



PROGRAM OF EVENTS



FORT SMITH
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

August 13-14
Downtown
Fort Smith

AUG. 13

THE MAJESTIC

5:30 p.m. Welcome

6:30 p.m. Local/Regional Filmmakers Showcase, Q&A

Blood on the Risers Caleb Fanning

DAYVISION Michael Day

9 p.m. Special Guests and Keynote Speaker

11 p.m. White Collar Sideshow Live, with video

AUG. 14

BAKERY DISTRICT

SHORT FILMS

906 CIGAR LOUNGE

MUSIC VIDEOS. MUSIC DOCUMENTARIES

5 STAR PRODUCTIONS

FEATURES

THE MAJESTIC

STUDENT FILMS

FEATURES

MIDNIGHT AWARDS CEREMONY

The Fort Smith International Film Festival on August 13-14, 2021, holds its inaugural event titled 'Through Their Eyes.'

The festival will explore the many masks we wear and the eyes through which we see. Our festival celebrates the artistic expression and diverse experiences of filmmakers from the United States and all over the globe.

Through film, we lend our eyes to another, to see through another's perspective and walk in their shoes. Celebrate international and diverse artists in categories that include People of Color, Indigenous, Music Video, Student Film, Documentary, Short Film and Animation. Make your own viewing choices from more than 132 official selections from 32 countries. 52 international films are presented.

From the entrants, juries will award prizes, including scholarships for students, in a number of diverse categories at the award ceremony on Saturday night.

The poster for this inaugural festival is the work of local artist and muralist JK Burchett, reflecting its theme "Through Their Eyes."

Burchett used as his model the Cherokee Nation History and Preservation officer Catherine Foreman Gray, representing the Fort Smith region's multi-national heritage.

She also is producer of The Cherokee Way, an online video series that focuses on Cherokee history and culture.

Presenting Sponsors:



See fortsmithfilm.com for tickets and current information

SATURDAY

THE MAJESTIC

Azul Submerged overnight, Wamai finally comes out of the water.

People of Color Bianca Ceausescu Spain

Day of the Dead A young woman is taken into the land of the dead. Animation Short Kerry Lum US**Scam of the Century:****Zack and Cody Danimals Sweepstakes**

High schoolers set off to prove that a yogurt sweepstakes was a scam. Documentary Short Gavin Bell, Thomas Bozalis, Georgia Sasso, Coryell Smith, Will McDonald, Chancey Stefanos US

Shutter Photographer is faced with a dilemma when he encounters a felony in a forest. Gilbert Onggara Indonesia**Taking a Seat for Justice: The 504 Sit-in** This protest paved the way for disability legislation that would help millions. People of Color Thomas Huang, Allen Tang, Andrew Wang, Andrew Yu, Rohin Garg US**Stalker** Will is haunted by a mysterious figure in his dream. Brett Helms US**The Burial** Klein returns to his hometown after his best friend's death. David Huang US**Project Decius** Survivors of a deadly virus use a machine that could turn back the clock on humanity's end.

Indigenous People of Color Aidan Guerrero US

Lost People Youth and substance abuse.

Abdulkadir Okan Kavak Turkey

Dear Diary Samantha Lewandowski US**Gone Away** A boy is sent to live with his grandmother after his parents die. After another tragedy unfolds, he must go on this journey of grief differently. Grant Wild US**Breaking Point** Luke Perez, Samantha Lewandowski US**Luke** Samantha Lewandowski US**Disconnect** Paden Ramsey US**Deja Vu** Paden Ramsey US**Fish Hook** Lara Angelina UK

906 CIGAR LOUNGE

Body Bagger-Pee Wee Human Philip Person Fort Smith **Country Heaven** Hank Bagwell US**The Quiet** Radhedy Jegatheva Australia **It's Not You, It's Me** Hank Bagwell Fort Smith**Variations on Stay-home Activities** Hong Ning, Zhao Xiaofeng China **Waves Washing the Shore** Halil Efe Akdemir Turkey**Flowers in the Fog** Hong Ning China **Old Pink** Halil Efe Akdemir Turkey**Where's the Love** Denise Messamore Fort Smith **Seventh Fall: Means to an End** Cherokee Turner US**Underdogs** Courtney Ray US **The RIDAH G.O.D. "OG Season"** Metrowest Media US**Memento Mori: The Most Important Thing in the World** Will Wood US **Genre Bender** Jonathan Ozburn US**God Loves Me Too** Rachel Borders US **Toxicutie by TVH** Allie Chastain, Kevin Dewayne Davis, Tyler & Sophie Siddiqui US**11:11** Jacob Harding Cotner Fort Smith **Nothing Unexpected** Connor Brogan US**I Didn't Come to Die** TD Benton, Travis Joiner Fort Smith **Stand by Me** Steven Alan Worster Fort Smith**Sure Don't Miss You** Oliver Thompson US **Crazy** Samantha Lewandowski, Graham Smith US**Tombstones For Eyes** Daboberto Junior Brazil **Fluoridated Water** Cassie Brambl Fort Smith**"The Takedown" - Recognizer** Mike Mullins US **Welcome to the Show** Cassie Brambl Fort Smith**Waiting Til Dawn** Kirt Connor US **Tango** Cassie Brambl Fort Smith**Dead & Gone** Tyler Benton, Veronica Benton US

