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Greetings, everyone... and welcome to the 8th edition of our Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival.

And thanks for joining us as we celebrate what’s new and exciting from the world of emerging filmmakers, both domestically and internationally. We’re pleased to be back, again, in person with MNFF8 – and to see new vibrations here in Middlebury, too, as it emerges from the pandemic and inaugurates Amtrak train service from New York City, giving Festival attendees another way to get here.

We don’t announce a theme for each year’s festival, but it’s fascinating to see certain currents rise to the surface. This year we see a common thread around “tales of courage and conviction, against the odds.” And maybe that’s fitting to a year when so many of us are working to find our footing – and an opportunity for renewal – in a changed and changing world.

We received a record number of filmmaker submissions this year, nearly 500, and have assembled a very potent film program. And we’re welcoming what we believe to be our strongest line-up yet of special guests. Maggie Gyllenhaal, Academy Award-nominee on both sides of the camera, will join us for screenings of her celebrated directorial debut The Lost Daughter on Festival Thursday at 7:15pm at Dana Auditorium and her acclaimed Sundance winner Secretary on Festival Saturday at 7:15pm at Town Hall Theater. She will be on-stage following both these films for stimulating Q&As that promise to be especially illuminating, given her groundbreaking work as an actor, director, writer and producer.

Veteran Emmy and Cannes-winning director and producer, Marc Levin, will also be at MNFF to discuss his extensive body of work and share his powerful films Slam, a 25th Anniversary Tribute screening of the 1998 Sundance narrative drama winner, on Festival Friday at 7:15pm at Town Hall Theater, and the recent documentary, I Promise, which he directed and co-executive produced with LeBron James, screening Festival Saturday at 2:00pm, also at Town Hall Theater. Among his nearly 40 credits, Marc directed Anna Deavere Smith’s acclaimed and innovative one-woman docu-drama, Twilight: Los Angeles.

New York Times senior editor, Lindsay Crouse, will join us to share five of the more than 350 short documentaries she has produced for the Times in a special event on Festival Thursday at 4:00pm at Town Hall Theater. Crouse has pioneered the imaginative use of film on the front line of contemporary journalism – and her work has earned her two Peabody Awards, four Emmys (and 15 nominations) and four Oscar nominations.

Producer Tyler Davidson gives opportunities to first and second time directors and he will be here with his entertaining new film, Emily the Criminal, directed by John Patton Ford, on Festival Saturday at Dana Auditorium at 7:15pm. Also from Tyler, his powerful climate change allegory, Take Shelter, directed by Jeff Nichols, that won three top awards at Cannes, screening Festival Sunday at 1:00pm at Town Hall Theater.

Judy Hyman and Jeff Claus have composed and performed music scores on some 20 award-winning films, including the documentary, On the Divide, that will play in this year’s Festival. They’ll take us through the process and share their work on three films that required distinctively different approaches. So, join them on Festival Friday at 2:00pm at Twilight Hall.

And speaking of music, we’re excited to stage a special event with our partners at the Vermont Symphony Orchestra who will perform the scores from all of their previous VSO Award collaborations, with a 22-piece ensemble of stellar musicians, while the films screen simultaneously. This mega-event will take place on Festival Friday at 4:00pm at the Mahaney Arts Center at Middlebury College.

We’re very pleased this year to recognize Vermont filmmaker Nora Jacobson for her sustained excellence as a director and producer of films including The Vermont Movie and My Mother’s Early Lovers. She’ll screen her new documentary, Ruth Stone’s Vast Library of the Female Mind on Festival Thursday at 11:30am at Town Hall Theater. The screening is presented by our friends at the Vermont International Film Festival. VTIFF Executive Director Orly Yadin will lead the post-screening Q&A.

We’re also pleased to welcome back actor and director Karen Allen, (Year By the Sea, Raiders of the Lost Ark) who will join us for a special Middlebury Inn patio conversation on acting, Hollywood and indie films on Festival Saturday at 4:00pm.

And, as part of our commitment to provide compelling takeaways for our visiting filmmakers, we’ll be joined by Katie McCullough and Ian Bignell, the knowledgeable principal partners of Festival Formula, a company dedicated to creating effective and efficient festival submission strategies for filmmakers. See their presentation at Little Seed Coffee on Merchants Row at 4:00pm on Festival Thursday.

Join us for happy hours and parties and spread the word to friends and family to join you for all or part of this year’s film extravaganza.

Feel free to also tell us your thoughts on the films and events you see. And please consider tax-deductible support – to help us light up the screen.

Enjoy MNFF8 to the fullest!

Warm regards,
DOES MNFF HAVE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS?
Yes. The 8th Annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival will require that all attendees show proof of COVID vaccination. You can show proof when you pick up Fest Passes or Day Passes in advance at Town Hall Theater. You can show proof on Opening Night if you have yet to pick up your Passes. You can show proof when you come to a film for which you have purchased an advance ticket. Or you can show proof when you walk up to a screening and buy a ticket at the door. Once proof is established, our staff will give you a customized MNFF wristband that can be worn throughout the Festival, and you'll subsequently avoid any further need to display vaccination proof. Vaccination proof will at a minimum be evidence of two prior vaccine shots.

All MNFF venues have announced a Mask Optional policy as of this time, but MNFF encourages the wearing of masks to promote a safer environment. Thank you all for understanding as we continue to navigate these challenging times.

WHERE DO I PICK UP INFORMATION?
The Festival Information & Merchandise Store has stacks of printed MNFF8 Festival Programs. It's located at 66 Merchants Row, immediately adjacent to Town Hall Theater (THT). You can't miss it because of its bright white exterior.

Our staff will be on site Wednesday, August 24 from 10:00am to 5:00pm, Thursday, August 25 from 8:30am to 5:00pm, Friday, August 26 from 8:30am to 5:00 pm, Saturday, August 27, 8:30am to 5:00pm and Sunday, August 28, 10:00am to 4:00pm. Printed film and event schedules will also be available throughout town, at numerous locations and at all screening venues.

WHEN & WHERE DO FILMS SCREEN?
On Opening Day, Wednesday, August 24, films screen at 11:30am and 2:00pm at the Marquis Theatre [on two screens] and at Twilight Hall on the Middlebury College campus. Our Opening Night film will be screened that night at Town Hall Theater at 7:00pm. (Please note: this event is ticketed separately. A Festival Pass does not grant entry.)

On Thursday, August 25 - Saturday, August 27, films screen at Town Hall Theater, Marquis Theatre [downstairs screen only], Dana Auditorium and Twilight Hall [both on the Middlebury College campus]. Screening times are 9:00am,11:30am, 2:00pm and 7:15pm. Also returning this year, an outdoor screen at Swift House Inn under the tent, with evening screenings only at 7:15pm, Thursday-Saturday. No films screen between 4pm-7pm. The 4pm slot features special panels and on-stage events. Check the daily schedule grid or the Festival Program for details.

On Sunday, August 28, films screen at Town Hall Theater and the Marquis Theatre [on two screens]. Screening times are 10:00am, 1:00pm and 4:00pm. The presentation of the beloved VTeddy Awards at the Closing Ceremony will be on Sunday, August 28 at 6:30pm at Town Hall Theater followed by our Closing Night Film at 7:30pm.

WHERE CAN I BUY FEST & DAY PASSES?
Festival Passes and Day Passes can be purchased directly on our website at middfilmfest.org or in person at the Town Hall Theater Box Office, corner of S. Pleasant Street and Merchants Row. The THT Box Office, located in the main lobby of the building, is open during the Festival on Wednesday, August 24 - Saturday, August 27, from 8:30am - 7:30pm. On Sunday, August 28, the hours are 8:30am - 4:30pm.

Festival Passes are $110 and admit you to any film on any of the five screening days of the event. Day Passes are $45 and admit you to any film on a specific day, either Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

To online purchasers of Festival Passes and Day Passes, please bring your photo ID, proof of your COVID-19 vaccination and confirmation number or print-at-home ticket to exchange for your actual Pass at the Town Hall Theater [THT] Box Office. Passes are not mailed but can be picked up from the THT Box Office beginning at 12 noon on Monday, August 22. Please note: no Pass will be released by the THT box office if the buyer does not have proof of a COVID vaccination.

WHY BUY A PASS?
When you purchase a Festival Pass, you receive special perks. Fest Pass holders will be seated first at all screenings. Day Pass holders will be seated following the seating of all Festival Pass holders.

No seats are reserved, but your ability to enter first will be held until 10 minutes before show time. Also note that all Festival Happy Hours and Evening Parties are open only to Festival Pass and Day Pass holders.

CAN I JUST BUY SINGLE TICKETS?
Individual ADVANCE tickets to all feature films will be on sale through August 28 at middfilmfest.org. Tickets are $17 and provide priority seating following Festival Pass holders. Advance ticket availability is based on venue size. So, our smaller venues, Marquis Theatre and Swift House Inn tent, will have fewer seats available in advance. If you buy an Advance Ticket, be sure to bring your Proof of Vaccination when you come to the screening.

Single WALK-UP/RUSH tickets for any film are available for $13 at each of the venues. A single ticket can be purchased for any film at any venue on any day (excluding Opening Night). Single ticket seating begins 5 minutes prior to listed showtime after all Passholders and Advance Ticket holders have been seated. Be sure to have your Proof of Vaccination ready when you arrive.

DOES MY FESTIVAL PASS ADMIT ME TO THE OPENING NIGHT FILM?
No. Opening Night is a separately ticketed event and can be purchased at our website, middfilmfest.org, or in person at the THT Box Office. Admission to both the Film Screening and the AfterParty at Swift House Inn is $60. Please note: Opening Night is now on a Waitlist Only basis.

WHERE CAN I BUY FEST MERCHANDISE?
Festival merchandise will be sold at the MNFF Information & Merchandise Store. Hours and location are noted above in the Festival Information paragraph. 2022 items include our popular MNFF hats in black, navy, stone gray and white [$15], white ceramic MNFF8 mugs [$15] and handsome black tote bags [$20]. Joining us again at the Merch & Info Store this year will be a wonderful pop-up version of prominent Middlebury retailer and MNFF sponsor, Sweet Cecily, presenting a dozen charming items. Also on premises, the non-profit organization Giving Fridge will have a wide variety of plants for sale. And MNFF sponsor Champlain Orchards will provide free cider donuts, peaches, apples and fresh apple cider.

ARE THERE FREE EVENTS AT MNFF?
Absolutely! We have gone to great lengths to ensure that there is something for everyone. All of our panels and presentations with filmmakers and industry professionals are free and open to the public. Please bring proof of vaccination if you are not a Festival Pass or Day Pass holder. Also free – our Closing Night Awards Ceremony and Film on Sunday at 6:30pm. Again, bring proof of vaccination if you are not a Festival or Day Pass holder. For times and details on panels and presentations, visit middfilmfest.org or consult our printed Festival Schedule.

WHERE DO I FIND PARKING?
Parking options exist throughout the town of Middlebury and the Middlebury College campus. Street parking is available throughout downtown. There are municipal lots below the Cross Street Bridge and in Frog Hollow at the base of Mill Street. Many additional spaces are in the lot behind the Mahaney Center for the Arts at Middlebury College (72 Porter Field Rd).

CAN I SPEAK WITH FILMMAKERS?
Of course! This is one of the special benefits of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. Attending filmmakers will be available to audiences at post-screening Q&A sessions, panels, happy hours and parties. Feel free to engage with them. Filmmakers genuinely appreciate your interest in their work and life stories.
FESTIVAL EVENTS

WED 8/24

6:30pm
Doors Open 6pm
TOWN HALL
THEATER

OPENING NIGHT

– OPENING NIGHT TICKET HOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –
Introductions and remarks by MNFF Producer Lloyd Komesar and MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven, followed immediately by our opening night film.

THE AUTOMAT

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR LISA HURWITZ
MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN
Filmmaker Lisa Hurwitz discusses the making of her sparkling historical documentary The Automat, which chronicles the life of the popular Horn and Hardart chain of restaurants in New York and Philadelphia.

The Opening Night film screening is supported by a generous donation from Linda and Ira Schiff er.

WED 8/24

9pm
SWIFT HOUSE
INN

OPENING NIGHT PARTY

– OPENING NIGHT TICKET HOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –
The festivities continue outdoors under the big tent at Swift House Inn. Enjoy food, drink and music, and mingle with the Inn’s owners Matthew Robinson and Serena Kim. Music by Dayve Hucket.
THU 8/25
11:30am
TOWN HALL THEATER

HONOREE EVENT AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH NORA JACOBSON

MODERATED BY ORLY YADIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Award-winning, Vermont-based filmmaker Nora Jacobson discusses her homage to the poetry and life of Ruth Stone in *Ruth Stone’s Vast Library of the Female Mind*. Presented by the Vermont International Film Festival (VTIFF).

