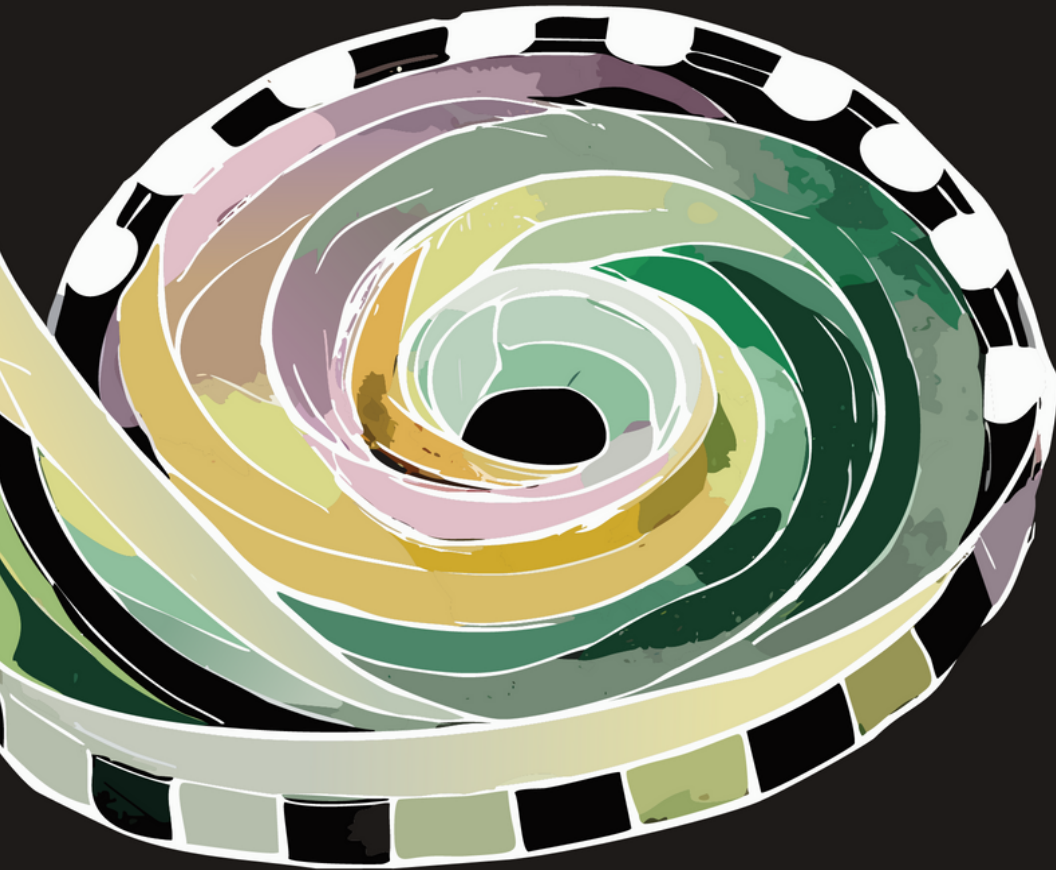


# FILM IS OUR CANVAS

*experience the art of film*



**MAGNOLIA  
INDEPENDENT  
FILM FESTIVAL**

**FEB. 22-24, 2024  
UEC HOLLYWOOD  
PREMIERE CINEMAS**

## THURSDAY OPENING NIGHT FILMS

**HANTU - DYAN TAI | MUSIC VIDEO**

Director - Shaun Parker

**THE REJECTS | 48-HR COMP**

Director - Austin Yeomans

**THE TIN WOODS | ANIMATION**

Director - Nick Boxwell

**RUNAWAY | SHORT**

Director - César Oyarzabal

**THERE ARE THINGS TO DO | DOCUMENTARY**

Director - Mike Syers

**MATRYOSHKA | SHORT**

Director - Joseph Ros

**THE LUMINARIANS | DOCUMENTARY**

Director - Amber Danger Johnson

**THE OLD YOUNG CROW | SHORT**

Director - Liam LoPinto

**DRAGON FRUIT | SHORT**

Director - J. Brown

**ONE THE LINE | FEATURE PRESENTATION**

Director - Oliver Pearn

## FRIDAY NIGHT FILMS

**LITTLE ICARUS | MUSIC VIDEO**

Director - Ben Siler

**THEY SAY WHEN A GOBLIN... | 48-HR COMP**

Director - William Lindsey

**IN SITU | SHORT**

Director - Walker Burris Cody

**CONGRATULATIONS, DX | SHORT**

Director - Mark Felix Ebrero

**HOPE IN UGANDA | DOCUMENTARY**

Director - James L. Hussey

**NEAR | SHORT**

Director - Jacob Gusentine

**HAIR CARE | SHORT**

Director - Fatima Wardy

**CHASE & KIRI | SHORT**

Director - Mattlan Alex Ladner

**IO'S LAMENT | SHORT**

Director - Tristan Hallman

**AFTERWARDS | FEATURE PRESENTATION**

Director - Stephen Wallis

## SATURDAY FAMILY-FRIENDLY FILMS

**TELL ME WHERE TO GO | MUSIC VIDEO**

Director - Peter Beatty, Joseph Boyle

**ECOSPHERE | ANIMATION**

Director - Vito Pistone

**THE COSMOSONS | 48-HR COMP**

Director - Daniel Swanson

**AFUNGUS AMONGUS | ANIMATION**

Director - Brandon Gaesser

**FORTISSIMO | SHORT**

Director - Victor Cesca

**HELP WANTED | SHORT**

Director - Glenn Payne, Ben Powell

**NUBBINWOOD | ANIMATION**

Director - Tim Granberg

## SATURDAY CLOSING NIGHT FILMS

**"WWBWB444U" - CASKET | MUSIC VIDEO**

Director - Geno F Oradini

**WE GO BACK | SHORT**

Director - Glenn Payne

**MOM DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO THE BEACH | SHORT**

Director - Ana Belén Barragán Castañeda

**FANNIE | DOCUMENTARY**

Director - Christine Swanson

**PHOTOSYNTHESIS | SHORT**

Director - Ashli J Washington

**A SPOT FOR FROG | SHORT**

Director - Evan Bode

**OUR REBELLIOUS HEARTS | DOCUMENTARY**

Director - Talamieka W Brice

**THE COUNTRYMAN | SHORT**

Director - Andy Kastelic

**DON'T DIE | FEATURE PRESENTATION**

Director - Benjamin Stark

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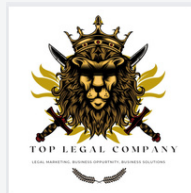
MISSISSIPPI'S COLLEGE TOWN



**COPY  
COW**



**SWEET  
PEPPERS  
DELI.**



DUNKINGTON



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**Support those who support us!**

# Welcome

"For 27 years the Golden Triangle community has graciously supported independent film through the Magnolia Film Festival. During that time, we have brought extraordinary films and filmmakers to this beautiful part of the country and this year is no different. We are proud to have a record number of films represented at this year's festival and will continue to showcase the southern hospitality that Ron Tibbett pioneered at the very first MAG in 1997.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, volunteers, and guests, without every one of you, The MAG would not be the success and staple that it has been in the state of Mississippi for 27 years."



**Chris Misun**  
*Festival Director*