3:55 p.m.

MoonShot: The Remarkable Journey of Apollo Chamber Players *

Jeffrey Mills Documentary Feature US

The story of four musicians from different backgrounds who came together to create one of the boldest, most innovative ensembles in the world. Featured artists include Grammy and Pulitzer Prize-winning composers Jennifer Higdon, Libby Larsen and Christopher Theofanidis; Academy Award-winning Đàn bầu performer Van-Anh (Vanessa) Vo; Emmy-winning Chickasaw composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate; Rome Prize-winning composers Pamala Z and Pierre Jalbert; Syrian-American composer Malek Jandali; and Turkish born composer Erberk Eryilmaz. MoonShot was filmed in Houston with interviews at NASA's Space Center Houston, and prominently features astronaut John Herrington, the first American Indian to fly in space.

8:20 p.m.

Arkansas Rock and Soul Royalty - The Cate Brothers Band *

Benjamin Meade Documentary Feature US

The history and current performances of a legendary band in Northwest Arkansas that spawned The Band and the solo career of Levon Helm.

FROM AUG. 1-6

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COVID PROTOCOLS

FEATURES

THE MAJESTIC

- Noon **Djäkamirr: Caretakers of Pregnancy and Birth**
 Lāwurrpa Maypilama, Pat Josse Indigenous Australia
 Filmed in remote Arnhem Land, the film follows Lāwurrpa and Sarah on a unique journey through ancestral time, country and culture. As mutual trust develops between the two women, they hope to empower Yolŋu and reclaim 60,000 years of birthing culture from the stronghold of Western medicine. This is their story of working with community to pilot the training of djākamirr – the caretakers of pregnancy and birth.
- 1 p.m. **Kaali Maati** Hemantkumar Mahale Narrative Feature India
 This is a biopic of a farmer who yields harvest of gold from the black soil. He left his job to do farming full time and surrendered his fate to the soil.

3:05 p.m. **Jacks and Jills** * Adam Harbottle Documentary Feature US
 Follow male and female competitive lumberjacks on their journey of trying to be crowned at the Lumberjack World Championship in Hayward, Wisconsin.

4:40 p.m. **The Penitent Thief** * Lucas Miles Narrative Feature US
 The story of the two unnamed men who were crucified alongside Jesus and how they came to be beside him on the cross that fateful day.

6:50 p.m. **Three Souls** * José Guerrero Indigenous Chile
 Three Pirquineros ride horseback to a vein of gold located in a high mountain range. The landscape is inhospitable and desolate. The gold vein is also the site of the 1974 murder of three sisters of an indigenous ethnic group. Around the fire, they begin to tell ghost stories, until one of them remembers witnessing the crime as a child.

9 p.m. **The Rock of Gibraltar** * Michael Pharis Narrative Feature Fort Smith
 When a vicious criminal mastermind escapes prison in 1940s Arkansas, the retired detective who put him there is recruited to hunt him down one last time and avenge the death of his partner.

Filmmakers will engage with the audience for 20-minute question and answer sessions after the films marked with an asterisk *



10 a.m. **Built Lands** Arturo Dueñas Herrero Documentary Feature Spain
 In the late '60s, a group of artists decides to settle in a village in the 'darkest-deepest' Spain. Today, only Felix Cuadrado Lomas still remains there, determined to reflect the landscape that surrounds him: the lands built by those who work on them.

11:40 a.m. **Don andyachi gosht (A Story of Two Eggs)**
 Suraj Vilas Dalvi Narrative Feature India
 Jobless as a result of the pandemic, a poor family sells eggs in the village to survive. While their two children are selling two eggs, a daughter is the victim of an assault. Enraged, the father goes to the village to confront his child's attacker, with tragic results.