THU 8/25
4pm
LITTLE SEED COFFEE ROASTERS

FESTIVAL FORMULA PRESENTATION

MODERATED BY MNFF PRODUCER LLOYD KOMESAR

24 Merchants Row | Join Festival Formula founders Katie McCullough and Ian Bignell as they explain the nuances of the vast film festival landscape and how they create winning strategies for filmmakers to choose wisely in submitting their films and building their presence on the festival circuit.

THU 8/25
4pm
TOWN HALL THEATER

CONVERSATION WITH LINDSAY CROUSE

MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN

Lindsay Crouse, award-winning Senior Editor at *The New York Times* and a pioneer in the use of film as journalism, will present a series of five short films centered on issues of women in sports and discuss her broad vision of film as a change agent.
SUPER HEROES aren’t only in the movies!

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FESTIVAL EVENTS

THU 8/25
5pm
HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM - IPJ HOSPITALITY TENT

FESTIVAL THURSDAY HAPPY HOUR
– PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –
1 Park St | Enjoy food and beverages from Two Brothers Tavern in a beautiful garden setting. Supported by IPJ Real Estate, MNFF Presenting Sponsor.

THU 8/25
7:15pm
DANA AUDITORIUM

THE LOST DAUGHTER
HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL
MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN
Following the screening of her multi-Oscar nominated directing debut, The Lost Daughter, MNFF Honoree Maggie Gyllenhaal will share her thoughts and experiences on the making of this beautiful film.

THU 8/25
9pm
HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM - IPJ HOSPITALITY TENT

THURSDAY NIGHT PARTY
– PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –
1 Park St | Gather for a lovely finale to Festival Thursday. Enjoy food and drink from Two Brothers Tavern and music by Dennis Willmott. Supported by IPJ Real Estate, MNFF Presenting Sponsor.

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AICEF FILMMAKER EXCHANGE
The American Indonesian Cultural and Educational Foundation (AICEF) continues its unique partnership with MNFF and the Bali International Film Festival to foster a cross-cultural exchange of filmmakers between the U.S. and Indonesia.

PREMAN
WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING
Randolph Zaini, Indonesian director and writer of Preman and the AICEF Prize winner selected by the Bali International Film Festival, will attend and screen his award winning, first feature drama.

PASANG: IN THE SHADOW OF EVEREST
WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING
WINNER: CLIO VISUALIZING HISTORY PRIZE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN FILM
Filmmaker Nancy Svendsen, will present a Vermont premiere of her new documentary Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest. Ms. Svendsen will be going to Bali next June to participate in the 16th Annual Balinale.

JUDY HYMAN & JEFF CLAUS
FILM SCORING PRESENTATION
MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN
Highly accomplished musical composers and Emmy Award winners Judy Hyman and Jeff Claus offer an in-depth discussion of the intricate process of scoring feature films and documentaries. Hyman and Claus are founding members of the alt-rock band, The Horse Flies, and Hyman is also considered one of the world's top master fiddlers.
Vergennes Opera House

2022-2023 Season

Friday, October 7: Brass & Reeds - A night of acoustic excellence, with the Champlain Brass Quintet, the Dead Creek Reeds and the Calamellus Trio.

Saturday, October 29: Scary film, costume contest, prizes, special guests and tunes courtesy of DJ Fatty B.

Wednesday, November 16: NRBQ (New Rhythm and Blues Quartet) brings us the best excuse ever to stay out late on a school night! Come watch them rock the house!

Friday, December 9: Broadway Direct #17 - An annual community favorite with local Broadway Pros bringing your favorite songs

Saturday, January 28: Alyx Magic Show - Fun family magic show that will trick your mind and amaze your senses.

Saturday, February 11: LC Jazz Winter Thaw Community Concert to benefit concert the HS music scholarship fund.

Saturday, March 18: “Stealing from Work” - A hilarious comedy sketch show, featuring Vergennes’ own Jory Raphael.

Saturday, April 15: The Stragglers - Americana/Bluegrass string band. Get ready for irresistible toe-tapping music!

Saturday, May 20: Patti Casey with Colin McCaffrey - Hometown gal Patti Casey returns to her Vergennes roots with great music and hometown pride

For tickets and info visit VergennesOperaHouse.org
120 Main Street, Vergennes City Hall, 2nd Floor
802.877.6737 info@vergennesoperahouse.org

FESTIVAL EVENTS

FRI 8/26

4pm
ROBISON HALL, MAHANEY ARTS CENTER

VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMS “AN AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES”

FEST PASS AND FRIDAY DAY PASS HOLDERS: NO CHARGE
WALK UP TICKETS AT THE DOOR: $16

The VSO and MNFF join hands to present “An Afternoon at the Movies,” featuring a live, 22-piece VSO chamber orchestra, under the guidance of VSO Artistic Advisor and Project Conductor Matt LaRocca [Middlebury ‘02], playing the arranged scores of seven documentary and animated short films while they screen – a spectacular retrospective of all the previous films that have won the Festival’s VSO Award for Best Integration of Music into Film. This Special Event is supported by a generous donation from Lyn and Ferdinand Lauffer.

FRI 8/26

5pm
STONE MILL - SILVER MAPLE CONSTRUCTION PATIO

FESTIVAL FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR
PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE.

3 Mill St | Enjoy food from the Grapevine Grill and beverages from Dedalus Wine on the creekside patio of The Stone Mill. Presented by Silver Maple Construction.

FRI 8/26

5pm
MARQUIS THEATRE CAFÉ

FILMMAKERS CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION
VISITING FILMMAKERS ONLY, PLEASE.

An informal opportunity for filmmakers to meet and mingle in one of Middlebury’s iconic film spaces.
**FESTIVAL EVENTS**

**SLAM**

**25TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION W/ MARC LEVIN**

Moderated by MNFF Producer Lloyd Komesar

Acclaimed multi-Emmy Award winning director and MNFF Honoree Marc Levin celebrates the 25th Anniversary of his Sundance winning drama, *Slam*, a groundbreaking film which tells the story of a talented black poet who is arrested on petty drug charges and the transformational change he experiences while in prison.

**FRI 8/26**

7:15pm
TOWN HALL THEATER

**FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY**

- PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. -

3 Mill St | Wrap up Festival Friday in style with food by Sabai Sabai, drinks by Dedalus Wine and music by The Morning Dudes on the Stone Mill’s scenic patio. Presented by Silver Maple Construction.

**SAT 8/27**

4pm
MIDDLEBURY INN PATIO

**AFTERNOON CONVERSATION WITH KAREN ALLEN**

Hosted by MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven

- PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. -

16 Court Square | Returning Honoree Karen Allen shares her experiences on working with new filmmakers in this informal conversation at one of the town’s nicest spaces.

**SAT 8/27**

5pm
MIDDLEBURY INN PATIO

**FESTIVAL SATURDAY HAPPY HOUR**

- PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. -

16 Court Square | Enjoy food and beverages from the Middlebury Inn, an MNFF Lodging and Hospitality Sponsor. Music by Sadie Brightman.

**SAT 8/27**

7:15pm
TOWN HALL THEATER

**SECRETARY**

**HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL**

Moderated by Actor Jeremy Holm

Following the screening of her early career breakthrough film *Secretary*, MNFF Honoree Maggie Gyllenhaal offers reflections on the role that brought her significant critical acclaim and numerous awards.
EMILY THE CRIMINAL
HONOREE SCREENING AND ON-STAGE CONVERSATION WITH TYLER DAVIDSON
MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN
After a screening of his latest narrative film, Emily the Criminal, about a college graduate who, saddled with student debt and unable to find work, engages in a credit card scam, MNFF Honoree Tyler Davidson shares his thoughts on working with rising star Aubrey Plaza and his role as the producer of this film.

SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY
– PASSHOLDERS ONLY, PLEASE. –
Marble Works, 137 Maple St | Gather outside under the pavilion at American Flatbread for the always vibrant Festival Saturday party with great food, beverages, and music from O’hAnleigh.

COFFEE WITH MNFF8 FILMMAKERS
HOSTED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN
24 Merchants Row | Come share stimulating conversation and fresh coffee and bagels as a lively group of MNFF8 filmmakers discuss their work – its pleasures and challenges. MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven leads an informal exchange that invites candid responses on questions of production, casting, funding, distribution, festivals, touring and the bottom line.
FESTIVAL EVENTS

SUN 8/28
1pm
TOWN HALL THEATER

TAKE SHELTER
HONOREE EVENT AND ONSTAGE CONVERSATION WITH TYLER DAVIDSON
MODERATED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN
Following the screening of his iconic film Take Shelter, starring Michael Shannon and Jessica Chastain, producer Tyler Davidson talks about how this remarkable film came together at a formative point in his career.

SUN 8/28
4pm
TOWN HALL THEATER

A STAGE OF TWILIGHT
RETURNEE HONOREE SCREENING AND Q&A w/KAREN ALLEN & DIRECTOR SARAH T. SCHWAB
HOSTED BY MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN
Returning Honoree Karen Allen, the film’s star, and the film’s director/ writer/producer Sarah T. Schwab take the stage to discuss this long-in-the-making new work from Ms. Schwab.

SUN 8/28
6:30pm
Doors 6:15pm
TOWN HALL THEATER
FREE!

CLOSING CEREMONY: THE VTEDDY AWARDS
THE REAL CHARLIE CHAPLIN
CONCLUDING COMMENTS FROM MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN
Join us for the joyful presentation of the coveted VTeddy Awards, celebrating Festival Award and Prize winner and our splendid Honorees. Following the Ceremony, stay for the Festival’s Closing Night documentary film, The Real Charlie Chaplin.
Let's make your kitchen & bath a STAR!

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11:30am

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DOORS OPEN 6pm  |
TOWN HALL THEATER
- Opening Night Ticket Holders Only, Please -

OPENING NIGHT

Introductions and remarks by MNFF Producer Lloyd Komesar and MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven, followed immediately by our opening night film.

**THE AUTOMAT**

Documentary | 79m | *The Automat* recounts the lost history of the iconic restaurant chain Horn & Hardart, which served affordable-priced quality food to millions of New Yorkers and Philadelphians for more than a century. The chain welcomed minority populations, including immigrants, the working-class, Blacks and women, all of whom were often unwelcome in restaurants. Founded by Joseph Horn and Frank Hardart in 1888, it revolutionized the nation’s restaurant scene with comfortable interiors, quality food and state of the art technology.

**Q&A TO FOLLOW WITH DIRECTOR LISA HURWITZ**

Moderated by MNFF Artistic Director, Jay Craven. Filmmaker Lisa Hurwitz discusses the making of her sparkling historical documentary *The Automat*, which chronicles the life of the popular Horn and Hardart chain of restaurants in New York and Philadelphia.

**VERMONT PREMIERE**

* WINNER: CLIO VISUALIZING HISTORY PRIZE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN FILM

DIRECTED BY LISA HURWITZ • PRODUCED BY LISA HURWITZ

The Opening Night film screening is supported by a generous donation from Linda and Ira Schiffer.