**Michael Williams**  
*Board President @shendopen*

The MAG has been an extremely instrumental part of my filmmaking career dating back to my first time attending in 2007. For over a decade after that, I attended the film festival as a filmmaker and found countless opportunities for professional and creative growth thanks to the filmmaker-friendly format of The MAG. The legacy created by the MAG's founder, Ron Tibbett, impacted me and so many filmmakers that I met at the festival over the years. Becoming Board President in 2019 was an opportunity for me to continue The MAG's legacy and usher it into a new era.

After 6 years as the Board President, I'm thrilled to see how much the festival has grown thanks to the hard work of our board, committees, and festival director over the last several years.

Mississippi, and the indie film scene worldwide, is fortunate to have a festival like The MAG. My hope is that the legacy and impact the festival has had on filmmakers like myself will continue with the support of people like you. Whether you're a filmmaker, volunteer, sponsor, or just attending to enjoy the films, you are the reason this festival exists and continues to thrive. With your support this year, and those to come, The MAG will continue to nurture future generations of filmmakers who are able to pursue their dreams and bring important stories to the world.



# About THE MAG

The Magnolia Independent Film Festival, affectionately known as The Mag, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to bring quality independent cinema to the Golden Triangle Area and to support the growing film industry within the state of Mississippi. As Mississippi's first and longest-running film festival, The Mag is known for being an intimate, filmmaker-friendly festival that consistently brings unique, edgy, diverse, and inspiring cinema to small-town Mississippi while also supporting home-grown filmmakers and storytellers.

Started in 1997 by Ron Tibbett, The Mag filled a void within the state. At the time, there were no film festivals in Mississippi and no outlets to showcase, inspire and encourage independent filmmakers. From its humble beginnings in a cold auditorium in West Point, The Mag quickly grew and paved the way for the rich film festival culture currently thriving throughout the state. Thanks to Ron and his enthusiasm for bringing independent film to Mississippi, other prominent film festivals were born including the Oxford Film Festival, Crossroads Film Festival, and most notably Tupelo Film Festival.

In celebrating our 27th annual festival, The Mag will continue the tradition of showcasing independent films and filmmakers from around the world through a carefully curated lineup of films that are uniquely moving, hilarious, thought-provoking, and inspiring.



@MagFilmFest



@MagFilmFest



@MagFilmFest

[WWW.MAGNOLIAFILMFEST.COM](http://WWW.MAGNOLIAFILMFEST.COM)

**Share your photos with #TheMag27th #TagtheMag**

# Ron Tibbett's Legacy

Poet, journalist, filmmaker, Ron Tibbett, was born in Chicago in 1941. After moving to West Point, MS with his wife Dr. Charlotte Magnussen in the early '90s, Tibbett made the film "Swept Off My Feet". While looking for festivals to submit the film, Tibbett found that there were none in Mississippi. In 1997 he founded The Magnolia Independent Film Festival and gave rise to what would become a thriving independent film festival community and indie filmmaker scene within Mississippi.

