

EVERYONE HAS A STORY.

HOW WILL YOU TELL YOURS?



15th Annual
CHAGRIN DOCUMENTARY FILM FEST

Presented With Generous Support By Ohio Humanities

OCTOBER 1-6TH | 2024

CHAGRINFILMFEST.ORG



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Welcome to the 15th Annual Chagrin Documentary Film Festival!

As we gather to celebrate the 15th anniversary of our festival, our hearts are filled with gratitude. This year, we have the privilege of presenting 66 extraordinary documentary films from 32 countries, each a testament to the power of storytelling and human connection.

Fifteen years ago, inspired by the spirit of our son David, we embarked on a journey to honor the passionate and talented documentary filmmakers who dedicate their lives to capturing truth and beauty. Today, as we look back on the path we've traveled, we're overwhelmed by how this mission has blossomed, touching countless lives and inspiring generations of filmmakers and film lovers alike.

To our devoted Festival sponsors, loyal members, tireless volunteers, and every member of this amazing community: your support has been the lifeblood of this festival. Your passion, dedication, and love have transformed a simple idea into a celebration that brings light and inspiration to so many.

On behalf of our dedicated Festival team and the hundreds of kindred spirits who have poured their hearts into making this festival a reality, we welcome you - not just to an event, but to a family.

In sincere appreciation,

Mary Ann Quinn Ponce

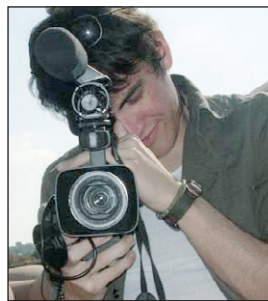
Founder and Director

Inspired by the filmmaking spirit of David Ponce

The Inspiration . . . "what the human spirit is capable of"

Filmmaker and Chagrin Falls High School alumnus David Ponce wrote this letter about his documentary "The Lost Sparrows of Roodepoort" even as he faced his own battle with leukemia. He succumbed six weeks later at the age of 20. It was David's drive to share with the world "just what the human spirit is capable of" that inspires us to bring this festival to his hometown.

An excerpt from David's letter to the director of Sparrow Village, Roodepoort, South Africa...July 27, 2006



"Nothing is as important to me as producing a work that is true to Sparrow and showing those who have not visited, just what the human spirit is capable of when faced with something immensely dark and frightening. And to this, I forever owe gratitude and have sworn to myself to produce something

substantial in propagating the idea of hope and joy in the face of something so ugly."

This Festival is dedicated to the unique spirit of the talented filmmakers who share their stories with us.

In honor of CDFF's 15th year, *The Lost Sparrows of Roodepoort* will screen on Wednesday, October 2 at 7:30 PM (pg. 33)

2024 FILM FESTIVAL SPONSORS

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING:

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Sharing stories. Sparking conversations. Inspiring ideas.

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Proud to be a FOREVER
Chagrin Documentary
Film Festival
Sponsor

*Every home
has a story*

Special Events

In addition to thought-provoking documentaries, don't miss these events around Chagrin Falls! Advance reservations required as noted.

FILM FEST LIGHTS THE CRANE!

NIGHTLY, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2
through SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

The 15th Anniversary Festival spotlight is on Chagrin Falls as the bridge construction site is lit nightly!

FILMS IN THE PARK

Triangle Park Screen

Sponsored by the Chagrin Valley Jaycees

Bring your chair or blanket and enjoy a free selection of family friendly short films, and trailers.

15TH ANNUAL OPENING NIGHT

Sponsored by Ohio Humanities

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

CFIS Theater

Let's celebrate 15 years of documentary excellence as VIP's walk the red carpet. Enjoy wine and hor d'oeuvres from Chagrin area restaurants.

5:30 PM - VIP Reception - \$125 *
Advance registration required.

