

The **2023** Cedar Rapids **Independent** **Film Festival**

April 14-16

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crifm.org



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OUR STATE IS READY FOR YOUR STORY.



The first Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival was held in 2001 at Mount Mercy University's McAuley Auditorium. Since then, CRIFF has continued to provide a venue for Iowa-connected filmmakers to screen their work for peers and general audiences. The organization's primary goals are to encourage independent filmmakers with Iowa ties to continue improving their craft, to provide a place to specifically showcase Iowa-connected films, present a unique cultural event to the community, and to offer networking opportunities for the purpose of building the Iowa Filmmaking Industry.

Film provides a unique opportunity for an audience to experience different perspectives. We get to step into a character and feel part of the story. The Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival is proud to provide a platform where diverse stories are told. Year after year, we continue to learn, grow, and be surprised. We strive to uphold both an event and an organization where all people feel safe, respected, and welcome. If you have any questions, concerns, complaints, or feedback, please reach out to us at info@crifm.org.

CRIFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. From the board, to the festival director, to the event staff, CRIFF is planned, organized and run by a completely volunteer group of film enthusiasts, filmmakers, students, concessions connoisseurs, and people who just enjoy being in the fun festival atmosphere! If this sounds like fun, and you'd like to give of your time, talent, or treasure, see the **Get Involved!** section of our website, crifm.org.

Welcome to the 2023 Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival!

For our **TWENTIETH** edition, **99** films were entered, the most since 2007. And the quality of work overall was simply outstanding. Iowa Connected filmmakers are doing amazing things! Our distinguished panel of judges had the unenviable task of whittling these down to **51 Official Selections**.

These films compete for **GOLD and SILVER EDDY Awards** in **Professional, ProAm, and Student** categories for **Features, Shorts, Documentaries, and "Freestyle"** (experimental, music video, video art, etc.) films. One Pro/ProAm and one Student film will each win an **AUDIENCE CHOICE EDDY**, voted on by you, the audience! **The Eddy Awards Ceremony, presented by Farmers State Bank, is Saturday night following the screenings.**

The **IOWA CONNECTION EDDY** is awarded to the film that tells the world **WHO** is making films in Iowa, **WHY** they're doing it in Iowa, and **WHAT** stories come from Iowa. **CRIFF celebrates the fact that people with ties to Iowa are in the production industry EVERYWHERE.** We search for films from anywhere and by anyone, who just happen to have an Iowa connection. That could be a crew or cast member who lived, worked or went to school in Iowa; a film that was produced, at least in part, in Iowa; or a story featuring an Iowa subject or Iowan (present or former, real or fictional). We've had films submitted from all across the U.S. and around the world! We tell skeptical filmmakers that if you don't think your film qualifies, ask around...you just might have an Iowan on set!

Celebrating Student Filmmakers

THEY'RE THE FUTURE OF THE ART AND INDUSTRY. Student filmmakers are integral to the festival's success, so we value giving them red-carpet treatment.

Our host venue generously continues its **COLLINS ROAD THEATRES \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP**, awarded to a student filmmaker in order to further the recipient's filmmaking education and career.

NEW this year is **STUDENT CINEMA SUNDAY**, a special screening of just student films. Student tickets for this special session are only \$5 in advance. At the close of this event, we'll present the **STUDENT AUDIENCE CHOICE EDDY AWARD!**





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Friday, April 14 – Afternoon

Theatre 1

Time	Film	Runtime
1:20p	The Voice in Isabel Fleiss's Office	6m:24s
1:26p	Good Riddance	9m:15s
1:35p	Two Wheel Freedom	20m:43s
1:56p	Polterguys (Series Pilot)	26m:32s
2:23p	Q&A / Break	
2:30p	Let me know when your name gets to Mars	1h:5m:13s
3:35p	Q&A / Break	
3:45p	Gypsy Vengerka	1h:27m:35s
5:13p	Q&A / Break	

Theatre 2

Time	Film	Runtime
1:20p	Alice	19m:06s
1:39p	Zach Dies at Nine	11m:11s
1:50p	Shut The Box	16m
2:06p	Q&A / Break	
2:15p	Into the Valley	1h:11m
3:26p	Q&A / Break	
3:35p	REVEILLE	1h:46m:09s
5:21p	Q&A / Break	

Friday, April 14 – Evening

Theatre 1

Time	Film	Runtime
5:30p	CRIFF WELCOME!	
5:45p	2:40 AM	3m:16s
5:48p	Uninvited House Guest	1m:30s
5:50p	(Un)alarmed	3m:30s
5:53p	The Blundering Buffoons	6m:24s
6:00p	Autumn Artistry via Canoe	10m:42s
6:10p	Dream Girl	7m:05s
6:17p	SHOUT	13m:15s
6:31p	Exodus	28m:14s
6:59p	Q&A / Break	
7:15p	To Live Again	1h:37m
8:52p	Q&A / Break	
9:00p	LETTERS	13m:52s
9:14p	You Should Have Killed Me	1h:13m:25s
10:27p	Q&A / Break	

Theatre 2

Time	Film	Runtime
5:45p	Gills	22m
6:07p	The Tower	22m:03s
6:29p	Orchestra Iowa – 100 Years Into Our Future	31m:13s
7:00p	Q&A / Break	
7:15p	Greener Pastures	1h:22m
8:37p	Q&A / Break	
8:50p	Blades of Betrayal	5m:45s
8:56p	Black Excellence by Tone Da Boss	2m:46s
8:59p	Kenosha: The Shooting of Jacob Blake	27m:13s
9:26p	The King's Eye	23m:46s
9:50p	INTO THE LIONS DEN	24m:30s
10:14p	Q&A / Break	





