

16TH ANNUAL



OCTOBER
3 - 5
2025

Journey Museum
Rapid City, SD

www.blackhillsfilmfestival.org

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS



Presented in partnership with the Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis

THE JOURNEY MUSEUM

AWARD SPONSORS



BRONZE FEDORA

- Best Short Documentary
- Best Feature Documentary - Mike & Lesta Turchen
- Best Short Film - Dave & Bonnie Guerre
- Best Feature Film



RISING STAR

- Student Film – Deadwood Historic Preservation
- People’s Choice - Custer Area Arts Council

FILM SPONSORS

Molli & Russell Cameron

SPECIAL THANKS to Jeri Ann Payne (Hearts2Nature) for the photo of Bear Butte used in the cover composite design, Miguel Apaza for the beautiful program design, and Kadem Fisher (Sky’s the Limit) for the Sunflower video footage used in our promotional videos.

TICKET & PASS SALES

All passes & tickets are sold through the Journey Museum either on site or at this link: <https://www.journeymuseum.org/upcoming-events/black-hills-film-festival-2025>

PASSES — \$100 (+tax & fees) TICKETS — \$20 (+tax & fees)
 STUDENT* - \$80 (+tax & fees) STUDENT* - \$15 (+tax & fees)
 Includes access to all 6 film sessions** Includes access to a single film session**

* Student is defined as under 19 or with College ID
 ** You must make reservations to the session(s) you will be attending

The 2025 Festival begins October 3rd at 7PM hosted exclusively by the Journey Museum with a special screening of **Green and Gold**. This feature film stars Rapid City actress, **Madison Lawlor**. Saturday Oct. 4, from 10AM to 12PM are **FREE discussion panels** moderated by **KOTA News anchor Alicia Garcia**. Then music by the Walfish Music School Youth Violin Group at 12:30PM introduces the Saturday films including a full session of South Dakota films. Sunday’s full day of Native American films are introduced at 12:30PM, with music by Native American Flute player, Darren Thompson. For up-to-date details of special guests attending, parties, panels and to see film trailers please visit:

[HTTPS://WWW.BLACKHILLSFILMFESTIVAL.ORG/FESTIVAL-INFORMATION](https://www.blackhillsfilmfestival.org/festival-information)
 THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING & SUPPORTING THE 2025 BLACK HILLS FILM FESTIVAL!

Board Members: Randal Iverson, President • Rick VanNess, Vice President • Egija Hartmane-Salem, Secretary • Ryan Hall • Molli Cameron • Brian Ellis **Executive Director:** Chris VanNess

HOST VENUE



JOURNEY MUSEUM
 222 New York Street, Rapid City SD 57701
 144-seat Theater with high-definition projection system & premium sound.
Purchase tickets here for all films

HOST HOTEL



DOUBLETREE BY HILTON RAPID CITY DOWNTOWN CONVENTION CENTER
 505 N. 5th Street, Rapid City SD 57701

RAPID CITY



SEE WEBSITE FOR ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION

www.blackhillsfilmfestival.org Phone: 605-574-9454.
 Stay in touch, follow us on: facebook.com/BlackHillsFilmFestival,
 instagram.com/blackhillsfilmfest, <https://www.youtube.com/@blackhillsfilmfest>



The Black Hills Film Festival strives to present rarely seen, non-mainstream stories about the people and cultures of this state and provide opportunities for South Dakota Filmmakers to showcase their art. South Dakota is a great place to make movies!

FEATURING THESE FILMS WITH SD CONNECTIONS.

FIRE RACE A KARUK TALE

Brandon, SD, US, Short Narrative, Animation 7 min.
Director Daniel Welynn is the Associate Professor of Animation at Dakota State University.

GALENA: THE GHOST TOWN THAT REFUSED TO DIE

SDSU, SD, US, Student Film - 25 min. Director Finn Kane received his Masters in Communication & Media Studies program at SD State Univ. The film was his project.

GREEN AND GOLD

WI, US, Special Selection 1 hr. 45 min.
Director: Anders Lindwall, Producer: Davin Lindwall, Starring Madison Lawlor, an actress from Rapid City as Buck's granddaughter Jenny.

HAIL TO THE BREADSTICKS!

Canada & US, Feature Documentary 1 hr. 30 min. Writer/Director: Donick Cary. This doc is full of interviews with people from SD.

HEALING OF THE DRAGONFLY

Rapid City & Pine Ridge, SD, US, Short Doc, 13 min.
Director: Nina Barbier (Paris, France) Subject is Joe Pulliam, an Oglala Lakota artist from Pine Ridge, SD. Shot locally in the area.