One film submission to The Mag impressed Tibbett so much that he and the director, Bill Brown set off to make a film together. That film was "Buffalo Common." Directed by Brown and produced by Tibbett, "Buffalo Common" is a subconscious road trip through the forgotten missile silos of North Dakota. The film was an official selection of the 2003 Sundance Film Festival and made the Village Voice's Top Ten Avant-Garde list. Later, Ron directed the film, "Citizen Shane." This documentary tells the story of a 22-year-old man's hilarious and touching campaign for sheriff of Lowndes County who ran on a pro-pornography/pro-civil liberties ticket. To Ron, this was a very personal story, and at its heart, the film is about how this kid deals with his mother's death. The film slowly became an underground success.

Sadly, Ron Tibbett lost his life in a car accident not far from home in 2004. He left a legacy that went beyond just his films. His legacy is 25 years in the making and thrives through an entire film community born out of his desire to bring independent cinema to Mississippi and nurture filmmakers both locally and abroad.



**Ron Tibbett**

*Founder - Magnolia Independent Film  
Festival*

Jared Hollingsworth is a Mississippi native and currently lives in the city of Hattiesburg. He is an instructor of Media and Entertainment Arts, Video Arts at the University of Southern Mississippi. His background and experience are primarily in post-production, editorial and color. He has been the editor and/or colorist on multiple Mississippi independent films and provided remote services for other projects. In 2020, Jared won a Gold Telly Award for his editing on the short film, Doodle and in 2022, a Silver Telly Award for editing the official trailer for the feature film Demigod.

Jared is best known for his recent work:

OPEN (2023)-Editor

Mysterious Circumstances: The Death of Meriwether Lewis (2022)-Colorist

The Inspection (2022)-Assistant Editor (A24)

Demigod (2021)-Editor



**JARED**  
HOLLINGSWORTH

## MEET THE JUDGES



**CASEY**  
HEFLIN

Casey Heflin is a Mississippi native who has spent the majority of her life in the same Victorian house in Pelahatchie, MS. From childhood, a love of cinema was one of her greatest passions, and the industry in which she most desired to work. In 2008, she graduated from Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in Communications (theatre emphasis). She has continued to study film and acting independently, including a short-course on acting for film and Shakespeare at Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Although her original goal was to be an actor, Casey has had the privilege of working as a crew member in the hair and makeup department on various film sets for the last 15 years. Most recently, Casey worked in the makeup department on The Last Starlet (Mississippian Stella Stevens Biopic), The Movers, Sunday Kinda Love, The System, and This Bloody Country (filmed in Utah). Some of her favorite projects to work on over the past couple of years have been the "Visit Mississippi" ad campaigns, tying together her love of film, travel, and Mississippi. Besides working in film, Casey also co-directs a high school drama program at East Rankin Academy and dabbles in the travel industry. Being raised by a writer and a librarian naturally means a love of storytelling is in her blood. She hopes she can be instrumental in the state's growing industry and in helping Mississippi stories get told.

**Robbie Fisher is a film producer and attorney based in Water Valley, Mississippi. She is the owner of Fisher Productions, LLC and has served on the boards of OxFilm and the Crossroads Film Society. She has served as a juror for the Oxford Film Festival.**

**Fisher has produced award-winning documentaries and a number of short narrative films in Mississippi, including Going Toward Love, Delta Blind Spot and Headrush, and Sequence. Fisher has also produced commercials and worked on feature films in Mississippi including As I Lay Dying and Starve and served as the Line Producer on Thrasher Road and Mysterious Circumstance: The Death of Meriwether Lewis.**



**ROBBIE FISHER**

## **MEET THE JUDGES**



**Austin Yeager is a Mississippi native from the small town of Houston. As an only boy of five sisters, he grew up with a large, tight-knit family. After starting school at ICC, Austin took a turn to serve his country and state in the United States Army where he served the south in many hurricane relief efforts. Since, he has spent his time focusing on family, friends, and his love of television and film. His passion for film gives him an appreciation for what it takes to bring someone's vision to the screen through the work of all the people behind the scenes. Now as a judge for the 27th edition of The MAG, Austin has the opportunity to bring his passion and excitement for film to the judging panel.**

**AUSTIN YEAGER**



# Awards PARTY

Celebrate a toast with our filmmakers  
as we announce the award winning films for the  
27th annual Magnolia Independent Film Festival

24  
February  
2024  
10pm-1am

Admission  
with VIP Pass or \$20 ticket

COMPLIMENTARY:  
FOOD  
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## AWARDS CEREMONY

### AWARD CATEGORIES:

1. Best Feature
2. Best Short Narrative
3. Best Short Documentary
4. Best Cinematography
5. Best Home Grown
6. Best Student Film
7. Best Animation
8. Best Music Video
9. Kids' Choice Award (Best Family-Friendly Film)
10. Best 48 HR Film Competition Film
11. Audience Choice
12. Elena Zastawnik Award for Best Written Film
12. Ron Tibbett Award for Excellence in Film

### Award Sponsors:



Best Documentary



Best Homegrown  
(Mississippi-Made)



Elena Zastawnik Award  
for Best Written Film



Ron Tibbett Award for  
Excellence in Film

### THE RON TIBBETT AWARD

#### for Excellence in Film

In honor of The Mag's founder, this award celebrates a film whose quality is matched by its dedication to a filmmaker-driven vision, independent spirit, and a passion for the film's message through a narrative with an edgy, free-thinking approach to cinema.