9pm  |
SWIFT HOUSE INN

OPENING NIGHT PARTY

The festivities continue outdoors under the big tent at Swift House Inn. Enjoy food, drink and music, and mingle with the Inn’s owners Matthew Robinson and Serena Kim. Music by Dayve Hukett.
### THU 8/25

#### 9am

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<td>TWI</td>
<td>A Drunk Harry Story: George Pollard and The Whale Ship Essex</td>
<td>8m</td>
<td>The Race to Alaska</td>
<td>99m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 11:30am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THT</th>
<th>Ruth Stone's Vast Library of the Female Mind</th>
<th>76m</th>
<th>HONOREE SCREENING</th>
<th>On-Stage Conversation with Nora Jacobson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MQM</td>
<td>Something Unseen</td>
<td>20m</td>
<td>God's Creatures</td>
<td>94m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAN</td>
<td>Dotting the “I”</td>
<td>11m</td>
<td>A Taste of Heaven: The Ecstatic Song &amp; Gospel of Maestro Raymond Anthony Myles</td>
<td>91m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWI</td>
<td>Understanding</td>
<td>6m</td>
<td>Air</td>
<td>10m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THT</th>
<th>Headlights</th>
<th>17m</th>
<th>The Novice</th>
<th>97m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MQM</td>
<td>Cherry</td>
<td>25m</td>
<td>Medusa</td>
<td>86m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAN</td>
<td>Congratulations (Mabroom)</td>
<td>14m</td>
<td>Charm Circle</td>
<td>79m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWI</td>
<td>Salvador Dali</td>
<td>19m</td>
<td>The Book Keepers</td>
<td>89m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 4pm

**LITTLE SEED COFFEE ROASTERS**
PRESENTATION | By Festival Formula Strategist & Founder Katie McCullough and Strategist Ian Bignell

**TOWN HALL THEATER**
CONVERSATION | With New York Times Senior Editor Lindsay Crouse

#### 5pm

**HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM GARDEN - IPJ HOSPITALITY TENT**
FESTIVAL THURSDAY HAPPY HOUR
– Passholders Only, Please –

#### 7:15pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THT</th>
<th>Lunch Break</th>
<th>24m</th>
<th>Olga</th>
<th>85m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MQM</td>
<td>Hands That Bind</td>
<td>115m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAN</td>
<td>The Lost Daughter</td>
<td>121m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWI</td>
<td>The Engagement</td>
<td>13m</td>
<td>Come Back Anytime</td>
<td>81m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHI</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>102m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 9pm

**HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM GARDEN - IPJ HOSPITALITY TENT**
THURSDAY NIGHT PARTY
– Passholders Only, Please –
## SCHEDULE FRI 8/26

### 9am

**THT**
- The Life of Stephen Bates ★★★
  - 8m
- Freedom Hill ★
  - 30m
- Manifest Destiny Jesus
  - 40m

**MQM**
- Hot Toddy
  - 17m
- The Right Words
  - 30m
- Bus Girl
  - 11m
- Light Attaching to a Girl ★★★
  - 62m

**DAN**
- Unforgotten: Hart Island ★★
  - 15m
- Assaman ★★★
  - 14m
- After Sherman
  - 88m

**TWI**
- Anarchy in Vermont ★★★
  - 22m
- No Other Lake ★★★
  - 40m

### 11:30am

**THT**
- Preman ★★★
  - 92m
- SPECIAL EVENT | AICEF Filmmaker Exchange with Randolph Zaini

**MQM**
- Born Under Punches ★★★
  - 6m
- Lone Wolves
  - 13m
- American Thief ★★★
  - 82m

**DAN**
- Grave
  - 16m
- Go Through the Dark
  - 78m

**TWI**
- None Died Here
  - 12m
- Mahakan
  - 18m
- On The Divide ★★★
  - 79m

### 2pm

**THT**
- Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest ★★★
  - 71m
- SPECIAL EVENT | AICEF Filmmaker Exchange with Nancy Svendsen

**MQM**
- Please Hold
  - 19m
- Carol & Johnny ★★★
  - 90m

**DAN**
- Big Mama’s Antiques & Restorations
  - 11m
- Mudder’s Hands
  - 15m
- For the Left Hand
  - 74m

**TWI**
- PRESENTATION | Film Scoring by composers Judy Hyman and Jeff Claus

### 1pm

**ROB**
- SPECIAL EVENT | Vermont Symphony Orchestra performs “An Afternoon at the Movies” featuring previous VSO Award-winning films

### 5pm

**MARQUIS THEATRE CAFÉ**
- FILMMAKERS CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION
- Visiting Filmmakers Only, Please -

**STONE MILL – SILVER MAPLE CONSTRUCTION PATIO**
- FESTIVAL FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR
- Passholders Only, Please -

### 7:15pm

**THT**
- Slam ★★★
  - 100m
- HONOREE SCREENING | Onstage Conversation with Marc Levin

**MQM**
- Sanctify ★★★
  - 18m
- Clouds of Chernobyl ★★★
  - 76m

**DAN**
- Some Still Search
  - 15m
- Bad Axe
  - 100m

**TWI**
- The Pez Outlaw
  - 85m

**SHI**
- A Love Song
  - 81m

### 9pm

**STONE MILL – SILVER MAPLE CONSTRUCTION PATIO**
- FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY
- Passholders Only, Please -
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Film Title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>THT</td>
<td>The Gallery</td>
<td>8m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MQM</td>
<td>Doe</td>
<td>16m</td>
<td>Destiny on the Main Stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DAN</td>
<td>If My Voice Rang Louder Than My Skin</td>
<td>3m</td>
<td>Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TWI</td>
<td>Restoring Néške’emâne</td>
<td>12m</td>
<td>Eyesore</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hiding in the Walls</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>THT</td>
<td>The Saverini Widow</td>
<td>19m</td>
<td>Love It Was Not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MQM</td>
<td>Tildypops</td>
<td>20m</td>
<td>Anonymous Sister</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DAN</td>
<td>Firecracker</td>
<td>14m</td>
<td>The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TWI</td>
<td>Monsieur Le Butch</td>
<td>12m</td>
<td>Calendar Girls</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>THT</td>
<td>I Promise</td>
<td>102m</td>
<td>HONOREE SCREENING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MQM</td>
<td>Monster in a Box</td>
<td>9m</td>
<td>All The Marbles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DAN</td>
<td>The Social Chameleon</td>
<td>10m</td>
<td>Marcel the Shell with Shoes On</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TWI</td>
<td>Whale Fall</td>
<td>6m</td>
<td>Finding the Lighthouse</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feral Fatale</td>
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<td>Bitterbrush</td>
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<tr>
<td>4pm</td>
<td>MIDDLEBURY INN PATIO</td>
<td>AFTERNOON CONVERSATION</td>
<td>With Returning Honoree Karen Allen</td>
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<tr>
<td>5pm</td>
<td>MIDDLEBURY INN LOBBY &amp; PORCH</td>
<td>FESTIVAL FRIDAY HAPPY HOURS</td>
<td>- Passholders Only, Please -</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:15pm</td>
<td>THT</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>107m</td>
<td>HONOREE SCREENING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MQM</td>
<td>Our America</td>
<td>4m</td>
<td>Stripper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DAN</td>
<td>Emily the Criminal</td>
<td></td>
<td>HONOREE SCREENING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TWI</td>
<td>Lob?</td>
<td>6m</td>
<td>Let’s All Go to the Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SHI</td>
<td>Anais in Love</td>
<td>98m</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9pm</td>
<td>AMERICAN FLATBREAD MIDDLEBURY HEARTH</td>
<td>SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY</td>
<td>- Passholders Only, Please -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FILMMAKER ATTENDING**

**AWARD/PRIZE WINNER**

**TOWN HALL THEATER - MAIN SCREEN**

**MARQUIS THEATRE - SCREENING ROOM**

**SWIFT HOUSE INN**

**TWILIGHT HALL**

**DANA AUDITORIUM**

**ROBISON HALL, MAHANEY ARTS CENTER**
## 8:30am

**LITTLE SEED COFFEE ROASTERS**  |  SPECIAL EVENT | Coffee with MNFF8 Filmmakers

## 10am

| THT | A Better Half 19m | The Eternal Flame 96m |
| MQM | VT Emerging Filmmakers Showcase: Freedom & Unity TV 7m | WRIF Emerging Filmmakers 37m |
| MQS | Global Shorts Showcase II: Voices and Locks 20m | LEFA (The Inheritance) 26m |

## 11am

| THT | Take Shelter 121m | HONOREE SCREENING | On-Stage Conversation with Tyler Davidson |
| MQM | Her Majesty’s Lice 8m | Superheroes Wear Hoodies 10m | Listen Up! 90m |
| MQS | Desmond’s Not Here Anymore 16m | Finding Dad 30m | Nightingales in Berlin |

## 4pm

| THT | A Stage of Twilight 107m | RETURNING HONOREE SCREENING | On-Stage Conversation with Karen Allen and Director Sarah T. Schwab |
| MQM | Hit the Road 93m |
| MQS | Jockey 94m |

---

**DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM  |  TOWN HALL THEATER**

**CLOSING NIGHT**

---

**FREE & OPEN TO ALL**

**CLOSING CEREMONY & VTEDDY AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Join us for the joyful presentation of the VTeddy Awards celebrating the MNFF8 winners!

**THE REAL CHARLIE CHAPLIN**

Documentary | 114m | Hollywood icon Charlie Chaplin rocketed to fame from the slums of Victorian London and spent decades as one of Hollywood’s most famous and beloved stars until his scandalous fall from grace. His stage persona and incendiary media portrayal defined how he was perceived, but his private life has always been shrouded in mystery—until now. Never-before-heard recordings, home movies and newly restored films reveal a side to Chaplin that the world never got to see.

**WITH CONCLUDING COMMENTS FROM MNFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, JAY CRAVEN**

MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven closes out MNFF8 with some insightful comments about this extraordinary documentary.

**VERMONT PREMIERE**

DIRECTED BY JAMES SPINNEY, PETER MIDDLETON
PRODUCED BY BEN LIMBERG, JOHN BATTSEK, MIKE BRETT, STEVE JAMISON, JO-JO ELLISON
2022 JURY

ANNA SANG PARK
Anna Sang Park is the writer/director of the award-winning short film trilogy The Cho Stories. She is the producer of the narrative feature film Wallabout and the upcoming narrative feature, Stockade, currently in post-production. Born in South Korea, Anna grew up in Seoul, then Philadelphia. Anna is a member of the Writers Guild of America East, Film Fatales, Alliance of Women Directors, BGDM and the Producers Guild of America.

RICKI STERN & ANNIE SUNDBERG
Ricki Stern and Annie Sundberg are known for producing and creating critically acclaimed films and television series. Together and separately, their films have been short listed for the Oscars, won a Columbia-DuPont Silver Baton and have earned 11 Emmy and 2 Peabody nominations and countless festival accolades. Ricki recently directed the 6-part series Surviving Death for Netflix and Annie directed a forthcoming feature starring principals from the New York City Ballet. In 2019, Ricki and Annie EP’d and directed the 5-part series Preppy Murder: Death in Central Park for AMC.

JONATHAN J. CAVALERRO
Jonathan J. Cavallero is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Rhetoric, Film, and Screen Studies Department at Bates College. He is the author of Hollywood's Italian American Filmmakers: Capra, Scorsese, Savoca, Coppola, and Tarantino and the founding director of the Bates Film Festival.

KAREN ALLEN
Karen Allen is a theatre and film actor and director. She has made over 50 films as an actor starting with Animal House, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Starman and most recently A Year By the Sea and Colewell which both appeared at the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. She has directed in the theatre for the past 12 years and directed her first film in 2017, A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud, based on a Carson McCullers short story.

LAURA HEBERTON
Laura Heberton is a producer and a screenwriter of critically-acclaimed, award winning feature and short films. Recent MNFF features she has produced include Float (2019), Freeland (2020), Now Return Us to Normal (2021) and this year’s The Unknown Country. Also like MNFF, Laura works primarily with first and second-time feature filmmakers. She serves on multiple non-profit arts boards.

AMY GELLER
Amy M. Geller is an award-winning creative producer and filmmaker (The Guys Next Door 2016, The Rabbi Goes West 2019) whose work has been shown on PBS, the BBC, Turner Classic Movies, Netflix, Amazon Prime and HERE TV. Geller served as the Artistic Director of the Boston Jewish Film Festival and was President of Women in Film & Video/New England. She is currently a full-time visiting lecturer at Boston University.

STU POLLARD
Stu Pollard is an independent filmmaker originally from Louisville, KY. He’s produced more than twenty feature films over the course of his career, including Rust Creek and Freeland, both of which screened at MNFF. Stu has directed two features: Nice Guys Sleep Alone and Keep Your Distance. He also teaches at both Film Independent and USC’s School of Cinematic Arts. Stu holds a degree in business from Georgetown and an MFA in Film from USC, is a member of the DGA and PGA and serves on the boards of the Louisville Film Society and Georgetown’s Alumni Board of Regents.

JEREMY HOLM
Jeremy Holm is best known for portraying ‘Nathan Green’ on the Golden Globe nominated Netflix series House of Cards and as ‘Mr. Sutherland’ on the Golden Globe winning USA series Mr. Robot, as well as the title role in the horror favorite The Ranger (dir. Jenn Wexler). His upcoming film appearances include HERO (dir. Steven Pierce), Brooklyn 45 (dir. Ted Geoghegan), Black Mold (dir. Ted Geoghegan), Black Mold (dir. John Pata) and Among the Beasts (dir. Matthew Newton), and he has recently guest starred as ‘Unit Chief Grimes’ on FBI: International.
**MNFF STAFF**

**LLOYD KOMESAR**  
PRODUCER  
Lloyd spent nearly 30 years as a sales, research and distribution exec in the film and television programming industry, first at Blair Television in NY, then, for the next 25 years, at the Walt Disney Company in New York and Los Angeles. Having acquired extensive knowledge of the distribution models of film and television over his rewarding career, he brings a considerable amount of perspective and insight to the MNFF endeavor.

**JAY CRAVEN**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
Jay is an independent filmmaker with 10 feature films, a comedy TV series and four documentaries to his credit. His films have played Sundance, SXSW, AFI, Lincoln Center, Constitutional Court of Johannesburg and others. He founded and directs the Semester Cinema program where, every two years, 30 professionals mentor and collaborate with 40 students from 14 colleges to make an ambitious feature film for national release. Information at www.KingdomCounty.org or jcraven1590@gmail.com

**SOPHIA LUNDBERG**  
FESTIVAL COORDINATOR  
Sophia Lundberg is a recent February graduate of Middlebury College with a B.A. in International Politics & Economics. She believes that sharing stories through film can not only inform and educate, but can also shape our understanding of each other and the world around us, thus cultivating compassion and affecting change.

