



RIVER'S EDGE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

F I L M F E S T I V A L P R O G R A M

Welcome to the River's Edge International Film Festival! Here you will find everything you need to plan out your 3-day festival experience!

SCREENING VENUE

MAIDEN ALLEY CINEMA (MAC)
Primary Venue / Festival Box Office
112 Maiden Alley
Paducah, KY 42001
Phone: (270) 442-7723

FESTIVAL EVENTS

SCREENING BLOCK A	Fri. 8/1 7 PM
SCREENING BLOCK B	Sat. 8/2 1 PM
SCREENING BLOCK C	Sat. 8/2 4 PM
SCREENING BLOCK D	Sat. 8/2 7 PM
SCREENING BLOCK E	Sun. 8/3 3 PM
SCREENING BLOCK F	Sun. 8/3 6 PM

Screening Block A

Underground: Freedom Stories
The Road Home
Thousand Year Flood

Screening Block B

Farmacy of Light
Forbidden Pond
Kodak Blues

Screening Block C

Snowbird
The Mortorcycle Man
fools paradise (lost?)

Screening Block D

Exist
The Circle Children
Awesomistic
Neon Shadows
Milwaukee
Cattywampus
Don't Talk About It
Breakroom
Holy Calamity!
The Cat Sitter
Sleep Demon

Screening Block E

Glass Valley
Shuffle

Screening Block F

Unspoken
Flower Keester Cops
Transformation
Camp Widow

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The River's Edge International Film Festival brings independent film to the smart, arts-oriented, mid-American river town of Paducah, Kentucky. Paducah already has a burgeoning visual and performing arts scene, and the film festival—along with its mother organization, Maiden Alley Cinema—is right in the center of this cultural hub.

The River's Edge International Film Festival is a three day event built around the showing of quality independent film from around the world.

ABOUT MAIDEN ALLEY CINEMA

The mission of Maiden Alley Cinema is to use film as a means to provide entertainment, promote visual literacy, create cross-cultural awareness and promote filmmaking as an artform. As a non-profit organization, MAC is dedicated to enhancing culture through film.

Maiden Alley Cinema (or MAC) has become one of the area's leading arts organizations, bringing the art of the film to a much wider audience.



THE FILMS

SCREENING BLOCK A | 8/1 - 7PM

UNDERGROUND: STORIES FROM THE BORDERLANDS

Documentary Feature | USA | 56m

What made border cities unique during the struggle for freedom in the 1800s? What did it mean to truly be an abolitionist?

"Underground" looks at the complicated history of slavery and abolition in Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky (USA), and how this was much more than just a two sided issue.

THE ROAD HOME

Documentary Short | USA | 21m | Student Film

For a young Kentucky farm boy, love at first sight came in the form of a violin. A quarter century later, that passion remains steadfast for San Francisco-based fiddler Brandon Godman, helping him weather storms of injustice and adversity. Now, he's reconnecting with his roots while embracing his musical voice through the creation of a new original album.

THOUSAND YEAR FLOOD

Documentary Short | USA | 44m

Thousand Year Flood is an emotional documentary that chronicles the devastating impact of the 2022 Southeastern Kentucky flood. Through powerful interviews with survivors, rescuers, and local community members, the film offers a raw and emotional account of the destruction, resilience, and recovery efforts in the wake of one of the region's worst natural disasters. The documentary showcases the unwavering strength of the Appalachian spirit, as communities come together to rebuild and persevere. Blending intimate stories with stunning 4K footage, drone shots, and historical archive clips, Thousand Year Flood paints a vivid picture of tragedy, resilience, and hope amidst adversity.



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THE FILMS

SCREENING BLOCK B | 8/2 - 1PM

FARMACY OF LIGHT: A QUANTUM LEAP IN HEALING

Documentary Feature | USA | 1hr26m

With chronic disease and malnutrition skyrocketing, a renegade farmer uncovers the link between human health and the dire need for local, light-filled food. Will society align with the quantum physics of healing before it's too late?