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Saturday, April 15 – Morning

Theatre 1

Time	Film	Runtime
9:00a	The Collins Story - Connecting the Moon to the Earth: Steps to the Moon	1h:12m:10s
10:12a	Q&A / Break	
10:25a	Into the Valley	1h:11m
11:36a	Q&A / Break	
11:45a	LETTERS	13m:52s
11:59a	INTO THE LIONS DEN	24m:30s
12:23p	Orchestra Iowa – 100 Years Into Our Future	31m:13s
12:55p	Q&A / Break	

Theatre 3

Time	Film	Runtime
9:00a	SHOUT	13m:15s
9:13a	The Way It Was	46m:58s
10:00a	Q&A / Break	
10:15a	To Live Again	1h:37m
11:52a	Q&A / Break	

Theatre 2

Time	Film	Runtime
9:00a	Between the Lines	1h:18m
10:18a	Q&A / Break	
10:30a	Strange Ballet	6m:51s
10:36a	Standing Strong: Elisabeth Catlett	56m:20s
11:33a	Q&A / Break	
11:45a	You Should Have Killed Me	1h:13m:25s
12:58p	Q&A / Break	

Theatre 4

Time	Film	Runtime
9:00a	Launch Sequence	9m:22s
9:09a	Two Wheel Freedom	20m:43s
9:30a	The Bridge	32m:06s
10:02a	Q&A / Break	
10:15a	The Voice in Isabel Fleiss's Office	6m:24s
10:21a	Autumn Artistry via Canoe	10m:42s
10:32a	Livestock on the Land	1h:17m:31s
11:50a	Q&A / Break	

Theatre 5

Time	Film	Runtime
9:00a	That Guy in Brown	7m:03s
9:07a	Dream Girl	7m:05s
9:14a	Good Riddance	9m:15s
9:23a	Nostalgia	15m:02s
9:38a	El Principe Azul (Prince Charming)	18m:17s
9:57a	Q&A / Break	
10:15a	Gypsy Vengerka	1h:27m:35s
11:43a	Q&A / Break	



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Saturday, April 15 – Afternoon

Theatre 1

Time	Film	Runtime
1:25p	Greener Pastures	1h:22m
2:47p	Q&A / Break	
3:00p	The Collins Story - Connecting the Moon to the Earth: Steps to the Moon	1h:12m:10s
4:12p	Q&A / Break	
4:25p	Standing Strong: Elisabeth Catlett	56m:20s
5:21p	Q&A / Break	

Theatre 2

Time	Film	Runtime
1:25p	2:40 AM	3m:16s
1:28p	Uninvited House Guest	1m:30s
1:30p	That Guy in Brown	7m:03s
1:37p	Launch Sequence	9m:22s
1:46p	Shut the Box	16m
2:02p	Polterguys (Series Pilot)	26m:32s
2:29p	The Tower	22m:03s
2:51p	Q&A / Break	
3:00p	Let me know when your name gets to Mars	1h:05m:13s
4:05p	Q&A / Break	
4:15p	Nostalgia	15m:02s
4:30p	The King's Eye	23m:46s
4:54p	The Bridge	32m:06s
5:26p	Q&A / Break	

Saturday, April 15 – Evening

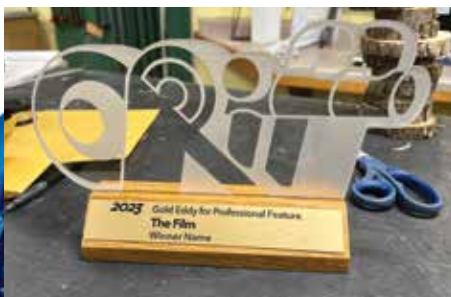
Theatre 1

Time	Film	Runtime
6:15p	Black Excellence by Tone Da Boss	2m:46s
6:18p	Strange Ballet	6m:51s
6:25p	Livestock on the Land	1h:17m:31s
7:42p	Q&A / Break	
7:55p	Between the Lines	1h:18m
9:13p	Q&A / Break	
9:30p	(Overflow if necessary) The Eddy Awards Ceremony presented by Farmers State Bank	

Theatre 2

Time	Film	Runtime
6:15p	REVEILLE	1h:46m:09s
8:01p	Q&A / Break	
8:10p	Heaven's Ranch	5m:56s
8:16p	The Edge	7m:08s
8:23p	PhD: Private High School Detective	4m:56s
8:28p	A Spring for Ali	25m:29s
8:53p	Q&A / Break	

**9:30p The Eddy Awards Ceremony
presented by Farmers State Bank**



The Eddy Awards are named after Thomas Alva Edison who, among many other pursuits, was a pioneer in motion picture technology. The term eddy is also defined as "a current moving contrary to the direction of the main current," which is a suitable description for independent filmmakers, who often go against the current trends in mainstream cinema.