**EMMA JOHNSON**  
PRODUCTION INTERN  
Emma Johnson is a rising senior at Middlebury College from Lake Bluff, IL. She’s double majoring in Film & Media Cultures and English & American Literatures. She’s active on Letterboxd and would love to fill you in on the films she’s watching this summer. She’s currently obsessing over *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

**VANESSA DOWNING**  
SENIOR PROGRAMMER  
Vanessa is a lifelong lover of film and music and has carved out an exciting and eclectic path pursuing both. She currently serves as Managing Director for the non-profit Wellfleet Preservation Hall on Cape Cod, where she programs a robust film schedule, performance events, and many other arts and cultural offerings for the community, understanding of each other and the world around us, thus cultivating compassion and affecting change.

**KEZIAH WILDE**  
PRODUCTION INTERN  
Keziah Wilde is a rising junior at Middlebury College from Arlington, MA. She is a Neuroscience and (probably, fingers crossed) Film major. She grew up limited to fifteen minutes of television per day and is now wildly overcompensating this deprivation by working for a film festival.

**SIENA CADDLE**  
VIDEOGRAPHY INTERN  
Siena Caddle is a senior at Middlebury College from Gloucester, MA. She is majoring in Film and Media Culture with a minor in Earth and Climate Sciences. She is so excited to enjoy the festival through the lens of her camera!

**ANNIKA ELLIS**  
VIDEOGRAPHY INTERN  
Annika Ellis is a rising senior at the University of Vermont from West Newbury, MA. She is majoring in Film and Television Studies with a minor in Reporting and Documentary Storytelling. Annika hopes to be a filmmaker herself, and will be all around the Festival with her camera!
EVERY TUESDAY

$12 BURGER NIGHT | 5:30-8PM

Yes! We are now open on Tuesdays, starting July 12th

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FILMS A-Z
BROWSE THE FEATURE AND SHORT FILMS THAT WILL BE SCREENED AT THE 8TH ANNUAL MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL.

- INDICATES FILMMAKER SCHEDULED TO ATTEND THE FESTIVAL
- INDICATES FEATURE FILM
- INDICATES SHORT FILM

WATCH TRAILERS AT middfilmfest.org/2022-films

All the Marbles
SAT 8/27
2pm
MQM
11m

All the Marbles incorporates whimsical animations to tell a story of a girl and a magical marble as they save the world from total destruction. Shot with an all-New England cast and crew on location in Western Massachusetts, All the Marbles is eminently serious and delightfully whimsical.

Narrative
Directed by: Melissa McClung
Produced by: Melissa McClung, Nina Alexander
United States
English
VERMONT PREMIERE

The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales
SAT 8/27
11:30am
DAN
87m

Abigail Disney looks at America’s dysfunctional and unequal economy and asks why the American Dream has worked for the wealthy, yet is a nightmare for people born with less. As a way to imagine a more equitable future, Disney uses her family’s story to explore how this systemic injustice took hold.

Documentary
Directed by: Abigail Disney, Kathleen Hughes
Produced by: Kathleen Hughes, Abigail Disney, Aideen Kane
United States
English
VERMONT PREMIERE

American Thief
FRI 8/26
11:30am
MQM
82m

Inspired by real events between 2015 and 2019, American Thief follows its protagonists in a plot aimed at manipulating the 2016 American presidential election. Toncruz, a teenage hacker, uses the internet to try to avenge his father’s death, while his best friend, Diop, uses hacking as a tool in the fight for racial justice. Paul Hunter, an enraged digital influencer known as “The Van Man,” and Toncruz are contacted by a “dark web” user who claims to have access to the secrets they seek to unlock.

Narrative
Directed by: Miguel Silveira
Produced by: Michel Stolnicki, Missy Hernandez
United States
English
VERMONT PREMIERE

After Sherman
FRI 8/26
9am
DAN
88m

After Sherman is a story about inheritance and the tension that defines our collective American history. The director’s exploration of coastal South Carolina as a site of pride and racial trauma through Gullah cultural retention and land preservation is interrupted by the shootings at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

Documentary
Directed by: Jon-Sesrie Goff
Produced by: blair dorosh-walther, Madeleine Hunt Ehrlich
United States
English

Air
THU 8/25
11:30am
TWI
10m

A latchkey kid in a polluted megacity finds a portal to another world through the help of a sentient plant. She makes a wish to make the world a better place. Air is an animated short that addresses the devastating consequences of climate change and the uncertainties of our future.

Narrative, Animation
Directed by: Brian Wilcox
Produced by: Sara Mehrkhast
United States
English
VERMONT PREMIERE
Anais in Love follows spirited and romantic thirtysomething Anaïs in her manic search for stability. Behind on her rent, contemplating breaking up with her boyfriend and struggling to complete her thesis, Anaïs searches for inspiration while hurtling through lovers with abandon. When her affair with an older book publisher Daniel leads to her falling for his live-in partner Emilie, a brilliant and luminous novelist, things get especially messy.

**Anaïs in Love**
- Directed by: Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet
- Produced by: Igor Auzépy, Stéphane Demoustier, Philippe Martin, David Thion
- Narrated by: Lamine “Tukkiman” Diao, Macca Assaman

**Assaman**
- Directed by: Katrina Brook Flores
- Produced by: Katrina Brook Flores, Michael P. Manuel, Mamadou Lamine “Tukkiman” Diao, Macca Malik

Anarchy in Vermont
- Directed by: Daniel Levesque
- Produced by: Daniel Levesque

Anonymous Sister
- Directed by: Jamie Boyle
- Produced by: Jamie Boyle, Marilyn Ness, Elizabeth Westrate

A Better Half
- Directed by: Marco Calvani
- Produced by: Ben Arredondo, Marco Calvani, Marco Pigossi, Terrence Meck

Berry Pickers
- Directed by: Agnes Skonare Karlsson
- Produced by: Mona Maahn

Big Mama's Antiques and Restorations
- Directed by: Gabriel Henk
- Produced by: Gabriel Henk
Bitterbrush

This sweeping documentary follows two range riders who are spending their last summer herding cattle in remote Idaho. Totally off the grid with only their dogs as companions, they brave inclement weather and perilous work conditions while pondering their futures. Bitterbrush is a portrait of friendship, life transitions and the work of two skilled young women in the isolated and beautiful landscape of the American West.

Directed by: Emelie Mahdavian
Produced by: Emelie Mahdavian, Su Kim

Bus Girl

Bus Girl tells the story of an aspiring young female chef, June, as she navigates the cut-throat world of high-end cooking. A young woman in a male-dominated career, trying desperately to keep her dream alive, June wants to create a culinary experience, immerse her audience, and provide some momentary escape through her food.

Directed by: Jessica Henwick
Produced by: Louise Palmkvist Hansen

Calendar Girls

A coming-of-golden-age film about the second teenage phase – the retirement phase – the Calendar Girls intimately follows senior volunteer dancers in Southwest Florida, who are determined to prove that age is just a number. The Calendar Girls give it all they’ve got and they have a lot to give — impressive makeup, handmade costumes, elaborate dance routines and, most notably, their unparalleled enthusiasm and sparkling personalities. Through revealing conversations and choreographed dance scenes, the film captures the challenges of being a woman over 60 and the delicate balance of family, home and dance. Calendar Girl Cindy Bailey will attend this screening.

Directed by: Maria Looohufvud, Love Martinsen
Produced by: Maria Looohufvud, Love Martinsen

Carol & Johnny

Two of the most infamous bank robbers in American history, Carol Marie Williams and Johnny Madison Williams Jr., tell their love story in their own words. A story of change and of staying the same, this documentary explores the lives and times of these two men, now residing in a federal prison, and their ongoing commitment to each other.

Directed by: Colin Barnicle
Produced by: Colin Barnicle, Cora Atkinson

Caroline

Caroline tells the story of a young woman’s audition for a major movie as it takes an unexpected turn, all through the unblinking lens of the DSLR camera filming her casting session. In a post-#MeToo era, where are the places in the film industry where consent falls through the cracks?

Directed by: Juli Del Prete
Produced by: Diana Pérez Riveros

Charm Circle

A glimpse into the lives of an eccentric New York family. Charm Circle follows filmmaker Nira Burstein as she attempts to bridge the fractured relationships between herself and her family. Weaving together decades-old home videos and contemporary footage, the film crafts a powerful family portrait that questions the value of the bonds that tie us together. With moments of humor, music and creativity, Charm Circle finds compassion in places most challenging.

Directed by: Nira Burstein
Produced by: Nira Burstein, Betsy Laikin
**MNFF8 FILMS A-Z**

**Chasing Sirens**
- **Wed 8/24**
- 2pm
- TWI
- 12m

A young filmmaker discovers the inner workings of freelancing for local news networks by chasing breaking stories.

**Directed by:** Sam Nelson
**Produced by:** Sam Nelson
**Genre:** Documentary
**Language:** English
**Country:** United States
**Premiere:** Vermont Premiere

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**Cold Beds**
- **Wed 8/24**
- 2pm
- MQS
- 20m

It's a winter night at a ski resort in the French Alps. After getting locked out, Mona, a young seasonal worker of Italian origin, tries to fight off the cold while looking for shelter. Her nighttime journey brings her close to an unknown presence. Cold Beds deals with themes of exclusion and migration, as halfway up the mountain Mona's story becomes aligned with that of another young woman, who is trapped with the status of an illegal migrant. [A part of MNFF8 Global Shorts Showcase!]

**Directed by:** Laëtita Martinucci
**Produced by:** Jonathan Hazan
**Genre:** Narrative
**Language:** French
**Country:** France
**Premiere:** Vermont Premiere

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**Conversations from the Open Road**
- **Sun 8/28**
- 10am
- MQM
- 30m

Conversations From the Open Road is an annual road-trip filmmaking experience, featuring a group of young storytellers using digital media to explore the challenging issues and individual stories they find in a variety of communities around the United States. [A part of VT Emerging Filmmakers Showcase]

**Directed by:** Various Filmmakers
**Produced by:** Various Filmmakers
**Genre:** Documentary
**Language:** English
**Country:** United States
**Premiere:** Vermont Premiere

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**Desmond's Not Here Anymore**
- **Sun 8/28**
- 1pm
- MQS
- 16m

The mother can't remember, the daughter can't forget. Desmond's Not Here Anymore tells the story of Abigail as she battles to move her elderly mother with dementia out from the family home. When her mother unconsciously haunts her by continually questioning Desmond's whereabouts, it forces her to finally face the long-simmering question.

**Directed by:** Mmabatho Montsho
**Produced by:** Lindiwe Suttle Müller-Westernhagen, Marius Müller-Westernhagen, Nicole Castro, Theo Dumont, Daniel Sol, Marissa Fujimoto, Ben Andrews
**Genre:** Narrative
**Language:** English
**Country:** United States
**Premiere:** Vermont Premiere

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**Destiny on the Main Stage**
- **Sat 8/27**
- 9am
- MQM
- 95m

Destiny on the Main Stage is an intimate portrait of women trying to make ends meet while searching for themselves. Mothers, daughters, sisters and servants of god, they put lives on the line: vulnerable and exposed, dancing in the strip clubs of Texas. Family, faith, money and power are major players in the lives of its population. We follow Chelsea, Tatum, Polly and Monica as they live the delicate balance of ambition, joy, shame and desire.

**Directed by:** Poppy de Villeneuve
**Produced by:** Madeleine Sanderson
**Genre:** Documentary
**Language:** English
**Country:** United States
**Premiere:** World Premiere

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**Cherry**
- **Thu 8/25**
- 2pm
- MQM
- 25m

Cherry tells the story of broken-hearted Omer who finds out she is pregnant and tries to use it to lure back her ex, pushing away her worried mother in the process. Slowly, she realizes that her mother is her true source of love and support.

**Directed by:** Naama Lahav
**Produced by:** Arad Trifon Reshef
**Genre:** Narrative
**Language:** Hebrew
**Country:** Israel
**Premiere:** New England Premiere

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**Clouds of Chernobyl**
- **Fri 8/26**
- 7.15pm
- MQM
- 76m

Clouds of Chernobyl tells the story of a young woman under extreme pressure by her mother-in-law to have an abortion as a result of children being born dead or with malformations following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Thirty-three years after the fall of communism and one hundred years after the founding of the Romanian Communist Party, three young independent filmmakers deliver their feature film debut with a narrative drama about an invisible enemy: the radioactive cloud of 1986.

