



2019

The 9th
Lake
County
Film
Festival

the
College
of Lake
County

GRAYSLAKE
—◆—
WAUKEGAN

SEPTEMBER 5TH—10TH

NARRATIVE



DOCUMENTARY



MUSIC

NARRATIVE FEATURES



Alaska Is A Drag

Writer/Director: Shaz Bennett
Cast: Martin L. Washington, Jr., Maya Washington, Matt Dallas, Christopher O'Shea, Jason Scott Lee, Margaret Cho, Kevin Daniels, Nia Peebles
USA, 88 minutes

This is a fish out of water story—literally. Everyone who slices fish all day daydreams, but Leo’s are just glamtastic. He’s had to learn to fight to survive. And his boss, who is also an amateur boxer, takes note. When a new kid offers to be his sparring partner, he and his twin are forced to confront the real reason they’re stuck in fish guts.

Preceded by:

Desert Rats

Director: Shaz Bennett
Out in the Salt Flats, people think nothing can survive, but Lily did.
USA, 9 minutes

Sunrise

Director: Sean Patrick Leonard
Kim and Brendan have just come home from a night out when things get a bit out of hand.
USA, 6 minutes



Eternal Winter

Director: Attila Szász
Writer: Attila Szász & Norbert Köbli
Cast: Maina Gera, Diána Magdolna Kiss, Franciska Farkas, Laura Döbrösi
Hungary, 88 minutes
Christmas 1944. Soviet soldiers invade Hungary and drag every young ethnic German woman away from a small village and transport them to a Soviet labour camp where they are forced to work in the coal mines. This is where Irén meets fellow prisoner Rajmund, who decides to teach her how to survive.

Preceded by:

Peep

Director: Zachary Dehm
A young woman is harassed by a shadowy figure that lurks outside her new apartment.
USA, 9 minutes

Waldwölfe (Forest Wolves)

Director: Peter W. Allen
Three Nazi soldiers capture an escaped Jewish woman. But what will they do with her?
Australia, 8 minutes



Olympia

Director: Gregory Dixon
Writer: McKenzie Chinn
Cast: McKenzie Chinn, Charles Andrew Gardiner
USA, 90 minutes

A struggling Chicago artist finds herself at a crossroads in life, overwhelmed by changes and needing to make a critical decision in her relationship.

Preceded by:

Troll

Director: Brittani Harris
Writer: Brittani Harris
Cast: Kailah Nicole, Alexander Cantrell

Mel is a very successful internet troll, but someone threatens to expose her secret.
USA, 8 minutes



Rendezvous in Chicago

Writer/Director: Michael Glover Smith
Cast: Clare Cooney, Kevin Wehby, Nina Ganet, Matt Sherbach, David McNulty, Rashaad Hall, Shane Simmons
USA, 69 minutes

Rendezvous in Chicago is a short comedic feature film comprised of three vignettes corresponding to the beginning, middle and ending stages of a relationship.



Rich Kids

Director: Laura Somers
Writer: Laura Somers & David Saldaña
Cast: Gerardo Velasquez, Justin Rodriguez, Michelle Magallon, Ulysses Montoya, Alessandra Mañon, Naöme Antoinette
USA, 97 minutes

A group of troubled teens from a low-income community break into “Los Ricos,” the local mansion with a border fence, and spend the day pretending to be rich in order to forget their difficult lives.

Preceded by:

Pozole

Director: Jessica Mendez Siqueiros
La gringa killed her Nana.
USA, 10 minutes



Romance Analyst

Director: Rachel Wortell
Writer: Rachel Wortell
Cast: Peter Vack, Lily Meyer, Jeff Kahn, Eleanore Pienta
USA, 92 minutes

Felicia, a woman who is feeling uninspired by her filmmaking career and spiraling into a comedic depression, starts seeing a therapist, at her best friend Max’s recommendation. Soon, she becomes enamored with this new woman in her life, but when things eventually start to feel off, she wonders who this woman really is.

Preceded by:

Cherry

Director: Stacey Davis
With her father dying of cancer, Helen has high hopes for the family’s last Easter together.
USA, 12 minues

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES



Art Paul of Playboy: The Man Behind The Bunny

Director: Jennifer Hou Kwong/ Jian Ping
Featuring: Art Paul, Hugh Hefner, Christie Hefner
USA, 74 minutes

Art Paul of Playboy: The Man Behind the Bunny presents the life and lasting impact of Art Paul, founding art director of Playboy magazine, creator of the brand’s iconic bunny logo, and an unsung, iconic artist of our time.