FORBIDDEN POND

Documentary Short | USA | 13m

Deb Kapell pursues her curiosity of life and death at all sizes while making stunning images of microbiology. This short film is episode #1 of the documentary series, Dig Where I Stand, which profiles interesting characters within a 15-minute bike ride of Director Eric Jenkins-Sahlin's apartment.

DE LEON & PRIMMER ARCHITECTURE WORKSHOP A GLASS BREAKFAST INTERVIEW

Documentary Short | USA | 53m

Glass Breakfast is an ongoing, online archive project serving as an alternative space for the appreciation and conversation of art.

de Leon & Primmer Architecture Workshop (DPAW) is a studio focusing on public projects with a cultural, civic, and not-for-profit basis based in Louisville, KY. & Primmer Architecture Workshop.

KODAK BLUES

Narrative Short | USA | 13m

After being left in an empty house by her parents, a Korean-American college girl must find what to do for the rest of her summer break and perhaps, the rest of her life.



THE FILMS

SCREENING BLOCK C | 8/2 - 4PM

SNOWBIRD

Narrative Short | USA | 24m

A self-taught rocket scientist invites a big city journalist out into the desert to cover a launch that will prove, once and for all, that the Earth is flat.

THE MOTORCYCLE MAN

Narrative Short | USA | 10m

A 21st century trip set in the birthplace of the 60's, this slice of Americana stars Tony Award winner John Glover as an easy-riding and sharp-tongued guide to two young travelers looking for Ken Kesey's cabin deep in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Examining ideas of autonomy, cultural literacy, and unexpected connection, the film was shot by National Geographic's Emmy winning director of photography Ben Mullin and directed by Northern California filmmaker Jason Ward.

FOOLS PARADISE (LOST?)

Documentary Feature | USA | 1hr38m

How do we heal ourselves through reconnection to the natural world? How do we heal what is left of the wild – our own inner wild and the outer wild? Immersed in experiences recounted by writers, filmmakers, artists, environmentalists, adventurers, therapists, and political activists, we delve into scientific inquiry around topics such as personal action, sustainable business and life practices, nature therapies and how we need and use nature to regenerate ourselves. Alongside this exploration, we address the reality that we must heal what is left of our planet. Fools' Paradise (lost?) is a love letter to our wild. In a time when climate change and environmental degradation pose dire consequences for both humanity and the planet, we hope that by revealing pathways for healing through our reconnection to the natural world, we will learn to care for it – and if the earth benefits, we will all benefit.



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THE FILMS

SCREENING BLOCK D | 8/2 - 7PM

EXIST

Narrative Short | Iran | 4m

She is a mother and fisherwoman. She sells fish to provide money for her disabled boy.

THE CIRCLE CHILDREN

Narrative Short | USA | 16m

On a summer night in Ohio, a typical family card game turns quickly to an evening of revelation, celebration, and tragedy as Esther has a premonition about her little brother who has been drafted in the Vietnam War.

AWESOMISTIC

Narrative Short | USA | 10m

A father learns to accept his son's autism and stands up for his son's right to be himself in public.

MILWAUKEE

Narrative Short | USA | 6m

A retired Army Ranger, seeking vengeance after a Milwaukee police officer kills his son, interprets the Old Testament to justify his brutal retribution, blurring the line between justice and madness as his faith leads him down a dark and destructive path.

NEON SHADOWS

Narrative Short | USA | 10m

In a remote southern honky-tonk, an up-and-coming country artist attempts to win over his hero only to discover the local country legend has a darker side.



THE FILMS

SCREENING BLOCK D | 8/2 - 7PM

CATTYWAMPUS

Narrative Short | USA | 5m

Darrell just can't seem to get things straightened out...

BREAKROOM

Narrative Short | USA | 15m

A offbeat genre-bending comedy where mundane office tensions often unravel into something far more unsettling.

What if the most awkward person in the room was the most popular? Armie Broker a socially awkward man has worked for the Kingsley Work Agency for a few years. He is trying his best to fit in and be acknowledged. Will he win P.E.U.C award and be a Champion or will he come up short?