**Directed by:** Ligia Ciornei
**Produced by:** Marian Mario, Dan Dimitriu
**Genre:** Narrative
**Language:** Romanian w/ English subtitles
**Country:** Romania
**Premiere:** New England Premiere

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**Conference (Mabrook)**
- **Thu 8/25**
- 2pm
- DAN
- 14m

Amir is a struggling actor, meddling with lowly, wordless terrorist roles. More importantly, he struggles with his parents not taking his career choice seriously. Amidst a chaotic party at his parents’ home, highlighted by politics, cricket and community gossip, a revelation brings Amir a new challenge — just making it through the day.

**Directed by:** Asad Farooqui
**Produced by:** Asad Farooqui, Annam Rizwan
**Genre:** Narrative
**Language:** English, Urdu
**Country:** United States
**Premiere:** New England Premiere

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**Desmond’s Not Here Anymore**

**Directed by:** John Daschbach
**Produced by:** Wataru Yamamoto
**Genre:** Documentary
**Language:** Japanese [with English subtitles]
**Country:** Japan
**Premiere:** Vermont Premiere

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**Congratulations (Mabrook)**

**Directed by:** Asad Farooqui
**Produced by:** Asad Farooqui, Annam Rizwan
**Genre:** Narrative
**Language:** English, Urdu
**Country:** United States
**Premiere:** New England Premiere

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**Chasing Sirens**

**Directed by:** Sam Nelson
**Produced by:** Sam Nelson
**Genre:** Documentary
**Language:** English
**Country:** United States
**Premiere:** Vermont Premiere

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**Cold Beds**

**Directed by:** Laëtita Martinucci
**Produced by:** Jonathan Hazan
**Genre:** Narrative
**Language:** French
**Country:** France
**Premiere:** Vermont Premiere

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**Conversations from the Open Road**

**Directed by:** Various Filmmakers
**Produced by:** Various Filmmakers
**Genre:** Documentary
**Language:** English
**Country:** United States
**Premiere:** Vermont Premiere

---

**Desmond’s Not Here Anymore**

**Directed by:** Mmabatho Montsho
**Produced by:** Lindiwe Suttle Müller-Westernhagen, Marius Müller-Westernhagen, Nicole Castro, Theo Dumont, Daniel Sol, Marissa Fujimoto, Ben Andrews
**Genre:** Narrative
**Language:** English
**Country:** United States
**Premiere:** Vermont Premiere

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**Destiny on the Main Stage**

**Directed by:** Poppy de Villeneuve
**Produced by:** Madeleine Sanderson
**Genre:** Documentary
**Language:** English
**Country:** United States
**Premiere:** World Premiere

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**Cherry**

**Directed by:** Naama Lahav
**Produced by:** Arad Trifon Reshef
**Genre:** Narrative
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**Language:** French
**Country:** France
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**Conversations from the Open Road**

**Directed by:** Various Filmmakers
**Produced by:** Various Filmmakers
**Genre:** Documentary
**Language:** English
**Country:** United States
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**Desmond’s Not Here Anymore**

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**Genre:** Narrative
**Language:** English
**Country:** United States
**Premiere:** Vermont Premiere

---

**Destiny on the Main Stage**

**Directed by:** Poppy de Villeneuve
**Produced by:** Madeleine Sanderson
**Genre:** Documentary
**Language:** English
**Country:** United States
**Premiere:** World Premiere
Jane takes a job at a diner in an off-season beach town, as an attempt to escape her past. Until one day, everything she’s been running from, walks through the front door.

Narrative
Directed by: Leigh DeLollis *, Meghan Mullane
Produced by: Ani Schroeter

United States
English
WORLD PREMIERE

Emily is saddled with student debt and locked out of the job market due to a minor criminal record. Desperate for income, she takes a gig as a “dummy shopper,” buying goods with stolen credit cards supplied by a middleman named Youcef. Emily is soon seduced by the quick cash and illicit thrills of black-market capitalism, and increasingly interested in Youcef. Together, they plan to bring their business to the next level in Los Angeles.

Narrative
Directed by: John Patton Ford
Produced by: Tyler Davidson *, Aubrey Plaza, Drew Sykes

United States
English

After being cast in the lead role of a professional ballet, Ragan is pressured by the ballet’s director to lighten her skin with make-up. She reluctantly goes along with the request, but with each performance, she feels more degraded. When a young adoring fan tells her she wants to be just like her, the dancer cannot continue to perform feeling such shame… she makes a decision to be authentic.

Narrative
Directed by: Sarah Jean Williams
Produced by: Ian McClellan

United States
English
VERMONT PREMIERE

Imagine what your life would look like without the fear of growing old. The Eternal Flame, an American group that believed in eternal life and experienced rapid growth, gave rise to the Physical Immortality Group, an Israeli offshoot that garnered a lot of popularity in Tel Aviv in the late 1980s. Members of both groups were steadfast in their beliefs and were determined to live together forever. Their international success halted in its tracks once the group’s American leaders, living as a polyamorous throuple, broke up. This is the remarkable story as told by director Ranni Midyan, a former member of the Israeli group.

Documentary
Directed by: Ranni Midyan
Produced by: Erez Laufer

Israel
Hebrew, English
NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

In the shadows of an empty office, the poetry of an unlikely kiss helps two men — a modern-day Cyrano and a mid-life cynic — discover a love lost and a love never found. Dotting the “i” asks, does a “Hollywood kiss” still have the power to jolt us out of (or back into) ourselves, and through an undeniable connection, change our world?

Narrative
Directed by: Doug Tompos *
Produced by: Doug Tompos, Risa Bramon Garcia, Steve Braun

United States
English
U.S. PREMIERE

When 14 year old Jules Harvey discovers her burning home with her family trapped inside to die, she is forced to flee before being captured. She roams the desert with nothing but a hunted rabbit hanging from her belt, a bowie knife, and shotgun. After wandering for miles, she stops for the night to rest and is approached by a mysterious outlaw.

Narrative
Directed by: Emma Eisner *
Produced by: Emma Eisner

United States
English
VERMONT PREMIERE
Fieldtrip

WED 8/24
11:30am
MQM
21m

A love letter to '70s sci-fi classics, the diesel-punk retro-futurist Fieldtrip is a dark comedy about the “collaboration” between man and machine. Reflecting on the nature of the modern technological experience, and looking to a future where technological devices surpass ourselves, Fieldtrip tells the story of a man in a sentient robotic spacesuit who crashes into his own minefield and has to navigate through it.

Narrative
Directed by: Soren Bendt, Paul Arion
Produced by: Soren Bendt, Paul Arion

The Finding

WED 8/24
2pm
MQM
21m

The Finding follows sheep farmer Sanders and his estranged teenage daughter Lucy, whose frosty relationship is matched by an unseasonal cold snap. They reconnect while rescuing early lambs but a secret from their past threatens to shatter their fragile bond. This film explores the tragic consequences of a father’s error in judgment and the ways we deal with grief and the capacity for forgiveness.

Narrative
Directed by: Rebecca Tansley
Produced by: Rebecca Tansley, Sue Marshall

Finding Dad

SUN 8/28
1pm
MQM
30m

Finding Dad is a heartfelt quest for one woman’s sense of identity, as she faces challenges of loss, class, and race. Caught in the grips of grief, she feels alone like never before and goes searching for a sense of self by seeking out her estranged father. Her journey helps her realize that, in fact, her family was there all along, in her best friend.

Narrative
Directed by: Alana Hutton-Shaw
Produced by: Bona Orakwue

Finding the Lighthouse

SAT 8/27
2pm
TWI
10m

Finding the Lighthouse follows two sisters who have been estranged for five years. They meet at a rural car park with an objective to take their recently deceased mother’s ashes to the lighthouse they once went to as kids. On the journey, they each battle with the awkwardness of the situation while rediscovering their relationship. Emilia reveals a part of herself to Charlie that changes the dynamic of their relationship completely.

Narrative
Directed by: Michael Cox
Produced by: Annie Wykes

Firecracker

SAT 8/27
11:30am
DAN
14m

On the night of their first anniversary in Beijing, a young Chinese woman is confronted with a life-changing decision: whether to keep her Asian-American girlfriend a secret from her traditional family with the upcoming Chinese New Year celebration... or dare to be her true self. Firecracker explores the underground spaces, secret interiors and hidden heartaches still brimming with possibilities.

Narrative
Directed by: Caroline Guo
Produced by: Andie Tenoso, Camila Villanueva

For the Left Hand

FRI 8/26
2pm
DAN
74m

For the Left Hand documents the life of Norman Malone who, at the age of ten, was attacked by his father and left paralyzed on his right side. Undaunted, he began a lifelong quest to reclaim his place at the piano, mastering some of the most difficult music ever written for left hand alone — and never telling anyone of his deepening virtuosity. Not until he was 78 did Malone reveal his story. Nearly 70 years after his tragic attack, Malone realizes a long-delayed dream — to play with an orchestra.

Documentary
Directed by: Leslie Simmer, Gordon Quinn
Produced by: Diane Quon, Howard Reich

The Gallery

SAT 8/27
9am
THT
8m

In the spirit of sisterhood and solidarity, the members of the intersectional feminist group Femplak_Wien come together to put in words the sexualized violence they have endured. This film follows the courage of this group who, through one of their actions, turn their individual stories into a collective strength.

Documentary
Directed by: Cordula Rieger
Produced by: Cordula Rieger

WINNER: BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

Freedom Hill

FRI 8/26
9am
THT
30m

After the Civil War, freed African Americans settled in the floodplains along North Carolina’s Tar River. This land becomes Princeville, the first town chartered by Blacks in America. Guided by native Marquetta Dickens, Freedom Hill takes a tour of Princeville, a town simultaneously beautiful and regularly brutalized by floods. By sharing the spiritual, ancestral, and political landscapes of Princeville, Freedom Hill pushes against America’s historical and present legacies of racist displacement.

Documentary
Directed by: Gordon Quinn
Produced by: Resita Cox

Freedom & Unity TV

SUN 8/28
10am
MQM
7m

The Freedom & Unity Young Filmmaker Contest invites young Vermont and New Hampshire residents to create films exploring the life and culture of the Green Mountain and Granite States. Through film, young people explore the issues that they find meaningful, make connections between the past and the present, and share their personal stories. [A part of VT Emerging Filmmakers Showcase]

Documentary
Directed by: Various Filmmakers
Produced by: Various Filmmakers

For the Left Hand

FRI 8/26
2pm
DAN
74m

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9am
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Documentary
Directed by: Cordula Rieger
Produced by: Cordula Rieger

Lunch: Monday - Friday, 11am - 2pm
Brunch: Saturday and Sunday, 8am - 2pm
Dinner: Wednesday - Saturday, 5:30pm - 8:30pm
Jazz Collective every Wednesday night
Piano Jazz every Saturday night

All MNFF pass holders receive 10% off meals* – just show your pass to your server.

Proud sponsors of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival!

*excludes alcohol

Vermont Coffee Company is proud to support the 8th Annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival

Congratulations to the talented artists being celebrated this year!
Gianni Berengo Gardin's Tale of Two Cities

How can we preserve the endangered city of Venice? Gianni Berengo Gardin, Italy’s most famous living photographer, embraced this challenge with his powerful photographs and controversial exhibition that stirred debate, incited protests and triggered an international outcry. Tensions explode in the ensuing climactic events over the impact of the cruise ships in Venice.

Directed by: Donna Serbe-Davis
Produced by: Donna Serbe-Davis

Go Through the Dark

Guanglin is a blind boy in China who displays great skill at the ancient board game called Go, in which two players place black and white pieces on a grid in an attempt to dominate their opponent. Raised by a single father with limited means, Guanglin faces deep societal prejudice against the blind.

Directed by: Yunhong Pu
Produced by: Yunhong Pu, Jean Tsien

Hands That Bind

Andy, a hired farm hand in southern Alberta in 1981, is dreaming of a better life for his young family. His hopes are dashed when the boss’s son returns to reclaim his place at his father’s side. As the world around him starts to shift, Andy witnesses mysterious occurrences: cattle mutilations, a missing teenager, and unexplained lights in the sky. With his world closing in around him, Andy’s dreams of a better life for his young family are dashed when the boss’s son returns to reclaim his place at his father’s side. As the world around him starts to shift, Andy witnesses mysterious occurrences: cattle mutilations, a missing teenager, and unexplained lights in the sky. With his world closing in around him, Andy begins to lose control. His desperate moves will bring lasting consequences.

Directed by: Kyle Armstrong
Produced by: Blake McWilliam, Kyle Armstrong

Gilgamesh

Inspired by humanity’s oldest story, Gilgamesh, this epic tale explores themes of power, love and loss. The first ever hero’s journey written over 3,000 years ago is placed firmly in the spectacular landscapes of Ireland. (A part of MNFF8 Global Shorts Showcase I)

Directed by: Noeline Kavanagh
Produced by: Macnas

Headlights

Joe is having an affair and getting away with it, until he witnesses a brutal attack. Will he drive away from the scene, or will he do the right thing? Either way, his life will never be the same again. Headlights is a dark, suspenseful thriller that takes its inspiration from classic cinema and the master of suspense himself, Alfred Hitchcock.