12:35 p.m. **The New Abolitionists** * Christina Zorich Documentary Feature US
 Filmmaker follows four NGOs throughout Southeast Asia as they fight to affect change and end human sex trafficking.

2:50 p.m. **Land of Lights and Shadows** * Kate Siegenthaler Doc Feature US
 A reflection of immigration in America today. This documentary follows the story of Mexican artist Octavio Logo as he paints life-size murals in preparation for his Exodus Exhibit on immigration in Northwest Arkansas. Intertwined are stories of immigrants who have inspired his work, and interviews with immigration experts and community activists who help navigate us through the complicated world of immigration today.

4:30 p.m. **Indians, Outlaws, Marshals and the Hangin' Judge** *
 Larry Foley Documentary Feature US
 Told in first person using the actual words written by St. Louis Republic newspaper reporter Ada Patterson in September 1896, this real-life story is set in and around Fort Smith, Ark., in the same time and place as the fictional Western novel and film, *True Grit*. Patterson narrates, much as Mattie Ross tells the story in the Charles Portis classic. With careful and honest detail to the words and visual history of the era, the film recreates Patterson's interview with Judge Isaac Parker, conducted Sept. 1, 1896, only a few months before his death. Much of the movie was filmed in Fort Smith or at the actual historic locations.

FEATURES

5 STAR MEDIA THEATER

6:25 p.m. **Whitewashed: The Ethnic Cleansing of America** *
 Dave Taylor Indigenous Documentary Feature US
 Native Americans have been subjected to attempted cultural genocide through forced conversions to Western religions and forced separation of their children for 're-education' in the boarding school system. It has created trauma and dysfunction within native communities over five generations. This film explores the lasting effects of these assaults on Native culture and how they are still ingrained in the dominant culture today.

8 p.m. **Black Boys** * Sonia Lowman Documentary Feature US
 BLACK BOYS exposes the dehumanization of Black males in America at the intersection of sports, education and criminal justice in a nation still struggling to rectify its past. Anchored by Greg Scruggs, a 2X Super Bowl champion and young father who recently returned to his hometown of Cincinnati to impress upon young Black athletes the importance of education first. Supporting storylines follow Sharif El Mekki, principal at a majority-Black charter school in West Philadelphia, and Malcolm London, a young poet activist fighting for criminal justice reform in Chicago. Notable voices include Malcolm Jenkins, Carmelo Anthony, Jemele Hill, Dr. Harry Edwards, former Secretary of Education John King and more. A rare glimpse into the emotional landscape of Black males, illuminating their full humanity, vulnerability and resilience.

10:10 p.m. **The Lost Hunter** * Jackson Lyons, Max Winters Narrative Feature US
 Jeremy Doyer, troubled by the infidelity of his girlfriend, takes off on a hunting trip in order to escape his problems. The owner of the land joins his hunt but tells Jeremy a local legend of a lost hunter who roams the woods and kills those who get lost. Gradually, Jeremy begins to doubt his own sanity and the identity of his companion.

SATURDAY

SHORT FILMS

THE BAKERY DISTRICT

DOC SHORT 10AM

The Paper Plate House Levi Smith College Student Fort Smith
A search for Arkansas rumored "Paper Plate House." Does it even exist?

Caring for the Past, Preserving the Future: The Legacy of the Smith Hospital
Craig Pasquinzo High School Student US
The historical importance of the Smith Hospital to the town of Paris, Ark., and its surrounding communities.

Pole Boy Kush Gupta Documentary Short UK
Andrew, an amputee pole dancer and athlete, enters a pole competition against able-bodied pole dancers for the first time.

DRAMATIC SHORTS 11AM

Sunlight Blue Luke Danforth College Student Short US
A man must retreat to an old friend in the midst of a crisis.

Luna Samer Al Sayegh College Student Short Lebanon
Karim and Luna, Lebanese teenagers, are drawn together by an eclipse of the moon.

Ladies Night Johnnie Brannon Fort Smith
Three best friends are thrust into a crazy adventure that exposes them to a serial killer.

Road Friend Aleksei Borovikov College Student US
A truck driver loses his beloved dog and adapts to a new puppy companion.

7_minutos Christian Schneider College Student Short Portugal
The destinies of a sexual violence victim and a police inspector come together.

The Weapon Sediq Haci Xalid Short Iraq
Many people, because of their language and culture, become obliged to have guns.

Cop Roman Sinitsyn College Short Russian Federation
A police officer arrives on what seemed like a routine call.

Rat Todd Strauss-Schulson Short US
In pandemic-bound New York City, a lonely rat finds love and dances the night away.

