

Third Annual Berkeley Springs Film Festival

Friday March 31 - Sunday April 2, 2023
at The Historic Star Theater

A little art, a lot of fun!

- Festival Passes From \$10-\$49 (open to public)
- Over 15 Hours of Quality films from WV and around the world selected by Judges
- Guest speaker Academy Award Winning Make-up artist John Caglione, Jr.
- Award Ceremony and After Party Saturday Night
- Meet The Independent Filmmakers
- Filmmaker Seminars (open to public)
- Sponsorship Opportunities available \$50-\$400 see website for more details
- Enjoy all that the Historic Spa Town of Berkeley Springs, WV has to offer!

Tickets available only via www.BSFilmFestival.com



SCAN ME



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*Please support the Historic Star Theater by purchasing concessions.
Thank you for your support!*



What's Cooking?

Each Week, Rays will offer a small menu created around a family story of one of our neighbors. If you like, please share a memory and we will craft a special menu just for you.

Welcome

Welcome to the **third** annual Berkeley Springs Film Festival!

For a small festival, we have an exceptional selection of independent films. Ten of our selected films were made within 100 miles of Berkeley Springs and on Foreign Film Friday we are showing 5 films shot outside the USA. The total list includes several endearing animated films, many narrative (scripted) films, feel-good films, documentaries, and a few horror films. Most are low budget films but some have significant investments. Many of the films will be debuting at our festival!

41 films were submitted to the festival and the judges selected the best 21 to be screened along with 7 of our favorites from previous festivals for a total of 28 films (16 hours). The films are not rated, but those with brief nudity are so noted in the description. Also, we told filmmakers not to submit films having to do with COVID or political themes. We figured you get enough of that on TV.

The festival does not have a “theme”. The judges select films based on good entertainment value, not message. In addition to providing a great program for viewers, we wanted to make our festival very supportive of filmmakers. While some have mastered the technical aspects of the art form and are making a living wage, most are struggling. Film festivals mean a lot to independent filmmakers. They provide a venue for filmmakers to see their hard work (many of whom spend hundreds or thousands of hours on a project) shown on the big screen for the first time. Our festival also supports filmmakers by providing a free festival pass, free seminars, lots of awards they can use for promotion, prizes, and an opportunity to network with other filmmakers to collaborate on future projects.

We are especially proud to have Academy Award Winning Makeup Artist John Caglione, Jr. conduct a seminar on special effects makeup. This is a very rare opportunity to learn from a Hollywood legend and you won't want to miss it! See details on page 9.

Film festivals also provide a rare opportunity for filmmakers to get direct audience feedback in order to learn and grow in craft and art. There will be a brief 5 or 10 minute Q&A after each film block where filmmakers can answer questions, and currently 16 of our filmmakers are planning to attend. Please also take some time to meet the filmmakers, compliment them on their accomplishments, and share your thoughts on their film. Also please show your support and encouragement by staying for the Awards Ceremony from 6:45 to 7:30 PM Saturday evening. We promise it will be entertaining. Then stay for the beer and wine After Party right there in the theater Saturday night after the Awards Ceremony. If you are interested in film, introduce yourself to a filmmaker whose work you like, and offer to volunteer on their next project. They are always looking for people to share in their passion and effort.

The festival would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. **Please support their business!** We wouldn't have a festival if it weren't for our generous sponsors! We would also like to thank our filmmakers and our volunteers. We certainly couldn't have a festival without you! Thank you!

Now get some popcorn, sit back, and enjoy the show on the big screen at the Historic Star Theater!

Sincerely,



Brett Hammond
Managing Director



Will Devokees
Technical Director

ACCOMODATIONS

Cacapon Resort - The Official Hotel of the BSFF



The newest lodge in the West Virginia State Parks system, Cacapon Resort's 120-room luxury lodge sits at the foot of Cacapon Mountain. With indoor and outdoor dining, a spa, indoor swimming pool and a view of the park's golf course, it is the perfect place for adventurers to wind down. The lodge offers a relaxed setting complete with a lounge, TV, board games, fireplace, and cozy furniture. Learn about special our bundled overnight, spa and play packages.

Lodge Amenities and Park Attractions:

- The Cacapon Dining Room full-service restaurant & Pro Shop Grill
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- Check-in: 4 p.m. | Check-out: 11 a.m.

