FIFTEENTH ANNUAL Coastline Children's Film Festival — &-YOUNG FILMMAKERS COMPETITION

Features
Shorts
Documentaries
Silent Films

March 14-23, 2025 FREE ADMISSION (Donations Welcome)





WELCOME TO THE 15TH ANNUAL COASTLINE CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

Fifteen years ago we were inspired by the **8** ½ **FOUNDATION** (eightandahalf.org). Founded by Tilda Swinton and Mark Cousins, its mission is to make great films available to young people everywhere:

"And we have noticed over the many hundred cinema journeys we have taken that our most memorable may be made many decades ago, may be made without color, may be with subtitles or not a single spoken word."

That idea became our mandate; our manifesto. For 10 days, we invite you to enjoy a selection of full-length features, documentaries, short films and classic silent films for **FREE**.

On **MARCH 14TH**, the Krasl Art Center kicks off our event with an **OPENING NIGHT COSTUME PARTY**. Come as your favorite animated character and you could win a prize for most creative costume! Festivities begin at 6:00 PM with popcorn and a music performance featuring the First Grade Choir from South Elementary School (Watervliet) led by **BRANDON MATTSON. LITTLE KID FLICKS**, a selection of animated and live action shorts from the New York International Children's Film Festival (NYICFF), begins at 7:00 PM.

The **YOUNG FILMMAKERS COMPETITION** will premiere at New Buffalo Township Library on **MARCH 15TH**. This year's competition features 23 short films by young visionaries from all over the United States. Awards will be presented Red Carpet-style on **MARCH 21sT** at The GhostLight Theatre.

Other events include a **NIGHT HIKE & OWL PROWL** at Sarett Nature Center (Benton Harbor), a **COSTUME DESIGN WORKSHOP** on the creation and effects of good costume designs led by costumer, **CANDACE MYERS** (Sawyer), and a screening of **THE MOST DANGEROUS YEAR** followed by a discussion led by **MARY JO SCHNELL** and others from the **OUTCENTER SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN** (Sawyer). Additionally, we are excited to announce a special screening of **CELEBRATING BLACK STORIES** (Benton Harbor). To close out our amazing festival, southwest Michigan's own **DR. LARRY SCHANKER** provides improvisational piano accompaniment for a silent film at The Acorn (Three Oaks) on **SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD**.

SCREENING VENUES

MICHIGAN

THE ACORN THEATER

1 107 Generations Drive | Three Oaks, MI 49128 | 269.756.3879 acornlive.org

BENTON HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

2 213 E Wall Street | Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | 269.926.6139 bentonharborlibrary.com

COASTLINE CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL STOREFRONT

3 5861 Sawyer Road | Sawyer MI 49125 | 269.757.1491 coastlinechildrensfilmfestival.com

THE GHOSTLIGHT THEATRE

- 4 101 Hinkley Street | Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | 269.252.5222 ghostlightbh.com
 - KRASL ART CENTER

707 Lake Boulevard | St. Joseph, MI 49085 | 269.983.0271 | krasl.org

NEW BUFFALO TWP LIBRARY

6 33 N Thompson Street | New Buffalo, MI 49117 | 269.469.2933 newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org

SARETT NATURE CENTER

7 23000 Benton Center Road | Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | 269.927.4832 sarett.org

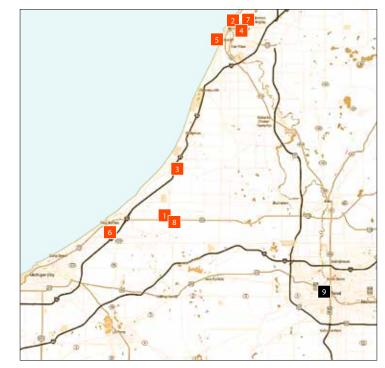
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY

8 3 N Elm St., Three Oaks, MI 49128 | (269) 756-5621 threeoaks.michlibrary.org

INDIANA

9

ST. JOE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY | MAIN LIBRARY (STORY HOUSE) 304 S Main St, South Bend, IN 46601 | 574.282.4646 | sjcpl.org



The numbers on this map illustrate the general location and the approximate distance between the 9 screening venues. For detailed maps and directions to each, please visit the website below or scan this code.