7:00 PM - Film begins - \$15 *
individual film tickets

Opening Film: *Blink* (National Geographic Premiere) (pg. 17)

HISTORICAL FILM & BAGELS

Sponsored by Chagrin History Center

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 9:00 AM

Chagrin History Center

Start your festival day right with bagels, hot coffee, and a historical feature film.

\$20 ** individual ticket

Film: *Letters from the Battlefield* (pg. 24)

A CUP OF SERENITY & A DOSE OF WELL-BEING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2:30 PM

CDFD on the Triangle

Escape the bustle for peace and simplicity. Enjoy a curated wellness



session, sport film, and nourishing tea. Leave refreshed and transformed. Hosted by Sun & Spirit WellBeing.

\$20 ** individual ticket

Film: *Descendents* (pg 36)

CDFF'S INSPIRATION: THE LOST SPARROWS OF ROODEPOORT

Sponsored by Peppertree Capital
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 7:30 PM
Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

Celebrate a special CDFF 15th anniversary by watching the film that inspired it all! A panel of those involved with the film will join us. Raise a glass of champagne and indulge in a delicious South African dessert as we honor our journey.

\$25 * individual ticket

Panel host: Our Own Proud South African Clayton Papenfus

Film: *Lost Sparrows of Roodepoort* (pg. 3,33)

DOCS & DONUTS SHORTS

In honor of Sally and Tom Florkiewicz
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 9:00 AM

St. Joan of Arc Church Hall

Start your day on a sweet note! Treat yourself to donuts, coffee, and a cap-

tivating selection of shorts.

\$20 * individual ticket

LETTUCE CELEBRATE: SALAD & SHORTS EXTRAVAGANZA

Separately ticketed event through the St. Joan of Arc Women's Guild
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 11:30 AM

St. Joan of Arc Church Hall

Don't miss the festival's most popular event—the famous salad lunch paired with a showcase of 2024 Festival short films!

\$25**** individual ticket with reservations in advance through the St. Joan's Women's committee
Call: 440-247-6945 for reservations (seating is limited)

MEET THE FILMMAKERS PRIVATE WINE TASTING

Hosted by John and Allyn Davies
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 5:30 PM

Enjoy select French wines from the Anderson's private cellars. Each paired with a French delicacy by the Paris Room.

Secret venue revealed exclusively to Dreamers and Sustainers *****

SPECIAL EVENTS

BESTIES & BITES: LADIES' NIGHT OUT!

Sponsored by Susan Metallo,
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 7:00 PM
M Bevy - 87 West St. Chagrin Falls
Movie night with friends! Catch a
flick, then hit M Bevy for tasty bites
and drinks.

\$25 *** includes Ladies Night boa,
drink and appetizers. (Advanced
tickets required)

Film Ticket not included

HUNGARIAN HERITAGE: A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE

Sponsored by the NEO Hungarian
Community, George Pogan and
Jeanette Grasselli Brown
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 7:30 PM
Chagrin Valley Little Theatre
The annual gathering that celebrates
all things Hungarian! Experience this
vibrant culture with delightful Hunga-
rian music and a glass of wine.

\$20 * individual ticket

Film: *Troop 214* (pg. 30)

FARM-TO-TABLE CVCC LUNCH

Sponsored by Chagrin Valley Cham-
ber of Commerce

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 12:00 PM

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

Join us for lunch in the River Room,
featuring a delicious meal prepared
with fresh ingredients from local
farmers. The film and panel will
highlight the Rid-All Urban Farm and
other farms having an impact. More
information (pg. 43)

\$25 ** individual ticket includes film
Film: *Regenerating Communities*
(pg. 33)

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

Sponsored by South Franklin Circle
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 5:00 PM

South Franklin Circle

Event moderators:

Chad and Trish Salahshour

Help choose CDFF's "Everyone's a
Critic" award winner! Enjoy appetizers
and cocktails while watching docu-
mentary shorts. Vote after each film.

