

2010 WRIFF OFFICIAL SELECTIONS **&** **IOWA FILM SHOWCASE**

Narrative Features

A Lonely Place for Dying (Dir. Justin Eugene Evans) (NM) (94min.)

In 1972, the conflict in Vietnam continues. The creeping threat of communism grips the nation in fear. In an abandoned prison on the US/Mexican border, KGB mole Nikolai Dzerzhinsky waits for his contact from the Washington Post. He holds explosive evidence against the CIA, information he will trade for asylum in the United States. Special Agent Robert Harper's orders are clear: take the documents from Dzerzhinsky and kill him. Features Ross Marquand, Michael Scovotti, James Cromwell and Michael Wincott.

Fortnight (Dir. Scott Thompson) (IA) (86 min.)

Upwardly mobile young couple invites a worldly, sophisticated couple to stay for a fortnight. The worldly couple turns out to be a nightmare. How will they get rid of them? Shot in Iowa. Starring numerous Iowa actors including Laura Carlson and Tyler Kamerman.

Queen of the Lot (Dir. Henry Jaglom) (CA) (121 min.)

An electronic ankle bracelet and being under house arrest isn't about to stop up-and-coming actress Maggie Chase from the two things she craves the most: real fame and true love. Maggie is desperate to claw her way off the B-list of action/adventure pictures and into major movie stardom. With a team of handlers to spin her recent drunk driving arrests into tabloid gold and bad-boy movie star boyfriend Dov Lambert on her arm, Maggie's star is on the rise. Things get complicated when a trip home to meet Dov's legendary family introduces Maggie to Hollywood Royalty and to her boyfriend's brother Aaron, the black sheep of the family, a failed writer who sees through Maggie's ingénue facade, but who has secrets of his own... Stars Iowa native Tanna Frederick with Christopher Rydell, Noah Wyle, David Proval, Kathryn and Mary Crosby and Peter Bogdanovich.

16 to Life (Dir. Becky Smith) (CA/IA) (90 min.)

Romantic comedy. A small town teenager's angst about sexual inexperience drives a comic quest for love and understanding on a birthday to end all birthdays. Shot in Iowa. Starring, Hallee Hirsh with Theresa Russell and Carson Cressley, and featuring numerous Iowa-connected actors including Nicholas Downs, James Serpento, Brendan Dunphy, Ryan Gourley, Rachel Storey and Michael Cornelison.

Something Blue (Dir. Sean Gannon) (IA) (91 min.)

Why stop at a wedding video, Michael and Jackie figure, when you can document the entire year-long process of getting married, from the proposal through the ceremony? But as family tensions ignite, the camera records a much different story than they'd bargained for. Can their marriage-to-be survive its first big obstacle – the wedding? Features numerous Iowa-connected actors including: Kate Mortimer, Mike Kreissl, Bridget Flanery, Etta Berkowitz, Sue Gerver, Michael Cornelison and writer/director, Sean Gannon.

Documentaries

Kora (Dir. Burt Chojnowski) (IA) (52 min.)

For centuries Hindu, Jain and Buddhist pilgrims have been making the arduous journey to Western Tibet to complete a “kora” or circumambulation of Mount Kailash and a dip in the ice cold waters of Lake Manasarovar in hopes of removing their sins. Mount Kailash is the tallest mountain on earth to have never been climbed; it is forbidden to do so. Lake Manasarovar is the highest fresh water lake in the world; the region is the water tower of Asia and source to the major rivers flowing to India and Pakistan. *Kora* documents the trip to Kailash and is shot at high altitudes in high definition. Only a few thousand foreigners are allowed to make the journey each year. This is a rare view of the region and includes live recording of Tibetan folks and an unparalleled soundtrack with music from Guru Ganesh Singh, Manish Vyas, Govinda Express, Padma Previ and Peter Sterling. The journey includes visits to a ten sacred places including China's Mt. Emei, the Grand Buddha of Leshan and Wenshu Monastery; and Kathmandu's Pashupatinath, Swayambunath, Bodhanath and Durbar Square. The film features interviews with pilgrims, wonderful montages with music and enough narration to account for the exotic locale and history.

Malana (Dir. Jeremy Veverka) (JAPAN/NY) (17:02 min.)