The Ceiling Man Brett Helms Short US
A boy is haunted by his sleep paralysis demon on a stormy night.

Iris Raphael Lopez, Quentin Caffier Short France
Iris, a young South African model, journeys to a fateful casting call for Paris Fashion Week.

Toy Kang Shingyu College Short Republic of Korea
Shot on an iPhone. One friend tries to help a sad friend by giving him a dog.

The Shoes Tree Sebastian Maullucci Italy
Alma is a young pianist divided between her job and her son's education.

Pandemic Andrea Lawrence College Student Fort Smith
COVID haunts couple Lesly & Alex after making the terrible decision of leaving quarantine.

Sundae Afternoon Lauren Hammersley College Student UK
Father and son, touching upon 'great minds think alike' idiom, in a stop motion comedy.

Strange Cameron Carr College Student UK
A glimpse into an autistic author's life, friendships, trials and unique coping strategies.

Companion Jack Walton, Joe Helliwell College Student UK
Stop-motion film that expresses the friendship between a dog and a human.

Winner Samuel Chovan College Student Slovakia
Art attack made with love.

Cyberchondria Safeer Manzoor Animation Short Pakistan
A sleepless man diagnoses his own symptoms in an internet search that gets out of hand.

Kaval Sasha Stanishik Animation Short Macedonia
A man's memories are sparked by the musical instrument, the kaval, his grandfather played.

On / Off Nicolas P. Villarreal Animation Short Argentina
Endless distractions threaten to destroy creativity.

The Masterpiece Christopher Satola College Student Short UK
An artist works a lifetime to achieve a masterpiece. But what is the actual masterpiece?

St George and the Dragon Gus Kearns College Student Short UK
A family of medieval entertainers performs the legend for local townsfolk.

Cellfie Débora Mendes College Student Portugal
A scientist seeks answers by observing the world through the lens of her microscope.

Sea Shepherd Débora Mendes College Student Short Portugal
A girl serves fish in a restaurant until it runs out, with excerpts of Captain Paul Watson's TedTalk.

Made in Spain Coke Riobóo Animation Short Spain
Stop motion short made with scale HO miniature figures.

Battle of Icons Levi Smith Animation College Student US
A no-holds-barred fight to the end between familiar gaming characters.

Little Happiness Verónica Casimiro Rosales, Junior's Juarez Shuan Animation Peru
A lonely grandma reminisces when two fantastical garden gnomes appear to cheer her day.

Grandma's Closet Lisa Maydwell Person of Color US
Grandma shares stories with her granddaughter about desegregating her own school.

Warrior Coach Mark Williams Documentary US
A small Native American school in Wewoka, Okla., known for producing big basketball talent with a style of play commonly referred to as "Rez Ball," is led by Coach Chris Jones.

Decolonized Cooking with Chef Nico Albert Jeremy Charles Documentary US
Albert takes pride in taking Cherokee food to the next level and is the singer of a metal band.

Lies Victor Suarez College Student Short US
A mysterious man takes a walk through the woods when he finds a teen tied to a tree.

Sardis Colleen Thurston Documentary US
A cemetery floating in a man-made lake is the last relic of the town of Sardis, Okla.

Ikhaiyana la chi (I Will Remember) Mark Williams Documentary US
Tells the unknown stories of the last Choctaw removal to Oklahoma in 1903 by train.

ANIMATION 1:20PM

INDIGENOUS 2:55



**FORT SMITH
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**

PEOPLE OF COLOR 4:30PM

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| A Promising Voice | Obed Lamy | College Student Documentary | US |
| A black student, the first college-goer in his family, strives to earn his degree in vocal music. | | | |
| Wade in the Water | David Bianchi | Short | US |
| A chilling spoken word film, inspired by titular negro spiritual told through three black men. | | | |
| Let's Grow | Daniel J. Pico | Short | US |
| Spoken word film faces racism and the frustration of black and white struggles in America. | | | |
| French Club | Corrine Joseph | Short | Canada |
| A quirky teenage drama queen can't get enough of Everything French and her biggest crush. | | | |
| Voices from the Sit In | | Documentary Short | US |
| Students of 1969 relive the experience of a significant moment in the Civil Rights movement. | | | |
| Sundown Town | Mylo Butler | College Student Short | US |
| A trip home is disrupted after two make a pit stop in a mysteriously unwelcoming town. | | | |
| Ukubwa | Chris James | Short | US |
| Ryan has given up on his dreams. A gruesome visit from his younger self says to do better or die. | | | |
| Boxed | Wanjiru Njendu | Short | US |
| Daring escape of Henry "Box" Brown, who mailed himself to freedom. | | | |