\$25 ** individual ticket



BOURBON & BALLADS

Sponsored by Craig Lyndall
and Mark Lyndall

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 5:30 PM

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre for film,
Patio by CVLT for cocktail

Bid on rare bourbons while grooving
to the legendary tunes of Fred Burch.
Sip a craft cocktail on the patio after-
ward! MORE INFO PG. 15

\$35 ** individual ticket includes film
and a cocktail

Film: *348 Songs* (pg 16)

FESTIVAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Sponsored by Carnegie Investment
Counsel

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 10:00 AM

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

Enjoy a light breakfast with filmmakers
and film lovers prior to the 15th annual
awards ceremony. \$10,000 in prize
money will be presented to winners.

Celebrity Hosts: Rick Jackson with
Loree Vick joining virtually

Free and open to the public

THE GRANDVIEW PIZZA OVEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 12:00 PM

Triangle Park Screen

Pizza and movies with CDFF and Cha-
grin Valley Jaycees! Taste local slices
at this family bash. Free film, pizza
available for purchase. Come hungry!

Film: *The Grandview Pizza Oven* (pg. 37)

KEY

* Included for all member

**Included for Igniter and above

***CDFF 100 & Above

****Included for Visionary and
above

*****Included for Dreamers and
Sustainers

HONORING FILMMAKERS VIP EVENT

Sponsored By Carnegie Investment
Counsel

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 5:00 PM -
6:30 PM

Chagrin Falls Township Hall

Join us for an exclusive Filmmaker
VIP Bash! This is your chance to
mingle with talented filmmakers and
fellow film enthusiasts. Includes wine
and appetizers, hosted by Carnegie
Investment Counsel.

\$35** individual ticket

PAINT THE NIGHT PINK

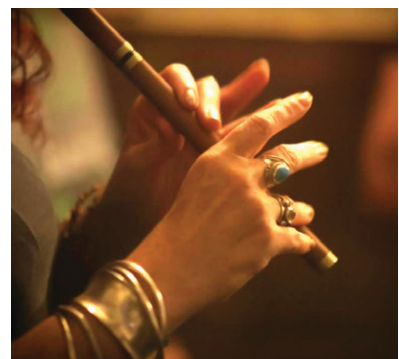
Sponsored by Susan Metallo,
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 7:00 PM

CFIS Theater

Get ready to paint the night pink
as we celebrate this homecoming
festival premiere film in true MGK
fashion. The CFIS lobby will be alive
with music and the electric energy
that only the 216 can provide.

Film: *Mainstream Sellout Live from
Cleveland: The Pink Era* (pg. 24)
\$20* individual ticket



Job of Songs

FESTIVAL FINALE: CELEBRATE WITH CDFF!

Sponsored by Merrymeeting Group
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 5:30 PM

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

We close out this special 15th annual
CDFF just where we started...in Ire-
land! Get your jig on with Irish music
and dance following the film.

\$15 * individual ticket

Film: *The Job of Songs* (pg. 24)

PANEL EVENTS, DISCUSSIONS AROUND TOWN

NAVIGATING MENTAL ILLNESS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 12:30 PM

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

Experts discuss how the healthcare system fails to meet rising needs for bipolar and other mental illnesses affecting millions. What can be done to help patients and their families in crisis?

Film : *Spyral* (pg 28)

THE NEW FACE OF URBAN LEADERSHIP

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 5:15 PM

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

Mayor Brandon Scott and the film's Director join us virtually to give an unfiltered look at governing a major city in your 30s, tackling entrenched issues with fresh eyes, and charting a bold new course for Charm City.

Moderator: Rick Jackson

Film: *The Body Politic* (pg 18)



Dante Bocuzzi

GOURMET TALES: BEHIND THE KITCHEN DOOR!

Sponsored by *M Italian Restaurant*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 5:30 PM

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

Join us following the film for a discussion with renowned Michelin starred chef Dante Bocuzzi and restaurateur, Brad Friedlander as they take us behind the scenes with culinary tales and secrets!