DON'T TALK ABOUT IT

Narrative Short | USA | 10m

Lance Hightower is the best at what he does, and he knows it. As the most talented photojournalist in the city, a big promotion comes his way in the form of a challenge. An urban legend has become the talk of the town, and people want the story. With his ego and tenacity, Lance accepts. He chooses to investigate the urban legend despite many warnings to leave it alone. There is no turning back now, and a new choice becomes apparent. Boosting his career, or staying alive.

HOLY CALAMITY!

Narrative Short | USA | 10m

Holy Calamity! Is a short film shedding light on what it means to return to a spiritual being in modern times. The film introduces two characters— a disheveled and obscure gentleman by the name of Mister Davies (who finds himself in a place of distress after being admitted into the care of a psychiatric facility) and the film's antagonist; Doctor Chausser (the chief of medicine of the psychiatric ward of which Mister Davies is being held.



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THE FILMS

SCREENING BLOCK D | 8/2 - 7PM

THE CAT SITTER

Narrative Short | USA | 20m

In search of quick cash, a young professional takes on a cat-sitting job for quirky ladies in Slabtown. Little does she know, these seemingly innocent feline companions harbor a sinister secret.

SLEEP DEMON

Narrative Short | USA | 8m

Sleep Demon is a chilling short horror film inspired by a real event, exploring the terrifying experience of sleep paralysis. The story delves into the unsettling phenomenon many have reported—being frozen in place, unable to move or scream, while a shadowy figure looms over them. As the protagonist struggles to wake from the grip of paralysis, they begin to wonder if the “sleep demon” they see is a mere hallucination or something far more sinister that preys on those most vulnerable in the night.



NOTES

SCREENING BLOCK E | 8/3 - 3PM

GLASS VALLEY

Narrative Feature | USA | 1hr5m

Boyd Tillman is a first-generation college graduate who is returning to his hometown in rural Appalachia to work and save for grad school. On his way home, Boyd's vehicle breaks down, threatening to cripple him financially. Boyd is staying with his mother, Angie, who suggests that he visit his estranged father, Lane, to seek help with the vehicle. Lane agrees to help but uses Boyd's severe financial need as leverage to coerce him into assisting with his drug manufacturing operation. Boyd's involvement with Lane's subordinate, Ty, quickly turns south, and the aftermath of their fallout drastically alters the lives of the three men.

SHUFFLE

Documentary Feature | USA | 1hr21m

Through the lens of his own recovery, a filmmaker offers a character-driven look inside the billion dollar addiction treatment industry where young people are bought and sold for their insurance policies and ushered into a system designed to keep them sick. What begins as an investigation of a street-level scam, explodes to uncover systemic conflicts-of-interest and collusion at the highest levels of government.

THE FILMS

SCREENING BLOCK F | 8/3 - 6PM

UNSPOKEN

Documentary Feature | USA | 52m

A portrait of 26-year-old Matthew - a young man who stutters and wants to realize his childhood dream. He wants to become a Polish champion in acrobatics.

FLOWER KEESTER COPS

Animation | USA | 4m

The Phenakistoscope is an animation toy, a disk of pictures that, when spun, presents an animation. A Flower Keester Cop is just like that, but with flower power.

TRANSFORMATION

Documentary Feature | Turkey | 52m

In the following months after the USA withdrew its troops from Afghanistan, a young Kabul couple, have found their way to the dark and dodgy Afghan neighborhood, Zeytinburnu, in Istanbul. Malika - a transgender woman who together with Mohamed, the love of her life, have fled their families honor killing plan and Taliban's fatal punishments to be able to cultivate their forbidden love for each other, in the hope of achieving a new and better life in Turkey.

CAMP WIDOW

Documentary Short | USA | 15m

Camp Widow is a gathering for widowed people by widowed people. Over the course of three days, attendees speak candidly about death, forge connections with others over shared experiences of loss, and find ways to navigate the tricky waters of grief. Founded by Michele Neff Hernandez, who suddenly became a widow at age 35 when her husband died in a bike accident, the camp offers a way to both recognize tremendous loss, while at the same time celebrating continued life.