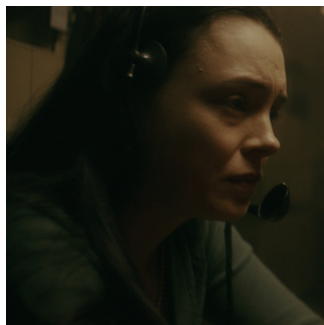
### THE ELENA ZASTAWNIK AWARD

#### for Best Written Film

In honor of Ron Tibbett's mother, this award celebrates excellence in writing. Without her encouragement, Ron felt that he would not have developed his interest in literature and storytelling. Ron knew that a good script is essential to filmmaking and this award honors a film that exemplifies quality screenwriting.



# FEATURE FILMS



THURSDAY

RUNTIME: 1HR 14MIN

## ON THE LINE

**Director:** Oliver Pearn

**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom

**Synopsis:** Alderney, 1964. AGNES, 24, works alone as a switchboard operator in the telephone operator exchange. Agnes uses her powers of deduction and local knowledge to help the police track an abduction. But things take a turn for the worse when she realizes everything is not as it seems.



FRIDAY

RUNTIME: 1HR 40MIN

## AFTERWARDS

**Director:** Stephen Wallis

**Country of Origin:** Canada

**Synopsis:** AFTERWARDS is a dark yet spiritual drama that follows the tormented journey of a man who's been abandoned in the frozen north for thirty years after his death.

# DON'T DIE



SATURDAY

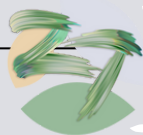
RUNTIME: 1HR 20MIN

## DON'T DIE

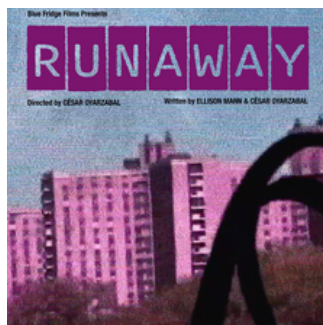
**Director:** Benjamin Stark

**Country of Origin:** United States (Alabama)

**Synopsis:** Jenks has been pushed to the brink by a system that does not care about him. Desperate for life-saving medicine, he resorts to robbing a small-town drug store. But when he injures a mysterious woman involved in a black market pharmacy, his attempts to save her life may end up jeopardizing his own.



# SHORT FILMS



THURSDAY

RUNTIME: 8:05

## RUNAWAY

**Director:** César Oyarzabal

**Country of Origin:** United States

**Synopsis:** Two desperate parents search for their missing daughter, Alexia. When they discover a cryptic videotape she left behind, they're drawn into her world of secrets. Their search leads them to Magaly, a friend from school, triggering an unexpected unraveling of truths. As the layers of secrecy peel away, they're confronted with "Why I Hate You" and "Why I Love You," the revealing tapes. With each tape exchange, they confront their pasts, propelling them toward a collision of hidden emotions and unresolved conflicts.



THURSDAY

RUNTIME: 5:00

## MATRYOSHKA

**Director:** Joseph Ros

**Country of Origin:** Cuba

**Synopsis:** A woman, in a dystopian context, re-experiences a painful event over and over again, trying to resolve it.



THURSDAY

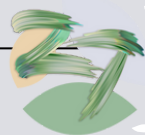
RUNTIME: 12:00

## THE OLD YOUNG CROW

**Director:** Liam LoPinto

**Country of Origin:** Japan

**Synopsis:** An Iranian boy befriends an old Japanese woman at a graveyard in Tokyo.



# SHORT FILMS



THURSDAY

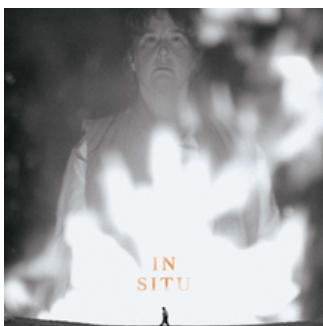
RUNTIME: 27:10

## DRAGON FRUIT

**Director:** J. Brown

**Country of Origin:** Canada

**Synopsis:** In a violent, dystopian future, a single mother attempts to grow a dragon fruit sprout so she can one day sell it for cash.



FRIDAY

RUNTIME: 12:10

## IN SITU

**Director:** Walker Burris Cody

**Country of Origin:** United States

**Synopsis:** A sickly hunter searches the Kentucky countryside for the source of pollution poisoning her land and to avenge the death of her closest companion.