Preceded by:

The Bull

Director: Kelsey Egan
Heavily pregnant on an isolated farm, a young woman faces the strange magic that burdens her reality.
South Africa, 15 minutes

My Paintbrush Bites

Director: Joel Pincosy
A man battling reclusion and a racehorse on the brink of death save each other in unexpected ways.
USA, 16 minutes



The City That Sold America

Director: Ky Dickens
USA, 67 minutes
At the threshold of the 20th Century, a melting pot of adventurous immigrants, creative mavericks, and freedom-seeking African Americans shaped consumerism as we now know it. This documentary reveals, with intriguing insights and wistful nostalgia, the confluence of Chicago’s creative talent, business savvy, grit and determination that changed the country and our relationship with popular culture.



Pizza, A Love Story

Director: Gorman Bechard
Featuring: Lyle Lovett, Michael Bolton, Rick Nielson
USA, 85 minutes

Most everyone has a passion for pizza, but only New Haven lays claim to the Holy Trinity of pizza joints with Sally’s, Pepe’s, and Modern. They are not only a cornerstone of New Haven’s Italian-American heritage but also the establishments that set the bar for this immediately recognizable comfort food. National polls agree: these are the pizzas by which all others are measured.

Preceded by:

Pie In The Puss: A Brief History Of Pieing In Film

Director: Stacey Davis
From a pie in the face, to the pie toss, to the ultimate pie fight, watch the evolution of pieing in film.
USA, 9 minute



RockKabul

Directed by Travis Beard
Australia, 90 minutes
District Unknown is the first heavy metal band in Afghanistan, a country where music has been either banned or heavily censored since 1978. RockKabul follows them as they struggle with musical progress and building an audience in a country where many still view rock music as satanic.

Preceded by:

Noble Sissle’s Syncopated Ragtime

Director: Daniel Bernardi & David de Rozas
Noble Sissle’s incredible life journey spans “The Harlem Hellfighters” of World War I, Broadway Theatre, the Civil Rights movement, and decades of Black cultural production.
USA, 24 minutes



Rukus

Directors: Brett Hanover, Alanna Stewart, Katherine Dohan
Written by Brett Hanover
USA, 87 minutes

A hybrid of documentary and fiction, ‘Rukus’ is a queer coming-of-age story set in the liminal spaces of furry conventions, southern punk houses, and virtual worlds.

Preceded by:

Memory Video

Director: Roy Power
An optimistic video store owner tries to keep the experience alive amidst the rising popularity of streaming.
USA, 9 minutes

Information Superhighway

Director: Mathew Nelson
A man participates in an experiment to test artificial intelligence in driverless cars.
USA, 12 minutes



Street Fighting Men

Director Andrew James
USA, 103 minutes
Facing dwindling public services, growing inequality and escalating violence, three Detroit men must fight to build something lasting for themselves and future generations.

Preceded by:

The Conqueror

Director: Timothy Blackwood
When Jerome Conquest loses his best friend to street violence, he turns to boxing as a way to improve his life.
US, 13 minutes



While I Breathe, I Hope

Director: Emily Harold
USA, 75 minutes
What does it mean to be young, Black, and Democrat in southern, Republican South Carolina? Follow Sellers on his 2014 bid for Lieutenant Governor, through the Charleston Shootings and removal of the Confederate flag in 2015, and to the present as he takes a national role as a CNN political commentator and considers his future in Trump’s America.

Preceded by:

Community Patrol

Director: Andrew James
A Detroit minister rallies the community to shut down a drug house in an inspiring display of collective action.
USA, 13 minutes

LCFF 2019 Staff Executive Director Nat Dykeman • Design/Illustration Kat Jacobsen • Programming Committee Mac Eldridge, Romana Guillotte • Location Staff Zac Goodspeed, Derrick Johnson, Serena Sanchez-Johnson, Jeremy Truelove • Special thanks to Chris Cooling, James Crizer, Michael Kozien, David Motley, Joan Sparacio-Cremin, Sheldon Walcher, Yang Xiang

Find cast info
www.lal



#dating
A (mostly) humorous look at the ups and downs of modern dating.