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Berkeley Springs Cottage Rentals

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SCAN ME

Berkeley Ridge

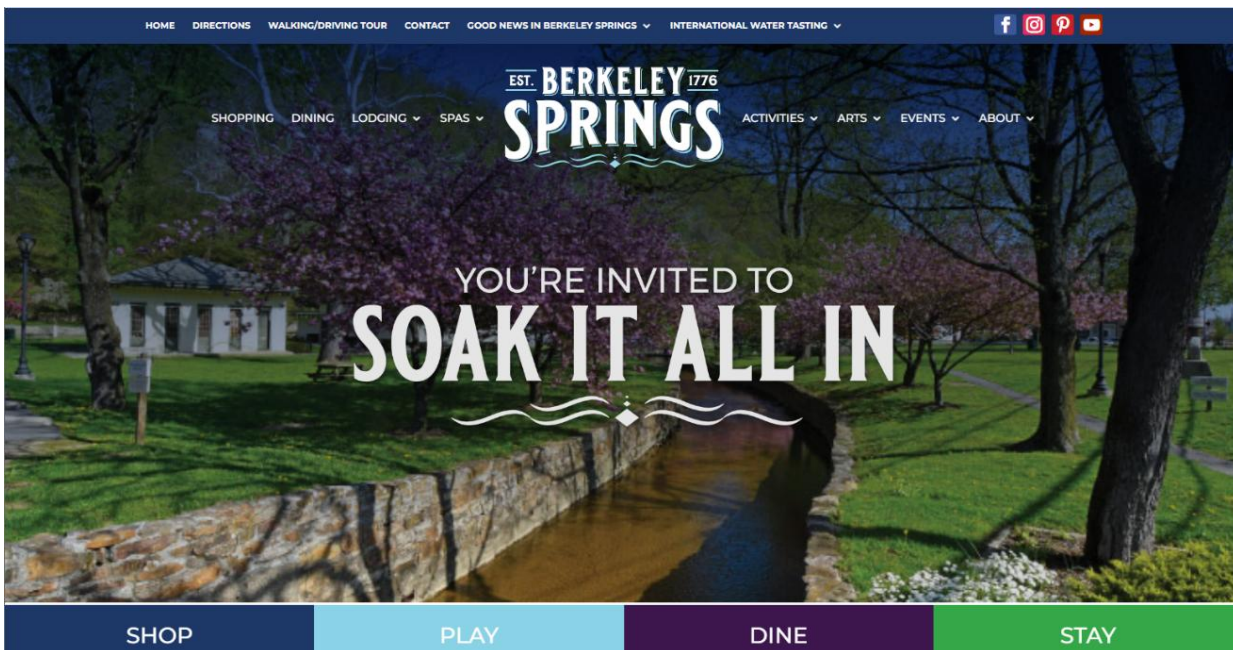


The Berkeley Ridge logo features a green silhouette of a large barn with a cupola on top. Below the barn, the words "BERKELEY" and "RIDGE" are written in a green, serif, all-caps font, separated by horizontal lines. Underneath, the tagline "a place to rest & gather" is written in a smaller, italicized serif font. At the bottom of the logo box, the website "berkeleyridge.com" and phone number "304-404-3050" are listed.

Surrounding the logo are several images: a white two-story house with a porch, a pool table with a blue felt top, a heart-shaped stone marker on a lawn, and a large aerial view of the Berkeley Springs resort property with a golf course and rolling green hills. A "Vrbo" QR code is also present in the bottom right of the image collage.

More Detailed Travel Information

Please visit: www.BerkeleySprings.com



The website banner for Berkeley Springs features a scenic background of a stone-lined stream flowing through a lush green park with large trees and a building in the distance. The text "EST. BERKELEY 1776 SPRINGS" is prominently displayed in the center, with "EST. BERKELEY 1776" in a smaller font above "SPRINGS". Below this, the text "YOU'RE INVITED TO SOAK IT ALL IN" is written in a large, white, serif font. At the bottom of the banner, there are four colored buttons: "SHOP" (dark blue), "PLAY" (light blue), "DINE" (purple), and "STAY" (green). The top of the banner includes a navigation menu with links for HOME, DIRECTIONS, WALKING/DRIVING TOUR, CONTACT, GOOD NEWS IN BERKELEY SPRINGS, and INTERNATIONAL WATER TASTING, along with social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube.

More BSFF Sponsors

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Our Vision...

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Heath Studio Galleries

Saturday Seminars

8:00 AM to Noon on Saturday

Special Effects Makeup

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Saturday at the Ice House

We are honored to have John Caglione, Jr (sponsored by the WV Film Office) provide a training seminar on special effects makeup. John's list of achievements could fill a book.