FRIDAY

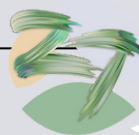
RUNTIME: 20:00

## CONGRATULATIONS, DX!

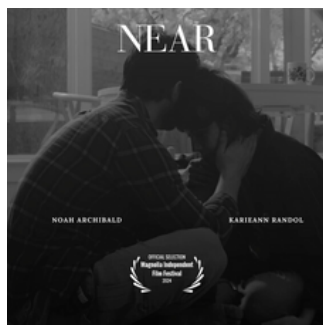
**Director:** Mark Felix Ebreo

**Country of Origin:** Philippines

**Synopsis:** After receiving an undetectable HIV status, Dexter finally shows up in his friends' party and reconnects with them, following a long and sudden ghosting in their milestones and lives.



# SHORT FILMS



FRIDAY

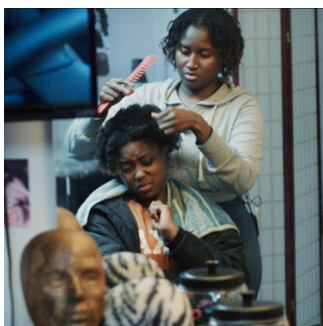
RUNTIME: 17:59

## NEAR

**Director:** Jacob Gusentine

**Country of Origin:** United States

**Synopsis:** After a heated argument a couple begins communicating solely through voice messages, revealing unspoken feelings, and confronting a deep rift between them.



FRIDAY

RUNTIME: 12:02

## HAIR CARE

**Director:** Fatima Wardy

**Country of Origin:** Côte d'Ivoire

**Synopsis:** When her hair braider disappears on her, a young woman must traverse an animated Ivory Coast in order to track her down.



FRIDAY

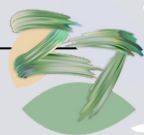
RUNTIME: 14:05

## CHASE & KIRI

**Director:** Mattlan Alex Ladner

**Country of Origin:** United States (Mississippi Made)

**Synopsis:** In a small, run-down town, Chase and Kiri, a hopeful young couple deeply in love, yearn for a brighter future as they find solace in conversations by the train tracks. Trapped in painful homes, they devise a plan to escape the cycle of despair. Their shared dream of a fresh start beckons, but as morning approaches, they must confront whether they'll escape their sad world or become stuck in its relentless cycle of despair.



# SHORT FILMS



FRIDAY

RUNTIME: 21:00

## IO'S LAMENT

**Director:** Tristan Hallman

**Country of Origin:** United States (Mississippi Made)

**Synopsis:**

After her car breaks down on Mississippi backroads, a pregnant teenager takes advantage of the kindness of a local woman.



SATURDAY MORNING

RUNTIME: 14:53

## FORTISSIMO

**Director:** Victor Cesca

**Country of Origin:** France

**Synopsis:** Guy, a pianist passionate about his music, sees his life turned upside down when the church where he officiates takes in a mysterious little girl. A true piano virtuoso, the child prodigy will soon steal the show. A duel of egos then begins.



SATURDAY MORNING

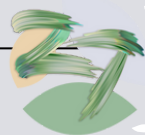
RUNTIME: 14:46

## HELP WANTED

**Director:** Glenn Payne, Ben Powell

**Country of Origin:** United States (Mississippi Made)

**Synopsis:** A troubled teen forms an unexpected bond when he befriends a gruff old man in a story about friendship, growth and finding one's place in the world.



# SHORT FILMS



SATURDAY

RUNTIME: 7:51

## WE GO BACK

Director: Glenn Payne

Country of Origin: United States (Mississippi Made)

Synopsis: Two well-meaning individuals risk everything to correct the very negative impact of their positive intentions.



SATURDAY

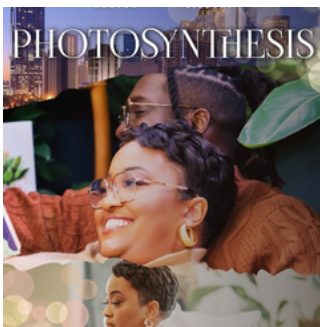
RUNTIME: 15:00

## MOM DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO THE BEACH

Director: Ana Belén Barragán Castañeda

Country of Origin: Canada

Synopsis: A transgender woman resumes her hormone treatment while her daughter begins puberty and menstruates for the first time. Mother and daughter experience changes, doubts about their bodies, and face the fear of going to the beach for the first time.



SATURDAY

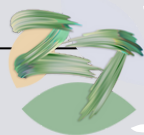
RUNTIME: 19:48

## PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Director: Ashli J Washington

Country of Origin: United States

Synopsis: After receiving life-shattering news, a chance encounter with a stranger in a plant shop challenges a woman's morals and credence about love.



# SHORT FILMS

SATURDAY

RUNTIME: 16:00

## A SPOT FOR FROG

Director: Evan Bode

Country of Origin: United States

**Synopsis:** Locked out of the school art room, a creative nonbinary teen named Frog grapples with anxiety as they seek a new place to eat lunch. Imagination blurs with reality in this hybrid work of live action and animation about an artist's search for identity, belonging, and expression on the margins.