Kim’s Big Date
Director: Claire McFadden
USA, 9 minutes

Sac De Merde
Director Greg Chwerchak
USA, 9 minutes

All the Men You Would Sleep With Were You Not In A Relationship With Tyler (Whom Of Course You Love)
Directors: Mac Eldridge & Tom Dean
USA, 7 minutes

Happy Ending
Director: Fernando González Gómez
Spain, 4 minutes

Swipe Right
Director: Corbin Schweitzer
USA, 10 minutes



Animated Shorts
This collection of animated shorts covers serious topics like suicide, grieving, war and love.

Hoan Alone: Personal Stories from the Bridge
Director: Aaron Johnson
USA, 9 minutes

Mushroom Park
Director: Timothy Rauch
USA, 14 minutes

Five Minutes
Directors: Chris Zaluski, Sandy Dickson & Peter Gilbert
USA, 9 minutes

Gelato – Seven Summers of Ice Cream Love
Germany, 12 minutes



Docs Around The World
This collection of short films highlight true storie from artists Pakistan, Cuba & Japan

The Streets Are Ours: Two Lives Cross In Karachi
Director: Michelle Fiordaliso
USA/Pakistan, 17 minutes

My Immigrant Story
Director: Yuriko Gamo Romer
USA, 3 minutes

Cuban Canvas
Director: Kavery Kaul
Cuba, 14 minutes



Gender Studies 101
This sharp, sarcastic collection of short films spotlights and critiques contemporary gender norms.

Lady Parts
Director: Erin Rye & Jessica Sherif
USA, 10 minutes

Consent: A Short Comedy About A Serious Subject
Director: Kimmy Gatewood
USA, 12 minutes

White Guys Solve Sexism
Director: Christopher Guerrero
USA, 7 minutes

Woman In Stall
Directors: Madeleine Sims-Fewer & Dusty Mancinelli
Canada, 10 minutes

Hook Up 2.0
Director: Dana Nachman
USA, 7 minutes



Guns, Guns, Guns
Gun ownership and mass shootings are one of the biggest issues facing our society today. The first of these shorts is a serious look at the problem. The other two, not as much.

The Rage of Evil: Thoughts from a Former School Shooter
Director: Carolyn McCulley
USA, 16 minutes

Gun Shop
Director: Patrick Smith
USA, 3 minutes

Come & Take It
Directors: Ellen Spiro & PJ Raval
USA, 27 minutes



Hitchhiking To The Edge Of Sanity
Director: Scott Petersen
An idealistic writer and photographer set out to find their purpose via a terrifying road trip across the Sahara Desert in the early 1970’s.
USA, 54 minutes



Local Shorts
Some of our favorite locally produced short films, featuring many artists we’ve seen before, and some exciting new discoveries.

Bob & Edgar
Director: Bill Redding
USA, 12 minutes

Just Give Me A Minute To Change
Director: Michael Pomaro
USA, 8 minutes

The Replacement
Director: Sean Miller
USA, 15 minutes

Step One
Director: Sean Patrick Leonard
USA, 7 minutes

Her Mess
Director: Zachary Goodspeed
USA, 14 minutes



Music Shorts
A soul singer from the classic era, a homeless child turned expert tuba player, and a successful violinist pretending to be a busker make this mixed documentary/narrative short film collection.

Soul Man
Director: Kyle Taubken
USA, 13 minutes

R.A.W. Tuba
Director: Darren Durlach & David Larson
USA, 29 minutes

The Musician
Director: Mark Schimmel
USA, 17 minutes



Science Fiction Shorts
These three short films offer classic sci-fi twists, mixed with excellent craftsmanship. They may be independent productions, but they look like they could be episodes of the current Twilight Zone.

Planet
Director: Bill Sebastian
USA, 11 minutes

Aeternitas
Director: Gordie Haakstad
USA, 16 minutes

Virtually
Director: P. Patrick Hogan
USA, 21 minutes



Terrolun And Lunlun
Director: Hiroyuki Miyagawa
After a tragic accident, Terrolun becomes a hiki-komori, living in his parent’s garage, where he fixes mechanical items. When Lunlun, a hearing-impaired high school student brings him something to repair, they strike up a friendship.
Japan, 50 minutes



This Is America
These films use a heightened reality to critique aspects of American culture, including prescription drugs, consumerism, gun culture, immigration, and discrimination.