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Student Cinema Sunday, April 16

Theatre 1

Time	Film	Runtime
12:00p	STUDENT CINEMA SUNDAY WELCOME!	
12:05p	A Spring for Ali	25m:29s
12:31p	Gills	22m
12:53p	(Un)alarmed	5m
12:57p	Foreign	2m:31s
1:00p	The Edge	7m:08s
1:07p	PhD: Private High School Detective	4m:56s
1:12p	El Principe Azul (Prince Charming)	18m:17s
1:30p	Q&A / Break	
1:50p	Penny Road	17m:52s
2:08p	Kenosha: The Shooting of Jacob Blake	27m:13s
2:35p	One Stolen Moment	17m:09s
2:52p	The A.B.E.N. Case	12m:45s
3:05p	Foreign	2m:31s
3:07p	Large	3m:58s
3:11p	Q&A / Break	

Theatre 2

Time	Film	Runtime
12:05p	Zach Dies at Nine	11m:11s
12:16p	One Stolen Moment	17m:09s
12:33p	Penny Road	17m:52s
12:51p	Blades of Betrayal	5m:45s
12:57p	The A.B.E.N. Case	12m:45s
1:10p	The Blundering Buffoons	3m:30s
1:13p	Large	3m:56s
1:17p	Alice	19m:06s
1:38p	Q&A / Break	
1:50p	The Way It Was	46m:58s
2:37p	Exodus	28m:14s
3:05p	Heaven's Ranch	5m:56s
3:11p	Q&A / Break	

3:30p Student Audience Choice Eddy Presentation
(overflow in Theatre 1)

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About the Films

2:40 AM

Professional Short | 3m:16s

Friday 5:45p | Saturday 1:25p

Insane Mike Saunders - Writer/Director - Ottumwa Prescribed Films

There are strange noises in the middle of the night. Lana films with her cell phone as she investigates. *(brief language)*

Prescribed Films is an Iowa based film company. The film was shot in Ottumwa, Iowa.

The A.B.E.N Case

Student Short | 12m:45s

Sunday, 12:57p | Sunday, 2:52p

**Joshua Thomas Woolcott - Writer/Director
Noah Kallem - Producer
Buena Vista University - Storm Lake**

Four university students venture into a long-abandoned building on campus to try to find something interesting. What they find is the scariest night of their lives. *(language)*

This short film was produced by Digital Media students at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA. The students are also members of the Iowa College Media Association. The Digital Media program has worked with the Iowa Motion Picture Association too.

Alice

Student Short | 19m:06s

Friday, 1:20p | Sunday, 1:17p

**Matthew Williams - writer/director/producer/editor
Loras College - Dubuque**

Matt Williams and all crew were students at Loras College in Dubuque, IA. Williams is also a resident of Dubuque, IA graduating from Hempstead High School.

Autumn Artistry via Canoe

ProAm Documentary 10m:42s

Friday, 6:00p | Saturday, 10:21a

**Bruce G. McKee - Director - Mason City
Dale Mills - Writer**

Dale has solo-paddled the Winnebago River in North Iowa in every month of every year for nearly two decades. This film, the third in a series, highlights his Autumn canoe floats, emphasizing river stewardship and passing on the joy of paddling to the next generations.

Narrated with his prose and observations of his passion of paddling and nature around him.

Autumn
Artistry via

Canoe was written, produced and filmed on an Iowa river with lots of time in the 'eddies' - a perfect connection to the Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival.

Between the Lines

Professional Feature | 1h:18m

Saturday, 9:00a | Saturday, 7:55p

**Shelby Hagerdon, M.G. White - Directors
Bitter Hipster Films - Sioux City**

A young woman tries to make a new life for herself while caring for her traumatically brain injured mother and coping with the scars of her past. *(language, mature themes)*

I was born and raised in Smithland Iowa. Also, my co-director M.G. White lives in Sioux City.

Black Excellence by Tone Da Boss

ProAm Freestyle | 2m:46s

Friday, 8:56p | Saturday, 6:15p

**Antonio Chalmers, Josh Booth - Directors - Cedar Rapids
Antonio Ricardo Chalmers, Ean Mills, Alicia Strong,
Rachel Hagen - Writers - Cedar Rapids
T1 Entertainment**

Black Excellence is a music video written by Tone Da Boss, EMDUBAI, and Alicia Monee. Shot by Josh Booth and released February 2022, Black Excellence has been featured on Iowa PBS and many news outlets as well.

This video was shot in Cedar Rapids by an Iowa videographer featuring 3 Iowa artists. The videographer is Josh Booth of Diamond Label films. The main artist is Tone Da Boss from Cedar Rapids featuring Alicia Monee and EMDUBAI also from Cedar Rapids.

Blades of Betrayal

Student Short | 5m:45s

Friday, 8:50p | Sunday, 12:51p

**Gavin Smith, Paul Murphy - Producers/Directors
University of Iowa - Iowa City
Drake University - Des Moines**

A samurai captain leads his squad into the forest where he is attacked by an unexpected enemy.

The entire project was filmed in central Iowa with local actors. The directors of the film go to the University of Iowa and Drake.

The Blundering Buffoons

Student Freestyle | 3m:30s

Friday, 5:53p | Sunday, 1:10p

**Calvin Huber - Director - Cedar Rapids
Taite Peach - Writer - Cedar Rapids
David Thomas, Jackson Slaymaker - Producers
Iowa Valley Community School - Marengo**

Inspired by the silent films of Charlie Chaplin and the slapstick comedy of The Three Stooges, this film introduces us to three lovable buffoons who simply want to see a show. When they don't have enough money for a ticket, they quickly find inspiration from a theatre handyman. Mr.



Jackson soon discovers these shenanigans and vows to rid his theater of such troublemakers!

Created by Iowa high school students.

The Bridge

Professional Short | 32m:06s

Saturday, 9:30a | Saturday, 4:54p

Courtney Ball, Adam Orton - Directors - Cedar Rapids Flow Media

Two boys from different cultures are adventurous best friends, but their fathers' prejudices threaten to pull them apart. A poignant drama mixed with boyish humor, "The Bridge" is a beautiful story about how friendship between younger people can help overcome cultural conflict and trauma from the past. (*language*)

This film was produced in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Except for two actors, all talent and crew members are from Iowa.