John started on Soap Operas, News Broadcasts, Variety Shows and "Saturday Night Live" (with the Original Cast); putting the tops on the Coneheads and the soul patches on The Blues Brothers. From there John moved from Television to Film work in 1980 as Key Makeup Designer on "Quest For Fire" which earned an Academy Award for Best Makeup. Through the recommendation of Production Designer Richard Sylbert (The Cotton Club- of which John was Prosthetic Designer), John was awarded the prosthetic department head duties by Warren Beatty for the film "Dick Tracy". John considers "Dick Tracy" as a cornerstone film job of his career, winning the Academy Award, British Academy Award and Science Fiction Film Award for Best Makeup in 1990. This was also the film where John met legendary actor Al Pacino and a life long working relationship began.

When John isn't working on a film or TV shows, he conducts a series of workshops to share his 40 years of experience with others. For more information about John or his workshops, visit his website at: <https://www.johncaglionejr.net/>

John will demonstrate the application of prosaide transfer appliances, followed by a Q&A.

John's attendance at the BSFF is conditional on him not being called to work on a film. This seminar is open to anyone with an All-Access Pass or Saturday Day Pass. You do not have to be a filmmaker to attend.

Intro to Cinematography; & How to Get Your Film Selected 8:00 to 8:45 AM Saturday at the Ice House

I know it's early, but there is so much going on later that you won't want to miss, so we are starting early today. Free coffee and danish at this seminar! BSFF Festival Managing Director Brett Hammond will share some very basic Cinematography techniques so you can make your films look like movies instead of family or cell phone videos, and discuss how to improve your chances of getting your film selected to film festivals. Many films that get rejected by the BSFF have the same basic issues, and we'll explain how to avoid those common mistakes. You will receive a handout you can take home with you and refer to when you make your next film.

Subjects include:

- ✧ How to increase your likelihood of being selected to a film festival.
- ✧ Most common mistakes (story, camera, audio)
- ✧ How to make your films look more cinematic
- ✧ Basic camera operation, including:
 - Depth of field
 - F-stop (T-stop)
 - Shutter speed
 - Frame rate
 - ISO (ASA) settings
 - Dynamic range
 - Sensor size
 - Crop factor
 - Long vs. Short lenses

This seminar is open to anyone with an All-Access Pass or Saturday Day Pass. You do not have to be a filmmaker to attend, so join us for free coffee and danish!

FRIDAY MARCH 31, 2023

Theater Doors Open
3:30 PM - Foreign Film Friday

Theater doors open so you can pick up your Festival Pass and grab a seat.

Welcome Announcements
Film Block 1
4:00 to 4:40 PM - Friday



Forgotten Song
Directed by Monika Grzybowska
Poland

A young boy comes to the Friendship Settlement, where the Soviet builders of the Palace of Culture and Science lived in the 1950s, in search of accommodation for his grandparents from Ukraine. Here he meets a girl singing in the choir, who becomes his guide. Seemingly, it is a story about love that cannot happen because of the war in Ukraine, but more deeply it is a story about finding your identity. Music is an integral part of the film.

This film's audio is in Polish with English subtitles.

Film Block 2
5:00 to 5:45 PM - Friday



Three Souls in Search of an Embrace (14 min)
Directed by Tom Donohue, Greg Shaya
Argentina

Three dancers, one blind, one in a wheelchair and one born with just one leg, compete to be accepted in perhaps the most exclusive of environments: the World Tango Championship of Buenos Aires. There is no category for "the physically challenged". There is, however, a chance. Tango is danced with the soul.

This film's audio is in Spanish with English subtitles.



The Disappearance of Eve (30 min)

Directed by Angeles Paez

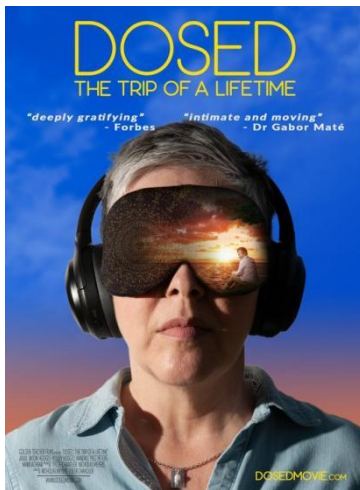
Spain

Eva and Sofia, two teenage friends, meet again after eighteen years. Behind their backs looms a traumatic past when Eva disappears at the age of sixteen, without giving any sign of life until now. Eva, unsure of her own memories and of herself, decides to accept Sofia's invitation to her cabin in the mountains, so that together they can try to reconstruct their past.