SATURDAY

RUNTIME: 21:00

## THE COUNTRYMAN

Director: Andy Kastelic

Country of Origin: United States

**Synopsis:**

Bitterness threatens to destroy a small farming community until a stranger arrives with a curious proposition.



## SHORTS

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Thursday Shorts Showcase



Saturday Family-Friendly



Friday Shorts Showcase



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Saturday Night Shorts Showcase



## DOCUMENTARY FILMS

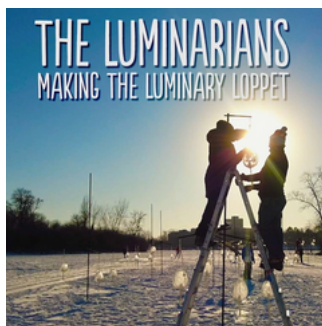


THURSDAY

RUNTIME: 18:00

**THERE ARE THINGS TO DO****Director:** Mike Syers**Country of Origin:** United States

**Synopsis:** Urvashi Vaid, an outspoken immigrant, lesbian and woman of color was an LGBTQ+ superhero helped shape the modern day gay rights movement. Her vision for the movement serves as a roadmap of initiatives & tools for generations of activist as they face anti-LGBTQ+ backlash. The film features Urvashi's life in Provincetown, MA and 34-year relationship with partner Kate Clinton, and inspires us that the best place to build community & work towards equality starts at home.

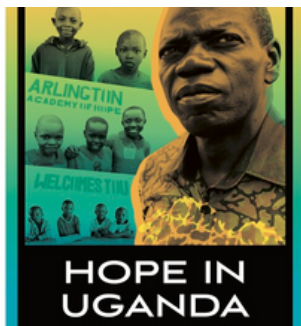


THURSDAY

RUNTIME: 15:00

**THE LUMINARIANS****Director:** Amber Danger Johnson**Country of Origin:** United States

**Synopsis:** One frozen night every year in Minneapolis, MN, a group of volunteers called the Luminarians create an immersive outdoor experience to bring the community together.



FRIDAY

RUNTIME: 11:28

**HOPE IN UGANDA****Director:** James L. Hussey**Country of Origin:** United States

**Synopsis:** This short documentary tells the story of an extraordinary individual who overcame a life of poverty as a child in Africa, found success in a foreign land, then returned to his homeland to help thousands of children born into the same circumstances.

## DOCUMENTARY FILMS



SATURDAY

RUNTIME: 9:00

**FANNIE****Director:** Christine Swanson**Country of Origin:** United States (Mississippi Made)

**Synopsis:** Mississippi civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer gives an impassioned speech at the 1964 Democratic National Convention and a prophetic warning to America.

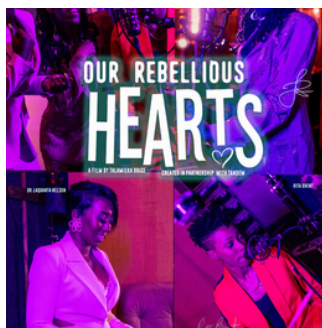


SATURDAY

RUNTIME: 9:21

**OUR REBELLIOUS HEARTS****Director:** Talamieka W Brice**Country of Origin:** United States (Mississippi Made)

**Synopsis:** Our Rebellious Hearts covers the process of internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter composer Teneia Sanders creating a song about liberation. This behind-the-scenes adventure includes talented performers, Rita Brent & Dr. LaQuanta Nelson as they record the song for all the rebellious wild women of the world.



## FEATURE SHOWCASES

## SPONSORED BY



Thursday Feature

**DUNKINGTON**

Friday Feature



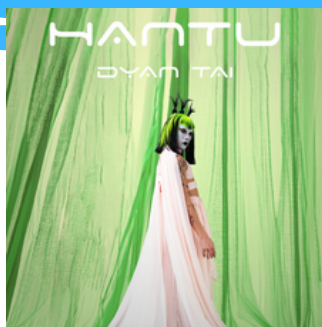
Closing Night Feature

## MUSIC VIDEOS



THURSDAY

RUNTIME:3:46

**HANTU - DYAN TAI****Director:** Shaun Parker**Country of Origin:** Australia

**Synopsis:** HANTU is an empowering and liberating electronic anthem exploring queer liberation and fusing elements of Dyan Tai's multicultural heritage. The experimental pop single features Malaysian and Indonesian soundscapes layered with delicate Tuvan throat singing, alongside powerful physical performances by Sydney's best street dancers directed by award-winning choreographer Shaun Parker.

FRIDAY

RUNTIME:3:20

**LITTLE ICARUS - LOUISE PAGE****Director:** Ben Siler**Country of Origin:** United States

**Synopsis:** Music video for Louise Page's song Little Icarus

SATURDAY MORNING

**TELL ME WHERE TO GO****Director:** Peter Beatty, Joseph Boyle**Country of Origin:** United Kingdom

**Synopsis:** The stop motion animation music video for the song 'Tell Me Where To Go' was made using a multi plane camera, and shot in a home studio (Studio Nightjar 2023) onboard a boat in London between 2021 and 2023.