Film: *Michelin Stars - Tales from the Kitchen Door* (pg 26)

CRISIS IN THE UKRAINE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 7:30 PM

CFIS Theater

Join Northeast Ohio Ukrainian



CDDFF LIVE ON MAIN

Chagrin Falls Township Hall, 83 N. Main St

Filmmaker panel events and Filmmaker Lounge daily.

Check out these insightful moderated discussions with our visiting filmmakers!

Thursday, Oct 3, 4:00 PM - Friday, October 4, 4:00 PM

Saturday, October 5, 12:00 PM

*** Friday, October 4, 2:30 PM Network and discussion with industry professionals.**



Porcelain War

refugees sharing firsthand accounts of hope and strength during conflict. Regional Ukrainian organizations will be on hand with information on the work they are doing to support freedom for the Ukrainian people.

\$15 individual ticket *

Film: *Porcelain War* (pg. 26)

ULTIMATE FRISBEE DEMONSTRATION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 3:00 PM

Riverside Park

Following the film *Ultimate Citizens* (1:45 PM at CVLT) (pg 30), a

demonstration of the sport of ultimate frisbee will take place in Riverside Park.

INSIDE THE WORLD OF BLIND BASEBALL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 5:00 PM

Riverside Park

Experience the thrill as visually impaired players locate a beeping ball, demonstrating how passion and technology unite to keep the spirit of baseball alive for all.

Film: *Thunder Rolls! The World of Blind Baseball* (3:15 PM at CVLT) (pg 29)

PANEL EVENTS, DISCUSSIONS

CLEANING UP NEO WATERWAYS: RIPPLES OF PLASTIC FILM AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Sponsored by Great Lakes Brewing Company's Burning River Foundation
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 12:30 PM
CFIS Theater

Watch this eye-opening documentary and stay after for a lively panel discussion exploring what we can do to help keep our Great Lakes great. Panelists include filmmaker Chris Langer, and other subjects featured in the film.

Film: *Ripples of Plastic* (pg 27)

LEGENDS UNLEASHED: CLEVELAND'S SPORTS HEROS TELL ALL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 5:15 PM
CFIS Theater

Bob Golic, Austin Carr, and Greg Pruitt reveal untold stories from CLE's athletic heyday. Hear about the grit, glory, and behind-the-scenes action that defined an era. Moderated by Rick Jackson.

Film: *Once Upon a Time in Sports* (pg 33)

RECLAIMING THE LOST ARTWORK OF THE HOLOCAUST

Sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Cleveland, Israel Art Connection
WEDS. OCTOBER 2, 2:30 PM/
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2:45 PM
Chagrin Valley Little Theatre
Hear from the Director of the film



European Dream, Daniel Gat (virtually streaming from Israel) and experts in the field of art reclamation after learning of one family's healing journey to bring their treasures home. Film: *The European Dream* (pg. 21)

SHARED PAIN, SHARED HOPE: THE OPIOID FIGHT

Sponsored by Jergens, Inc.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 3:00 PM
Federated Church
From mansions to farmhouses, opioids shatter lives everywhere. A special panel, including County Councilman Jack Schron and families directly impacted, will discuss what is being done to address the crisis head on in our region. Raw stories of loss and hope

that will challenge everything you thought you knew about addiction. Film: *Inheritance* (pg. 23)

FOCUS ON THE INFANT MORTALITY CHALLENGE

Sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women/ Cleveland
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1:00 PM
CFIS Theater
Cleveland, Ohio has one of the highest rates of infant mortality in the U.S. ...Why is this and what can we do to change that? The film's director and a panel of regional experts will discuss the state of prenatal care in Northeast Ohio. In partnership with First Year Cleveland
Film: *American Delivery* (pg. 16)

"We're so proud to celebrate this incredible milestone year with you. It's a time of reflection and enormous appreciation for all who have helped us build the strong foundation we stand on today. It's also a time of excitement as we write new chapters of our own story knowing the best is yet to come." — **Trish Salahshour, Fevered Dreams Productions, Board Chair**

The views expressed in the documentary films and by speakers at the festival are those of the filmmakers and their subjects. They do not represent the views of the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival, Fevered Dreams Productions, Festival sponsors or supporters.