This film's audio is in Spanish with English subtitles.

Film Block 3

6:00 to 7:30 PM - Friday



DOSED: The Trip of a Lifetime

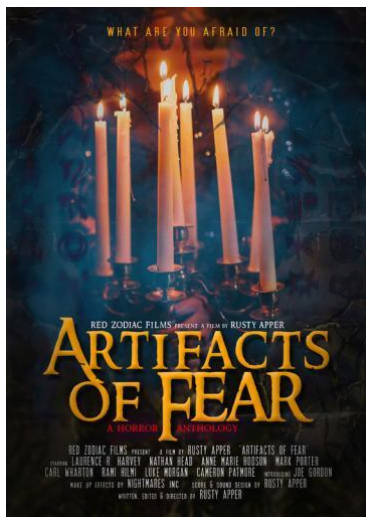
Directed by Nicholas Meyers, Tyler Chandler

Canada

A loving mother of four is granted the legal right for medical use of magic mushrooms. She then embarks on a remarkable journey of personal transformation and healing while exploring lesser known possible cures for cancer, like cannabis oil. This story of courage and resilience calls into question everything we think we know about the human body, mind, and spirit.

Film Block 4

7:30 to 9:45 PM - Friday



Artifacts of Fear

Directed by Rusty Apper

United Kingdom

Two teens bite off more they can chew in an antiques store when the horrors ensue in this hammer-inspired anthology. Starring Laurence R. Harvey (Human Centipede 2), Nathan Head (Circus of horrors, Dr Who) and Rami Hilmi (Extraordinary rendition, rose, Halloween The Wake).

Brief female non-sexual nudity and profanity.

SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2023

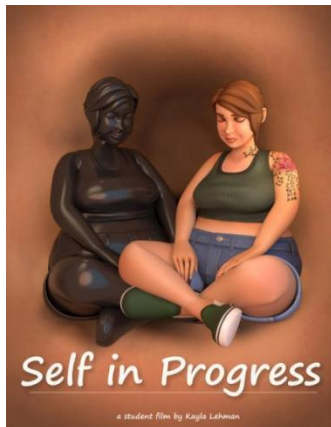
Theater Doors Open

9:00 AM - Saturday

Theater doors open so you can pick up your Festival Pass, and grab a seat in the theater. Don't forget to pre-order your lunch now at the concession stand if you would like to eat lunch at noon in the theater.

Film Block 5

9:30 to 10:15 AM - Saturday



Self in Progress (4 min)

Directed by Kayla Lehman
Statesboro, GA

Self in Progress follows a young woman's experience with anxiety and mental illness and her journey of healing through acceptance and self-compassion. The film draws inspiration from the aesthetics of Surrealism to visualize this mental health journey.

This film is an animation.



Reservations (18 min)

Directed by Patrick Belics
Chicago, IL

A family man is living the quintessential American Dream when he is suddenly kidnapped and asked to explain how he obtained it.



STALKED (21 min)

Directed by Wesley Mellott
Philadelphia, PA

A group of Urban Exploration YouTubers travel to the infamous town of Slaughter Hill, where an entire town seemingly disappeared overnight.

Film Block 6

10:30 to Noon - Saturday



The Issue With Elvis

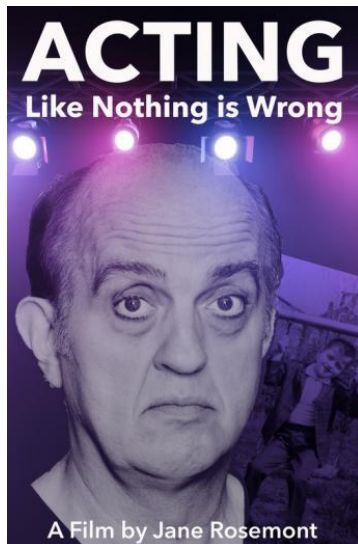
Directed by Charlotte Wincott
Princeton, WV, VA and DC

A retired botanist living in a cabin in the mountains outside of Morgantown, West Virginia happens upon a runaway boy living in a broken-down school bus. The boy follows him home one evening and the scientist decides to take the child in. The botanist begins to piece together the mystery of Elvis through his own research, uncovering the child's complicated history. Dr. Mercer is torn between wanting to help Elvis by providing a temporary, safe place to live, and feeling

the moral obligation to return the boy to his rightful home.

