

2017 SPRING FEST SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 – NOON

BEYOND THE SILENCE by William Michael Barbee (2016) – 100 minutes, fiction
This feature brings to the forefront the much needed dialogue on mental illness. It's about a man diagnosed with Paranoid Schizophrenia and Bi-polar Disorders who finds himself on trial for a crime that he doesn't remember committing. Bill Duke, Frankie Faison, Bill Cobbs, Usman Sharif and JD Williams lead this stellar cast of actors.

Social Justice System, African American, Mental Illness, Prison System

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 – 2:15PM

GREY MATTERS by Ramona Persaud (2016) – 45minutes, documentary
This is a must see for anyone interested in the future of education. Three teachers resort to studying the brain to break through the boredom and disinterest of their students.

Education, Racial Integration, Children

TURN THE PAGE by Linda Moroney (2016) – 60 minutes, documentary
The Ontario County Jail in Western New York is a modern facility sitting amongst vast farmlands. It houses inmates for several months to several years. However, twice a month at this facility volunteers of the Storybook Program assist inmates who are moms and dads as they record themselves, through tears and laughter, reading children's books onto audiocassettes. These taped "Bedtime Stories," along with the actual books, are then sent to the inmates' children help maintain connection. For many, this may be their only connection during this confusing and stressful period of separation.

Literacy, Social Justice, Children & Parents, Prison System

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 – 5:00PM – *A Program about Gender and Relationships*

MONOGAMISH by Carlton Daniel (2016) – 14 minutes, drama
Cooper is eager to take his relationship to a new level, but when his boyfriend floats the idea of an open relationship, he must rethink his previous expectations of what "love" really looks like.

MY SISTER MOSY by Ted Limpert (2016) – 10 minutes, drama
Feeling abandoned by his sister, a stubborn young man relives his childhood memories of their family cabin while simultaneously trying to reconnect.

WORKPLACE WOES: SCAVENGERS AMONG US by Michael Pizzano (2016) – 14 minutes, comedy

Someone has been eating Danny's lunch and she will stop at nothing to find out who it is. But is she ready to uncover the uncomfortable truth of her office?

THIS IS NOT A LOVE SONG by Ursula Ellis (2016) – 10 minutes, drama

In this expressionistic coming-of-age film, two self-alienated teenage girls with a Wikipedia-based understanding of punk rock music attend their first live show, with some unexpected and potentially long-lasting consequences.

FOR MY LOVERS by Grace Cannon (2016) – 10 minutes, drama

An American student abroad and his journey as he falls out of love.

CRAWLING TO PARADISE by Daniel Masciari (2016) – 18 minutes, drama

Ben and Sarah work at a gas station. They've never left their town, but have a dream of leaving their trailer behind to head toward Hawaii. However, this dream may remain just a dream.

I LOVE NY by Christian Vogeler (2016) – 11 minutes, comedy

In a city where everyone's got an angle, how do you survive? After an NYC first-timer befriends a savvy street girl on the train, she takes him on a fantastical ride through all the city's pitfalls. But nothing's free in this town, so tighten up your hustle or you might just get hustled yourself.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 – 7:00PM

SURVEILLANCE by Carrie Mae Weems (2016) – 13 minutes, experimental/documentary
Winner of a MacArthur Fellowship, Weems is a visual artist whose works include powerful video explorations about racism.

Racism, The Black Experience, History, Politics, Art Video

AMERICAN VETERAN by Julie Cohen (2016) – 75 minutes, documentary

Winner of the Panavision Showcase

America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created a new population of American veterans: service members so severely disabled they would have died in previous wars, but who now survive because of advanced medical technology. We've figured out how to keep them alive and bring them back home, but what then? AMERICAN VETERAN is a feature length documentary portrait of one such soldier, Army Sergeant Nick Mendes. Nick was paralyzed from the neck down by a massive improvised explosive device in Afghanistan in 2011. Despite severe physical injuries and PTSD, Nick's mind is clear and his spirit and sense of humor are very much intact.

Veteran's Affairs, Disability, Family, Community

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 – 9:15PM

METAMORPHISM by M.B. Padmakumar and Murali Chand (2015) – 97 minutes, drama
Raghavan is a blind man who has lived 65 years of his life only through the world of sound. His adopted-son Abdulla compels him to get an eye transplant, fearing that he may suffer social isolation due to hearing impediments in old age. Only after the eye transplant, Raghavan realizes that eyes are only mere instruments to access experiences stored in the mind, which results in “seeing.” He’s unable to move forward into the world of vision, because he has no memories of vision stored in his brain.

Disability, India, Father/Son, Medicine

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 – 11:30PM

NAVIGATORS OF THE SHADOW RING by Jacob Dodd (2015) – 45 minutes, comedy/drama

During the international conflicts of the 1950s, a modest crop dusting pilot search for his heroic brother who has vanished at the hands of a masked villain obsessed with bringing the world's superpowers to their knees.

Parody, 1950s, Nostalgia, Film Technique

THE WATCHTOWER by Steve Silver (2016) – 56 minutes, drama

A story of love and survival in New York City's notorious Hell's Kitchen, where declining West side Irish and Italian gangs compete for their bloody share of the action.

Gang Wars, Irish, Italian, New York City

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 – 1:00PM

PEOPLE OF A DARKER HUE by Carrie Mae Weems (2016) – 15 minutes, experimental/documentary

This is the second of Carrie Mae Weems' works in Spring Film Fest. Winner of a MacArthur Fellowship, Weems is a visual artist whose works include powerful video explorations about racism.