OLD DOGS

Sioux Falls, SD, US, Short Narrative 5 min.
Director Mason Horacek was born in Yankton, graduated USD in Media & Journalism. Everything was filmed in Sioux Falls, SD.

ONE MOMENT

Durango, CO, US, Short Narrative 11 min.
Director Aiden Hurley was born in Sioux Falls. His mother is from Yankton & father is from Sioux Falls. His short film "The Station" was in the festival last year.

VERTICAL FREEDOM

Sioux Falls, SD, US, Feature Documentary 1 hr. 23 min.
Director Doug Lee is an award-winning cinematographer from Sioux Falls, SD with over 30 years in the industry.

WAKANYEJA KIN WANA KU PI - THE CHILDREN ARE COMING HOME

SD, US, Short Doc. 11 min. Director: Andy Wakeman. About one of the Lakota's sacred places Mato Paha, now part of Bear Butte State Park, & the Cheyenne River Youth Project.

BLOOD FROM WHITESTONE

Sunday, Oct. 5, Theater – 3:45 PM session
North Dakota, US, Feature Doc, 58 min.

Director: Zeke Hanson

On September 3rd, 1863 the Massacre of Whitestone Hill occurred on a small hill outside of what is now Kulm, North Dakota. For over 150 years the engagement has been labeled a battlefield. By the time the soldiers left, the number dead soared into the hundreds; mostly women and children. This massacre of Native Americans outnumbered that of Wounded Knee.



CORN POLLEN ROAD - RUNNING THROUGH ANTELOPE CANYON

Sunday, Oct. 5, Theater – 3:45 PM session
Northern Arizona, US, Short Doc 31 min.

Director: Kellina Templeton

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Running transcends borders, uniting people across cultures, ages, and backgrounds. Follow Harold Bennally, race director and founder of Moccasin Running, as he leads runners through the stunning Antelope Canyon X in an annual event that celebrates the sport of running while honoring the Navajo people's deep cultural and spiritual connection to this sacred land. Through this unique race, the film explores themes of community, heritage, and the unifying power of movement.



FAR WEST

Saturday, Oct. 4, Theater – 1:00 PM session
Claremont, CA, US, Student Film Project 10 min.

Director: Lucas Cunningham

LANGUAGE, VIOLENCE, GUNS

Two at-odds brothers are forced to reconcile when their father's death brings a shady character to their doorstep. It's about the legacy of the American West -- masculinity, brotherhood, violence -- and how we move forward.



FIRE RACE A KARUK TALE

Sunday, Oct. 5, Theater – 1:00 PM session
Brandon, SD, US, Short Narrative, Animation 7 min.

Director: Daniel Welynn

FAMILY FRIENDLY

As winter's bitter cold threatens to freeze the animal people, they find themselves shivering without warmth, as the Yellow Jacket Sisters hoard the only fire in the world, unwilling to share it. Coyote, ever the trickster, hatches a plan to steal the fire and bring it to the animals so they can survive the harsh season.



BLACK HILLS FILM FESTIVAL

Welcome to Rapid City, Gateway to the Black Hills, SD



**FRIDAY OCT 3
RAPID CITY**

All Sessions at The Journey Museum, 222 New York St.



FILMMAKERS ONLY RECEPTION
Pioneer Room, Journey Museum
Friday 5:00 - 6:30PM

Meet other filmmakers & network with those in the film industry

Film Session A 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Old Dogs 5m
Trail Mix 50m
Green and Gold 1hr 45m **Special Selection**
Discussion - Madison Lawlor

FESTIVAL NOTICES

* NO PHOTOGRAPHS or RECORDINGS of the films are permitted in any theater.

* Please silence your watch alarms, pagers, and cell phones.

* Please be respectful of others who are enjoying the films.

* Please deposit trash in waste receptacles.

* No smoking or vaping in any Festival venue.

* NOTICE: you may be captured on video or in still photography at any Festival venue or party for archival & advertising purposes.

16TH ANNUAL OCTOBER 3 - 5

**SATURDAY OCT 4
RAPID CITY**

FREE PANEL DISCUSSIONS
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Hosted by **Alicia Garcia**

ENTERTAINMENT 12:30 - 1:00 PM
Walfish Music School Youth Violin

Film Session B 1:00 - 3:30 PM

Far West 10m

Shepard Moon 11m

★ Hearts of Stone 30m

Robert Shields, My Life as a Robot 1hr 27m

Film Session C 3:45 - 6:00 PM

South Dakota Films

One Moment 11m

★ Galena: The Ghost Town that Refused to Die 25m

Vertical Freedom 1hr 23m

Discussion - **Doug Lee**
"Filming at altitude"