PANEL TALKS FILMMAKERS AND INDUSTRY PROS

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| The Adhesive | Vahid Davoudpour | Comedy | Iran |
| Two friends, one producing glue and the other importing it, meet and something happens. | | | |
| Without Words | Loula Burnus | College Student Experimental | Belgium |
| Imane, a religious poet, seeks rapprochement to the prophet through her poetry. | | | |
| I'm Not Alone | Modar Alnajem | College Experimental | Syrian Arab Republic |
| Former badminton champion loses his family and everything else in the war in Syria, but holds on. | | | |
| Tour de l'énergie | Matteo Filippo Galvani | College Experimental | Italy |
| Arielle and Claude run away from Paris just before graduation, escaping responsibilities. | | | |
| Assisted Living | Mitchel Allen , Kasey Engle | Comedy | US |
| A comic book-obsessed young man finds an unlikely hero when forced to room with a cranky, older man in an assisted living facility. | | | |
| "Mr. Handsome" | Lauren McCullough | Comedy | US |
| He calls himself California and he always hears how handsome he is. | | | |
| Suono | Laurd Milian | College Student Experimental | US |
| A violinist loses his hearing in an accident and discovers a new relationship with music and life. | | | |
| Shotgun | Amber Karnish | College Student Comedy | US |
| Two unlikely strangers end up having a lot more in common than they would've thought. | | | |
| Shuster | Rotem Elkayam | College Student Experimental | Israel |
| A road trip becomes a clash between two drivers' desires, one who enjoys the ride, and the other trying to get to his destination as fast as possible. | | | |
| Good Grief | Peter Young | Comedy | Ireland |
| A dark comedy of two friends working up the courage to check on their probably dead roommate. | | | |
| Matched | Zack Kron | Experimental | US |
| A young woman explores an apartment during a blackout with only a box of matches. She's not alone. | | | |
| Josephina | Aquiles Cervantes | Experimental | Mexico |
| An elder woman who suffers from paralysis depends on Fernando, who lives his life studying, working and caring for her. One day for some reason he no longer returns. | | | |

COMEDY & EXPERIMENTAL 6:35 PM

SATURDAY

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Hit on Me | Josh Baxter | Short | US |
| A secret rendezvous sparks chemistry between two slighted lovers. | | | |
| Prone to Violence | Kyle Kauwika Harris | Short | Fort Smith |
| A reformed ex-con returns home and is forced to do one last job to save his family. | | | |
| Dead on Arrival | Tanner McChristian | Short | Fort Smith |
| A police detective seeks retribution for the murder of her partner. | | | |
| The Connection | Boris Mariy | Short | Bulgaria |
| A boy from the Bulgarian mafia is sent to earn the trust of the Italian mafia. | | | |
| Conductor | Royce Leii | People of Color | US |
| When Fernando returns to his homeland with the hopes to connect his family to their roots, the trip takes a turn for the worst. | | | |

ACTION 8:30PM

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------|
| ISS Titanic | Christopher Satola | College Student | Short | US |
| Hiding in a car in a cargo room of the first human voyage into the space, moments after the fatal system failure, two lovers need to face the final moments of their lives. | | | | |
| Connected | Christopher Satola | College Student | Short | US |
| In a near future, humanity has been deprived of closeness through technological communication advancements. One boy uses a 21st century play to warm his family. | | | | |
| Dust | Paula Blanco Perez | College Student | Short | US |
| In an apocalyptic post-war world, a young couple argues about trying the government's new program, "Remember," which erases memory and promised happiness. | | | | |
| The Assessment | Simon Sager | College Student | Short | US |
| A government assessment agent is tasked with determining whether or not people are worthy of remaining in current society or if they should be "relocated." | | | | |
| Ring | Zhang Haoyu | College Student | Short | China |
| A young man being persuaded to break up on the day of his proposal, by his dead wife. | | | | |
| An Unexpected Performance | Ian Franco | College Student | Short | US |
| A young writer discovers a unique ability, but learns there is more to it than it seems. | | | | |
| Entangled | Tarun Sardana, Mohammed Kraizim | People of Color | United Arab Emirates | |
| Just like quantum entangled atomic particles, few humans were born entangled too. Quantum were gifted beings who could see this entanglement. The universe wasn't fair. | | | | |
| The Human Condition | Jon Stewart | College Student | | US |
| Davis is experiencing an illness that no one has ever seen. It's quite unfortunate, really. And nobody seems to be too concerned about it. | | | | |

SCI-FI 10:10PM

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