Malana: Globalization of a Himalaya Village is a documentary short that examines the effects of globalization on a small, isolated village in the Indian Himalaya called Malana. Throughout the village's long history, it has remained fiercely independent from the outside world. Today, this independence is eroding with the construction of a new road up the once remote Malana valley. Will the people of Malana be able to preserve their unique culture, or will they be swept away by the forces of globalization?

The Art of Courage (Dir. Katie Amesbury) (GA) (43:00 min.)

Once upon a time a small band of artists, activists, and cancer survivors believed they could change the world. Together they created the art exhibition, 'Survivors in Search of a Voice: The Art of Courage'. For more than 3 years, the exhibit toured North America where it became known as the Cancer Monument. The film chronicles the journey of the show, the creators, and the men and women who shared their lives with the filmmaker's camera. The Art of Courage is truly an inspiring affirmation of the human spirit and the power of art.

Animation

Bean Society (Dir. Antonio Pérez Garrido) (SPAIN) (2:30 min.)

Days are short in Beanland. A group of kind beans just want to enjoy life, but they are going to find difficulties if they don't fit in.

Imperfect Armor (Dir. Nancy J. Rodwan) (OR) (3:00 min.)

Part of the “Poetry in Pictures Series”, it looks at the contrast between a tough exterior and the wounded sensitivity that it incompletely shields. Using images made from clay, sand and shadow puppetry as well as live action footage and paintings in

conjunction with words from an original poem, it reveals the scars of loneliness. The story follows a herd of one as he realizes errors beyond repair, yet tries to remain hopeful.

The Sacrifice (Dir. Stephen Jennings) (IA) (2:22 min.)

"The Sacrifice" is a unique retelling of the story, "St. George and the Dragon", and was judged first based on criteria related to quality of design and animated content at the 2010 Dragon*Con Independent Film Festival for Animated Short-Short.

Shorts

Awful (Altroz) (Dir. Francisco Álvarez) (SPAIN) (9:50 min.)

Awful is a singular teddy bear; a worn and curmudgeonly one, whose owner is Luna, a little girl who has taken him as her best friend. He tells us in first person all the misfortunes that he will have to endure to flee from Luna's ceaseless petting, endearments and games.

Bomb (Dir. Noam Bleiweiss) CA) (5:10 min.)

A young man wakes up under a busy pier with a bomb strapped to his chest. In the next 8 minutes, he will have to make a choice: do nothing and die, or find and kill an innocent man.

Chase Thompson, a Film by Chase Thompson (Dir. Vincent Lin) (NY) (12:00 min.)

When up and coming filmmaker Chase Thompson is hired to direct a lackluster romance film, the foolhardy director takes it as an opportunity to fire the crew and turn the film into his own zombie slaying masterpiece, starring himself.

Cockles and Mussels (Dir. Lenora Lonsdale) (FRANCE/NY) (4:45 min.)

An elderly couple sells cockles by a remote seashore, competing for potential sales. With each new customer, the stakes are raised; new tactics are developed. But what will happen when one of them takes the competition a step too far?

Coffee with Bernie (Dir. Bryant Mock) (IA) (8:40 min.)

Two old friends meet for coffee and discuss the mystery of beliefs in religion.

Damsel Distressed (Dir. Tiffany Schmitt) (IA) (live action/ anim.) (2:42 min.)

A young girl, bored and lacking attention from her mother, escapes into her imagination. The short is a mix of live-action and animation.

Defeating Litter (Dir. Alexis Ahmed) (IA) (2:29 min.)

Musical piece as one man confronts litter and the task of defeating it.

DumbShow (Dir. Jason Hooper) (OR) (23:00 min.)

Felix is homeless, penniless and unsuccessful. He is a mime, much like his father, who was a talented performer with a dark secret. Unlike his father, success has eluded him completely. He lives on the streets with his only 'friend', Louis, a schizophrenic who can't even remember who he is from day to day. People pass him on the street during his performances, uncaring, and rarely contributing. After getting assaulted for what little change he has, his life is looking pretty grim... until he

rediscovers the supernatural force that both aided and cursed his father. He brokers a vague Faustian bargain that brings success, but also grave misfortunes to those around him. What price is Felix willing to pay for prosperity, fame and fortune?

Duped (Dir. Terry and Lucas Daily) (IA) (12:00 min.)

A troubled detective takes on the case of a woman who believes her sister has been replaced with an exact duplicate. When his investigation leads him down a dark alley, the detective soon discovers that HE may be the one who needs help.