Aembras
Director: Chad McClarnon
USA, 8 minutes

Gun Shop
Director: Patrick Smith
USA, 3 minutes

Negroland
Director: Jewel McPherson
USA, 17 minutes

Hiding In Daylight
Director: Cheryl Allison
USA, 15 minutes

Candy Shop
Director: Patrick Smith
USA, 3 minutes

Illegal
Director: Jesus Nebot
USA, 8 minutes



U.S. Docs
These short documentaries offer hopeful glimpses into 4 different lives.

Betty Feeds The Animals
Director: James P. Gannon
USA, 9 minutes

An Accidental Drowning
Director: Matteo Servente
USA, 7 minutes

Fraser Syndrome & Me
Director: Kyle Anne Grendys
USA, 20 minutes

Still Sophie
Director: Caroline Knight
USA, 7 minutes



We Love Short Shorts
Always our most popular program, filled with snappy, interesting films of all types in under 10 minutes.

I Will Not Write Unless I Am Swaddled In Furs
Director: Wade Shotter
USA, 7 minutes

Passive Aggressive Dads
Director: Jim Picariello
USA, 5 minutes

And The Earth Will Be Lost To The Flames
Director: Adam Bertocci
USA, 5 minutes

Nashedonia
Director: Will Berry
USA, 5 minutes

Rock Paper Scissors
Director: Brian Lawes
USA, 7 minutes

Mary & Margaret
Director: Gregory Caruso
USA, 7 minutes

Mio Gatto Dante
Director : Will Berry
USA, 3 minutes

Wrath
Director: Jen Emma Hertel
USA, 7 minutes

OPENING NIGHT

QWERTY

Director: Bill Sebastian
Writer: Juliet McDaniel
Cast: Dana Pupkin-Sebastian, Eric Hailey, Bill Redding, Joel Wiersema, Claire Tuft, Katherine Banks, Eliza Toser, Jake Jarvi, Mike McNamara, Jeff Garretson
USA, 90 minutes



QWERTY was filmed in 2010, mostly in Lake County, including many parts of the College Of Lake County (including the very auditorium this screening is taking place in). It went on to play at dozens of festivals, where it won many awards, and Roger Ebert pronounced it “charming, winning, and sweet”. Unfortunately, it never had a screening in Lake County, so we are excited to finally show it to this audience.

Before introverted word-nerd, Zoe, gains the courage to enter the National Scrabble Championship, she meets her emotional match in Marty, an irascible recluse. She finds him equally pitted against the opposing forces in her life – other people – including family, co-workers and a couple of particularly irksome adversaries standing in the way of her dream to become the world’s second female National Scrabble Champion.

CLOSING NIGHT

5/25/77

Director: Patrick Read Johnson
Writer: Patrick Read Johnson
Cast: John Francis Daley, Austin Penleton, Colleen Camp, Neil Flynn, Steve Coulter, Emmi Chen, Katie Jeep, Justin Mentell
USA, 113 minutes
Writer/Director Patrick Read Johnson



grew up in Lake County, obsessed with both watching and making movies. In the 1980s, he wound up working on Hollywood movies, and in the 1990’s he wound up writing and/or directing such films as Dragonheart, Angus, Spaced Invaders, and Baby’s Day Out.

In the 2000s, he came back to Wadsworth to work on his autobiographical magnum opus, 5-25-77, which chronicles his journey to L.A. at the age of 15, where he was the first person not involved with Star Wars to see the film, as well as his quest to see the film on opening day.

Besides being a wonderful, sweet, and funny film, I can say confidently that no other film in history has been as much of a Lake County Film as 5-25-77. Because it is filmed here, set here and is largely about the challenges of living and pursuing your dreams here as a young person, I declare 5-25-77 the consummate Lake County Film, and I’m thrilled to be able to close out our first returning festival with it.

Welcome Back To The Lake County Film Festival!

I’m not sure there are words to express how proud I am to bring the festival back, and how excited I am for you to see these movies and hear what you think of them.

I’ve thought about the possibility of bringing the festival back many times over the last eight years, but never wound up being able to pull it all together. Honestly, I think this might be a perfect time. Our country is engulfed in turmoil, struggling with racism and sexism, we are locking children in cages, have more guns than we have people, and more mass shootings than there are days in the year.