SATURDAY

**“WWBWB444U?” - CASKET****Director:** Geno F Oradini**Country of Origin:** United States

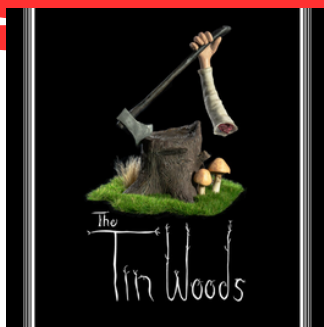
**Synopsis:** Who Will Be Wearing Black For You is an Ohio post-dark wave music experience that takes the viewer on a journey of someone who transcends his death and views his final moments while navigating purgatory.



# ANIMATED FILMS

THURSDAY

RUNTIME: 10:40



## THE TIN WOODS

Director: Nick Boxwell

Country of Origin: United States

**Synopsis:** While exploring an abandoned cabin, the Tin Woodman finds...his original head? Based on the original Oz books by L. Frank Baum, this short stop-motion film explores the origins of the Tin Woodman and how he came to be made of tin.

SATURDAY MORNING

RUNTIME: 6:45



## ECOSPHERE

Director: Vito Pistone

Country of Origin: Belgium

**Synopsis:** A fire ant named Redd ends up separated from her colony inside a huge glass bowl called the Ecosphere. She befriends a group of local bugs who help her get back home, but is that really where she belongs?

SATURDAY MORNING

RUNTIME: 4:01



## AFUNGUS AMONGUS

Director: Brandon Gaesser

Country of Origin: United States

**Synopsis:** Fed up with trash and garbage polluting its natural habitat, a tiny mushroom and its friends set off to the big city to stop the problem at its source.

SATURDAY MORNING

RUNTIME: 7:50



## NUBBINWOOD

Director: Tim Granberg

Country of Origin: United States

**Synopsis:** A beaver recounts his experiences as an actor following his dream to be in the movies.

# 48-HR FILM COMPETITION



THURSDAY

## THE REJECTS

**Director:** Austin Yeomans

**Country of Origin:** United States

**Synopsis:** A group of guys look to pay back a debt by securing an unknown package.



FRIDAY

## THEY SAY WHEN A GOBLIN DIES A PURSE FALLS FROM HEAVEN

**Director:** William Lindsey

**Country of Origin:** United States

**Synopsis:** A goblin named Goblingo is separated from his friend Paladin Danse. In Danse's absence, Goblingo forms a life long bond with another Goblin on a quest for coin and drink.



SATURDAY

## THE COSMOSONS

**Director:** Daniel Swanson

**Country of Origin:** United States (Mississippi Made)

**Synopsis:** In an effort to increase audience share, network executives have decided to film a sitcom on location -- in space! Things take a turn due to an unexpected visit from some aliens who are passing by. Could these aliens become recurring characters on the show?



# Award NOMINEES

## Best Feature

- On the Line
- Afterwards
- Don't Die

## Best Short (Narrative)

- Runaway
- Matryoshka
- The Old Young Crow
- Dragon Fruit
- In Situ
- Congratulations, DX!
- Near
- Hair Care
- Chase & Kiri
- Io's Lament
- We Go Back
- Mom Doesn't Want To Go To The Beach
- Photosynthesis
- A Spot for Frog
- The Countryman

## Best Documentary

- There are Things To Do
- The Luminarians
- Hope In Uganda
- Fannie
- Our Rebellious Hearts

## Best Family-Friendly

- Tell Me Where To Go
- Ecosphere
- The Cosmosons
- Afungus Amongus
- Fortissimo
- Help Wanted
- Nubbinwood

## 48 Hr Film Competition

- The Rejects
- They Say When a Goblin Dies a Coin Purse Falls From Heaven
- The Cosmosons

## Best Homegrown (MS FILMS)

- We Go Back
- Our Rebellious Hearts
- Io's Lament
- Help Wanted
- They Say When a Goblin Dies a Coin Purse Falls From Heaven
- Chase & Kiri
- The Cosmosons

## Best Music Video

- Hantu - Dyan Tai
- Little Icarus - Louise Page
- Tell Me Where To Go - Peter Beatty
- "WWBWB444U?" - Casket

## Best Animation

- The Tin Woods
- Ecosphere
- Afungus Amongus
- Nubbinwood

## Best Student Film

- Help Wanted
- Runaway
- The Old Young Crow
- In Situ
- A Spot for Frog
- Ecosphere
- Hair Care
- Near
- Afungus Amongus
- The Rejects
- They Say When a Goblin Dies a Coin Purse Falls From Heaven
- The Cosmosons

## AWARD CATEGORIES

- Best Feature
- Best Short Narrative
- Best Documentary
- Best Cinematography
- Best Home Grown (MS Made)
- Best Student Film
- Best Animated Short
- Best Music Video
- Kids's Choice Award (Best Family-Friendly Film)
- Best 48 Hr Film Competition Film
- Audience Choice
- Elena Zastawnik Award for Best Written Film
- Ron Tibbett Award for Excellence in Film