COASTLINECHILDRENSFILMFESTIVAL.COM

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Opening Night Costume Party (all ages)

Music by students from first grade choir from South Elementary School in Watervliet led by Brandon Mattson. Dress as your favorite animated character. Prizes awarded for best costumes.

The KRASL Art Center

- 6:00 pm | Brandon Mattson & his first grade choir
- 7:00 pm | NYICFF Little Kids Flicks

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Film Screenings

The KRASL Art Center

• 11:00 am | NYICFF Big Kids Flicks

New Buffalo Public Library

- 1:00 pm | YFC Films Screening
- 2:30 pm | Wild Robot



SUNDAY, MARCH 16

Feature Film Screenings

Coastline Children's Film Festival Storefront

• 2:00 pm | Max and the Senior Squad

• 4:00 pm | The Quiet Girl

MONDAY, MARCH 17

Open house (all ages)

Visit the Coastline Children's Film Festival's head office in Sawyer! Meet the hard working staff who bring this amazing event to life every year and take a look through our extensive collection of feature films - including films that have been shown at our previous festivals!

Coastline Children's Film Festival Storefront

• 12:00-4:00 pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

Film Screening

Benton Harbor Public Library

• 6:00 pm | A Greyhound Over Girl

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

Film Screenings

Benton Harbor Public Library

• 12:00 pm | Dusty & Stones

Coastline Children's Film Festival Storefront

- 6:00 pm | YFC Films Screening
- 7:30 pm | Journey to Yourland

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Documentary and discussion (ages 12+)

Watch the powerful documentary, *The Most Dangerous Year*, and then join the executive director of the OUTCENTER, Mary Jo Schnell, in a discussion of the film's themes.

Coastline Children's Film Festival Storefront

• 6:00 pm | The Most Dangerous Year

Film Screenings

- St. Joe County Public Library
 - 6:00 pm | Little Kid Flicks

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Young Filmmakers Competition Awards (all ages)

Screening of films and awards presentation followed by a showing of the silent film *The Cameraman* (Dr. Larry Schanker, piano)

The GHOSTLIGHT Theatre

- 6:00 pm | YFC films
- 7:15 pm | Awards

Film Screenings

The GHOSTLIGHT Theatre

• 7:30 pm | The Cameraman

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Night Hike & Owl Prowl (all ages)

Join us at Sarett Nature Center for a screening of *Over the Hedge*. Afterward, Sarett naturalists will take you on a night hike to call for owls! Please bring a flashlight or headlamp for the hike (if you have one). It's sure to be a hoot!

Sarett Nature Center

- 7:00 pm | Over the Hedge
- 8:45 pm | Owl Night Hike & Owl Prowl

Benton Harbor Public Library

• 1:00 pm | Celebrating Black Stories

Three Oaks Public Library

• 11:00 am | Harold and the Purple Crayon

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Costume Design Workshop (all ages)

Ever wonder how costuming works? Whether its for the stage or a movie set, 40 year costumer, Candace Myers, will lead a discussion and workshop on the intricacies of this fascinating artform.

Coastline Children's Film Festival Storefront

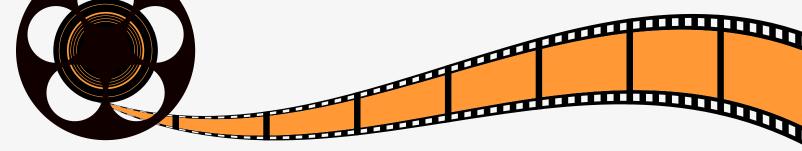
• 1:00 pm | Free Workshop

Silent Film Finale (all ages)

Experience silent films as they were originally intended - with live music! Dr. Larry Schanker performs the piano live alongside the classic film, the daughter of dawn.