The Collins Story - Connecting the Moon to the Earth: Steps to the Moon

Professional Documentary | 1h:12m:10s

Saturday, 9:00a | Saturday 3:00p

Annette Juergens Busbee - Writer/Producer Busbee Communications, Wired Production Group, Arthur A. Collins Legacy Association - Cedar Rapids

Before personal computers, the Internet, smartphones and GPS connected us and guided our journeys, men on board the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space capsules talked to earth, navigated in space and to the moon and back, and exchanged critical data with mission control. How was this accomplished five decades ago? By the ingenuity and dedication of The Collins Radio Company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This first chapter of the series tells the story of young Arthur Collins, and how he grew his company into a significant contributor to the American space program.

The film is about an Iowa-based company and the Iowans who worked there. The film was produced in Cedar Rapids.

Dream Girl

ProAm Short | 7m:05s

Friday, 6:10p | Saturday 9:07a

Tristan Bennett - Director/Writer Tyler Black, Skyler Ferguson, Kazek Israni-Winger - Writers Zach Everman, Noah Lucy - Producers Cedar Falls

Casey Karver begins to spiral into darkness as he encounters a woman that strangely reminds him of his dead lover. (*mature themes*)

It was directed by an Iowa native, and produced by a fully Iowan team!

The Edge

Student Freestyle | 7m:08s

Saturday 8:16p | Sunday 1:00p

Colton Bachar, Jon Quinn, Michael Runde, Amber Krieg, Dana Majerczyk, Asia Singleton, Nate Kaiser, Nora Carr, Ellie Schill Loras College Media Studies - Dubuque

Global Filmmaking in Italy class project. Experimental Video.

Although shot on location in Italy & Sicily in January of 2020 - the nine students who produced/shot/edited this piece were all students of Loras College in Dubuque, IA. This experimental video was created as a part of a J-term Global Filmmaking course and edited at Loras College.

Exodus

Student Long-Form | 28m:10s

Friday, 6:31p | Sunday, 2:37p

Nathan Matthew Blizzard - Director/Writer Sidney Morgan, Piper Hager - Writers Omaha, NE

Julie and Adrian are trapped inside a building during the apocalypse by a man who is hiding something. A Nebraska film. (*mature themes, language*)

Exodus was made with Executive Producer and actor Michael Ross and makeup artist Angelica May who are both from Iowa and worked on the film. Michael is the owner of a haunted house in Sidney, Iowa called "Sinister Sidney," which Angelica also does makeup for. Michael and Angelica have a strong connection with Iowa and the haunt community there. They brought their experiences in horror makeup and acting into the film, which helped elevate it to a higher level. Without their involvement in Exodus, this film would've not been made.

Foreign

Student Freestyle | 2m:31s

Sunday, 12:57p | Sunday 3:05p

Logan Westin - Director - Des Moines Des Moines Central Campus - Des Moines

Music Video of an original song for a local artist in the Des Moines area.

The project was a part of the curriculum for the Broadcasting & Film Department at Central Campus, a dynamic, two-year program which concentrates on the creative and communication aspects of the radio/television/film industry. Emphasis is placed on analysis of career paths and the production techniques associated with gainful employment. Considerable time is spent working on the craft of writing, reading, equipment operation, announcing, creative thinking and management skills. The program may include studio assignments in the FCC-licensed radio station, KDPS 88.1 FM (and streaming live online: kdpscentral.streamon.fm), or submission of projects to DMPS-TV. Students also have the opportunity to submit work to various contests and festivals, and to colleges and universities in pursuit of scholarships in the area of Broadcasting & Film.

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Gills

Student Long Form | 22m

Friday, 5:45p | Sunday 12:31p

Griffin Presnell - Writer/Director

Ally Boyd - Producer

Wayne State College, Wayne NB

Mermaids are a known species, and when Asriel falls for a quiet girl in the back of his class, he soon learns they may be closer than he first thought. (*Gills is rated PG-13 for adult themes and depictions of violence*)

The Executive Producer is Michael White, who is an Iowa native.

Good Riddance

Professional Short | 9m:05s

Friday, 1:26p | Saturday, 9:14a

Jake J. Roth - Director

A twisted story of witchcraft & revenge. (*brief language, mature themes, gore*)

The entire cast/crew was either born in Dubuque, IA, and/or currently lives there. The director/writer also graduated from Loras College in 2014, with his bachelor's degree in Media Studies.

Greener Pastures

Professional Documentary | 1h:22m

Friday, 7:15p | Saturday, 1:25p

Samuel-Ali Mirpoorian - Director/Producer

Vickie Curtis, Vanessa Roworth - Writers

Ian Robertson Kibbe - Producer

Greener Pastures captures the day-to-day lives of four small, multigenerational family farms over the course of three years. Through an intimate, observational lens we examine the various farm stressors, policies and politics farmers must maneuver to survive, connecting the dots between mental health, industrialization, food production and climate change. It is a story of perseverance, patience and determination that tackles nothing less than the future of farming in America. (*mature topics, brief language*)

The film was shot in several cities in Iowa - Des Moines, Clear Lake, Mason City, etc.