**FREE WORKSHOP**  
PRESENTED BY THE MAG FILM FEST

# CHARACTER DESIGN: FROM SCRIPT TO PRODUCTION

**FEB 24TH – 1PM**

AT UEC HOLLYWOOD PREMIERE CINEMAS  
101 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD  
STARKVILLE, MS 39759

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TREME - DEEPWATER HORIZON - VENOM - AMERICAN HORROR STORY



**ACTOR**  
PANELIST: ARTRIAL CLARK

**FREE PANEL  
DISCUSSION**  
PRESENTED BY THE MAG FILM FEST

## THE ART OF FILMMAKING:

**FEB 24 @ 2:30PM**  
AT UEC HOLLYWOOD PREMIERE CINEMAS



**EDITOR**  
PANELIST: JARED HOLLINGSWORTH



**PRODUCER**  
PANELIST: COLBY LEOPARD



**DIRECTOR**  
MODERATOR: MICHAEL WILLIAMS



**WRITER**  
PANELIST: MICHELE MATHIS

## MEET THE PANELIST

Michele is a philosopher at heart – fascinated by the human condition and what makes people tick. It's probably why she chose to pursue a graduate degree in counseling psychology, but after realizing that helping people and started writing.

Oh, and she loves to write satire! She's a professional screenwriter and producer. She's published in several blogs, including the Elephant Journal, because she has a woo-woo side and is a ghostwriter (shhh) for Reel Shorts in Shanghai, China. She's also a freelance resource for writers wanting to learn plot development and story structure. Additionally, she's developed a continuing education unit for therapists centered around the Hero's Journey.

Outside of comedy, she loves to write morally ambiguous female protagonists and has a one-hour series under contract. Her goal is to keep Mississippi talent in Mississippi.



**WRITER**  
PANELIST: MICHELE MATHIS

## MEET THE PANELIST

Apart from his obsession with cats, gardening, and aspirations to become a hobbit, Michael Williams is a writer, director, cinematographer, and producer with 2 decades of experience. Best known for "OzLand" (2015) and "The Atoning" (2017).

Williams is also the outgoing president of The MAG Film Fest Board and current Treasurer of the Mississippi Film Alliance.

Currently, Williams is pitching several new scripts including a sci-fi queer comedy and a southern gothic psychological thriller while continuing to work as a cinematographer for commercial, documentary, and narrative projects. When not working on set, Williams lives in a shire of his own tending to plants, cats, and his creative spirit inching closer to hobbit status.



**DIRECTOR**  
MODERATOR: MICHAEL WILLIAMS

## MEET THE PANELIST

Colby Leopard is a veteran film executive specializing in the production and distribution of Southern feature films. He began his career at FilmNation Entertainment, where he oversaw the release of dozens of films including The Imitation Game, Room, Arrival, The Big Sick, and many more. While at FilmNation, Leopard managed the domestic and international marketing, publicity, and distribution of all production and sales titles. Leopard left FilmNation in 2018 to found Cat Bird Studios, where he currently serves as VP of Production. Cat Bird Studios premiered its first film, Don't Die, at the 2023 Sidewalk Film Festival, where it won the prize for Best Alabama Film.



**PRODUCER**  
PANELIST: COLBY LEOPARD

## MEET THE PANELIST

Jared Hollingsworth is a Mississippi native and currently lives in the city of Hattiesburg. He is an instructor of Media and Entertainment Arts, Video Arts at the University of Southern Mississippi. His background and experience are primarily in post-production, editorial and color. He has been the editor and/or colorist on multiple Mississippi independent films and provided remote services for other projects.

In 2020, Jared won a Gold Telly Award for his editing on the short film, Doodle and in 2022, a Silver Telly Award for editing the official trailer for the feature film Demigod.

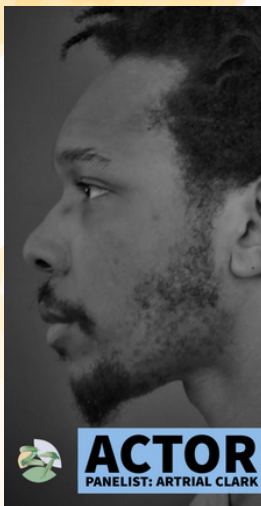


**EDITOR**  
PANELIST: JARED HOLLINGSWORTH

## MEET THE PANELIST

Artrial Clark was born in Waynesboro, Mississippi and raised in a few locations in the southeastern region of the United States due to his mother's military career. Growing up, Clark knew he had a love for film, thus went to college and began to learn both the acting and crew sides of the film world.

During a fall semester, Clark served as an intern on The Sound and The Fury, directed by James Franco. After studying Franco closely, balancing the roles of both director and actor, Clark began focusing on his acting career and making his debut in Free State of Jones, directed by Gary Ross. Clark is a multi-talented actor and has since worked alongside individuals, such as Chadwick Boseman, Joaquin Phoenix, Octavia Spencer, and Matthew McConaughey.



**ACTOR**  
PANELIST: ARTRIAL CLARK

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## Top Screeners

Christine Webster  
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Barry Smith

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