Directed by: Nick Usher
Produced by: Katherine Nathan

The Girl

As a lonely middle-schooler experiences the trauma of getting her period for the first time, she discovers her body isn’t the only thing betraying her. The Girl explores the feelings of shame, secrecy, longing, confusion, grief, betrayal and anger that are so central to adolescence.

Directed by: Meredith Chin
Produced by: Caitlin Carleton

Gianni Berengo Gardin’s Tale of Two Cities

THU 8/25
9am
THT

68m

Go Through the Dark

FRI 8/26
11:30am
DAN

78m

Hands That Bind

THU 8/25
7:15pm
MQM

115m

Headlights

THU 8/25
2pm
THT

17m

The Girl

THU 8/25
9am
MQM

12m

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Directed by: Noeline Kavanagh
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Directed by: Meredith Chin
Produced by: Caitlin Carleton

How can we preserve the endangered city of Venice? Gianni Berengo Gardin, Italy’s most famous living photographer, embraced this challenge with his powerful photographs and controversial exhibition that stirred debate, incited protests and triggered an international outcry. Tensions explode in the ensuing climactic events over the impact of the cruise ships in Venice.

Directed by: Donna Serbe-Davis
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Guanglin is a blind boy in China who displays great skill at the ancient board game called Go, in which two players place black and white pieces on a grid in an attempt to dominate their opponent. Raised by a single father with limited means, Guanglin faces deep societal prejudice against the blind.

Directed by: Yunhong Pu
Produced by: Yunhong Pu, Jean Tsien

Andy, a hired farm hand in southern Alberta in 1981, is dreaming of a better life for his young family. His hopes are dashed when the boss’s son returns to reclaim his place at his father’s side. As the world around him starts to shift, Andy witnesses mysterious occurrences: cattle mutilations, a missing teenager, and unexplained lights in the sky. With his world closing in around him, Andy begins to lose control. His desperate moves will bring lasting consequences.

Directed by: Kyle Armstrong
Produced by: Blake McWilliam, Kyle Armstrong

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Directed by: Kyle Armstrong
Produced by: Blake McWilliam, Kyle Armstrong
“Excellence in Newsroom Collaboration and Partnerships ... Genius.”

—New England Newspaper Press Awards, 2022
Jockey
Seasoned jockey Jackson has weathered decades of races on the riding circuit, but he now finds himself facing what could be his last season as his health deteriorates. As he looks back over his career, a young rider appears who may change his life.

The Letter Room
When a kind-hearted prison officer, played by acclaimed actor Oscar Isaac, is transferred to the letter room, he soon gets involved in an inmate’s personal affairs. Through a glimpse into an inmate’s private correspondence, The Letter Room provides an intimate look at the impact of incarceration and how loved ones maintain their relationships.

LEFA (The Inheritance)
LEFA (The Inheritance) tells the story of a man battling to provide for his family after sustaining a spinal cord injury. [A part of MNFF8 Global Shorts Showcase II]

Let’s All Go To The Lobby!
An apathetic and disillusioned theater worker must fight for her survival when she and her childhood best friend discover a cursed film reel that causes the snack counter to come alive and attack them for not appreciating the movie theater.

Listen Up!
The film version of the original 2021 touring musical based on the lives of Vermont teens, Listen Up! goes to the heart of current youth issues, including mental health, resilience, racial justice, sexual identity, friendship, love, COVID, climate change, and more. The film is a powerful platform for the voices of Vermont youth to be heard.

Lob?
In Lob? Meagan contacts Ruth — her dead therapist — via seance... about a haircut. Meagan and Ruth’s reunion is bittersweet, joyful, and lively, but final in the way much needed closure always is. The film is a comedic short about grief, magic and a haircut.

Light Attaching to a Girl
Suffocated by an overbearing father and two older sisters who soak up any attention that comes their way, Clare is desperate to escape. She plans a trip to Iceland and exterior life of an adolescent, as she reckons with haunting memories of her childhood even as she takes her first steps into adulthood.

Lone Wolves
Lone Wolves tackles a deeply pressing modern issue: the radicalization of young white men by neo-fascist ideologues, occurring via a vast and insidious online network. Cast through the emotional lens of a father-son relationship, this narrative short gives this delicate issue a sense of universality and a tenderness amidst the darkness of the topic.
**MNFF8 FILMS A-Z**

**HONOREE SCREENING W/ MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL**

**The Lost Daughter**

**Synopsis:** Alone on a seaside vacation, Leda becomes consumed with a young mother and daughter as she watches them on the beach. Unnerved by their compelling relationship, Leda is overwhelmed by her own memories of the terror, confusion and intensity of early motherhood. An impulsive act shocks Leda into the strange and ominous world of her own mind, where she is forced to face the unconventional choices she made as a young mother and their consequences.

**Language:** English

**Rating:** United States, Greece, English

**Premiere:** THU 8/25

**Time:** 7:15pm

**Screening Room:** DAN

**Duration:** 1:21m

**WINNER: BEST NARRATIVE SHORT**

**Lunch Break**

**Synopsis:** Brazil, 1979. Four female workers have their lunch break inside the ladies’ room at a metallurgical factory. Between laughs and scuffles, it is also apparent that each one has a secret of her own. *Lunch Break* is about a very specific time in Brazil — the great strikes by metalworkers where the future president Lula emerged as a crucial political figure. However, history has removed these women from the photographs, movies and history books despite the workforce being 30% female at the time.

**Language:** Brazilian Portuguese

**Rating:** NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

**Premiere:** THU 8/25

**Time:** 7:15pm

**Screening Room:** THT

**Duration:** 24m

**Marcel the Shell with Shoes On**

**Synopsis:** Marcel is an adorable one-inch-tall shell who ekes out a colorful existence with his grandmother Connie and their pet lint, Alan. Once part of a sprawling community of shells, they now live alone as the sole survivors of a mysterious tragedy. But when a documentary filmmaker discovers them amongst the clutter of his Airbnb, the short film he posts online brings Marcel millions of passionate fans, as well as unprecedented dangers and a new hope at finding his long-lost family.

**Language:** United States

**Rating:** English

**Premiere:** SAT 8/27

**Time:** 2pm

**Screening Room:** DAN

**Duration:** 90m

**May We Know Our Own Strength**

**Synopsis:** *May We Know Our Own Strength* is an abstract, hybrid narrative document centered around artist Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya’s similarly-titled piece exploring collective healing after sexual assault within AAPI communities, created tragically in the wake of the Atlanta spa shootings. In the spirit of the installation itself, *May We Know Our Own Strength* recreates the process of trauma, the hurdles of healing, and the strength that can be found in sharing and community.

**Language:** United States

**Rating:** English

**Premiere:** WED 8/24

**Time:** 2pm

**Screening Room:** TWT

**Duration:** 5m

**Medusa**

**Synopsis:** Romane and Clémence are sisters in their late 20s. After being in a car accident in their teens, Clémence was left unable to speak or walk, and in the care of her sister, who was not hurt in the accident. One night, while Clémence is asleep, Romane decides to go out. She meets Guillaume, who becomes invested in helping Clémence recover her speech and use of her legs as his relationship with Romane suffers.

**Language:** French

**Rating:** NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

**Premiere:** THU 8/25

**Time:** 2pm

**Screening Room:** MQM

**Duration:** 86m

**Love It Was Not**

**Synopsis:** A young Jewish woman named Helena Citron is taken to Auschwitz, where she develops an unlikely romantic relationship with Franz Wunsch, a high-ranking SS officer. Thirty years later, a letter arrives from Wunsch’s wife asking Helena to testify on Wunsch’s behalf. Faced with an impossible decision, Helena must choose. Will she help the man who brutalized so many lives, but saved hers? A remarkable documentary, *Love It Was Not* raises profound personal questions in the context of sheer survival.

**Language:** Hebrew, English, German

**Rating:** Israel, Austria

**Premiere:** SAT 8/27

**Time:** 11:30am

**Screening Room:** THT

**Duration:** 86m

**A Love Song**

**Synopsis:** Faye is a lone traveler biding her time fishing, birding and stargazing at a rural Colorado campground as she awaits the arrival of Lito, a figure from her past who is navigating his own tentative and nomadic journey across the rugged West. Like the country music that has traditionally channeled the heartbeat and resilience of Americans in search of themselves and others, *A Love Song* weaves a lyrical and ultimately joyful refrain out of the transformative act of being alone.

**Language:** English

**Rating:** United States

**Premiere:** FRI 8/26

**Time:** 7:15pm

**Screening Room:** SHI

**Duration:** 81m

**Mahakan**

**Synopsis:** *Mahakan* is the story of a family who forces their seven-year-old daughter to take responsibility for a murder that her father committed, thus saving her father from a death sentence. *Mahakan* will be making its World premiere at MNFF8.

**Language:** Persian

**Rating:** WORLD PREMIERE

**Premiere:** FRI 8/26

**Time:** 11:30am

**Screening Room:** THT

**Duration:** 18m

**Manifest Destiny Jesus**

**Synopsis:** Jesus was not white. This film examines how portraying Jesus as white has reinforced cultural divides from the colonial era up through our modern period of rampant gentrification, segregated churches, and police violence.

**Language:** English

**Rating:** United States

**Premiere:** FRI 8/26

**Time:** 9am

**Screening Room:** THT

**Duration:** 40m
**Monsieur Le Butch**  
Directed by: Jude Dry  
Produced by: Jude Dry, Jacob Blumberg  
*VERMONT PREMIERE*

When Jude ends up unexpectedly living at home in their 30s, they must deal with a lovingly opinionated Jewish mother who doesn’t quite get the whole transition thing. As the lines blur between scripted, improvised, and completely off the rails, Jude and Mom talk past and over each other, but rarely to each other. Over an intimate haircut, Jude realizes they don’t have to be fully understood to be fully loved.

Directed by: Jude Dry  
Produced by: Jude Dry, Jacob Blumberg

**Mudder’s Hands**  
Directed by: Clint Butler  
*U.S. PREMIERE*  

Centered around a hand-me-down recipe for baking traditional raisin bread, this documentary takes us on an ocean path down memory lane. Featuring an original score by Emmy-nominated composer Virginia Peterson III, this documentary takes us Centered around a hand-me-down recipe for baking traditional raisin bread, this documentary takes us on an ocean path down memory lane. Featuring an original score by Emmy-nominated composer Virginia Peterson III, with the pains of aging. Sharing laughter and loss in the comfort of his mother’s kitchen, Clint Butler’s directorial debut is a sweet reminder to call your family member more often.

Directed by: Clint Butler  
Produced by: Karen Shoppsowitz

**Monster In A Box**  
Directed by: Noah Weisel  
Produced by: Kari Lee Thomas  
*NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE*  

When carnival hucksters pull their act in the wrong town, they get help from the most unlikely of performers.

Narrative  
Directed by: Noah Weisel  
Produced by: Kari Lee Thomas

**Motorcity**  
Directed by: Arthur Summereder  
Produced by: Arthur Summereder  
*U.S. PREMIERE*  

Five protagonists in Detroit have few things in common except their lives revolve around acceleration racing. Once auto factory workers, they now apply their skills in the service of their hobby. Subtly, the film establishes drag racing as a metaphor for the haunting myth upon which America was founded.

Directed by: Arthur Summereder  
Produced by: Arthur Summereder

**The Neighborhood Storyteller**  
Directed by: Alejandra Alcala  
Produced by: Francisco Alcala  
*NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE*  

The Neighborhood Storyteller is the inspiring story of Asmaa, a determined young Syrian mother of four living as a refugee in Zaatari camp, Jordan, who for the last seven years has been using the art of reading aloud for pleasure to children as a bridge to tackle issues within her community. Trained by a Jordanian nonprofit, We Love Reading, Asmaa embarks on her own reading aloud project that contributes to building a generation of strong and empowered women.

Documentary  
Directed by: Alejandra Alcala  
Produced by: Francisco Alcala

**No Other Lake**  
Directed by: Jordan Rowell, Duane Peterson III  
Produced by: Jordan Rowell  
*WORLD PREMIERE*

Motivated by a desire to better understand his home watershed, Jordan Rowell embarks on a two week kayaking trip along the 120-mile length of Lake Champlain, stopping to talk to a wide range of characters about the future of their shared basin. No Other Lake is both a celebration of the unique beauty of Lake Champlain and a confrontation with its greatest challenges.

Documentary  
Directed by: Jordan Rowell, Duane Peterson III  
Produced by: Jordan Rowell

**No Straight Lines: The Rise of Queer Comics**  
Directed by: Vivian Kleiman  
Produced by: Vivian Kleiman, Justin Hall  
*VERMONT PREMIERE*  

Five scrappy queer comic book artists journey from DIY work and isolation to the cover of Time Magazine and the international stage, offering a fascinating window into everything from the AIDS crisis and workplace discrimination to the search for love and a good haircut. Their work and personal stories are sure to make you laugh, but also make you think about the challenges and triumphs encountered and overcome along the way.