Film Block 7

12:15 to 1:45 PM - Saturday



Acting Like Nothing is Wrong

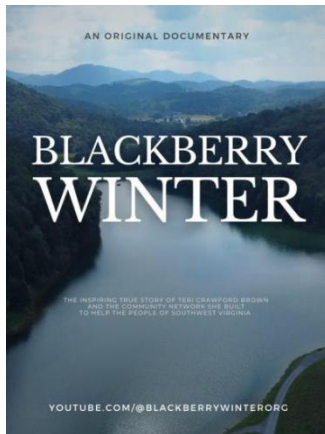
Directed by Jane Rosemont
Santa Fe, NM and CA

Documentary. Despite what would seem to be a flourishing career, most recently playing Kermit on Showtime's "Shameless", Hollywood character actor Jim Hoffmaster struggles both professionally and personally. "Acting Like Nothing is Wrong" explores how he navigates life without a stable upbringing. Foster care and abuse lead Jim to acting, where he could finally be seen and appreciated. The film poses universal questions and illuminates mental health

issues we experience on a daily basis. Do we ever completely overcome our traumas? What are our coping mechanisms? Glimmers of hope and healthy doses of comedy are vital elements in the film.

Film Block 8

2:00 to 2:30 PM - Saturday



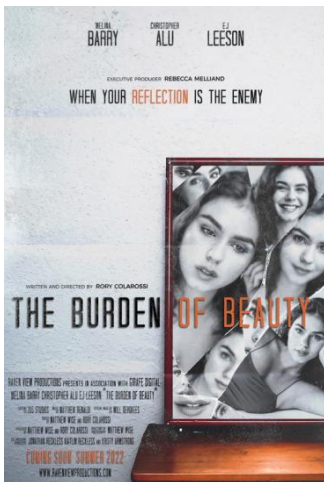
Blackberry Winter

Directed by Jorge Rey
Tazewell, VA

The quiet, hardworking people of Appalachia help neighbors suffering a cold snap in their lives. This documentary tells the story of how Teri Crawford Brown created the nonprofit "Blackberry Winter" in southwest Virginia.

Film Block 9 (Local Shorts)

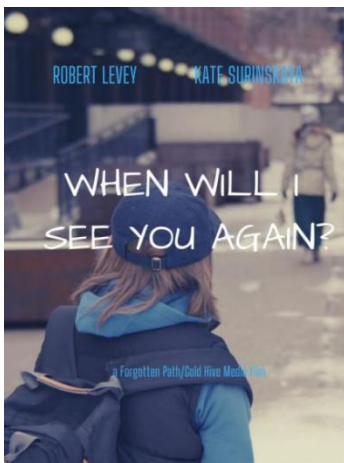
2:45 to 3:30 PM - Saturday



The Burden of Beauty (14 min)

Directed by Rory Michael Colarossi
Scranton, PA

A young and lonely woman's feeling of isolation is deepened after she takes part in a high-profile photoshoot and learns the destructive power of self-image.



When Will I See You Again? (16 min)

Directed by Nicholas Prainito
Pittsburgh, PA

Haunted by visions she's still alive, a boy recruits a reluctant ex-con uncle and a heartbroken woman they meet on the road in an obsessive quest to find his long-missing sister. When Will I See You Again? taps into a universal desire to reconnect with loved ones we've lost, and speaks to the outrage we all feel over every cold case that goes unsolved.



The Wallflower Pact (12 min)

Directed by Rikki Stinnette

Washington, DC

A romantic comedy about the secrets introverts keep, the awkward world of low budget indie filmmaking, and love.

Film Block 10

3:45 to 5:15 PM - Saturday



Stargazer

Directed by Alan McIntyre

New York

Whose stories get told? Who gets to tell them? How? Stargazer tells the story of one night in the life of a Grace Campbell, a grad student burning with fury about the fate of a forgotten astronomer. Cecilia Payne discovered the nature of the universe -- and saw her genius stolen by men. For Grace, history threatens to repeat itself when she's forced to partner with a male journalist. *Brief male nudity and profanity.*

Film Block 11

5:30 to 5:50 PM - Saturday



A Juddering

Directed by James Lantz

Burlington, VT

A troubled teen experiencing Climate Anxiety feels something wrong with the Earth — Granddad won't listen.

Features licensed music by Bob Dylan, Nancy Sinatra, Ernest Tubb and a twenty-seven member children's choir.