Gypsy Vengerka

ProAm Documentary | 1h:27m:35s

Friday, 3:45p | Saturday 10:15a

Oleg Timofeyev, Sabine I. Gölz - Directors/Producers

A feature-length documentary about the last representatives of the 2 centuries old Russian-Romani 7-string guitar tradition and its central piece, known as the "Gypsy Vengerka." The film also includes interviews with Romani rights activists in the US.

This film is very international, but also strongly connected to Iowa, as it features the work of Oleg Timofeyev and a course he taught at the UI for many years.

Heaven's Ranch

Student Freestyle | 5m:56s

Saturday, 8:10p | Sunday 3:05p

Morgan Minear, Nate Kaiser - Directors/Producers

Addison Aronson - Performer

Loras College Media Studies - Dubuque

Nate Kaiser & Morgan Minear were students at Loras College in Dubuque, IA. The music video was filmed in rural Dubuque county. Morgan Minear is also a native of Iowa, growing up in Decorah. The songwriter (Pins), singer (Aronson), and track recording (Breitbach) are all either Dubuque natives or live there.

Into the Lions Den

Professional Documentary | 24m:30s

Friday, 9:50p | Saturday, 11:59a

Quinn Early - Writer/Director/Producer

Cameron Early, Benjamin Sheeler, Tai Seibert - Producers

A Marine turned football coach creates a winning tradition wherever he goes. He builds character, and is a mentor to young men. His courage is tested in 1965 when he gives a scholarship to a high school football star who happens to be Black. Together, the two would help reshape the landscape of college football history in the south.

Quinn Early is a University of Iowa graduate, (1987) and was a two sport student athlete, participating in both Football & Track. This documentary highlights the accomplishments of Hayden Fry, and his relationship with Jerry Levias. Coach Fry gave the first football scholarship to an African American student athlete, Levias, in the Southwestern Conference in 1965, and went on to become one of the greatest college football coaches of all time.

Into the Valley

Professional Feature | 1h:11m

Friday, 2:15p | Saturday, 10:25a

Stephen Folker - Director

Sarah F. Katz - Producer/Writer

Following her mother's sudden departure, Kara leaves the East Side for a job in the Valley - only to discover that the tech utopia has a dark side. (*language*)

The director is from Iowa, the film was shot in Iowa and the majority of the cast is from Iowa.



Kenosha: The Shooting of Jacob Blake

Student Documentary | 18m:17s

Friday, 8:59p | Sunday, 2:08p

Jon Quinn - Director

Loras College - Dubuque

Loras College Senior, Jon Quinn, watched on social media and through messages he received from family and friends, as the events on August 23rd, 2020 unfolded in his hometown of Kenosha, Wisconsin. In the months following, Quinn would make several trips home to document both events and reactions on the impact on the black community in Kenosha. Highlighting key community activists, Quinn captures their reaction to the District attorney's contentious announcement on January 4, 2021, that no charges would be filed for the officer involved in the shooting. The open ending reflects the unknown of what is to come for the community of Kenosha. Quinn hopes to continue telling this story and it's impact on the community of Kenosha as it unfolds in the days, months, and years ahead. (*mature topics*)

Jon Quinn was a student at Loras College in Dubuque, IA when he produced this documentary (although filmed in Kenosha, WI).

The King's Eye

Professional Short | 23m:46s

Friday, 9:26p | Saturday, 4:30p

Tony Joseph Cross - Director/Writer/Producer

A man embarks on a scavenger hunt, left behind by his recently deceased father. On his journey, he's given a chance to remember his past, while also embracing the prospects of his future.

The film was largely shot in Davenport, Iowa.

Large

Student Short | 3m:58s

Sunday, 1:13p | Sunday 3:07p

Dillon Jacobson - Writer/Director/Producer

Lucas Halverson - Producer

University of Iowa - Iowa City

After letting life pass by and accepting his life at face value, Lucas watches a motivational advertisement that inspires him to take control of his life.

Everyone involved in the film is from Iowa, and the director made this project for a course through the University of Iowa's cinematic arts program.

Launch Sequence

ProAm Short | 9m:22s

Saturday, 9:00a | Saturday, 1:37p

Kazek Israni-Winger - Writer/Director/Producer

Abby Bjorholm - Producer

On the day of the Artemis Moon Launch, a son desperately tries to connect with his ailing father.

This short was shot in Iowa and all of the actors and crew are Iowans.

Let me know when your name gets to Mars

ProAm Feature | 1h:5m:13s

Friday, 2:30p | Saturday, 3:00p

Kazek Israni-Winger - Writer/Director/Producer

Abby Bjorholm - Producer

Three friends embark on a road-trip across the US in the summer of 1999. They grapple with love, death, sex, self-worth, and the fear of adulthood. (*mature themes*)

All the cast and crew are from Iowa and the majority of the film was shot in Iowa.

Letters

ProAm Short | 13m:52s

Friday, 9:00p | Saturday, 11:45a

Eva Beunza - Writer/Director/Producer - Sioux City

Emma has been working for some time to get a job in Canada. After much effort and hours of work, she receives a letter stating that she has been selected. Everything takes a turn when she asks her partner to move to Canada together. The memories of her childhood and the couple's situation make them doubt about their future.

The connection I have with Iowa is that we came to live here. I've been living in Sioux City for a year now. In fact, I shot this short film as a farewell before coming to live here. I made this project exclusively to come and live here. I'm trying to carve out a space for myself in this state in the audiovisual world.