Documentary  
Directed by: Vivian Kleiman  
Produced by: Vivian Kleiman, Justin Hall

**The Noise of Engines**  
Directed by: Philippe Grégoire  
Produced by: Andrew Przybykowski, Philippe Grégoire  
*VERMONT PREMIERE*  

Alexandre is a young firearms instructor at the Canadian customs college in the midst of an internal investigation, led by the director of the institution, who diagnoses him with a sexual addiction. This diagnosis leads the director to find him unfit for duty and to place him on compulsory leave for ten days. Alexandre takes the opportunity to make a surprise visit to his mother, owner of a drag strip 45 kilometers from Montreal. But his odyssey, as he finds out, has just begun.

Narrative  
Directed by: Philippe Grégoire  
Produced by: Andrew Przybykowski, Philippe Grégoire
None Died Here

The ancestry of Afro-descendant communities is eternalized in their traditions. In Telembí, Ecuador, the Day of the Dead Saints is a ritual in which the spirits of the ancestors are guided by the “animeros” (Friends of the souls), spiritual guardians chosen by the community. Every November, families visit over an empty coffin that embodies all the souls. Songs and prayers go with the deceased wherever they may be.

Documentary
Director: Ana Cristina Benitez
Producer: Ana Cristina Benitez, Gabriela Calvache

On the Divide

On The Divide follows the story of three Latinx people living in McAllen, Texas who, despite their views, are connected by the most unexpected of places: the last abortion clinic on the U.S./Mexico border. As threats to the clinic and their personal safety mount, these three are forced to make decisions they never could have imagined.

Documentary
Directed by: Leah Galant, Maya Cueva
Produced by: Elizabeth Woodward, Diane Becker, Melanie Miller, Amanda Spain

The Peach

The Peach tells the story of a teenage boy who is bullied by his classmates. To regain his lost identity, he engages in behavior he once refrained from and tries to beyond the right to choose and into the lives of every pregnant person in America. Like a moment from the chilling “Handmaid’s Tale,” Tammy Loertscher’s fetus was given an attorney, while the courts denied Tammy her constitutional rights. At the intersection of the erosion of women’s rights, the war on drugs and mass incarceration, Tammy’s experience reveals the dangerous consequences of these little-known “personhood” laws for American women and families.

Narrative
Directed by: Jo Arndinger
Produced by: Jo Arndinger

Our America

Our America is a non-narrative, animation-infused meditation on American 20th century industrial promises gone awry. The film explores the dreams of World War II America through imagery based on 1943 teacher aid posters called “Our America” which were distributed to schools throughout the U.S. From our current vantage point nearly a century later, we see how the innocent, celebratory intent of American ingenuity promises gone awry. The film explores the dreams of World War II America through imagery based on 1943 teacher aid posters called “Our America” which were distributed to schools throughout the U.S. From our current vantage point nearly a century later, we see how the innocent, celebratory intent of American ingenuity has led us on a path of unintended consequences.

Experimental
Directed by: Dean M Winkler
Produced by: Donald S Butler

Personhood: Policing Pregnant Women in America

Personhood: Policing Pregnant Women in America tells a different reproductive rights story that ripples far beyond the right to choose and into the lives of every pregnant person in America. Like a moment from the chilling “Handmaid’s Tale,” Tammy Loertscher’s fetus was given an attorney, while the courts denied Tammy her constitutional rights. At the intersection of the erosion of women’s rights, the war on drugs and mass incarceration, Tammy’s experience reveals the dangerous consequences of these little-known “personhood” laws for American women and families.

Documentary
Directed by: Jo Arndinger
Produced by: Jo Arndinger

The Pez Outlaw

This incredible fish-out-of-water story follows the adventures of Steve Glew, a small town Michigan man, who boards a plane for Eastern Europe soon after the fall of the Berlin Wall. His mission is to locate a secret factory that holds the key to the most desired and valuable Pez dispensers. If he succeeds, he will pull his family out of debt and finally be able to quit his job of 25 years. Steve becomes the hero of his own adventure, smuggling the rarest of goods into the U.S. and making millions in the process. It was all magical, until his arch nemesis, The Pezident, decided to destroy him.

Documentary
Directed by: Jo Arndinger
Produced by: Jo Arndinger

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Documentary
Directed by: Jo Arndinger
Produced by: Jo Arndinger

Olga

Olga is a skilled teenage Ukrainian gymnast exiled in Switzerland, dreaming of Olympic gold and trying to fit in with her new team in her new home. As she prepares for the European Championships, the Ukrainian people back home in Kyiv rise up in what has become known as the Maidan Revolution, suddenly involving everyone she cares about. Olga is left a powerless, distant bystander as her mother, an investigative journalist, faces danger as she challenges the brutal Yanukovitch regime.

Narrative
Directed by: Elie Grappe
Produced by: Tom Dercourt, Jean Marc Fröhle

Pasang: In the Shadow of Everest

This is the remarkable story of Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, the indigenous trailblazer who battled racism, gender discrimination, and political opposition in her quest to become the first Nepali woman to summit Mount Everest. Her courageous, tragic journey would greatly move her country, inspiring new generations to reach for their rights.

Documentary
Directed by: Nancy Svendsen
Produced by: Christy McGill, Sharon Wood, Richard Levien

The Novice

Alex, a college freshman, joins her university’s rowing team and undertakes an obsessive physical and psychological journey to make it to the top varsity boat. No matter the cost. Intent on outperforming her teammates, Alex pushes herself to her limits, and beyond, alienating everyone around her in the name of success.

Narrative
Directed by: Lauren Hadaway
Produced by: Ryan Hawkins, Zack Zucker, Steven Sims, and Kari Hollend

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Documentary
Directed by: Jo Arndinger
Produced by: Jo Arndinger
The Right Words

Kenza (15) and her little brother Madhi (13) regularly humiliate one another on social media. On the school bus, Kenza puts her naive and romantic little brother to the test: to profess his love for Jada, the girl that Madhi loves, even though she does not know him. Placed under pressure by his sister, Madhi plucks up the courage to confess.

Narrative
Directed by: Lucas Tothe
Produced by: Emma Benestan

The Pomegranate Tree

During the Partition of India in 1947, a 16-year-old Muslim girl, Saba, is searching for refuge in the neighborhood she once called home. Everyone turns their back on her, except the Hindu family of Manjula, a girl who used to play with Saba under the pomegranate tree. The family shelters Saba despite the possible severe repercussions and helps her get to safety in the midst of violence and chaos.

Narrative
Directed by: Kanika Vora
Produced by: Aurora Fimiani

Restoring Néške’emāne

Since the 19th century, Native American children were sent to boarding schools designed to “Kill the Indian… Save the Man”, destroying Tribal languages, cultural values, practices, and traditions through assimilation. In Oklahoma, generations of Native Americans were educated through the Concho Indian School from 1871 to 1984. Restoring Néške’emāne follows environmentalist Damon Dunbar who has a dream of restoring the land, preserving tribal history and honoring the attendees of the Concho Indian School in order to speak truth to history.

Documentary
Directed by: Loren Kasey Waters
Produced by: Loren Kasey Waters, Laurel C. Smith

Please Hold

In the not-so-distant future, Mateo, a Latino man in his 20s, is arrested by a police drone without explanation. Finding himself locked in a fully automated jail with no means of redress, Mateo realizes he’s fallen through some kind of crack in the system. To get out alive, he’ll have to go head-to-head with the labyrinthine, computerized bureaucracy of the privatized American justice system, in search of an actual human being who can set things right. Nominated for a 2022 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short.

Narrative
Directed by: Kristen “KD” Davlia
Produced by: Diego Najera, Marc Mounier, Levin Menelka

The Race to Alaska

A race that has changed the lives of hundreds of people. Through one of the most complex waterways in the world, 15 knot currents, gale force winds, cold water, deepwater, logs, bears, cold, fatigue, and endless unknowns. First prize: $10,000. Second prize: a set of steak knives. This feature length documentary explores the extreme and impressive individuals who accepted this utterly unique challenge.

Documentary
Directed by: Zach Carver
Produced by: Liv von Oelreich, Ian Morland

The Real Charlie Chaplin

Hollywood icon Charlie Chaplin rocketed to fame from the slums of Victorian London and spent decades as one of Hollywood’s most famous and beloved stars until his scandalous fall from grace. His stage persona and incendiary media portrayal defined how he was perceived, but his private life has always been shrouded in mystery—until now. Never-before-heard recordings, home movies and newly restored films reveal a side to Chaplin that the world never got to see.

Documentary
Directed by: James Spinney, Peter Middleton
Produced by: Ben Limberg, John Battsek, Mike Brett, Steve Jamison, Jo-Ellen Robinson

The Pomegranate Tree

WINNER: KATE HEARST PRIZE FOR HUMAN CONNECTIVITY

WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING
(BALI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL)

Rose

Rose, 78, has just lost her most beloved husband. When her grief gives way to a powerful impulse of life that makes her realize that she can still redefine herself as a woman, the whole balance of the family is upset.

Narrative
Directed by: Aurélie Saada
Produced by: Priscilla Bertin, Judith Nora, Elsa Rodde

Robomodern

It’s the year 2050. The world is full of robots. Dima is a lonely stand-up comedian whose jokes are not understood. Kate is married and has difficulties accepting her child. They meet in a club and realize that they have the same feelings about robots — they both hate them. Dima’s audience consists of robots, Kate’s husband and child are robots. Robomodern asks, what makes people different from highly advanced technologies?

Narrative
Directed by: Sergei Sergeevich Smirnov
Produced by: Sergei Sergeevich Smirnov, Anastasia Viacheslavovna Tikhova, Ivan Nikolaevich Druchek

Please Hold

WINNER: KATE HEARST PRIZE FOR HUMAN CONNECTIVITY

The Pomegranate Tree

WINNER: AICEF PRIZE FOR CROSS-CULTURAL FILMMAKING
(BALI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL)

Preman

Sandi is a deaf thug who works for a gang disguised as a non-government organization led by Guru. Always complicit in his boss’ illicit dealings, Sandi suddenly has to make a difficult choice to go against his entire gang when his son Pandu witnesses a murder committed by Guru. Sandi gets closer and closer to facing his tragic past that led him to become what he is now.

Narrative
Directed by: Randolph Zaini
Produced by: Ryan Ricardo

Restoring Néške’emāne

FREE

CLOSING NIGHT
SUN 8/28
7:30pm
THT
114m

The Real Charlie Chaplin

FREE

CLOSING NIGHT
SUN 8/28
7:30pm
THT
114m

The Right Words

VERMONT PREMIERE

Robomodern

UNITED STATES

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

Please Hold

VERMONT PREMIERE

The Pomegranate Tree

UNITED STATES

NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE

The Race to Alaska

UNITED STATES

VERMONT PREMIERE

The Real Charlie Chaplin

UNITED STATES

VERMONT PREMIERE

The Right Words

UNITED STATES

VERMONT PREMIERE

Restoring Néške’emāne

UNITED STATES

WORLD PREMIERE

Rose

UNITED STATES

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### Ruth Stone’s Vast Library of the Female Mind

**Producer:** Nora Jacobson

**Directed by:** Nora Jacobson

**Produced by:** Nora Jacobson

**Narrative**

Ruth Stone’s Vast Library of the Female Mind documents the journey of poet and Vermont filmmaker Nora Jacobson as she explores the profound influence of her grandmother on her life and work. The film follows Ruth’s life and work, capturing her poetry and insights into her creative process.

** Timeline & Locations:**
- **THU 8/25**
  - **11:30am**
  - **THT**
  - **76m**

### Salvador Dalí

**Producer:** Jonathan Hazan

**Directed by:** Jonathan Hazan

**Produced by:** Jonathan Hazan

**Narrative**

Salvador Dalí combines verité footage, interviews, and animation into poetry, using simple, startling language. Jacobson provides for her children and transforming her grief into poetry, simple, startling language. Jacobson

** Timeline & Locations:**
- **THU 8/25**
  - **2pm**
  - **TWT**
  - **19m**

### Scars

**Producer:** Eldiar Madakim

**Directed by:** Eldiar Madakim

**Produced by:** Eldiar Madakim

**Narrative**

Scars is an intimate portrait of the director’s own personal battles with depression and self-harming. Blending documentary and animation, this film creates awareness in a creative and memorable way.

