

**13th
annual**

driftless film festival

NOV 3-6, 2022 • MINERAL POINT, WI

MINERAL POINT
**OPERA
HOUSE**
A THEATRE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

ABOUT THE MINERAL POINT OPERA HOUSE

Since the first Driftless Film Festival back in 2010, the spiritual and physical home for the DFF has been the Mineral Point Opera House. Nestled in scenic downtown Mineral Point, the Opera House has long been the city's epicenter for theatre and film, and it continues to carry on this tradition well into the new millennium.

Dedicated in 1915, the Opera House began showcasing the brand new medium of "moving pictures," which didn't take long to supplant live entertainment as the theatre's primary attraction. Though live concerts never quite left the scene (and indeed serve as the theatre's primary entertainment attraction today), movies have played at the Opera House as long as the technology has been around.

A century of enjoyment and use took a toll, and in 2008 a group of dedicated local residents launched a campaign to restore the Opera House. Under the leadership of then theater manager Phil Mrozinski, current MPOH Board Member Lauren Powers, and a group of tireless volunteers, a \$2.5 million restoration lovingly and respectfully brought the theatre into the future.

The Opera House was darkened in March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the shutdown of nearly all live performances around the world. It wasn't until May 2021 when the theatre held its first in-person event since the pandemic began. The event was, of course, a film: the 2019 live-action Pinnocchio.

Today, the Opera House is considered an elegant jewel, maintaining its original integrity of the past, nestled in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin, in the beautifully restored historic town of Mineral Point. Join us in our beautifully appointed venue hosting a diverse mix of cultural, musical, visual/film and community and private events throughout the year.

THURSDAY, NOV. 3

SIRENS 7 pm

Paired with short film **Confession Day**

A feature documentary starring the Middle East's first all-female metal band, Slave to Sirens. On the outskirts of Beirut, Lilas and Shery wrestle with friendship, sexuality, and destruction in their pursuit of becoming thrash metal rock stars.



CONFESSION DAY

Aled must bury his father and help his mother find peace. An outsider in a tight mining community, Bethan reveals what really happened the night Llewelyn died. The will of a father, broken by the courage of a son.



Filmmaker Q&A

FRIDAY, NOV. 4

LIVESTOCK ON THE LAND 2 pm

Paired with short film **Tango**

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.



MAMA BEARS 5 pm

Paired with short film **Jesse James**

An intimate, thought-provoking exploration of the journeys taken by three women—two “mama bears” whose profound love for their LGBTQ children has turned them into fierce advocates for the entire queer community, and a young African American lesbian whose struggle for self-acceptance perfectly exemplifies why the mama bears are so vitally important.



JESSE JAMES

Two lovers must confront the limits of their relationship and the consequences of loss in the time between a neighbor calling the police and the police arriving at the scene of a domestic dispute.



Filmmaker Q&A

TRACE THE LINE 8 pm

Paired with short film **Decolonizing Dinner**

Part verité, part direct cinema, this film depicts the lives of two American artists during the tumultuous year of 2020. Asa, an African American poet, wrestles with the purpose of his life as a young Black man in a divided nation. Eva, a White painter, is confronted with her privilege in a society she no longer understands. Both artists struggle with the onset of the political upheaval, and social unrest—living in a state that has been ground zero for both.



Filmmaker Q&A

DECOLONIZING DINNER

Explores how reconnecting with traditional Indigenous foodways preserves heritage and identity, and counters the historical and contemporary erasure of Indigenous cultures.

Featuring Cocinera Sujhey Beisser of Five Senses Palate, Chef Elena Terry of Wild Bearies, and Chef Anthony Gallarday of Tavo's Signature Cuisine.



Filmmaker Q&A

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

DFF KIDS! 10 am

Join us for a collection of short films tailored just for your young film enthusiast. Free admission!

DRIFTLESS SHORT FILM SERIES 1 pm

The Driftless Short Film Series continues DFF's tradition of highlighting groundbreaking short films during the festival. Assembled and presented by

Key Media's Michael Keeney.



Filmmaker Q&A

SHARP STICK 5 pm

Paired with short films **Pandemia** and **Hellscape**

Sarah Jo is a naive 26-year-old living on the fringes of Hollywood with her mother and sister. She just longs to be seen. When she begins an affair with her older employer, she is thrust into an education on sexuality, loss, and power.



PANDEMIA

In early 2020, as the Covid-19 pandemic was beginning, a group of people in a waiting room come together to right a wrong. Winner, Sam Sorenson (Madison) for best script and Julia Dailey (Mineral Point) best actor at the 2022 Milwaukee International Short Film Festival.



Filmmaker Q&A

HELLSCAPE

A mother searches for the spiritual truth about where her daughter's soul ended up after her murder.