Livestock on the Land

ProAm Documentary | 1h:17m:31s

Saturday, 10:32a | Saturday, 6:25p

Nick Ohde - Producer/Director

Practical Farmers of Iowa - Ames

In broad-brush, "Livestock on the Land" is a story about regenerative grazing and its promise for the Iowa landscape. Up close, however, it's a story about people - the farmers driven by love of family, land and livestock to seek more resilient solutions, and the community that emerges when livestock are on the land. The film goes beyond the science to show how livestock are central threads connecting people, diversifying farms, protecting soil and water, and anchoring rural communities. When livestock



leave, so do the people. "Livestock on the Land" shows the reverse: how livestock can repeople our rural communities by giving farmers a chance to get started, grow businesses, provide for their families, work together and bring back the next generation to sustain the cycle.

Producer and director, Nick Ohde, was born and currently lives in Iowa; most of the production team lives in Iowa; the subject is Iowa-focused and most of the people featured in the film live and work in Iowa; and the issues explored in the film are central issues to Iowa's most central industry: agriculture.

Nostalgia

ProAm Short | 15m:02s

Saturday, 9:23a | Saturday, 4:15p

Katie Otten - Director

Jeremy Wade Rodman - Writer/Producer

Two fan girls reminisce about their childhoods spent playing with Sci-Fi toys as one makes hard life decisions.

The Writer/Producer Jeremy Rodman is from Glenwood, Iowa and went to the University of Iowa with a degree in Media and film BA 1996. Portions of the film were filmed in Glenwood Iowa.

One Stolen Moment

Student Documentary | 17m:09s

Sunday, 12:16p | Sunday, 2:35p

Ben Friedman, Michael Runde, Ben Burkholder, Pat Hunt - Directors/Producers

Loras College Media Studies - Dubuque

The focus of the documentary is about student athletes at Loras College, missing out on competing in national championships due to COVID.

This doc was produced by students at Loras College in Dubuque.

Orchestra Iowa – 100 Years Into Our Future

Professional Documentary | 31m:13s

Friday, 6:29p | Saturday, 12:23p

Benjamin Marion - Writer

Paul Marlow - Producer

Creative Genes - Cedar Rapids

"Don't you think Cedar Rapids ought to have an orchestra?" A rhetorical question posed in 1922 led to the creation of one of the most cherished symphony orchestras in the Midwest. A remarkable story of survival and success, as told by the musicians and friends of Orchestra Iowa. Now featuring more than 70 professional musicians, and recognized as one of the top regional symphony orchestras in the nation, 2023 marks Orchestra Iowa's 100th season.

The film was produced entirely in Iowa, by Iowans, about Iowans, for Orchestra Iowa.

Penny Road

Student Short | 17m:52s

Sunday, 12:33p | Sunday, 1:50p

Chase Alexander Guerdet - Director/Writer/Producer

Austin Ellis - Writer/Producer

Randall Guerdet, Andrew Kilburg - Producers

Loras College - Dubuque

This short was created by four students all of whom grew up in Iowa (Dubuque, Clayton, and Jackson counties) and also attended Loras College in Dubuque. Filming was also done in rural Dubuque and Jackson counties.

PhD: Private High School Detective

Student Freestyle | 4m:56s

Saturday, 8:23p | Sunday, 1:07p

Myles Strait - Writer/Director - Oskaloosa

This film is written and directed by a current Iowa high school student and entered in the Iowa High School Speech Association large group contests.

Polterguys (Series Pilot)

Professional Short | 26m:32s

Friday, 1:56p | Saturday, 2:02p

Landon Sheetz, Joey Loboda -

Writers/Directors/Producers

Don Tjernagel - Producer

Two childish men try to get famous making a ghost hunting show. (*mature humor, language*)

Almost entirely shot in Iowa, this series is written by, directed by, and stars Iowans.

El Principe Azul (Prince Charming)

Student Documentary | 18m:17s

Saturday, 9:38a | Sunday, 1:12p

Matt Williams, Juan Luna - Producers/Directors

Loras College Media Studies - Dubuque

"El Principe Azul" (translating to "Prince Charming" in English) tells the story of Diego Lopez, an immigrant from Honduras, who at the age of 17, fled Honduras in order to avoid being forced into a gang - a fate that killed two of his older brothers. Joining his mother and sister in the United States, Diego is determined to leave his tragic childhood behind him and move forward.

Produced by two students (Williams & Luna) from Loras College in Dubuque, IA. The student featured in the documentary is a current student at Loras College.

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Ricky is morning host at KMRY 93.1 FM and a member of the Screen Actors Guild. As a recent double amputee, he continues to inspire filmmakers, remaining an active radio personality and tv and feature film actor.

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Des Moines
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Davenport
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Sept. 8-10, 2023

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Sioux City
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REVEILLE

Professional Feature | 1h:46m:09s

Friday, 3:35p | Saturday, 6:15p

Michael Akkerman - Director/Writer
Myra Miller, Phd, Jörg Rochlitzer, Mike Burch,
Bernd Wittneben - Producers
Film Farm Iowa - Wellsburg

In late 1943, an American squad engages in a skirmish with German soldiers along the Winter Line in central Italy. As artillery shells begin to rain down, the Americans must honor the rules of war and protect their wounded prisoners. Huddled together in a cave and made to see the enemy as human, the soldiers wrestle with unimaginable moral questions that lie outside the boundaries of nationality and allegiance. (*mature themes, language*)

The Film was co-produced by Film Farm Iowa, Wellsburg, IA. Lead actor Bernd Wittneben, Executive Producers Jörg Rochlitzer and Bernd Wittneben, and Producer Burdette Walters are from Wellsburg. The movie was supported by Ellsworth Community College and Marshalltown Community College. Iowa College students were hired as production assistants. Sound Director Kevin Thorn is from Cedar Rapids. Actor and Sound Assistant Lane Schnarthorst is from Conrad. Camera Assistants Grant Gale and Dillon Jacobson are from Marshalltown. Calvin Cook, support actor, is from Iowa Falls. The Trailer to the movie was completely produced and shot in Iowa Falls, Iowa.