The Festival schedule, as published, is subject to change and substitutions are at the discretion of the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival. See page 40 for additional information.

Welcome

to the 2024 Chagrin Documentary Film Festival!
This overview includes times,
film locations and special events

Schedule is subject to change: Please check the festival website for changes and updates. Detailed film listing begins on page 16.

Tuesday October 1

**Chagrin Falls Intermediate
School Theater**

5:30 PM VIP Reception
7:00 PM Blink (90 mins)

Wednesday October 2

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

- 11:00 AM Built Different (40 mins)
- 12:30 PM Spyral (81 mins)
- 2:30 PM European Dream (76 mins)
- 5:15 PM Body Politic (90 mins)
- 7:30 PM Lost Sparrows of Roodepoort (29 mins)

Chagrin Falls Intermediate School Theater

- 5:30 PM Ohio Stories Shorts
To the Bottom and Back (15 mins)
Why Not? (20 mins)
Grandview Pizza Oven (26 mins)
- 7:30 PM Art for Everybody (99 mins)

South Franklin Circle

- 12:00 PM A Good Wolf (92 mins)
- 2:15 PM Running for the Mountains (77 mins)
- 4:00 PM The One with Hope (64 mins)
- 5:30 PM Ripples of Plastic (45 mins)
- 7:00 PM 7 Beats per Minute (99 mins)

CDFF on the Triangle

- 2:30 PM A Cup of Serenity Event
Descendents (6 mins)
- 5:00 PM Our League (35 mins)
- 7:15 PM Ignited States (37 mins)

Chagrin Falls History Center

9:00 AM Historical Film and bagels, pg. 6
Letters from the Battlefield
(62 mins), pg. 24

Triangle Park Screen

4:00 PM TBA

	Chagrin Valley Little Theatre	CFIS Theater	South Franklin Circle	CDFF on the Triangle
10 AM				
11 AM	Built Different (pg.32)			
12 PM			A Good Wolf (pg.23)	
1 PM	Spyral (pg.8,28) M			
2 PM				
3 PM	European Dream (pg.9,21)		Running for the Mountains (pg.28)	A Cup of Serenity (pg.6) S
4 PM			The One with Hope (pg.26)	
5 PM				Our League (pg.33)
6 PM	Body Politic (pg.8,18) P	Ohio Stories Shorts (pg.37)	Ripples of Plastic (pg.9,27)	
7 PM				
8 PM	Lost Sparrows (pg.6,33) S	Art for Everybody (pg.17)	7 Beats per Minute (pg.16)	Ignited States (pg.32)
9 PM				



Special Event



Panel event



Not suggested for younger viewers

Thursday October 3

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

- 11:30 AM Broken Eyes (78 mins)
- 1:30 PM The Animal Thing (89 mins)
- 3:40 PM Ultimate Citizens (52 mins)
- 5:30 PM Michelin Stars (82 mins)
- 7:30 PM Troop 214 (60 mins)

Chagrin Falls Intermediate School Theater

- 5:15 PM A Good Wolf (92 mins)
- 7:30 PM Porcelain War (87 mins)

Federated Church

- 10:30 AM Environmental Shorts
Driving Sweep (10 mins)
I am Kanaka (15 mins)
The Red Bellied Lemur (16 mins)
Hive (25 mins)
- 12:30 PM Diary of an Elephant Orphan (105 mins)
- 2:45 PM Art Shorts
Sound Tracks (10mins)
Canyon Chorus (16 mins)
Sack Race with Knives (25 mins)
- 5:15 PM 348 Songs (43 mins)
- 7:00 PM Eternal You (87 mins)