** Timeline & Locations:**
- **THU 8/25**
  - **9am**
  - **MOM**
  - **10m**

### Seokkarae

**Producer:** Jasmin Mara López

**Directed by:** Jasmin Mara López

**Produced by:** Jasmin Mara López

**Narrative**

Seokkarae is a personal documentary that follows director Jasmin Lopez as she works to heal from child sexual abuse she endured at the hands of her grandfather, Gilberto, almost thirty years ago. In sharing her own trauma with her large family, Jasmin learns that generations of children in her family were victims of the same abuser. Told from the director's perspective, this is a film about confronting and accepting difficult truths while finding beauty in the process.

** Timeline & Locations:**
- **WED 8/24**
  - **2pm**
  - **MQM**
  - **96m**

### Silent Beauty

**Producer:** Jesse Torres

**Directed by:** Jesse Torres

**Produced by:** Jesse Torres

**Narrative**

Silent Beauty tells the compelling story of Ray Joshua, a talented black poet from the Washington, D.C., projects, who is arrested on petty drug charges and thrown into the black hole that is the D.C. jail. There he meets the two people who can redirect his life: a prison gang leader and a beautiful female poet teaching a self-expression class for inmates.

** Timeline & Locations:**
- **SAT 8/27**
  - **7:15pm**
  - **THT**
  - **107m**

### Sanctify

**Producer:** Steven Shainberg

**Directed by:** Steven Shainberg

**Produced by:** Steven Shainberg

**Narrative**

Sanctify is the compelling story of Ray Joshua, a talented black poet from the Washington, D.C., projects, who is arrested on petty drug charges and thrown into the black hole that is the D.C. jail. There he meets the two people who can redirect his life: a prison gang leader and a beautiful female poet teaching a self-expression class for inmates.

** Timeline & Locations:**
- **FRI 8/26**
  - **7:15pm**
  - **MQM**
  - **18m**

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**Additional Information:**

- **HONOREE SCREENING W/ NORA JACOBSON**
- **Ruth Stone’s Vast Library of the Female Mind**
- **Produced by:** Nora Jacobson
- **Directed by:** Nora Jacobson
- **Produced by:** Nora Jacobson
- **Narrative**
- **Timeline & Locations:**
  - **THU 8/25**
    - **11:30am**
    - **THT**
    - **76m**
- **Description:**
  Twelve years in the making, Vermont filmmaker Nora Jacobson captures the essence of beloved poet, Ruth Stone. After tragedy strikes, Stone retreated to the margins of the literary world, working tirelessly to provide for her children and transforming her grief into poetry, simple, startling language. Jacobson

- **HONOREE SCREENING W/ MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL**
- **Secretary**
- **Produced by:** Jesse Torres
- **Directed by:** Jesse Torres
- **Produced by:** Jesse Torres
- **Narrative**
- **Timeline & Locations:**
  - **SAT 8/27**
    - **7:15pm**
    - **THT**
    - **107m**
- **Description:**
  Lee Holloway, a young woman with a history of severe emotional problems, is released into the care of her overbearing parents following a stay at a mental institution. She finds work as a secretary for a rigid and demanding attorney, E. Edward Grey, and starts dating the kind but dull Peter. However, Lee soon realizes she's turned on by Grey's stern demeanor and begins a sadomasochistic relationship with him.

- **25TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE SCREENING W/ MARC LEVIN**
- **Slam**
- **Produced by:** Jesse Torres
- **Directed by:** Jesse Torres
- **Produced by:** Jesse Torres
- **Narrative**
- **Timeline & Locations:**
  - **FRI 8/26**
    - **7:15pm**
    - **THT**
    - **100m**
- **Description:**
  Winner of the 1998 Sundance Grand Jury Prize for Drama, Slam tells the compelling story of Ray Joshua, a talented black poet from the Washington, D.C., projects, who is arrested on petty drug charges and thrown into the black hole that is the D.C. jail. There he meets the two people who can redirect his life: a prison gang leader and a beautiful female poet teaching a self-expression class for inmates.
**The Social Chameleon**

This warm animated narrative short tells the story of Cosmo the chameleon. Cosmo doesn't fit in with the other animals. No matter how hard he tries, he just can't seem to find his place in the jungle. Then, everything changes when he meets another chameleon who shows him how to live by his own true colors!

**Some Still Search**

_Some Still Search_ tells the simultaneous stories of a woman in ICE detention, and the 5-year-old boy whom she’s left behind. The film features performances from first-time actors cast from the street who are themselves targets of America’s immigration policies.

**Something Unseen**

August has bipolar disorder. When left alone at his parents' house, he discovers that ghosts are coming through a multidimensional portal in the attic. He gets along with them just fine until his estranged sister breaks in. _Something Unseen_ addresses the other side of depression, mania, which is commonly misunderstood, wildly underrepresented in media, and highly stigmatized.

**A Stage of Twilight**

_A Stage of Twilight_ is a love story set in the final chapter of Cora and Barry’s lives. When Barry is confronted with a terminal diagnosis, he is compelled to make a decision that his wife cannot support. This end-of-life struggle is heightened further when Joey, a neighbor boy who acts as a surrogate son to the childless couple, reaches a critical crossroads for his own future. Both paths ask the question: whose right is it to make life’s inevitable impossible decisions when the impact will be felt by the people we love most?

**Stripper**

When 13-year-old Cricket walks past the local strip club with his friends, nothing can prepare him for who they see walking into work: his mom. With rumors starting to spread, Cricket must take matters into his own hands to clear his mom’s name and prove that she isn’t a stripper.

**The Sun Rises in the East**

_The Sun Rises in the East_ chronicles the birth, rise and legacy of The East, a pan-African cultural organization founded in 1969 by teens and young adults in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. Led by educator and activist Jitu Weusi, The East embodied Black self-determination, building more than a dozen institutions including its own African-centered school, food co-op and more. The documentary delivers an exhilarating and compelling vision for today’s movement for racial justice, showing just how much is possible.

**The Swap**

Sonia, a 40-year-old single woman determined to have a child on her own, decides to make a swap: correct a younger man's thesis in exchange for sperm. (A part of MNFF8 Global Shorts Showcase I)

**Superheroes Wear Hoodies**

A group of British Black youths from one of London’s most notorious neighborhoods defy public perception by supporting their local community when they need it the most. Not all superheroes wear capes. Sometimes they come dressed in hoodies.

**Something Unseen**

Produced by: Steven Eniraiyetan
Directed by: Jason Osborne
Documentary

**The Swap**

Produced by: Katie Schiller, Luis Alfonso de la Parra, Nesaru Tchaas
Directed by: Nesaru Tchaas
Narrative

**Superheroes Wear Hoodies**

Produced by: Andrew Austin, Alex Ross, Vrinda Sood, Spencer Turley, Shayna Naemi
Directed by: Andrew Austin, Alex Ross
Narrative

**The Swap**

Produced by: Sophia Lin, Tyler Davidson
Directed by: Jeff Nichols
Narrative

**Superheroes Wear Hoodies**

Produced by: Chloé Dumond, Ananda Henry-Biabaud
Directed by: Ananda Henry-Biabaud
Narrative

**The Swap**

Produced by: Sparkman Clark
Directed by: Sparkman Clark
Narrative

**Superheroes Wear Hoodies**

Produced by: Blaine Dunkley
Directed by: Blaine Dunkley
Narrative

**The Swap**

Produced by: Gordy Giwa
Directed by: Tayo Giwa
Documentary

**Superheroes Wear Hoodies**

Produced by: Sparkman Clark, Blaire Dunkley
Directed by: Sparkman Clark
Narrative

**The Swap**

Produced by: Thomas Hartman, Anthony Sneed
Directed by: Anthony Sneed
Narrative

**Superheroes Wear Hoodies**

Produced by: Jeff Nichols
Directed by: Jeff Nichols
Narrative

**The Swap**

Produced by: Tchaas
Directed by: Tchaas
Narrative

**Superheroes Wear Hoodies**

Produced by: Dave Dunnley
Directed by: Dave Dunnley
Narrative

**The Swap**

Produced by: Blaine Dunkley
Directed by: Blaine Dunkley
Narrative

**Superheroes Wear Hoodies**

Produced by: Jeff Nichols
Directed by: Jeff Nichols
Narrative

**The Swap**

Produced by: Thomas Hartman, Anthony Sneed
Directed by: Thomas Hartman, Anthony Sneed
Narrative
A Taste of Heaven: The Ecstatic Song & Gospel of Maestro Raymond Anthony Myles

Maestro Raymond Myles was the electrifying Gospel Genius of New Orleans. But he was more than a mercurial musician. He was also highly representative of a vital but scorned minority within the Black Church: a queer man who struggled with dogma which said, “God's love does not apply to you. Like a comet shooting across the sky, Raymond was here one minute — brilliant, incandescent, unmistakably unique. And then, just as quickly, he was gone.”

Directed by: Leo Sacks
Produced by: Richard Gold, Drew Carolan

Tildypops

Tildypops tells the story of the inner trials and revelations of a young girl as she wades through the pain and confusion of female adolescence, while also navigating family dynamics and her brother’s recovery from addiction issues.

Directed by: Tiggy Bayley, Oscar Downing
Produced by: Nic Ferguson-Lee, George Pritchard

Tricksters

On a hot summer day, 13-year-old Chinna begrudgingly accompanies his Shaman father to work. They travel village-to-village, with the father practicing black magic and the son assisting him. The duo struggle to get through the day as their relationship strains under the weight of the people they encounter and the differences they see in each other. Does Chinna learn to overcome his struggles or be doomed to live the life he feared he would inherit? [A part of MNFF8 Global Shorts Showcase II]

Directed by: Ashwin Mohan
Produced by: Rochna Kumar

Vlada Goes to London

Vlada is a pizza delivery girl who lives in Haifa, Israel, and dreams of becoming a famous Dj. Within a five-hour shift, we get a glimpse into her frenzied world full of pressure where she's willing to do whatever it takes to find the money for a flight to perform at a festival in London. The end of the night brings more challenges than she expects. [A part of MNFF8 Global Shorts Showcase II]

Directed by: Arti Savchenko
Produced by: Arti Savchenko

Unforgotten: Hart Island

Hart Island was purchased by the City of New York in 1868 to serve as the public burial ground off the coast of City Island in the Bronx. Operated by the Department of Correction for over 150 years, Hart Island is a hauntingly beautiful landscape, rich with historic remnants and a final resting place for nearly a million New Yorkers.

Directed by: Aaron Asis
Produced by: Aaron Asis

Voices and Locks

The friendship of two children, one Armenian and the other Kurdish, is negatively affected by the Turkish state suppression of the Armenians. Will Gaspar find what he hopes to find, by returning to his village in pursuit of his childhood memories, 40 years after immigrating to the USA? [A part of MNFF8 Global Shorts Showcase II]

Directed by: Arif Hassan
Produced by: Zinar Karabaş
**Whale Fall**

*A narrative film*

Wake Up, Leonard follows one individual's painfully funny quest for wellness while failing miserably to "stay on the vibe." It's the story of a broken-hearted seeker with a tenuous grasp on joy and a lot of faith in the Universe. Will Leonard learn how to love both his higher and lower selves? Starring Vermont native Nigel DeFriez, this improvised feature shot mid-pandemic explores mental health, queer love, self-acceptance, and asks... Is it a wonderful life?

Directed by: Kat Mills Martin  
Produced by: Maria Krovatin, Kat Mills Martin, Nigel DeFriez, Kira Pearson

United States  
English  
VERMONT PREMIERE

**Whale Fall**

*A narrative film*

Whale Fall is a meditation in verse on the intensity of love and connection between women. Using the metaphor of a dying whale, it pushes and pulls between the beauty of swimming in each other's thoughts to the fear of falling too deeply — into each other and into the things which create wonder in our lives.

Directed by: Katie McNeice  
Produced by: Katie McNeice

Ireland  
English  
U.S. PREMIERE

**Who? How? And Where?**

*A short film*

A group of women are playing Clue, the board game where players guess the killer, the murder weapon and the location of a murder. When one of them thinks she has won the game, the other friends let her know this game never ends. The women realize they have been playing it forever, and hope one day it will be done for good. *Who? How? And Where?* cleverly depicts the normalization of violence experienced by many women. [A part of MNFF8 Global Shorts Showcase I]

Directed by: Victoria Garza  
Produced by: Ana Calderon

Mexico  
Spanish  
U.S. PREMIERE

**Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America**

*Winner: Thaddeus Stevens Prize for Social Engagement*

Interweaving lecture, personal anecdotes, interviews and shocking revelations, lawyer Jeffery Robinson draws a stark timeline of anti-Black racism in the United States, from slavery to the modern myth of a post-racial America.

Directed by: Emily Kunstler & Sarah Kunstler  
Produced by: Vanessa Hope, Emily Kunstler, Sarah Kunstler, Jeffrey Robinson

United States  
English
SCREENING VENUES

- Town Hall Theater (THT)
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- Twilight Hall (TWI)
- Dana Auditorium (DAN)
- Swift House Inn (SWI)

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middfilmfest.org
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