The Cortège (El Cortejo) (Dir. Marina Seresesky) (SPAIN) (14 min.)

Capi is the oldest gravedigger in the cemetery. Used to working amidst the suffering of others and the jokes of his colleagues, there is only one person capable of taking him out of his daily routine. Every month for the last couple of years, he has waited for Marta to take flowers to the grave of her husband. She is his last hope.

The Elusive Man (Dir. Mark Sanders and Marc Roussel) (CANADA) (15:00 min.)

What does an industrious chain manufacturer, a gold digging wife, and international art thieves have in common? Absolutely nothing! So, how did all these strange people end up in the same factory with guns, knives, and several body parts?

Fading Away (Zwischen Licht und Schotten)

(Dir. Fabian Giessler) (GERMANY) (14:00 min.)

Old married couple, Herbert and Martha, have shared their lifetime together, but Martha gradually retreats into the world of dementia, where reality and imagination seem to overlap and Herbert's desperation about their future together becomes more urgent as they try to hang onto their love for each other.

Katie Don't Cry (Dir. Bradley Meyer) (IA) (5:00 min.)

A story of teenage jealousy, bullying and the extreme lengths to which some are driven....

Last Prisoner of Lost Souls (Dir. Patrick Gouran) (IA) (15:00 min.)

Two women come together at a women's prison. Inmate Delphine Jay, sentenced for murder and raised in the city by a tyrannical minister, turns to correctional officer, Gloria West, raised on a neighboring farm. Delphine has been allowed to try to locate her mother's grave in the prison cemetery. It's a frigid day. Everything is frozen.

Love... Forever & Always (Dir. Hannah Sullivan) (CA) (4:06 min.)

A small girl's story of the tragic loss of her older sibling, and the impact it has on her. The film explores life and death, and reveals the unconditional bond between sisters, revealing that even the ultimate boundary can be transcended with the greatest gift of all.

Me, Myself and Your Husband (Dir. Susan Hippen) (NY) (8:36 min.)

Kat asks her sister's husband to get her pregnant.

Moon Bite (Dir. Savannah Quinn) (IA) (7:00 min.)

A suburban couple fights in bed while something is lurking in the garden. Charles finally goes out to see. Is there a werewolf, and does Charles come back?

Never Too Late (Dir. Wendy Weinberg) (PA) (7:40min.)

Two hotel maids have lived quietly together in San Francisco for 25 years. When the California Supreme Court grants same-sex couples the right to marry, Stella and Rosie decide it's time to tie the knot. But before they can hire a florist, Prop 8 is passed. Will they have to head east in search of equality? 'Never Too Late' uses images from vintage films and classic TV, but replaces the original soundtrack with contemporary dialog. By juxtaposing archival images with today's politics, the film humorously reveals how far we've come and how much further we still have to go to rectify this inequality.

No One Island (Dirs. Stacy Marr, Vanessa Ruane) (CA) (18:00 min.)

There's no place like home...After the sudden death of their father, a family attempts to come together and heal the wounds of a haunted past that have been left unspoken for years.

Quarter 'til Two (Dir. Tim Connery) (IL) (12:00 min.)

'Quarter 'til Two' is a dramatic love story about Drake who proposes to his girlfriend the night she leaves for a job in London. When she turns him down, it's the wisdom of an ice cream shop owner, and a milkshake, that enables him to change his ways and save the relationship before she's gone for good.

Red Princess Blues (Dir. Alex Ferrari) (CA) (11:00 min.)

In this twisted modern day fairy tale ZOE, a young teenage girl, is lured into an after-hours carnival tent by the sleazy rock n roll carney RIMO, she then gets more then she bargained for. It is up to the mysterious PRINCESS, the star of the new knife show at ROSCOE'S CARNIVAL & FREAK SHOW to pull her out of the wolf's den that she has fallen into.

Sniff (Dir. Ariel Pomerantz) (IA) (5:14 min.)

The story of addiction and what you need to overcome the hold it has on you.

Speak Heaven (Dir. Lauren Auricchio) (NY) (15:00 min.)