The Acorn Theater

• 4:00 pm | The Daughter of Dawn



A GREYHOUND OF A GIRL LUXEMBOURG, ITALY, IRELAND, UNITED KINGDOM, LATVIA, ESTONIA, GERMANY

2023 | 88 Minutes | 10+



Mary is 11 years old and has an insuppressible passion for cooking: she dreams of becoming a great chef. Her grandmother Emer, with whom she has a very special relationship, encourages her to make this dream come true. But every path has its pesky obstacles, and facing them turns into quite an adventure. Mary thus begins a journey across the barriers of time, in which four generations of women come together and get to know each other truly and deeply. A delicate coming-of-age story, sprinkled with irony. Based on the novel by Roddy Doyle.

HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON USA

2024 | 92 Minutes | 8+



Watch as Harold discovers life outside his story (where he can create anything with his titular crayon). Harold decides to draw a portal to the outside world, which transports him and sidekick, Moose, to the real, live-action world. With his trusty crayon in tow, Harold and Moose quickly try to adjust to humanity—but understandably wreak havoc. After helping Terry, widowed mom of Mel, Harold and Moose end up staying with the mother and son. But when Harold and Moose meet Terry's ex, librarian/aspiring writer Gary. Gary discovers the truth and manipulates the guileless Harold, with dangerous consequences. Based on the 1955 children's book of the same name.



BENTON HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY BENTON HARBOR, MI



JOURNEY TO YOURLAND SLOVAKIA & CZECH REPUBLIC

2022 | 86 Minutes | 8+ | English



Riki, a 10-year-old boy, runs away from home, following a mysterious emergency signal sent by a shiny stone. The strange artifact seems to have a mind of its own and it takes Riki to the breathtaking parallel world of "Yourland." There, wonderful machines roam golden deserts, monkeys and ravens talk and science peacefully coexists with nature. The shining stone merges with Riki by hiding in his heart and asking him for protection. Who should Riki share his secret with? His new friend, Emma? Metal Man, the mighty robot? Tidling, a monkey general? Or nobody? Who can he trust? We accompany Riki on his enchanting adventurous journey full of perils, traps and humor, to restore the stone, also called the Heart of a Tower, to its nest. It's the only way for Riki to make it back home and save his own heart.

MAX AND THE SENIOR SQUAD GERMANY

2024 | 90 Minute | 7+ | German with subtitles



While having to live at the Geroldseck Castle retirement home because of his mother's work, 10-year-old Max has finally found genuine, yet anything but ordinary friends: The adventurous seniors Vera, Horst and Kilian from table 7 are always there for him. But things don't really work out with his peers. He is bullied in his new class and, to make matters worse, PE teacher Ströhle excludes him from playing on the soccer team. Horst wants to help and challenges Ströhle to a duel: Max and the oldies against the school team. How is that supposed to go over well for Max? On top of that, the old castle starts to be haunted by a ghost. Will Max and the wild bunch manage to win the soccer match and solve the case of the mysterious ghostly granny?



CCFF STOREFRONT SAWYER, MI



OVER THE HEDGE USA

2006 | 96 Minutes | 5+



After a dysfunctional family of animals emerges from hibernation to find all of their habitat built over by a housing estate, they are forced to find food elsewhere. The issues of urban over development causing a lack of resources and habitual change for animals is therefore highlighted as a growing problem.

Night Owl Prowl to follow.

THE QUIET GIRL IRELAND

2022 | 95 Minute | 12+ | Irish with subtitles



The Quiet Girl (An Cailis) a 2022 Irish coming of age drama written and directed by Colm Bairéad in his feature film debut. Set in 1981, the film follows a withdrawn nine-year-old girl raised by neglectful parents among many other siblings, who experiences a loving home for the first time when she spends the summer on a farm in County Waterford, alone with a married couple who are distant relatives. It is mostly in the Irish language. The film premiered on at the Berlin Film Festival. It received critical acclaim for its emotional weight, story, and performances. It was later selected for Best International Feature Film at the 95th Academy Awards, and became the first Irish film in history to achieve the nomination. Based on the 2010 short story *Foster* by Claire Keagan.



SARETT NATURE CENTER BENTON HARBOR, MI



CCFF STOREFRONT SAWYER, MI

THE WILD ROBOT USA

2024 | 101 | Minute 8+| English



After a shipwreck, an intelligent robot called Roz is stranded on an uninhabited island. To survive the harsh environment, Roz bonds with the island's animals and cares for an orphaned baby goose.