Racism, Politics, Video Art

IMPERVIA by Patrick Devaney (2017) – 34 minutes, sci fi drama

A poor, interracial family lives beyond the border of the wealthy city they used to be a part of. Barely surviving on their own, in the only house within hundreds of miles, they are confronted by the authorities of the new government and given significantly bad news. With 24 hours to make a decision, they are faced once again with the reality of their situation. With nowhere to go, and no one to turn to, they must make a choice. But some choices carry a weight that may be too heavy to bear.

Race, Sci fi, Androids, Politics

PHOTORECEPTOR by Jeffrey Newell (2017) – 4 minutes, experimental

A visual poem dedicated to the way we should see and interact with the world around us. It is shot entirely in Upstate New York around and within locations where the filmmaker grew up.

Central New York CVB, Music/Image

DUAL PROJECTION by Avery Herzog (2016) – 12 minutes, comedy

Lester Stilleman, formerly an old silent film actor, is appearing live at the same movie theater as the action blockbuster, *Stryker Jones 6 Explosions with a Vengeance Part 2*. After a series of humiliating events, all but an elderly couple purchase tickets to see the *Stryker Jones* film, leaving Lester feeling humiliated at his lack of success.

Silent Cinema, Comedy

ROSE COLORED by Brittany Wait (2016) – 12 minutes, drama

Raised homeless and later abandoned as a child, Rosalie copes with being left behind, living month-to-month out of a motel - until receiving an invitation to revisit her past.

Family Relations

TEN MORE by Brad Riddell (2016) – 11 minutes, drama

From the writer of *Crooked Arrows*, the lacrosse feature film shot in Central New York. A concert pianist (David Pasquesi) receives a startling omen as he struggles to recover from a traumatic brain injury.

Music, Disability

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 – 3:15PM - A Program about Journalism, and the Struggle of Peoples

REMEMBERING DAVID CARR by Stu Lisson (2015) – 28 minutes, documentary

A documentary honoring the late *New York Times* journalist, David Carr. It features interviews with Stephen Colbert, Lena Dunham, Anthony Bourdain, Gay Talese, and Tom Arnold.

AMERICA HEARD: REFUGE OF HOPE by Yasmin Mistry (2016) – 5 minutes, documentary

Syracuse, New York, is an unlikely home to more than 10,000 former refugees. Two women at the forefront of this community reflect on what their presidential vote means to those whose only true home is the American town that took them in.

SANCTUARY CITY by Elias Gwinn (2016) – 7 minutes, documentary

KyawKyaw barely escaped the juntas in Burma and the refugee camps in the Thai jungle. As a New American, he takes nothing for granted. Now, he shares his message of peace and humanity by working as an immigration advocate and fathering three amazing children.

OUR AMERICAN FAMILY by Serge Stambolyan (2016) — 9 minutes, documentary
The exploration of the filmmaker's own immigration from Bulgaria to the US, how his family dealt with assimilation and the things that remain ingrained in their familial culture.

BEFORE THE WAVE by Molly Willows (2016) – 24 minutes, documentary
A lyrical short documentary featuring a captivating community of indigenous, stateless Moken sea nomads, who live off the coast of Burma and Thailand. Today living as a ragtag community of ocean-frolicking outliers, the vibrant community fully survived the Boxing Day Tsunami ten years ago. This deeply saturated, poetic film explores their disappearing aquatic lifestyle and shifting spirituality, both largely due to Christian missionaries who arrived to “save” the Moken after the fatal wave.

SOUP FOR MY BROTHER by Terry Jones (2016) – 10 minutes, documentary
Today is a special day for Jimmy's brother, Danny. As Jimmy prepares a batch of soup for his brother, we learn this documentary is about tradition, brotherly love and loss. This documentary was filmed entirely on the Seneca Nation Territory, located 50 miles south of Niagara Falls.

OHERO: KON: UNDER THE HUSK by Katsitsionni Fox (2016) – 27 minutes, documentary
The journey of two Mohawk girls as they take part in their traditional passage rites to becoming Mohawk Women. Kaienkwinehtha and Kasennakohe are childhood friends from traditional families living in the Mohawk Community of Akwesasne that straddles the U.S. / Canada border. They both take part in a four-year adolescent passage rites ceremony called Oheró:kon, or “Under the Husk,” which has been revived in their community. This ceremony challenges them spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. It shapes the women they become.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 – 5:45PM – *Two Madcap Adventures*

GLIMPSE by Sam Avery (2016) – 10 minutes, drama
Be lucky to avoid the wolf each and every time, for the wolf only needs to find you once.

MAD FULL OF DREAMS by Kevin Baggott (2016) – 88 minutes, drama
Bobby Tierney is a private security contractor working for Big Al's Security. Big Al keeps his agents on a tight leash - a need to know basis. His clientele are a fishy bunch, to say the least. Bobby is told to escort an elderly Korean man, Mr. Kim, to Vienna - something to do with the anniversary of his deceased wife. Bobby just needs to hand Mr. Kim off to a Viennese agent, Franz, then spend the next three days stuffing himself with sausages and apple strudel before catching a plane back home. After Franz is found dead with six 22's in his temple, Bobby takes Mr. Kim to a safe house. During the middle of the night Mr. Kim goes missing – along with Bobby's gun. Big Al informs Bobby that Mr. Kim's son heads the Korean mob back in New York. And that the son has a soft spot for his father and wants him returned ASAP or else.

(Film descriptions courtesy of the filmmakers.)