Speak Heaven was originally conceived as an Experimental short in the summer of 2007, inspired by Lord Alfred Tennyson's poem of the Arthurian legend, "The Lady of the Shalot." Through a streaming of inner consciousness Grace paints the world of stories that has echoed through human history for centuries, revealing to her brother Gabriel who she feels she truly is and what that will mean to humanity and the fate of the world. We follow her on her quest through the expressions of Greenwich Village's own artist, Rico Fonsceca, to reveal the identity of the Blue Woman in her visions – a coming Goddess said to be the savior of mankind.

Spring Grove (Dir. Matt Mulcahey) (KY) (12:31min.)

A cab driver whose life revolves around caring for his ailing brother struggles to accept that he can no longer handle the responsibility on his own.

The Desperate (Dir. Ben-Hur Sepehr) (CA) (31:00 min.)

On a rainy night near a concentration camp being bombed during the waning years of WWII the son of a top ranking and fearsome Nazi General is mortally wounded. With the camp's doctor having been transferred to the Eastern front, the only doctor who is available to perform the life saving surgery is a condemned, elderly Jewish doctor

who is an inmate at the camp. When, despite the Commandants threats, the doctor refuses to treat the murderer of his people, both men must consider the underlying humanity that connects them both as fathers before there is to be any hope.

The Great Celebration (*Mec Ton*) (Dir. Vahe Kevorkov) (ARMENIA) (34:00 min.)

War is an evil in which there is no real winner. It brings on grief, sorrow, misfortunes, despair and loss of hope ...Children are its most vulnerable victims who are taught to hate and adapt or die. Two little boys on opposite sides - one Armenian and one Azerbaijani - in the ruined and war torn empty village, encounter each other...

The Loop (Dir. Rich Lounello) (NY) (13:45 min.)

Destiny has a way of following you. Rose and Joe are driving home from a trip in which they're celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Car troubles force them to stop. In this detour on the road home, Rose comes to discover she also had a different, but parallel path as a nightclub singer in NYC. In this life, she was on the way to great success. Destiny, on the other hand, had other plans for Rose...or so it would seem.

The Spirit of Isabel (Dir. Robert Joseph Butler) (MI) (21:15 min.)

In a story of survival in an economically collapsed Detroit, a young woman named Isabel struggles to get by. All alone, desperately seeking work, and on the verge of eviction from her apartment, she hits the streets as a part of the world's oldest profession. Ashamed and tormented, she refuses to give up, having faith that hope and redemption are just around the corner. In a world growing smaller, and exponentially more dangerous, can Isabel find the strength to carry on?

Unrepentant (Dir. Jaxon Kempnich) (AUSTRALIA) (14:30 min.)

Recently graduated psychologist Julie must face personal demons when she is left in charge of a pedophile's release from prison. Discovering an unexpected side to herself, Julie turns fear and indecision into opportunity.

Withstand One Night (Dir. Ryan Sage) (CA) (12:40 min.)

Fresh out of a loooong term relationship, Sara wants nothing more than to fulfill a secret life-long fantasy... a ONE NIGHT STAND! A night of pure, unadulterated, clothes-ripping, movie-style SEX! With best friends in tow, what could possibly go wrong?!

IOWA FILM SHOWCASE SERIES Nov. 7-11

Exclusive or rare theatrical screenings of Iowa-connected films!

A MILLION SPOKES (Dir. Varda Hardy) (doc.) (IA/CA)

This critically acclaimed film weaves several compelling story lines together through the week-long 2009 *Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa* (RAGBRAI). "This is a terrific "must see" film –not just for avid cyclists – but also for anyone who wants an inspiring, funny and deeply touching insider's view of one of the top global bicycle touring events!" Shot in July 2009, *A Million Spokes* is a feature-length documentary filmed during the largest and oldest bicycle touring event in the world. An annual bicycle ride, RAGBRAI takes place in Iowa over seven days in July where thousands of bicyclists descend on the State to partake in an adventure that is singular in its ability to attract some of the most unique people you will ever encounter. Some come for the challenge, some come for the speed, some come just to party and

drink through the ride and others derive very specific meanings from the experience as we meet and join them on the ride in ***A Million Spokes***.

