human rights. For more than four decades the Iranian people have fought against this regime and their brutal abuse of power. On September 16 of 2022, Mahsa Zheena Amini was killed by the "morality police" of Tehran for wearing her hijab in a loose manner. Her death ignited an international movement against the government of Iran. This movement, titled woman life freedom, became the biggest protest against the Iranian regime since the 1979 revolution. The Iranian regime fought back against the woman life freedom movement, and killed its own people, with zero hesitation. The Iranian government has admitted to killing more than 550 people, but the reported number is in the thousands. This piece is dedicated to the fallen, and their families. We must never forget. insta: @fredotti

## FOR ISAIAH

2024 | United States | English | 11 min | Jack Fauser

After a tragic accident, an amateur MMA fighter continues his brother's legacy both in and out of the cage.

## **POWER LINES**

Social Justice | 2024 | United States | English | 10 min | Rick Flynn

Redistricting isn't about lines. Redistricting is about power. Who controls that power? That's up to you. *Power Lines*, created with the support of The Carter Center, is a non-partisan blueprint for a more perfect democracy. In 2018, Michiganders voted to amend the state constitution, ending a system where redistricting was controlled behind closed doors. The amendment created the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, made up of 13 citizens, which took power away from legislators and made the process fully public. The commission drew the 2022 maps, receiving over 30,000 comments, and produced some of the fairest maps in the country, reflecting the state's electorate for the first time in a generation. "Power Lines" traces this journey from the amendment's passage through its challenges in the Michigan Supreme Court. insta: @rmp.nyc Documentary Shorts continued >

# IN EXILE

Marshall Islands | English, Marshallese | 11 min | Nathan Fitch

A short film exploring the US nuclear legacy in the Pacific through the lens of members of the Marshallese community in Arkansas. Moved from their islands by the US for a series of nuclear tests in Bikini Atoll commencing in 1946, these Pacific Islanders remain in exile 78 years later.

## ALL-AMERICAN RUINS: NEVELE GRAND HOTEL

Adventure, Experimental, Outdoors, Poetry | 2023 | United States | English | 15 min | Angel Gates

The Nevele Grand Resort in Ellenville, NY sits abandoned on 500+ acres near the foot of the Catskill Mountains of New York. What used to be a point of pride for Ulster County is now a painful, crumbling relic – with many stories to tell. For *All-American Ruins* creator Blake Pfeil, it is also a dreamscape, an artistic playground to reflect on questions about American history, culture, community folklore, economics, the environment, and mental health; and for the viewer, it's an invitation to activate their imagination as a tool for healing. insta: @allamericanruins

## TOXIC ART

Environmental | 2023 | United States | English | 16 min | Jason Whalen

Acid mine drainage is a pervasive problem, poisoning streams and killing wildlife, in American Appalachia. The technology and funding to remove these pollutants and bring life back to streams just didn't exist, that is until fine art painter, John Sabraw rallied a team to address the issue in their local stream and develop a breakthrough process to upcycle pollutants into pigments. It's amazing what humans are capable of when their actions are relentlessly committed, creative and cooperative. insta: @rivers\_are\_life

## KALAMAZOO GALS

Documentary, Social Justice | 2024 | United States | English | 17 min | David Massar

When music journalist John Thomas discovers a mysterious archival photo, the ensuing odyssey reveals a shameful chapter in the history of the iconic Gibson guitar company. During World War II, with instrument production supposedly suspended, an extraordinary group of women toiled secretly



behind the scenes, creating the "Banner Gibsons" that are cherished to this day by musicians and collectors the world over. From Nashville to Kalamazoo, this short documentary explores the hidden legacy of these craftswomen, and the trials of female artists and others in the industry who struggle not to be erased from the American Story. Featuring Tommy Emmanuel, Jennifer Nettles, Kamara Thomas and others.



#### FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE

# DISTANT PLANET PROJECT PRESENTS SHORT FILMS & AFROFUTURIST CONVERSATIONS

4 Films in this Shorts Program | 40 min

A curation of short films and music videos utilizing themes and storytelling devices from Afrofuturism and other speculative fiction born of the global diasporas. A talkback with visiting filmmakers will take place following the screening.

#### SHOWING

1:30 PM | The Robin Theatre | FREE

#### HAG.

Horror, LGBTQIA+, Narrative | 2024 | United States | English | 22 min | Jay Najeeah

This story follows Reesa Crawford, a queer black woman from South Carolina who is having her first child with her wife, Khari. During this pregnancy, remnants of her past begin to

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#### Distant Planet Project Shorts continued >

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torment her via the old urban legend of the boo hag. As this creature takes a toll on her mental and physical health and night terrors keep her from sleeping, we begin to wonder whether this monster is truly real or all in her head. insta: @hag.film

## **REVOLUTIONARY CHIC**

Documentary | 2024 | United States | English | 4 min | Aaron Johnson

A Fashion Student finds new direction, in the aftermath of the Murder of George Floyd. insta: @djaddmpls

## TELEKINETIK

Music Video | 2024 | United States | English | 11 min | George Cederquist

A would-be vigilante, tortured by a telepathic shaman, learns a difficult lesson about justice versus bloodlust, as told through the intersection of hip-hop and opera.