She learns to communicate with the animals on the island who initially consider her a monster—and adopts a she names Brightbill after accidentally destroying his mother's nest. With the help of a scrappy fox, Fink, Roz makes caring for baby gosling, Brightbill, (feeding him, teaching him to swim, and preparing him to make his first migration) her primary purpose. But being a mother is much more difficult than anything Roz's programming has prepared her for. Based on *The Wild Robot* series written by Peter Brown.



NEW BUFFALO PUBLIC LIBRARY NEW BUFFALO , MI For fifteen years, CCFF has brought incredible films from around the world to Harbor Country. Though the spring festival has passed we hope to see you soon!

GET READY TO ENJOY A SUMMER FILLED WITH MOVIES

Join us on the big lawn this summer at Harbert Community Park, Three Oaks Township Public Library, and Benton Harbor Public Library.

In October, Coastline Children's Film Festival (CCFF) takes to St. Joseph, Sawyer, and Bridgman for its iconic **Flick-or-Treat** Halloween-themed events and films.

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FILMS

FEATURE

DUSTY & STONES USA

2023 | 84 Minutes | 10+



This award-winning film is a continent-crossing journey story told through country music. The documentary chronicles the remarkable ride of cousins Gazi "Dusty" Simelane and Linda "Stones" Msibi, a determined duo of struggling country singers from the tiny African Kingdom of Swaziland who long for their big break. When they are unexpectedly invited to record their songs in Nashville and Texas, Dusty and Stones embark on their first pilgrimage through the heart of the American South, the cousins bring their music to life, explore the storied locales of their favorite country songs, and excitedly engage with the culture they've long felt part of, proving any demographic can lay claim to country music – or any other art form. A triumph of musical storytelling.

THE MOST DANGEROUS YEAR USA

2018 | 90 Minutes | 12+



The Human Rights Campaign published a report identifying 2016 as the most dangerous year for transgender Americans. Documentary filmmaker Vlada Knowlton captured the ensuing civil rights battle from the perspective of a small group of embattled parents as they banded together to fight proposed laws that would strip away the rights of their young, transgender children. As one of the parents, Knowlton presents an intimate portrait of her own struggle to protect her 5-year-old transgender daughter from hate and fear. From tension-filled Senate hearings to intimate household settings; from thought-provoking conversations with lawmakers to clarifying facts explained by leading scientists, *The Most Dangerous Year* explores the transgender civil rights battle in all its complexity.





THE CAMERAMAN USA

1928 | 69 Minutes | 6+



Buster Keaton is at the peak of his slapstick powers in The Cameraman. This clever farce is the culmination of an extraordinary, decade-long run that produced some of the most innovative and enduring comedies of all time. Keaton plays a hapless newsreel cameraman desperate to impress both his new employer and his winsome office crush as he zigzags up and down Manhattan hustling for a scoop. Along the way, he goes for a swim (and winds up soaked), becomes embroiled in a Chinatown Tong War, and teams up with a memorable monkey sidekick (the famous Josephine). The marvelously inventive film-within-a-film setup allows Keaton's imagination to run wild, yielding both sly insights into the travails of moviemaking and an emotional payoff of disarming poignancy.

THE DAUGHTER OF DAWN USA

1920 | 83 Minutes | 6+



The Daughter of Dawn was shot in 1920 in the Wichita Mountains of southwest Oklahoma with a cast entirely made up of members of the Comanche and Kiowa tribes. It screened publicly only twice before disappearing without a trace for nearly a century. Rediscovered and restored, this large-scale vision of native life is a revelation. The story includes a romantic rivalry, buffalo hunts, a battle, village scenes, dances, deceit, courage, hand-to-hand combat, and even a happy ending. The Indigenous actors, who in 1920 had been living on reservations for less than sixty years, brought with them their own tipis, horses, clothing, and material culture. Subtly acted, beautifully photographed, and directed without melodrama by Norbert A. Myles, this nearly lost landmark stands with the best films of the period.