ASH (Dir. Tom Geraty) (IA)

Hidden deep within the heart and memory of a devoted family man named Dan McBurney, resides a dark and painful secret. When this man discovers a child-abductor living in a house across the street from his storage facility, a door is opened to his haunted past and hopeful future, and vigilantism walks in. The child abduction takes a piece out of the collective heart and soul of a community. Dan is that “perfect storm” of what can happen when that collective pain finds expression in one man. His world begins to unravel as those closest to him discover his plight; that of a man who is willing to risk losing what he loves most in order to redeem that which has already been lost; childhood, innocence and a brother. Dan remembers the sound of a wooden baseball bat hitting the street after it whacked a tennis ball over the carefree heads of his boyhood friends. The sound is gone, but the bat of hardwood ash he kept all those years might hold the key to both justice and redemption. Shot in Iowa. Features Iowa actors including Writer /Director Tom Geraty, Stephanie Brown (*Molly's Girl, The Pretender, Two and a Half Men, King of Queens, Scrubs, Las Vegas*) plus Chicago actors; Tim Decker, (*Liars Club, Cupid, Turks*) and Kevin R. Kelly (*Charmed, Boston Legal, 7th Heaven, Spin City.*)

CTL+ ALT +DELETE (Dir. Elizabeth Hixenbaugh) (IA/NY)

A lonely grandmother pining for the attention of her grandson turns to a computer for solace and becomes caught up in a different world. Shot in Iowa. Featuring Iowa actors including: Kim Grimaldi, Etta Berkowitz, Kim Duede, Donald Hixenbaugh, Sydney Pierick, Laura Carlson and Harvey Roberts. By Iowa native filmmaker Elizabeth Hixenbaugh and JEK FILMS.

DRIVER'S ED MUTINY (Dir. Brad Hansen) (IA/CA)

Three teenagers make their way from Chicago to Los Angeles, each for their own personal reasons. With no other options, they hijack their Driver's Ed car and embark on a coming-of-age journey down the historic Route 66, with plenty of bumps along the way. Shot partially in Iowa by Iowa native filmmaker, Brad Hansen, and Collateral Damage Productions.

HAUNTING VILLISCA (Dir. James Serpento) (IA)

Award-winning fictionalized feature film inspired by the true story of Iowa's historic, unsolved Villisca axe murders and the actual paranormal activity where the crime took place. Shot on location in the Villisca Axe Murder House and in the Montgomery County Courthouse ... When Professor David Salt's guilty secrets draw him to the fabled town of Villisca, past and present collide as he is driven to help the trapped spirits, and to seek his own redemption by facing the darkness harbored in the small white house. Shot in Iowa; directed by James Serpento and produced by Kimberly Busbee of AriesWorks Entertainment. Features multiple Iowa actors including: James Serpento (*ASH, 16 to Life, The Final Season, White Boyz, Iowa*), Kerry Skram (*Sam Steele and the Junior Detective Agency*), Chelsea Long (*Frieze*), Michael Cornelison (*ASH, 16 to Life, The Final Season, Eliot Ness- An Untouchable Life, Hill Street Blues, Dallas*), and well-known Hollywood character actor, Greg Alan Williams - *Remember the Titans, The Sopranos, Old School, Be Cool.*)

IMPULSE (Dir. Scott Beck and Bryan Woods) (IA/CA)

Deadly events unfold around a man racing to his final and most significant act. Shot in Iowa. Featuring Iowa actors including James Serpento and Kim Grimaldi. By Iowa connected filmmakers, Scott Beck and Bryan Woods; BLUEBOX LIMITED.)

SPLATTER: LOVE, HONOR and PAINTBALL (Dir. Lonnie Schuyler) (IA)

A paintball tournament becomes the unlikely proving ground for a likable small town loser who sets out to win back the love of his ex-wife and the respect of his son. A poignant quirky comedy about relationships - and a man who finally grows up! Shot in Iowa by StoryBench Productions and Lonnie Schuyler. Features Iowa actors including: Justin Marxen (*Molly's Girl* and *Dead Awake*), Clint Curtis (*16 to Life*, *Blade*, *Deep Rising*) and also features Matt Geiler (*Second City*) and Candice Rose (*CSI*, *ER*, *Law and Order*, *Lovely Still*.)

THE EXPERIMENT (Dir. Paul Scheuring) (IA/CA)

26 men are chosen to participate in the roles of guards and prisoners in a psychological study that ultimately spirals out of control. Based on the 2001 German film, *Das Experiment*. Shot in Iowa and features numerous Iowa actors. Starring Adrien Brody (*King Kong*, *The Brothers Bloom*) and Forest Whitaker (*Repo Men*, *The Last King of Scotland*, *Criminal Minds*.)