## MOMENTS OF STILLNESS

Documentary, Experimental | 2023 | 3 min | Jasdeep Kang

Through stunning visuals and evocative soundscapes, *Moments* of *Stillness* transports you to a place of serenity, inviting you to embrace stillness and find solace in the present moment. It is a cinematic exploration of selfcare, reminding us of the importance of nurturing our inner selves and cultivating a deeper connection with nature.





# DISTANT PLANET PROJECT PRESENTS MOVE YA BODY: THE BIRTH OF HOUSE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MSU MUSEUM Documentary | 2025 | United States | English | 88 min | Elegance Bratton

In the chaos of Disco Demolition Night at Comiskey Park, a teenage usher named Vince Lawrence witnessed the fierv backlash against disco-a sound that defined freedom and pride. Undeterred by the hostility, Vince used his earnings to buy a synthesizer, setting in motion a journey that would change music forever. Venturing into the underground sanctuary of The Warehouse, where Frankie Knuckles spun revolutionary sounds, Vince teamed up with Jesse Saunders to form Z Factor, a scrappy collective of visionaries who captured the pulse of Chicago's underground on wax. Their track, On and On, became the first recorded house music anthem, sparking a movement that transformed a local DIY culture into a global phenomenon. From those gritty Chicago streets to festival stages worldwide, Vince's story is an electrifying testament to how a dream, born in the ashes of rejection, ignited a genre that continues to unite and liberate people across the globe.

#### SHOWING 3:10 PM | The Robin Theatre | FREE



#### **U.S. PREMIERE**

6 AM Thriller | 2024 | Iran | Persian | 88 min | Mehran Modiri

She is going to leave the country to continue on to higher education in Canada. Her family members are worried and act as if they have been already missing her. Before going to the airport, she attends a goodbye party at her friend's house. Everyone is singing and having a good time when the morality police break in...

#### SHOWING

3:15 PM | Central United Methodist Church

#### PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER

#### DEVOLUTION

Drama, Narrative, Thriller | 2024 | United States | English | 10 min | Mark Broe

A couple fights for survival in a post-apocalyptic world.





# YOUR TOMORROW

Documentary | 2024 | Canada | English | 95 min | Ali Weinstein

With an historic public park set to close for redevelopment, an eccentric yet lovable group of park regulars and staff members live out its final year open to the public while confronting its controversial transformation into a private spa and waterpark. Filming for nearly 100 days with a fully observational approach, *Your Tomorrow* documents a transitional moment in the landscape of the city, asking viewers to consider what our modern cities should look like and what a diverse urban society needs to thrive, while shedding light on the values of our generation.

#### SHOWING

3:30 PM | Stage One

#### PRE-FEATURE SHORT

DON'T CRY FOR ME ALL YOU DRAG QUEENS

Experimental, LGBTQIA+ | 2024 | United States | English | 9 min | Kristal Sotomayor

Don't Cry For Me All You Drag Queens pays homage to the legendary Mother Cavallucci by weaving together the present and past to provide a striking portrait of belonging and memory. Joseph "Josie" Cavallucci (aka Mother Cavallucci) is a legendary New Hope drag queen that would host annual wedding celebrations in the 70s and 80s that served as fundraisers and a community party. Poetically merging archival photographs and present day footage from a community drag show, the film sparks conversation about the modern day issues Mother Cavallucci revolutionized. insta: @sotomayor.productions



# BOYS GO TO JUPITER

Animation, Coming of Age, Sci-Fi | 2023 | United States | English | 90 min | Julian Glander

A teenager in suburban Florida desperately hustles to make \$5,000 in this dreamy and surreal animated coming-of-age story. insta: @glanderco

#### SHOWING

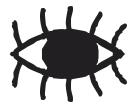
5:25 PM | Central United Methodist Church

# PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER

## LE COSMOS

Arthouse, Dark Comedy, Environmental, Experimental | 2024 | United States | French | 5 min | Natalie Peracchio

A letterbox searches for the meaning of life.







## FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE 'TEAR JERKER' SHORTS

8 Films in this Shorts Program | 100 min

Weaving together performance and passion, the films in this collection portray the deeply profound connections that bring us closer together. (We're not crying... \*you're\* crying.)

#### SHOWING

5:30 PM | Stage One NOTE: This program contains films with the Content Warnings: Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse

#### **GLITTER KISS**

Drama, LGBTQIA+ | 2025 | Lithuania | Lithuanian | 19 min | Augustė Gerikaitė

After discovering a brutally beaten drag queen Klaudijus, in his apartment building, homophobe Rolandas reluctantly takes him to the hospital and becomes his first response. As the police investigate and Klaudijus' life hangs in the balance, Rolandas is forced to rethink his beliefs.