Film Session D 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Hike 21m

Wonders of the Wolf 30m

Discussion - **Anqie Ruiz**
★ The Paper Bag Plan 1hr 47m
Discussion - **Anthony Lucero**

**SUNDAY OCT 5
RAPID CITY**



ENTERTAINMENT 12:30 - 1:00 PM
Native American Flute Music by **Darren Thompson**

Film Session E 1:00 - 3:30 PM

Native American Films

Fire Race A Karuk Tale 7m

Something New (Oshki-aya'aa) 21m

★ Hail to the Breadsticks! 1hr 30m

Film Session F 3:45 - 6:00 PM

Native American Films

Blood from White Stone 58m

★ Wakanyeya Kin Wana Ku Pi (The Children are Coming Home) 11m

Healing of the Dragonfly 13m

Corn Pollen Road - Running Through Antelope Canyon 31m

Audience Choice Award Presentation 6:00 PM

★ **BEST FILM Award winners**



GALENA: THE GHOST TOWN THAT REFUSED TO DIE**BEST STUDENT FILM**

Saturday, Oct. 4, Theater – 3:45 PM session
SDSU, SD, US, Student Film - (Short Doc) 25 min.

Director: Finn Kane

Galena is a small, unincorporated community in the Black Hills of South Dakota. This is the story of the town through the perspectives of those who live there, as well as those who have dedicated themselves to preserving the town's history and their own familial stories. This is a little-known but unique story of South Dakota, and one that demonstrates the importance of historical preservation through community building.

**GREEN AND GOLD**

Friday, Oct. 3, Theatre – 7:00 PM session
WI, US, Special Selection 1 hr. 45 min.

Director: Anders Lindwall, Producer: Davin Lindwall

Foreclosure looms over Wisconsin dairy farmer Buck (Craig T. Nelson). With mounting debt and the land his family has cultivated for four generations at risk, Buck refuses to give up his legacy without a fight. Buck's granddaughter Jenny (Madison Lawlor) works alongside him but dreams of a career in music. Her aspirations are fanned by an emerging friendship with a famous musician (Brandon Sklenar), but chasing her dreams might take her far from the farm. With time running out, Buck places a daring bet on his beloved Green Bay Packers winning the Championship.

**HAIL TO THE BREADSTICKS!****BEST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY**

Sunday, Oct. 5, Theater – 1:00 PM session
Canada & US, Feature Documentary 1 hr. 30 min.

Writer/Director: Donick Cary

LANGUAGE

Donick Cary (The Simpsons, Parks and Recreation, Have a Good Trip, etc.) has been a huge fan of the Washington D.C. pro football team since before he could walk. Passed down from his dad, he was excited to pass the tradition onto his kids. Donick never questioned the team name or logo until one day, while watching a game, his 9-year-old son, Otis, asked him if it was racist. When Otis suggests they ask Native Americans how they feel, it sends the two on a cross-country journey full of unexpected surprises.

**HEALING OF THE DRAGONFLY**

Sunday, Oct. 5, Theater – 3:45 PM session
Rapid City & Pine Ridge, SD, US, Short Doc, 13 min.
Director: Nina Barbier (Paris, France)

The film takes place in Rapid City and on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota, and introduces Joe Pulliam, an Oglala Lakota artist from Pine Ridge. A father of 4, Joe opened an art gallery exclusively for his work in Rapid



City, painting on ledgers inspired by his culture and traditional life. He draws & paints his artwork on old maps, mining company bonds, bank bonds from the 19th century to count coup against white capitalism and the appropriation of traditional sacred Lakota lands, the Black Hills.

HEARTS OF STONE**BEST SHORT FILM**

Saturday, Oct. 4, Theater – 1:00 PM session
Antwerpen, Begium, Short Narrative, 30 min.

Director: Tom van Avermaet

In a sculpture park in the heart of a bustling metropolis, Paula, a lonely street artist, entertains people as a living statue. She longs with an impossible love for Agatha, a stone sculpture next to her regular spot. When a festival for living statues arrives in the park, Paula is dismayed to find that Agatha has been replaced by a new, modern sculpture.

**HIKE**

Saturday, Oct. 4, Theater – 7:00 PM session
France, Short Narrative 21 min.

Director: Mathieu Gari

A woman in her thirties does everything she can to avoid being alone on her birthday, even trying to intrude upon a coworker and then a couple of hikers. By the end of the day, finding herself lost on a high alpine plateau, she ultimately befriends a chamois enthusiast.

**OLD DOGS**

Friday, Oct. 3, Theatre – 7:00 PM session
Sioux Falls, SD, US, Short Narrative 5 min.

Director: Mason Horacek

A solitary old man's routine is disrupted when an unexpected visitor is dropped off at his home. At first, the change is unwelcome, but over time, it leads him on a journey to better his mental and physical health.