THE GHOSTLIGHT THEATRE BENTON HARBOR, MI



New York International Children's Film Festival was founded in 1997 to support the creation and dissemination of thoughtful, provocative and intelligent film for children and teens ages 3-18. We have brought their national tour of three award-winning short film programs to our festival— Little Kid Flicks, Big Kids Flicks & Celebrating Black Stories

LITTLE KIDS FLICKS GLOBAL

2024 | 67 MINUTES | AGES 5+



Let your little ones discover the magic of the big screen with Little Kid Flicks. Whether diving down into the ocean for a pufferfish standoff or skating to victory across the ice, these shorts are sure to enchant and delight all audiences (but especially our youngest!)

BIG KIDS FLICKS GLOBAL

2024 | 62 MINUTES | AGES 8+



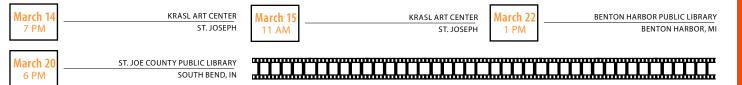
Big Kid Flicks is full of challenges big and small. With obstacles like learning how to ride a bike and convincing your family you want to be a vampire queen, this program is full of vibrancy and adventure.

CELEBRATING BLACK STORIES GLOBAL

2024 | 54 MINUTES | AGES 8+



Celebrating Black Stories spotlights Black narratives that transcend national boundaries, culture, and language with films in English, French, Zulu, and even ASL! These films share the joy, determination, resilience, and complexity of being young and Black while underscoring the vibrancy of Black storytelling.



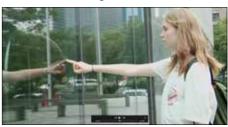
SHORT FILMS

Coastline Children's Film Festival presents 23 short films from 9 states. Awards include *First, Second, Third, Honorable Mention, Audience Favorite and Michigan's Best.* **Attend a YFC screening on March 15 and 19 to vote.**

Visit coastlinechildrensfilmfestival.com/yfc for more information.

March 15	NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP LIBRARY
1PM	NEW BUFFALO, MI
March 19	CCFF STOREFRONT
6PM	SAWYER, MI
March 21	THE GHOSTLIGHT THEATRE
6PM	BENTON HARBOR, MI

THE ALIEN Eva Weitzman-Stange



A documentarian is surprised by the true nature of an enigmatic visitor to New York City.

ALWAYS THE POET, NEVER THE POEM Gitu Abate Mengesha



Always the Poet, Never the Poem, follows Palma Throne's journey from the beautiful beginnings to the heartwrenching end of her first love.

AS OUR TIDES TURN

Abigail Sarah Giroux



Following the loss of her father, a young girl finds herself revisiting her father's and her favorite spot by Lake Michigan, where they created countless memories together.

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO WAKING UP

Penelope Hinchey



A teenage girl, in bed, is struggling to wake up. Multiple alarms go off, but she is only able to climb out of bed after her friend, Sophia, calls her asking to hang out.

CAMINOS DIVERGENTES

Analy Rangel-Chavez



An older sister takes care of her little brother in the absence of their parents. What does this mean for their relationship?

YOUNG FILMMAKERS COMPETITION

CAKE FOR BREAKFAST

Owen McCourt



In Cake For Breakfast, we focus on the human reaction to a nuclear attack. How would you handle it? How would you break the news to someone? What if that someone was your own child?

FOSSILS Saneev Chandran



In Fossils, a boy has a dream about what the future of Earth might look like to an astronaut visiting hundreds of years in the future.

ENOUGH Morgan Smartt



Grappling with the effects of obsessivecompulsive disorder on a monotonous daily basis, one teenager rises above the persistent voice of their personal enemy.

SQUISHED GRANDPA

Lily Andrewse



When young Rose's Grandpa goes missing the day after telling a her an unsettling tale, she believes his disappearance may be her fault.

FLY Sofia Kennedy



Fly is an animation about a girl stuck by herself on an island, with the only way to escape being a cliff. She tirelessly works on wings for months until she trusts herself enough to take a leap of faith.

