

# FILM FESTIVAL

Part of the award winning Des Moines Arts Festival®

Screening Schedule Saturday, June 26, 2021

11:00 am - 6:00pm

## Student Selects, 11:00 am

**Big Touch** - Directed by: Christopher Tenzis – RT: 0:03:19 (USA)

An Afro-Surrealist story about a giant woman and a tiny man who through the power of touch, experience an unexpected transformation.

**Dogwatch** - Directed by: Albin Wildner - RT: 0:33:00 (Austria)

After losing his lifelong position at an industrial corporation, Raphael is forced by the Austrian Unemployment Office to take an underwhelming job as a night-time security guard. He recently moved back in with his bedridden mother, who is also cared for by the dedicated Ukrainian nurse Vera. Through Vera's support, Raphael gradually learns to cope with his new life situation, but a tragic incident breaks his world apart once more.

A warm-hearted narrative about a part of society, whose basis of existence is increasingly threatened.

**Epiales** - Directed by: Anna Panova - RT: 0:07:56 (USA)

'Epiales' takes the viewer to the journey to the world of nightmares, exploring the experience of a photographer, who suffers from that, and the expert who knows how to control it.

The Amplitude of Thoughts - Directed by: Phoebe Mitchem - RT: 0:07:46 (USA) The stress of the pandemic has exacerbated the struggles of many people dealing with mental health issues, particularly teens. This film discusses what Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, or OCD, feels like for teenagers, touching on how the corona virus has affected their experiences.

#### Feature, 12:00 pm

Bone Cage - Directed by: Taylor Olsom - RT: 1:29:00 (Canada)

Jamie (Taylor Olson) works as a wood processor, clear-cutting for pulp in small-town Nova Scotia. At the end of each shift, he walks through the destruction he has created looking for injured animals and rescues those he can. Adapted from a play by Nova Scotian author Catherine Banks, Bone Cage is a first feature from Halifax actor/filmmaker Taylor Olson that sensitively excavates the tragedy of how young people in rural communities, employed in the destruction of their environment, treat the people they love at the end of their shift.

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#### Shorts, 1:45 pm

Dualpa - Directed by: Mohammad Reza Moradi - RT: 0:17:48 (Iran)

A young man in the deserts of Iran is looking for a legendary creature who encounters a strange old man. In exchange for the treasure, he agrees to help the old man to find the holy book of their tribe. The difficulty of this path is that the young must be the Ride of the old man!

**Wish You Were Here** - Directed by: Dan Schneidkraut - RT: 0:11:44 (USA) A story about traveling alone told using footage scavenged from various mobile devices. An exploration of isolation and suicidal thoughts on The United States' Amtrak rail system.

#### Shorts, 2:15 pm

A Night in the Shelter - Directed by: Robert Belinoff - RT: 0:17:00 (USA) Around 5 PM every evening buses start arriving at a former prison on the high barren mesa 20 miles west of Albuquerque. The Westside Emergency Shelter will sleep 400 homeless men, women and children a night. Buses will take them back to the city in the morning. It is a place of unsuspecting beauty, grace and grit. This film spends 2 days and a night there.

**Bal Des Ardents** - Directed by: Nokomis Leaman Logsdon - RT: 0:12:25 (USA)
Reimagining the famous historical event, Ball of the Burning Men, a cocktail waitress takes a trainee under her wing at a masquerade jazz bar in Chinatown.

#### Feature, 3:00 pm

**Dwellers** - Directed by: Drew Fortier - RT: 1:20:00 (USA)

While shooting a documentary on the suspicious disappearances within the homeless community, a filmmaker and his crew go missing while uncovering a terrifying and vicious secret below the city's surface.

### Shorts, 4:30 pm

Field Resistance - Directed by: Emily Drummer - RT: 0:16:00 (USA)

Charging scenes of the present with dystopian speculation, Field Resistance blurs the boundaries between documentary filmmaking and science fiction to investigate overlooked environmental devastation in the overlooked state of Iowa. Footage collected from disparate locations—a university herbarium, karst sinkholes inhabited by primordial flora and fauna, a telecommunication tower job site, a decaying grain silo, among others—interlocks to evoke a narrative of present danger and future disaster, of plant expansion and humanity's retreat. The film rejects the human individual as the focus of narrative cinema, and, instead, adopts the perspective of a symbiotic "implosive whole" in which humans and nonhumans are related in an overlapping, non-total way.

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**Physical Barrier, Endless Loop** - Directed by: John Barnard - RT: 0:07:00 (Canada) While walking through the woods, a woman happens upon a seemingly endless golden thread winding its way through the trees. Rather than turning from the obstruction, she decides to follow it, soon discovering alternate versions of herself are also following the thread. Upon realizing she can undergo a metamorphosis to each alternate self by touching the thread, she finds herself caught in an endless cycle of multiple identities.

**Altitude Lake** - Directed by: Jérémy Griffaud - RT: 0:06:03 (France) *Music video for the song Altitude Lake by Slift.* 

#### Shorts, 5:00 pm

Horizon - Directed by: Daniele De Muro - RT: 0:15:00 (Italy)

In the borderlands, crossed by climate refugees looking for safety, men face their primordial nature, in a bleak reality where the law of the strongest rules the world. Hidden in an underground shelter and resigned to his fate, the main character observes the definitive decline of society as it surrenders to the evil nature of men, until a special encounter, interpreted as a divine sign of light, turns on his faith and hope for the future of humanity.

The Sun Still Shines - Directed by: Rita Blitt - RT: 0:04:14 (USA)

"The Sun Still Shines" uses a series of line drawings by Rita Blitt made in presence of a percussion performance in the mid-90s. Those drawings, out of thousands of Blitt works, stayed in her mind for 25 years, pulling her to create another project inspired by them. Composer Michael Udow created music influenced by forty of the drawings. The resulting project became this film, "The Sun Still Shines", which is Blitt's message of hope and resilience in the wake of 2020's world-wide pandemic and ongoing environmental disaster, including the nearby California wildfires.

**Jinxed** - Directed by: Damián Mastroleo - RT: 0:04:00 (Argentina) Sometimes the interpretation of a dream has the simplest of meanings.

**Printed Poison** - Directed by: Loretta Stern - RT: 0:03:39 (USA)

A mail order bridal service goes terribly haywire in this feminist infused satire.

Big Yellow Taxi - Directed by: Matt Mahurin - RT: 0:03:25 (Canada) On Les Stroud's release of his transitional roots rock album Bittern Lake, comes one of the album's biggest surprises: a version of Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi," that strips away the original's catchy chorus and sunny acoustic guitars in favor of a bluesy take featuring a rich slide guitar along with Stroud's own dark and scorching harmonica licks. While the bar is set monumentally high for covering Mitchell's material, Stroud approaches the level of the original while vastly surpassing the more famous rendition from Counting Crows.