SHOUT

Professional Short | 13m:15s

Friday, 6:17p | Saturday, 9:00a

Mason Greer - Director/Producer
Kacie Rogers - Writer/Producer
Angela Mavropoulos - Producer

Sean is in the midst of a political scandal during his run for mayor, his neighbor Tori is trying to start a new life after the death of her mother. In a time of extreme isolation these two lost souls will share a bond through the walls connecting their apartments.

The director/producer/editor was born and raised in Iowa City and finished film school at the University of Northern Iowa.

Shut The Box

ProAm Short | 16m

Friday, 1:50p | Saturday, 1:46p

Brittany Benedict - Director - Dojolo Films - Newhall
Kevin Shepherd - Writer - Cintree Films - Coralville

As Jennifer finds herself aged out of the foster care system, she must clear out the house her grandfather left her. She enlists the help of her two friends, other fosters, she met in the system. Shawn is hopeful this is the opportunity he's been waiting for to take his relationship with Jennifer to the next level. That is until Nick, a laid-back partier, shows up to add a little excitement to the mix. Things take a dark turn when Nick suggests they play a simple game and unleash the supernatural powers of Roma. While this game is not the game of life it is one they must play for their lives.

From pre to post-production, "Shut The Box" is Iowa born and raised. From concept to rewrites, a successful Kickstarter campaign, and to screen, it was all done in the Hawkeye State with a predominantly Iowa cast and crew!

A Spring for Ali

Student Documentary | 25m:29s

Saturday, 8:28p | Sunday, 12:05p

Katherine Eid - Writer/Director
Maharishi International University - Fairfield

Katherine, a first-generation Lebanese American, only knows Lebanon through the stories her father told her. Ali, her great-grandfather, was orphaned at 6 and sent in a barrel across the Mediterranean Sea, then imprisoned and tortured in a camp they never taught Katherine about in American schools. In death, Ali was buried in an unmarked grave in the cemetery al ghoraba, the cemetery of strangers. In honor of her great-grandfather, Katherine returns to Lebanon to build a sabil, a traditional water fountain, and attempts to find her place in a generations-old story.

I attended Maharishi International University's Cinematic Arts and New Media program in Fairfield, Iowa where I made this film as my thesis project.

Standing Strong: Elizabeth Catlett

ProAm Documentary | 56m:20s

Saturday, 10:36a | Saturday, 4:25p

Kevin J. Kelley - Director
Marie S. Wilkes - Producer
New Mile Media Arts - Iowa City

The struggles and triumphs of Elizabeth Catlett, Mexican/American artist and political activist, who was a pioneer in the Black Arts movement.

Elizabeth Catlett came to Iowa to study art with Grant Wood. She became the first individual to receive an MFA in Studio Arts. Because she was black, she was not allowed to live on campus. Years later The University of Iowa named a residence hall in her honor. She worked with black poet Margaret Walker, another University of Iowa graduate, to create a compilation of art and poetry called "For My People".





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Strange Ballet

ProAm Freestyle | 6m:51s

Saturday, 10:30a | Saturday, 6:18p

Carol Ann Montag - Director/Writer/Producer - Cedar Rapids

First came the song, then came the video. On August 10, 2020, Cedar Rapids and other eastern Iowa towns experienced an inland hurricane known as a derecho. In Iowa, we are familiar with tornadoes, not derechos. Winds were as high as 140 miles per hour. The derecho lasted about 45 minutes. As a result, the City of Cedar Rapids lost 65% of its tree canopy. Many trees were simply uprooted from the high winds. Many homes were damaged beyond repair. Our home was without electricity for 10 days and we had no internet for 31 days. In the aftermath of this very rare and destructive storm, everyone did their best to clean up their yards, driveways, and sidewalks. Many streets were blocked by downed trees. Our neighborhood required several cranes to remove large trees from rooftops. In the midst of the clean up effort, my husband, Paul, and I took a break in our driveway to watch a crane lift branches off a neighbor's roof. The inspiration for this song/video came from that break. We watched how slowly and carefully the crane removed a large branch as if handling a delicate piece of glass. As the crane lifted the branch, leaves floated through the air. I thought to myself, this is just like a ballet, a pas de deux (a dance for two people, typically a man and a woman) between the branch and crane. The branch representing the ballerina, the crane representing the male dancer, often referred to as a "danseur". The question came to mind, "What is this strange ballet?" I grabbed a pencil, paper, and guitar and started to write...

That Guy in Brown

ProAm Short | 7m:03s

Saturday, 9:00a | Saturday, 1:30p

**Matthew Tribble - Director/Writer - Cedar Rapids
Marc Bauer, Daniel Tribble - Writers - Cedar Rapids**

A young man pursues his dream job doing whatever it takes - whether it's delivering packages or singing his way to glory.

