

FILM FESTIVAL
PROGRAM
YEAR 2025



OTTUMWA
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
FRIDAY MARCH 21 & SATURDAY MARCH 22

BRIDGE VIEW CENTER | 102 CHURCH ST | OTTUMWA, IOWA 52501

BRIDGE VIEW CENTER

Bridge View Center is nestled on the banks of the Des Moines River and is the crown jewel of Ottumwa. The entertainment and events center features a 664-seat theater, 3,000 person event space, and 30,000 square foot expo hall. Delivering Outstanding Experiences!

BRIDGEVIEWCENTER.COM

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

BLOCK A: 5-7 PM

BLOCK B: 7-8 PM

BLOCK C: 8-10 PM

AFTER PARTY: 10PM

WISSOTA

CHOPHOUSE

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

BLOCK D: 10 AM-12 PM

BLOCK E: 12-2 PM

BLOCK F: 2-4 PM

BLOCK G: 4-6 PM

BLOCK H: 6-7 PM

AWARDS CEREMONY

7-8PM



FRIDAY SCHEDULE



COLORS

Directed : Lily Morrissey

Animation, Student, Iowa Film | 7min32sec | USA

Jem, a mermaid born of different colors and abilities than the rest of the mermaid community, navigates her way through life, trying to fit into a place that doesn't seem to accept her.

Film Block A | 5:00 PM



BEFORE THE PARTY

Directed : EP Cho

LGBTQIA+, Drama | 14min17sec | USA

A weekend getaway turns into an emotional battleground when Jay, struggling to come to terms with his bisexuality, faces the repercussions of his honesty with his girlfriend Julie, as their friends' own biases and misunderstandings come to light.

Film Block A | 5:00 PM



MY FRIEND MILES

Directed : Pieter Solta

Drama | 1h 17min | Belgium

A magical fairy tale about a mystic with political gusto, based on real facts. Miles, a particularly playful spirit, lures his friend Solta on a journey from Berlin to Friuli, Picardy and Venice, through his life, through the minefields of identity politics, and through the black hole of our oblivion as to what the world could be. Ultimately, he returns to Ireland, the land of his childhood, where he played marbles during the raw identity war of the troubles. Solta tries to track him down, to figure him out, to picture him. Miles, however, marbles in his pockets, infinity in his fingers, constantly eludes him.

Film Block A | 5:00 PM



FRIDAY SCHEDULE



ROT

Directed : Carrsan T. Morrissey

Horror, LGBTQIA+, Iowa Film | 31min19sec | USA

A newly-wedded couple's relationship is challenged when one of them contracts a mysterious illness.

Film Block B | 7:00 PM



SMALL TOWN MURDERS

Directed : Jace Cheney

Drama, Student, Iowa Film | 4min46sec | USA

Step back in time to the 1950s and join best-selling author Hughie Eastwood as he enters into the reserved town of Vindensburg. When a series of mysterious events unfold, including that of an attempted murder, Hughie must unravel the truth before he falls as the next victim.

Film Block B | 7:00 PM



LOVE & SUGAR

Directed : Thomas C. C Johnson

Documentary, Iowa Film | 3min35sec | USA

Love & Sugar celebrates how Stephen Loveland, renowned Saint Paul, Minnesota ice cream man, purposefully inspires kindness.

Film Block B | 7:00 PM



THE POST OFFICE

Directed : Brad Payne

Comedy, Iowa Film | 6min38sec | USA

A camera crew follows a mailman on a typical day as he interacts with his unique customers.

Film Block B | 7:00 PM



FRIDAY SCHEDULE



GRANITE AND MARBLE

Directed : R. Paul Lillaluz

Comedy | 10min00sec | USA

A "charmed" young boy races against the clock to win the love and friendship of his angry and cold-hearted adoptive teenage sister before a major Sacramento event concludes or risks being turned back into his true self.

Film Block C | 8:00 PM



COWBOY BOOTS

Directed : Eric K. Delehoy

LGBTQIA+, Drama | 12min33sec | USA

Jack, a gay cowboy from Nebraska, finds anything but the promised land he envisioned when he visits a San Francisco gay club for the first time.

Film Block C | 8:00 PM



CRIMSON ARCHER: A G.I. JOE FAN FILM

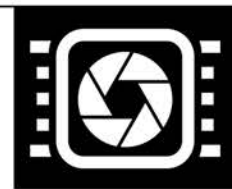
Directed : Pierre Doanetto

Drama, Iowa Film | 1h 29min | USA

A group of joes to save one of their own from the hands of Cobra. A terrorist organization out to rule the world.