CDFF on the Triangle

- 11:00 AM International Stories Shorts
Two One Two (4 mins)
Descendants (6 mins)
Las Manos De Obra (14 mins)
Die Laughing (19 mins)
A Divine Journey (24 mins)
- 1:00 PM People You Need to Meet Shorts
While We're Here (9 mins)
Dale (9 mins)
Still Alive (27 mins)
La Roche (28 mins)
- 2:30 PM Built Different (40 mins)
- 5:15 PM Student Shorts II
When Beverly Met Reita (15 mins)
Funk: The Sound of Dayton (21 mins)
Sonaño America (32 mins)
- 7:30 PM Local High School Shorts
Men of Massillon (19 mins)
Thinking Little (19 mins)

	Chagrin Valley Little Theatre	CFIS Theater	Federated Church	CDFF on the Triangle
10 AM				
11 AM			Environmental Shorts (pg.35)	International Stories Shorts (pg.36)
12 PM	Broken Eyes (pg.18)			
1 PM			Diary of an Elephant Orphan (pg.20)	People You Need to Meet Shorts (pg.40)
2 PM	The Animal Thing (pg.17)			
3 PM			Art Shorts (pg.34)	Built Different (pg.32)
4 PM	Ultimate Citizens (pg.8,30)			
5 PM				
6 PM	Michelin Stars (pg.8,26) P	A Good Wolf (pg.23)	348 Songs (pg.7,16)	Student Shorts II (pg.39)
7 PM			Eternal You (pg.20)	
8 PM	Troop 214 (pg.7,30) S	Porcelain War (pg.8,26) M		Local High School Shorts (pg.39)
9 PM				

St. Joan of Arc Church Hall

9:00 AM Docs & Donuts Shorts, pg. 6

Chagrin Township Hall

4:00 PM Filmmaker Panel (60 mins), pg. 8

SALAD LUNCHEON (Separately ticketed event), pg.6

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 11:30 AM

St. Joan of Arc Church Hall

S \$25 with reservations in advance through the St. Joan's Women's committee. Limited seating. No tickets at door.

Call: 440-247-6945 for reservations

Friday October 4

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

- 10:15 AM Witness to Revolution (60 mins)
- 12:00 PM Regenerating Communities (36 mins)
- 1:45 PM Finding Happy (74 mins)
- 3:40 PM Letters from the Battlefield (62 mins)
- 5:30 PM 348 Songs (43 mins) and Bourbon & Ballads Event
- 7:30 PM The Donn of Tiki (100 mins)

Chagrin Falls Intermediate School Theater

- 5:15 PM 7 Beats per Minute (99 mins)
- 7:30 PM Eternal You (87 mins)

Federated Church

- 11:00 AM Broken Eyes (78 mins)
- 1:00 PM Spyral (81 mins)
- 3:00 PM Inheritance (81 mins)

CDFF on the Triangle

- 4:00 PM Don't Look Away (36 mins)
- 5:30 PM Student Shorts I
A Girl Takes a Walk (10 mins)
Beyond Silence (11 mins)
Kim Jong, Alfaman (28 mins)
- 7:15 PM Torn (80 mins)

Chagrin Township Hall

- 2:30 PM Networking & Discussion, pg. 8
- 4:00 PM Filmmaker Panel (60 mins), pg. 8

South Franklin Circle

- 5:00 PM Everyone's A Critic (60 mins), pg. 7
- 6:45 PM The Animal Thing (89 mins), pg. 17

Triangle Park Screen

- 12:00 PM International Stories Shorts, pg. 36
Two One Two (4 mins)
Descendents (6 mins)
Las Manos De Obra (14 mins)
Die Laughing (19 mins)
A Divine Journey (24 mins)
- 6:00 PM Sports Spotlight Shorts
LaRoche (28 mins), pg. 40
Once Upon A Time in Sports (23 mins), pg. 33