Most of the movies in the multiplexes are an escape from that, and some of the films at this year’s festival are no exception, with crowd-pleasers like 5-25-77, Rendezvous In Chicago, Pizza: A Love Story and the We Love Short Short films program. But we also have films that directly relate to the turmoil around us.

While I Breathe, I Hope follows an African-American millennial politician in the south. The short film program Guns, Guns, Guns tackles school shootings and guns in public spaces. Gender Studies 101 is a humorous but thoughtful look at gender relations today, and This Is America highlights some of the absurdity in our culture.

In the end, the focus of this year’s festival is the same thing it was in this space 10 years ago: to bring you a great, diverse collection in interesting independent films at a great price with as many filmmakers with as possible.

The College Of Lake County continues to be our biggest supporter and only sponsor. The Lake County Film Festival would not happen if it wasn’t for the support of the College Of Lake County. Many, many thanks to the teachers and staff for continuing to support this endeavor.

I hope you have a fantastic weekend!

Nat Dykeman
Festival Director

Lake County Film Festival 2019						
	Grayslake Room A011	Grayslake Room D100	Grayslake Room A013	Grayslake Room C105	Waukegan Room S205	Waukegan Room S206
Thursday, September 5	QWERTY 7:00 PM					
Friday, September 6	Local Shorts 5:45 PM Music Shorts 7:00 PM	The City That Sold America 6:15 PM		Romance Analyst 6:00 PM		
	Olympia 8:30 PM	Gender Studies 101 8:15 PM #dating 9:30 PM		Pizza 8:40 PM		
Saturday, September 7	We Love Short Shorts 10:10 AM	Guns, Guns Guns 9:50 AM	Docs Around The World 10:00 AM		Alaska Is A Drag 11:20 AM	While I Breathe, I Hope 11:10 AM
	Rich Kids 11:20 AM	Local Shorts 11:00 AM Terrolun & Lunlun 11:50 AM	Art Paul 11:10 AM		Rich Kids 1:35 PM	Street Fighting Man 1:25
	Eternal Winter 1:15 PM	Hitchhiking To The Edge Of Sanity 1:40 PM Gender Studies 101 2:45 PM	Rukus 1:30 PM		U.S. Docs 3:50 PM Docs Around The World 5:00 PM	Guns, Guns, Guns 3:40 PM This Is America 4:50 PM
	RockKabul 3:30 PM	The City That Sold America 4:00 PM	Alaska Is A Drag 3:45 PM		Local Shorts 6:20 PM	Music Shorts 6:10 PM
	Sci-Fi Shorts 6:15 PM	Animated Shorts 6:30 PM	This Is America 6:00 PM		Olympia 7:30 PM	Rendezvous In Chicago 7:15 PM
	Romance Analyst 7:30 PM	U.S. Docs 7:45 PM We Love Short Shorts 9:00 PM	While I Breathe, I Hope 7:15 PM			
Sunday, September 8	#dating 10:00 AM	Hitchhiking To The Edge Of Sanity 9:50 AM	U.S. Docs 10:10 AM		Guns, Guns, Guns 11:20 AM Music Shorts 12:30 PM	While I Breathe, I Hope 11:10 AM
	Animated Shorts 11:30 AM Sci-Fiction Shorts 12:40 PM	Street Fighting Man 11:00 AM	RockKabul 11:15 PM		Olympia 1:25 PM	U.S. Docs 1:35 PM Local Shorts 2:40 PM
	Docs Around The World 1:45 PM Guns, Guns, Guns 2:45 PM	Pizza 1:15 PM	Romance Analyst 1:30 PM		Rich Kids 3:40 PM	Street Fighting Man 3:50 PM
	Rukus 4:00 PM	Alaska Is A Drag 3:30 PM	#dating 3:45 PM This Is America 4:50 PM		This Is America 6:10 PM	Docs Around The World 6:20 PM
	Gender Studies 101 6:15 PM	Terrolun & Lunlun 6:30 PM	Music Shorts 6:00 PM		Alaska Is A Drag 7:35 PM	RockKabul 7:25 PM
	Olympia 7:45 PM	Art Paul 7:30 PM	Eternal Winter 7:15 PM			
Monday, September 9	Rendezvous In Chicago / Local Shorts 7:00 PM					
Tuesday, September 10	5-25-77 7:00 PM					

Showtimes and locations subject to change. Check www.lakecountyfilmfestival.org for the latest updates.

Check showtimes, locations & more at www.lakecountyfilmfestival.org