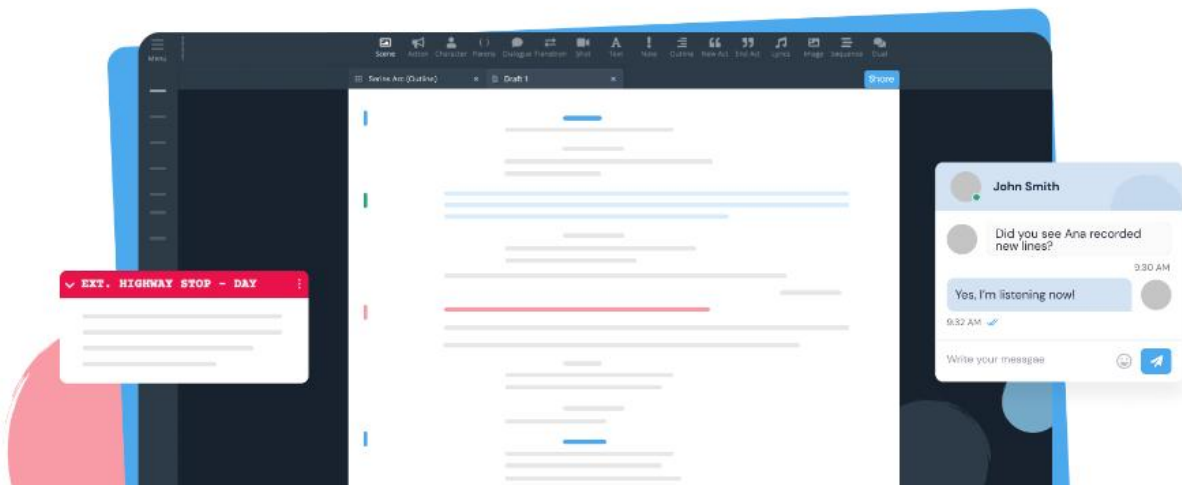


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Film Block 12

6:00 to 6:30 PM - Saturday



The Firefly Jar

Directed by Gary Fierro
Rocky Hill, CT

A magician, some magic, and a wish. A walk down Reverie Rd. brings a young boy on a magical journey as he learns to cope with the recent passing of his mother in this wondrous telling of life after loss.

Award Ceremony

6:45 to 7:30 PM Saturday

Please show your support for the filmmakers by staying in the theater auditorium for the Award Ceremony! We promise no long speeches! Acceptance speeches are limited to 60 seconds or less. This is a very exciting time for filmmakers to be recognized for their efforts and we hope you can share in the excitement.

Also hear from our honored guest and Academy Award Winning Special Effects Makeup Artist, John Caglione. Perhaps he'll share some behind the scenes stories about what it was like to work with the SNL original Not Ready For Prime Time Players, Al Pacino or others. The handing out of awards only takes about 15 minutes and acceptance speeches are limited to 1 minute.

After Party

7:30 to 9:00 PM Saturday

Beer and wine available or just stay and socialize at no additional cost in the Theater after the award ceremony.

SUNDAY April 2, 2023

Theater Doors Open

9:00 AM - Sunday

Theater doors open so you can pick up your Festival Pass, and grab a seat in the theater. There is no lunch break on Sunday so feel free to order lunch at the Concession stand to eat in the theater, or go out and enjoy one of Berkeley Springs fine restaurants.

Film Block 13 - Animated Short Films by G. LePage

9:30 to 9:50 AM - Sunday



Chloe and the Five Elements (12 min)

Directed by Gordon LePage
New Sharon, ME

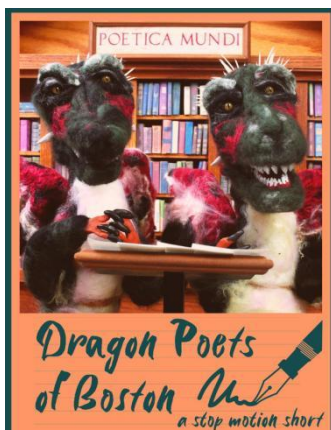
A stop-motion animated film about a girl that falls into the five elements while walking in the wood.



A Change of Song (6 min)

Directed by Gordon LePage
New Sharon, ME

A resourceful raccoon helps a fellow creature out of a bad groove.