Filmmaker Q&A



HOW (NOT) TO BUILD A SCHOOL IN HAITI 8 pm

Paired with short films **Spontaneous** and **Not You**

Development, history, and colonialism collide when a seemingly simple aid project spirals out of control in Haiti. When a headstrong American clashes with a Haitian leader, it forces a reckoning on privilege and power.



Filmmaker Q&A

SPONTANEOUS

You never know when someone is miscarrying; it could be happening right next to you.



Filmmaker Q&A



NOT YOU

A mother is one with her baby, but sometimes she needs to welcome an interloper to find a little space.



Filmmaker Q&A




SUNDAY, NOV. 6

RIOTSVILLE, U.S.A. 11:30 am

Paired with short film **Beware of the Leopard**

Welcome to Riotsville, a fictional town built by the US military. Using all archival footage, the film explores the militarization of the police and creates a counter-narrative to the nation's reaction to the uprisings of the late 60s.



 Filmmaker Q&A

BEWARE OF THE LEOPARD

Follows a group of women at an LA party who discover there is a sexual predator in their midst protected by his celebrity status. As they each share their increasingly distressing interactions, we experience their emotional state in surreal interludes.

THE AMERICAN DREAM AND OTHER FAIRY TALES 2 pm

Paired with short film **Opengate Shutdown**


In this feature-length, personal essay documentary, filmmaker and philanthropist Abigail Disney grapples with America's profound inequality crisis. What Abigail learns—about racism, corporate power, and the American Dream—is eye-opening, unexpected, and inspiring in that it begins to imagine a path to a fairer future for everyone.



OPENGATE SHUTDOWN

Paints a picture of a remote financial firm that sees only numbers on a spreadsheet, not productive assets or skilled employees. But working people in both Janesville and Los Angeles mobilized to fight back. As one employee laments, "If this stuff keeps going on, there won't be a middle class anymore."



 Filmmaker Q&A

ROOTS OF FIRE 5 pm

Paired with short film **People Of The Port: The Story of Milwaukee's Jones Island**

A story about musicians pushing the boundaries of a type of American roots music known as Cajun Music. Illuminates a progressive music scene that just might save a culture.



PEOPLE OF THE PORT: THE STORY BEHIND MILWAUKEE'S JONES ISLAND

Jones Island, a mile-long peninsula bordering on the Lake Michigan shoreline of Wisconsin's largest city, is the home of Milwaukee's sewerage treatment plant and the city's port. This film tells the long and fascinating story of this narrow slice of land.

Though there is no evidence remaining of its long and fascinating past, this unusual island has been the site of Native American settlement, fur traders, and shipbuilders. It also was home to the Kaszubs, a group of immigrant fishers who came from a similar region in northern Poland.



 Filmmaker Q&A

#DFF2022LineUp

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

7:00 pm • **SIRENS**

Paired with short film **Confession Day**
(Filmmaker Q&A)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

2:00 pm • **LIVESTOCK ON THE LAND**

Paired with short film **Tango**

5:00 pm • **MAMA BEARS**

Paired with short film **Jesse James**
(Filmmaker Q&A)

8:00 pm • **TRACE THE LINE**

(Filmmaker Q&A)

Paired with short film **Decolonizing Dinner**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

10:00 am • **DFF KIDS!**

Features short film **Stage Presents**

1:00 pm • **DRIFTLESS SHORT FILM SERIES**

(Filmmaker Q&A)

5:00 pm • **SHARP STICK**

Paired with short films **Pandemia** and **Hellscape**
(Filmmaker Q&A)

8:00 pm • **HOW (NOT) TO BUILD A
SCHOOL IN HAITI**

(Filmmaker Q&A)

Paired with short films **Spontaneous** and **Not You**
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5:00 pm • **ROOTS OF FIRE**

Paired with short film **People Of The Port**
(Filmmaker Q&A)

ABOUT THE DFF

Once a year, the Driftless Film Festival brings together the best of new independent cinema with the landscape, artistic energy, and local atmosphere of Southwest Wisconsin. Celebrating its 13th season of bringing independent film to the Driftless Area, DFF continues to provide a one-of-a-kind cinematic experience for audiences and filmmakers alike.

Founded in 2009 by filmmakers **Darren Burrows** and **Nicholas Langholf**, DFF was born of a love for independent films, an appreciation of the unusual region, and the joy of spending a weekend immersed in the charm of Mineral Point's galleries, shops, restaurants, and bars. It is this delightful marriage of place and cinematic story that is the core of the DFF vision today.

Each year the festival hosts filmmakers from across the country. Not only do visiting filmmakers present revealing Q&A discussions during the festival, but the weekend provides an opportunity for filmmakers and attendees to mingle outside the screenings. Friendships form over coffee at the local diner and drafts at the main street bars. This opportunity for one-on-one connection kindles the union of film and community at DFF.

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