AN INNER VIEW Akash M Ercolini-Bhatia



In an Interview, Clay is asked a question about his everyday life. This question leads him down a rabbit hole of possibilities to ultimately end on a sincere solution.

IN ANOTHER LIFE







In Another Life follows a young woman and her love interest through their lives, along with the hardships that come with them.

INFRARED Lila Caruso



This experimental film features dancers radiating energy through movement that is more than just seen but is also felt.

IN THE MAGAZINES Zoe Kline



A girl is obsessed with the people she sees in magazines- she wants to be like them. Until She discovers being herself is so much better.

MAGIC ERASER Ashen Rain Blumberg



heart of its grown creator by erasing the parts of itself it thinks have become too childish.

METAMORPHOSIS Bryn Wright



Metamorphosis is an upbeat and encouraging film for all ages - especially for youth in transition. Often the simplest solution is to "wait a while".

MORTEM Andrew Joseph Mikos



A man is horror-stricken by visions of the fabled Grim Reaper calling out to him. As he tries to cling to life in his final moments, he finds himself at peace in his own mind

YOUNG FILMMAKERS COMPETITION

SOCIALIZATION Daniel Gutierrez, Savannah Killian



Hand and hand, like social media and wasted time, this film explores the connections between the two.

THE THINGS I NEVER SAID

Gia Desai, Julia Contreras



Jamie feels like she's got the whole world against her. Or really, the whole world except Angela.

THREE PLUMBERTEERS

Jackson Brennan, Cyrus Luebke, Nieve Brown, Theia Sellman, Evie Pozzo



Three eccentric plumbers compete to finish a dirty job first.

THUMBELINA Karina Chun



Enter Thumbelina's hidden world filled with flowers, books, and odd trinkets.

THE WINDOW CLEANER Seth Alexander Muenkel



An orphaned girl struggles with her next step in life.

YOU'LL SPEAK FLUENT ENGLISH VERY SOON Zhiyu Liu



Jasmine, a study abroad student faces the language barrier, which causes tension and anxiety. She also finds out being fluent in a new language is not as easy as people say.



Films invite us to explore identity and challenge perceptions. They distill our sense of beauty and often tell the truth. Great films provide powerful opportunities to imagine a different world and enable us to become more compassionate and imaginative.

We seek out stories that can engage and inspire youth. Film matters for the same reason all art matters. We want to create the conditions for young people to experience meaningful, life-enriching stories unfolding on screen. Through what is now a 15-year effort in this area, we are convinced these young adults will develop a film vocabulary, and as they mature, film can become their currency for real intellectual debate.

Seeing a movie can be like a visit to a wonder-filled land we may never come across in our daily lives. The best films provide a place where we are all invited- no borders, no visas required, and no possibility of being excluded or exiled.

BOARD MEMBERS

Leslie Sullivan (Curator) | Stuart Boekeloo | Lori Boekeloo | Jeremy Bonfiglio Becky Wehmer

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Harvey & Virginia Kimmel Family Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation | Michigan Arts and Culture Council & National Endowment for the Arts | The Pokagon Fund

SPONSORS

Ann Krsul Architect | Brookview Montesorri School | Fruitbelt Sparkling Fruit Tonic | Red Arrow Roasters

SCREENING PARTNERS

Acorn Theater, Benton Harbor Public Library, The GhostLight Theatre, Krasl Art Center, New Buffalo Township Library, Sarett Nature Center, Three Oaks Township Public Library and St. Joe County Public Library/South Bend.

JUROR

You

THANK

Doreen Bartoni | Young Filmmaker's Competition

TALENT

Dr. Larry Schanker | Silent Film Piano Accompaniment Brandon Mattson | Opening Night Entertainment Watervliet South Elementary Choir | Opening Night Entertainment Candace Myers | Costume Design Expert

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

Bit of Swiss (Stevensville) | Opening Night Cupcakes | Pri Mart Quik Shop (St. Joseph) | Popcorn

PRODUCTION & PROMOTION

269 Designs | Graphic Design / Website / Digital Media Jacalyn Odden | Film Festival Manager

NOTES AND SCRIBBLES



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