**ONE MOMENT**

Saturday, Oct. 4, Theater – 3:45 PM session
Durango, CO, US, Short Narrative 11 min.

Director: Aiden Hurley

FAMILY FRIENDLY

A young barista in a small mountain town learns what it means to take hold of a moment from a strange woman who sits daily on a bench across the way and reflects on her past.



ROBERT SHIELDS: MY LIFE AS A ROBOT

Saturday, Oct. 4, Theater – 1:00 PM session
Hermosa Beach, CA, US, Feature Documentary 1 hr. 27 min.

Director: Mark Bonn

An icon of the 70's, Robert began his career doing his robot in front of the Hollywood Wax Museum and a few short years later he had his own top rated Prime Time CBS Variety show with his beautiful wife Lorene called: "The Shields & Yarnell Show". And along the way, unbeknownst to him, he created ripples that define an art form to this day.

**SHEPHERD MOON**

Saturday, Oct. 4, Theater – 1:00 PM session
Glendale, California, US, Short Narrative 11 min.

Director: Michaela Wadzinski

LANGUAGE

The power struggle between an alien and her human test subject gets complicated when they both see their relationship differently.

**SOMETHING NEW (OSHKI-AYA'AA)**

Sunday, Oct. 5, Theater – 1:00 PM session
York, Ontario, Canada, Short Narrative 19 min.

Director: Jordan Wanakamik

When Daniel gets caught stealing food, the store manager calls his uncle Bernie to come get him. Bernie brings Daniel over for a home-cooked meal, where Daniel learns that his uncle danced traditionally. Inspired, Daniel learns how to grass dance and in the process discovers his family's history.

**THE PAPER BAG PLAN****BEST FEATURE FILM**

Saturday, Oct. 4, Theater – 7:00 PM session
CA, US, Feature Narrative 1 hr. 47 min.

Director: Anthony Lucero

A father embarks on a plan to train his physically disabled son to bag groceries in the hopes of him landing a job and a path to independence. This is a very personal film, inspired by real people.

**TRAIL MIX**

Friday, Oct. 3, Theatre – 7:00 PM session
Franklin, TN, US, Feature Documentary 50 min.

Director: Glenn Robert Sweitzer

Trail Mix follows a 2,000-mile journey from Georgia to Maine, uncovering the personal struggles and healing of hikers seeking solace, purpose, and transformation. The film reveals how nature becomes a powerful path back to wholeness.

**VERTICAL FREEDOM**

Saturday, Oct. 4, Theater – 3:45 PM session
Sioux Falls, SD, US, Feature Documentary 1 hr. 23 min.

Director: Doug Lee

Documentary that follows the lives of 6 tower climbers. They live their lives to the fullest every day. Their climb never stops, in life and on the job.

**WAKANYEJA KIN WANA KU PI - THE CHILDREN ARE COMING HOME****BEST SHORT DOC**

Sunday, Oct. 5, Theater – 3:45 PM session
SD, US, Short Documentary 11 min.

Director: Andy Wakeman

FAMILY FRIENDLY

One of the Lakota Nation's most sacred places is Mato Paha, now part of Bear Butte State Park. The people's access to Bear Butte was severed in the late 19th century, when the U.S. government seized the Black Hills and broke up the Great Sioux Reservation. In 2024, the nonprofit Cheyenne River Youth Project took a major step toward restoring that access when it purchased a nearly 40-acre tract of land adjacent to Bear Butte, which it calls Wakanyeja Kin Wana Ku Pi (The Children Are Coming Home).

**WONDERS OF THE WOLF**

Saturday, Oct. 4, Theater – 7:00 PM session
Santa Barbara, CA, US, Short Documentary 30 min.

Director: Angie Ruiz

FAMILY FRIENDLY

The film explores one of the most successful conservation efforts in modern history, the Yellowstone Wolf Project. From their historic recovery in 1995 to today's thriving wolf packs, biologists share inspiring stories about the wolves they study in the park. Using bioacoustic technology, researchers are uncovering how wolves communicate, applying their findings to resolve livestock-wildlife conflicts and protect these majestic creatures.



A LOOK BACK AT THE 2019 FESTIVAL
"BEYOND OZ" FANTASY TOTAL LOOK
TEAM COMPETITION

Hair & Makeup Artists create **"Beyond Oz"** Fantasy Characters, Celebrating the **80th Anniversary of The Wizard of Oz**, Co-Sponsored by the South Dakota Cosmetology Association



Invited Guests



Madison
Lawlor



Alicia
Garcia



Doug Lee



Anthony
Lucero



Angie Ruiz



Darren Thompson

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