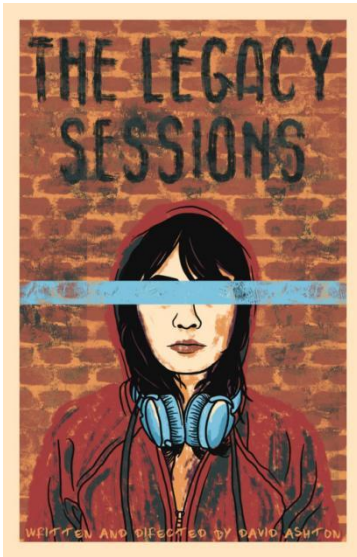
Dragon Poets of Boston (8 min)

Directed by Gordon LePage
New Sharon, ME

Two underemployed dragons have a revelation when they audition for a podcast. This film is hilarious. You won't want to miss this one!

Film Block 14

10:00 to 11:10 AM - Sunday



The Legacy Sessions (35 min)

Directed by William D. Ashton
Arlington, VA

Isolation and punk music are the coping measure a sullen teenager uses to drown out the hurt she feels from her mother's death. But a friendship with an elderly woman in a retirement home slowly helps her express and overcome her grief.

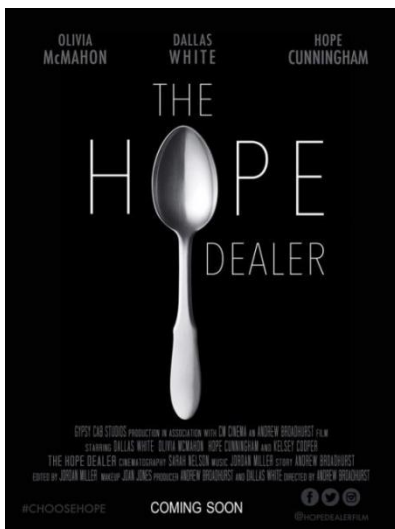
A very moving film.



Lilac Gulch: An Appalachian Fairy Tale (20 min)

Directed by Jason A Young
Fairmont, WV

"Lilac Gulch: An Appalachian Fairy Tale" tells the story of a 12-year-old boy and his recently reimagined childhood friend as they run away in search the Appalachian countryside in search of a place where parents never die.



The Hope Dealer (14 min)

Directed by Andrew Broadhurst
Martinsburg, WV

A heroin addict must choose between his family and his addiction in this raw and powerful film that encourages those struggling with opioid abuse to seek help, choose hope, and continue with recovery efforts.

Film Block 15

11:15 to 12:21 AM - Sunday



Last Minute Gift (32 min)

Directed by Ethan McDowell
Decatur, GA

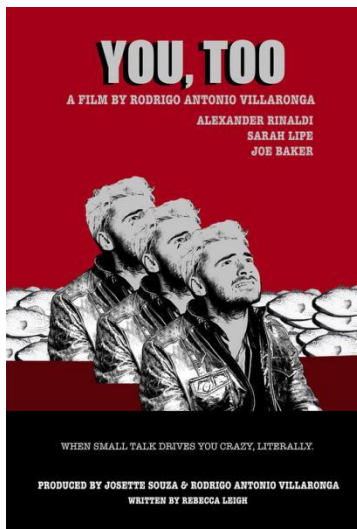
When the perfect gift hits the shelves, a forgetful husband must battle against all odds to get it, and race against the clock to make it home in time for dinner with his wife.



Her Hope Haven (22 min)

Directed by Tijah Bumgarner
Charleston, WV

A comedy-drama about a group of women working the steps toward their sobriety. Set in a women's inpatient recovery center in Charleston, WV, Her Hope Haven is a place where women are given a chance to get their kids back, their dignity back, stay out of jail, and stay alive. It's not about the addiction, it's about the recovery. Co-created, co-written, and performed by women with lived experience in active addiction and recovery.



You Too (12 min)

Directed by Rodrigo Antonio Villaronga
Alexandria, VA

When small talk drives you crazy. Literally.

Film Block 16

12:30 to 12:55 PM - Sunday



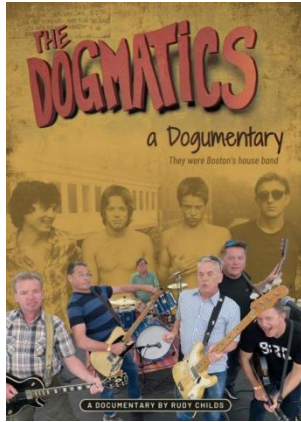
The Game

Directed by Brynn Chamblee
Alpharetta, GA

With her daughter about to leave for college, Jennifer Hansen decides to foster two seemingly sweet sisters. But there's something strange about these two girls.