I grew up and spent most of my life in the Marion/Cedar Rapids area

To Live Again

ProAm Feature | 1h:37m

Friday, 7:15p | Saturday, 10:15a

**Dr. Michael White - Writer/Director/Producer
Shelby Hagerdon - Producer
Bitter Hipster Films - Sioux City**

TO LIVE AGAIN (Vivre De Nouveau) follows Gavin Salles (Rob Merritt), a middle age screenwriter turned college professor, who is mourning the death of his wife. Gavin's life is filled with eccentric characters who are all deeply concerned for his well being. When Gavin meets Elaine Rush (Lindsay John Bauer), a newly minted PhD half his age, he must come to terms with what means to fall in love with someone half his age. To Live Again, is the second feature film by Dr. M.G. White. His films The Ghost in Her and Ever Fallen have been featured in festivals throughout the central United States. As a nod to White's favorite French directors the new work is a homage to Truffaut, Ozon, and Jeanet. (*mature themes, language*)

The writer/director lives in Sioux City and actor Rob Merritt is from Cedar Rapids.

The Tower

ProAm Short | 22m:03s

Friday, 6:07p | Saturday, 2:29p

Carrsan T. Morrissey - Writer/Director

A seemingly harmless party game leads to a horrifying spiral into madness, violence, and cosmic horror. (*mature themes, language*)

Both the writer/director and the stars of the film are all Iowans, and the whole film was made in Iowa! Linnea Sumner now lives in New York as a professional makeup artist, but is native to the area.

Two Wheel Freedom

ProAm Documentary | 20m:43s

Friday, 1:35p | Saturday, 9:09a

**Evan M. Jenkins - Writer/Director/Producer - Burnsville, MN
Michael Berg - Writer**

What does freedom mean to you? For Michael, it means a life on two wheels. From the motocross race tracks of Neola, Iowa to mountain biking the red rocks of Sedona, Arizona, Michael has spent more of his life on two wheels than his own two feet. Follow Michael's discovery of what the true meaning of freedom is to him. When life seems like no win situation, sometimes all it takes is another try, you just have to give 'em the beans and hold on for the ride.

The main subject of "Two Wheel Freedom", Michael Berg, was born and raised on the family farm near Neola, Iowa. He went to Iowa State (go Cyclones!) and is an Iowan through and through. "Two Wheel Freedom" pays tribute to his Iowan roots.



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(Un)alarmed

Student Short | 5m

Friday, 5:50p | Sunday, 12:53p

Logan Westin - Director - Des Moines

Des Moines Central Campus - Des Moines

Derek, a young man indebted to his sleep and schoolwork fractures his perception of reality as his association of alarm and anxiety is numbed by the repetition of his stresses.

The project was a part of the curriculum for the Broadcasting & Film Department at Central Campus, a dynamic, two-year program which concentrates on the creative and communication aspects of the radio/television/film industry. Emphasis is placed on analysis of career paths and the production techniques associated with gainful employment. Considerable time is spent working on the craft of writing, reading, equipment operation, announcing, creative thinking and management skills. The program may include studio assignments in the FCC-licensed radio station, KDPS 88.1 FM (and streaming live online: kdpscentral.streamon.fm), or submission of projects to DMPS-TV. Students also have the opportunity to submit work to various contests and festivals, and to colleges and universities in pursuit of scholarships in the area of Broadcasting & Film.

Uninvited House Guest

Professional Short | 1m:30s

Friday, 5:48p | Saturday, 1:28p

Insane Mike Saunders - Writer/Director

Prescribed Films - Ottumwa

There is someone or something in the backyard, watching and waiting. (*brief language*)

Prescribed Films is an Iowa based film company. The film was shot in Ottumwa.

The Voice in Isabel Fleiss's Office

Professional Freestyle | 6m:24s

Friday, 1:20p | Saturday, 10:15a

Jim Haverkamp - Director/Producer - Cedar Rapids

Virgil Renfro - Writer - Durham, NC

A woman with an unusual malady - cobweb buildup in the throat - receives an even more unusual treatment in this adaptation of a surreal poem by North Carolina writer Virgil Renfro.

Director Jim Haverkamp is an Iowa City native and went to school at the University of Iowa (graduated 1989).

The Way It Was

Student Long Form | 46m:58s

Saturday, 9:13a | Sunday, 1:50p

Jake Heelein - Writer/Director/Producer

Nate Kaiser - Producer

Loras College - Dubuque

The Great Depression ravages the lives of those in the 1930s, forcing some to turn to violence. Factory owner James Eston must navigate life while facing the biggest crime boss in town. However, his attempts to help his community may just lead to the destruction of his family. (*brief language*)

Although filmed on location in Potosi, Wisconsin, the writer/director, producer and all crew were students at Loras College in Dubuque. Several members of the main cast are also residents of Iowa.

You Should Have Killed Me

ProAm Feature | 1h:13m:25s

Friday, 9:14p | Saturday, 11:45a

Michael James Minard - Writer/Director -

Cedar Rapids

Susan Andersen, Eric Andersen, Emily Bauer,

Jesse Bauer, John Huff, Ricky Bartlett, Doug

Myer - Producers - Cedar Rapids

You Should Have Killed Me is a crime, action, drama about a man whose life revolves around the underground crime world. He has a reputation for violence, and is respected on the streets, but one event flips his world upside down. You Should Have Killed Me is a story of revenge, sacrifice, and ultimately justice... Or so we hope. (*violence, language*)

The entire cast and crew lives in Iowa and the film was shot exclusively in Waterloo and Cedar Rapids.

Zach Dies at Nine

Student Short | 11m:11s

Friday, 1:39p | Sunday, 12:05p

Will Nachazel - Writer/Director/Producer -

Cedar Rapids

University of Northern Iowa - Cedar Falls

Everyone involved in the film was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, currently lives in Cedar Rapids, and the film was shot at our grandparents' house in Cedar Rapids. (*mature themes, language*)



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