Film Block C | 8:00 PM

SATURDAY SCHEDULE



PAPER PLATES

Directed : Brian Nguyen

Drama, Iowa Film | 1h46min | USA

Four robbers are stranded in a village credit union after immediately botching a would-be series of bank heists in rural midwest America.

Film Block D | 10:00 AM

OUR AMAZING SPONSORS

Bronze Sponsor:



Executive Producers:



Key Grip Sponsors:

Southern Iowa Mental Health Center // ITC Midwest

SATURDAY SCHEDULE



THE TOWER

Directed : Carrsan T. Morrissey

Horror, LGBTQIA+, Iowa Film | 22min03sec | USA

A seemingly harmless party game leads to a horrifying spiral into madness, violence, and cosmic horror.

Film Block E | 12:00 PM



CHASE

Directed : Lilah Pearl Skaar, Anthony Syracuse

Comedy, Iowa Film | 15min13sec | USA

A guy tries to walk a dog.

Film Block E | 12:00 PM



NOT JUST DELIVERIES

Directed : Andrew William Paulson

Animation, Comedy, Iowa Film | 4min52sec | USA

An anthropomorphic bat works at a retail job, delivering online orders to customers. However, one of his runs to deliver to a customer is severely hindered, racing against the time limit his boss has set him.

Film Block E | 12:00 PM

SATURDAY SCHEDULE



《薰》 (SMOKE)

Directed : 李 济帆

Horror, Student | 15min41sec | Japan

When the world falls into racial war, Xun and the wanderer seek the creator god to find a way to stop the war.

Film Block E | 12:00 PM



THE CALL OF THE ROAD

Directed : Josh Law

Documentary | 34min02sec | USA

This Only Co. Original docuseries features Ryan Bros. Trucking - a multi-generation family of truck drivers from Thermopolis, Wyoming. You'll see what it looks like to take pride in your work, carry on a legacy, and operate a business that makes a community proud.

Film Block E | 12:00 PM



KILLER POMS FROM OUTER SPACE

Directed : Kristen Payne

Sci-fi/Fantasy, Iowa Film | 8min34sec | USA

Aliens invade a Midwestern town bringing destruction and death wherever they go. They also look like adorable Pomeranians.

Film Block E | 12:00 PM



SATURDAY SCHEDULE



ORANGE

Directed : Tom Koch, Jake Shipley

Drama | 17min00sec | USA

While supervising fireworks, a young firefighter living in New York City suffers an accident that severely damages his jaw and costs him the ability to speak. He is sent to the south of France for treatment from a retired physiotherapist. Together, they explore alternative ways for the young man to express himself.

Film Block F | 2:00 PM



MEET ME AT THE END OF IT ALL

Directed : Brandon Gale

Drama | 10min00sec | USA

Two people discuss what went wrong in their past relationships moments before civilization comes to an end.

Film Block F | 2:00 PM



THE GREAT ONE

Directed : Russ Babines

Drama | 1hr17min | USA

When award-winning sportswriter, Molly O'Brien, receives word that her childhood friend, Danny, has died of cancer, she returns to her hometown in Pittsburgh to attend the funeral. As she visits the many places where she grew up during the early 1970s, Molly remembers those innocent days that were filled with adventure, playing baseball, and glorious times with friends she thought would never end. Walking this emotional path, she realizes the importance of selflessness and love, both elements that had faded in her adult life. This family film is about the power of forgiveness and the power of never forgetting those around you. But most of all, it's a reminder to keep your heart open because sometimes, love lasts a lifetime.

Film Block F | 2:00 PM



SATURDAY SCHEDULE



LIGHT PAINTER

Directed : Eric Smidt

Documentary, Iowa Film | 38min13sec | USA

"To control the story, you must first control the light." Dan McClanahan is a Master of Photography and "Light Painter" offers a behind-the-scenes look at how he creates some of his most Epic images.

Film Block G | 4:00 PM



HAPPY BIRTHGAY

Directed : Niv Manzur

LGBTQIA+, Comedy | 16min00sec | Israel

Mom throws her son a grandiose surprise BirthGay party, celebrating a year of his coming out of the closet.

Film Block G | 4:00 PM



ZASTAVA BROTHERS

Directed : Pep Stojanovic

Documentary, Iowa Film | 21min55sec | USA

Zastava Brothers is a documentary about the cars of former Yugoslavia and a group of immigrants now living in America who transcend their different backgrounds to form a bond over their love for those cars. As night falls on their first ever Sunday drive, they must spring to action when one of the cars begins to smoke.