Film Block 17

1:00 to 2:30 PM - Sunday



The Dogmatics: A Dogumentary

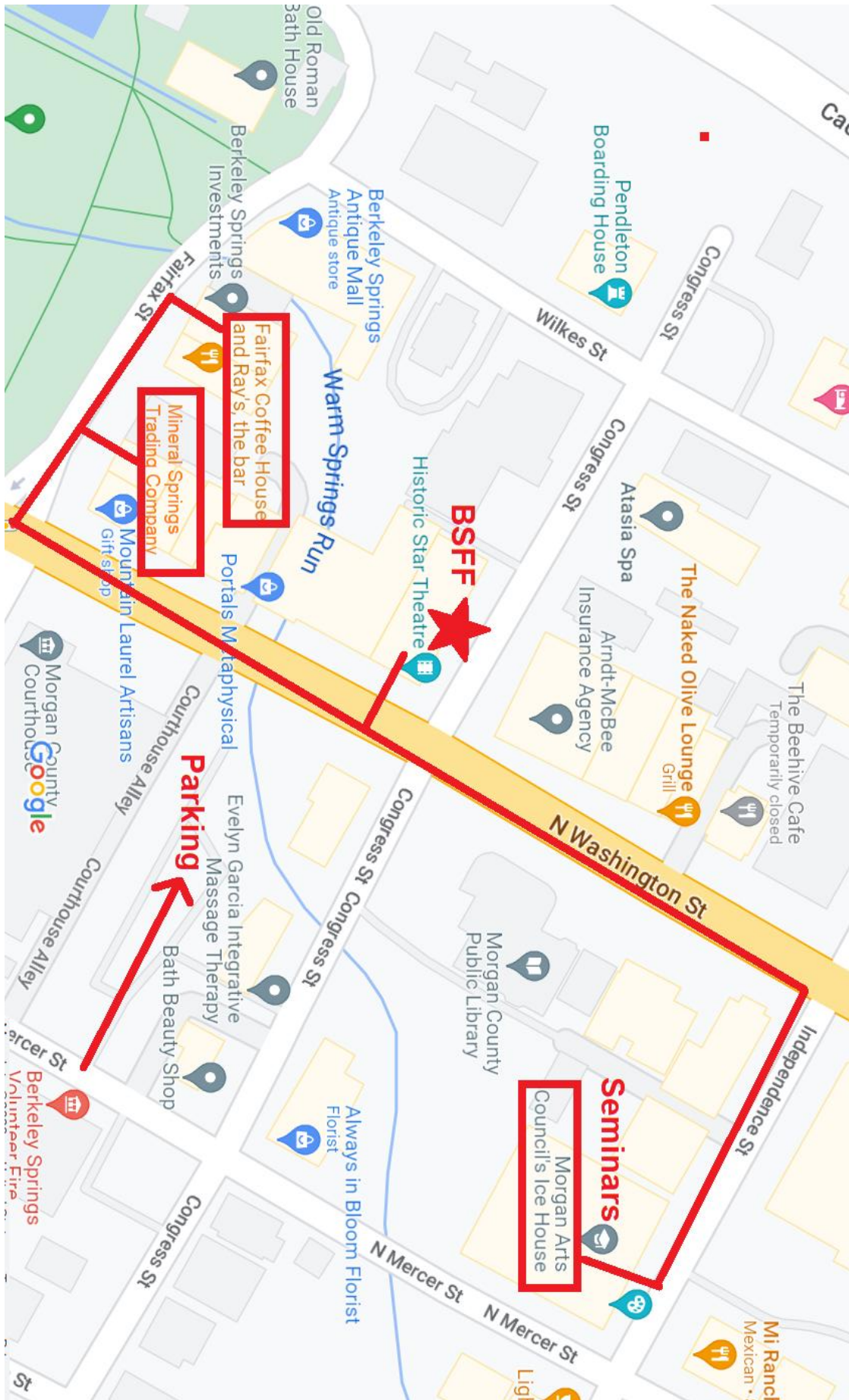
Directed by Rudy Childs
Rockland, MA

A documentary about The Dogmatics, perhaps the most emblematic Boston band of this half-century. Established in 1981, they gained notoriety with a loyal following in the Boston music scene, and beyond. The quartet was no different than any other talentless, self-deprecating, beer-swilling, girl-chasing lunkheads with guitars. It wasn't about money. Catching a girl's eye, a free round of drinks, or simply completing a song in unison were their rewards. At its core, this is a story of brothers – by both blood and bond.

End of Festival!
Don't forget to check out our Saturday Seminars!



Historic Star Theatre
Berkeley Springs, WV



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