## KARAK

2024 | Canada | English | 11 min | Ian Tan

A young couple have a horrifying encounter with a yellow Volkswagen Beetle while driving home on a deserted highway in the middle of the night. insta: @karak.film 'Tear Jerker' Shorts continued >

# BREASTS NOT INCLUDED

Arthouse, Documentary | 2024 | United States | English | 6 min | Seth Thompson, Hannah Sullivan

An autobiographical short film about a mastectomy journey. And the questions that follow about how to define beauty, femininity, and strength. insta: @brstsnotrequired

# LOLA

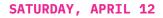
#### 2024 | United States | English | 11 min | Grace Hanna

A thirteen-year-old science prodigy journeys into her grandma's deteriorating mind to save one precious memory they have together. Synopsis: After Tessie's grandmother, Lola, is diagnosed with dementia, Tessie makes it her mission to save Lola's memories. Tessie has created a machine that transports her inside Lola's mind — a majestic library. Every memory is a book, and Tessie is trying to save one very dear to her: a memory of her and her grandma singing karaoke. Tessie and Lola can keep the memory if they recreate it perfectly. But thwarting their attempts at every turn is Mena, a small AI webcam. Mena is the dementia that's slowly creeping into Lola's mind. Will Tessie keep on trying in vain to save her grandmother's memories? Or learn to accept her grandmother's dementia?

## THE CONCERT

Coming of Age, Psychological Thriller, Social Justice | 2023 | United States | English | 8 min | Elizabeth Bourgeois CONTENT WARNING: Domestic Violence

Farrah and Lisa hang out in Angie's basement, waiting on her dad to give them a ride to their first big rock concert. Safe in their warm, wood paneled hang-out, they talk about boys and even rehearse their own fledging metal band - The Giant Feminist Electric Mares! But their fun and excitement is cut short. They face what so many women face. And they face it together. A realistic coming of age story that pulls no punches told from the girl's point of view.





## WHEN EVERYTHING WAS BLUE

Drama | 2024 | United States | English | 14 min | Christina Chironna

A heartfelt drama that unfolds through the intimate lens of a home video camera. It tells the story of Luke, a firefighter, and his family, as they navigate the heartbreaking aftermath of September 11th. Capturing the family's everyday moments, juxtaposed against the backdrop of Luke's declining health due to 9/11-related illnesses, the film immerses us in the love, grief, and strength of a family as they confront a system that chooses to ignore the ongoing challenges of a tragedy that continues to shape their lives. insta: @wheneverythingwasbluefilm

## AMPLIFIED

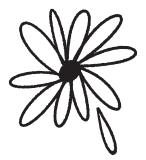
Drama | 2024 | Jordan | Arabic | 19 min | Dina Naser CONTENT WARNING: Sexual Abuse

Hind is a charming young Karate athlete with a hearing disability. After she's subjected to a violating incident at the Karate center, Hind's world gets distorted. The sensual narrative, accompanied by an authentic sonic experience, dives into what happens when safe spaces are shattered in the ugliest of ways. Through the eyes and ears of Hind, we sway between the tenderness and harshness of pain, the silence and the noise, and the hidden and the manifest.

## VICTORIA

Drama, Narrative | 2024 | United States | English, Korean | 12 min | Arsenio Salvante

Victoria calls her mom. insta: @victoriatheshortfilm





#### MIDWEST PREMIERE FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE CLOSING NIGHT FEATURE: FIREBREAK

IN COLLABORATION WITH NATION OUTSIDE Documentary, Drama | 2024 | United States | English | 72 min | Kenzie Bruce

Brandon and Royal are among a small group of firefighters in California who were trained while incarcerated and managed to break through and become professional firefighters postrelease, but that's not the story for most of their peers. After securing their own careers, they decided to take matters into their own hands and start their own nonprofit and fire department. Firebreak follows Brandon, Royal and their third group of trainees as they make their way through Brandon and Royal's tough training program. insta: @bluechalkmedia

#### SHOWING

7:30 PM | Central United Methodist Church

#### PRE-FEATURE SHORT: A MICHIGAN FRONTRUNNER

#### A CLEAN SLATE

Documentary | 2023 | United States | English | 14 min | Trần Hoàng Calvin

In 2007 Shanyeill McCloud was convicted of misdemeanor battery protecting herself and her daughter from her abusive husband, a record that upturned her life, making it nearly impossible to find employment. After almost 16 months unemployed, Shanyeill learned she was not eligible for expungement under current Wisconsin state law. Despite this, Shanyeill has dedicated herself to helping others navigate the process of receiving judical clemency using the knowledge she gained-one of those beneficiaries being Karie Elliott, a vet teach living in Milwaukee.





# ATMOSPHERE STUNT: OFFICIAL CCFF AFTERPARTY FT. NATURE AND THE BLUE PRINT

All aboard the Mothership! The official CCFF Afterparty will land somewhere in between a subterranean rave and galactic circus. Punk-techno band Nature (CLE) and AK and Blackmoonchild of Detroit's beloved party series, The Blueprint will close out the festival's 15th season.

insta: @naturenvoke

insta: @blueprint.313

PARTY DEETS 9:00 PM | The Avenue | \$10 | 21+ Entry is included with a CCFF all-access pass!



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