Film Block G | 4:00 PM



SATURDAY SCHEDULE



LITTLE PERSIMMON

Directed : Thy Vo, Ivan Gozali, Yusra Shahid,
Florence Young, Noël Wiggins, Tracy Liu

Animation | 2min27sec | USA

A determined young girl embarks on a heartfelt quest to honor her late grandfather by tracking down his favorite fruit. Along the way, she's joined by a few unexpected and extraordinary companions, turning her journey into a magical and unforgettable adventure.

Film Block G | 4:00 PM



STARS IN THE WATER

Directed : Amy Tompkins
Drama | 16min22sec | USA

When an awkward and insecure 11 year old girl, who lives in a 90's fantasy world, is invited to her crush's pool party, she must convince her mom to buy her a new swimsuit to win the love of her life. Will she learn that everything she needs to love herself and feel loved is actually in her own backyard? Spoiler alert, this is not a film about first love. It's a film about mother-daughter forever love.

Film Block G | 4:00 PM

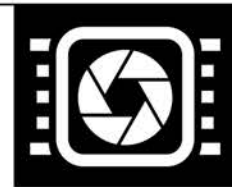


MOTHER RIVER

Directed : Jeremiah Schuster
Documentary | 6min10sec | USA

A look into Devin Brown's journey as she seeks to be the First black female on record to kayak the entire Mississippi River.

Film Block G | 4:00 PM



SATURDAY SCHEDULE



FACE TO FACE: OVERCOMING FEAR WITH SHARKS

Directed : Florian Launette

Documentary | 45min00sec | France

Sharks are the super-predators of the oceans and the terror of the Western world. They are often perceived as bloodthirsty killers. This fear is heightened every time a shark attack hits the headlines. In response, beaches around the world are closed, nets are set up and sharks are systematically slaughtered. Living with sharks seems incompatible with our new lifestyles. Yet one country has made a radically different choice: the Bahamas. This paradise archipelago, which welcomes nearly 7 million visitors every year, has declared its waters "shark sanctuaries". How do locals and tourists manage to live with these large predators? Would it be possible to get close to those considered to be man-eaters? To answer this question, photographer Rodolphe Guignard takes us to the heart of shark territory. Accompanied by experts and scientists, he dives right up close to the sharks to capture some surprising interactions. An intense face-to-face encounter that reveals the true face of sharks, the opposite of their sad reputation.

Film Block H | 6:00 PM

AWARDS CEREMONY



HOST: MIKE SAUNDERS

Celebrate the best in independent cinema as we honor the standout films, filmmakers, and creatives of this year's festival. Experience the excitement, anticipation, and well-deserved recognition in a night dedicated to storytelling and artistry. Don't miss this unforgettable finale!

Best Feature	Best Horror
Best Short	Best Sci-fi/Fantasy
Best Comedy	Best Animation
Best Drama	Best LGBTQIA+
Best Documentary	Best Student
Best Iowa Film	Audience Choice

Theater | 7:00 PM



FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Jason Bolinger is a passionate filmmaker, producer, and advocate for independent cinema. He brings years of experience in film production, festival organization, and creative storytelling. Jason has worked on numerous independent films, showcasing his skills in directing, editing, and cinematography. His deep appreciation for the art of filmmaking drives his commitment to providing a platform for emerging and established filmmakers to share their work with the Ottumwa community and beyond.

JASON BOLINGER



YOUR HOST

Mike Saunders is a dynamic host, entertainer, and longtime supporter of independent film. As the emcee of the Ottumwa International Film Festival, he brings his signature energy, humor, and passion for storytelling to the stage. With over 25 years as the director of independent film company Prescribed Films, Mike has been deeply involved in filmmaking, producing, and championing indie cinema. His background in podcasting, public speaking, and event hosting ensures an engaging and entertaining festival experience. His love for cinema and dedication to filmmakers make him the perfect guide for this celebration of storytelling on the big screen.

MIKE SAUNDERS

In addition to Jason and Mike, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to judges Nate Miller and Donald Salsbury for their time, dedication, and expertise in evaluating this year's films. Their passion for storytelling and commitment to independent cinema help make the Ottumwa International Film Festival a true celebration of creativity and talent. We appreciate their hard work in selecting standout films and honoring the artistry of filmmakers. Thank you for being an essential part of this festival!



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