	Chagrin Valley Little Theatre	CFIS Theater	Federated Church	CDFF on the Triangle
10 AM				
11 AM	Witness to Revolution (pg.31)		Broken Eyes (pg.18)	
12 PM	Regenerating Communities (pg.7,33)			
1 PM	S		Spyral (pg.8,28)	
2 PM	Finding Happy (pg.22)		M	
3 PM			Inheritance (pg.9,23)	
4 PM	Letters from the Battlefield (pg.24)		M	Don't Look Away (pg.32)
5 PM				
6 PM	348 Songs/Bourbon & Ballads (pg.7,16) S	7 Beats per Minute (pg.16)		Student Shorts I (pg.38)
7 PM				
8 PM	The Donn of Tiki (pg.20) S	Eternal You (pg.20)		Torn (pg.30)
9 PM				



Special Event



Panel event



Not suggested for younger viewers

**Don't miss a thing,
even if you can't attend**

Live interviews and updates will be posted daily on social media and the CDFF website

Saturday October 5

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

10:00 AM Festival Awards Ceremony
 12:00 PM Torn (80 mins)
 1:45 PM Ultimate Citizens (52 mins)
 3:15 PM Thunder Rolls! The World of Blind Baseball (97 mins)
 5:30 PM Art for Everybody (99 mins)
 7:45 PM Award Winner TBA

Chagrin Falls Intermediate School Theater

10:30 AM Fiery Fox (90 mins)
 12:30 PM Ripples Of Plastic (45 mins)
 3:00 PM Diary Of An Elephant Orphan (105 mins)
 5:15 PM Once Upon a Time in Sports (23 mins)
 7:00 PM Mainstream Sellout Live from Cleveland: The Pink Era (120 mins)

Federated Church

1:00 PM Finding Happy (74 mins)
 3:00 PM Inheritance (81 mins)
 5:00 PM Ignited States (37 mins)
 6:45 PM Face Down (85 mins)

CDFF on the Triangle

2:30 PM Student Shorts I
 A Girl Takes a Walk in the Forest (10 mins)
 Beyond Silence (11 mins)
 Kim Jong, Alfaman (28 mins)
 4:00 PM Student Shorts II
 When Beverly Met Reita (15 mins)
 Funk: The Sound of Dayton (21 mins)
 Soñando America (32 mins)
 6:15 PM People You Need to Meet Shorts

Chagrin Township Hall

12:00 PM Filmmaker Panel (60 mins), pg. 8
 5:00 PM Filmmaker VIP Event, pg.7

Triangle Park Screen

12:00 PM Grandview Pizza Oven (26 mins), pg. 7
 1:30 PM Ohio Stories Shorts, pg. 37
 To the Bottom and Back (15 mins)
 Why Not? (20 mins)

Valley Art Center

2:00 PM Arts Shorts, pg.34
 Sound Tracks (10 mins)
 Canyon Chorus (16 mins)
 Sack Race With Knives (25 mins)

	Chagrin Valley Little Theatre	CFIS Theater	Federated Church	CDFF on the Triangle
10 AM	Festival Awards Ceremony (pg.7)			
11 AM		Fiery Fox (pg.22)		
12 PM	Torn (pg.30)			
1 PM		Ripples of Plastic (pg.9,27) P	Finding Happy (pg.22)	
2 PM	Ultimate Citizens (pg.8,30)			
3 PM				Student Short I (pg.38)
4 PM	Thunder Rolls! (pg.8,29)	Diary of An Elephant Orphan (pg.20)	Inheritance (pg.9,23) M P	Student Short II (pg.39)
5 PM			Ignited States (pg.32)	
6 PM	Art for Everybody (pg.17)	Once Upon a Time in Sports (pg.9,33) P		
7 PM			Face Down (pg.22)	People You Need to Meet Shorts (pg.40)
8 PM	Award Winner TBA	Mainstream Sellout (pg.7,24) M S		
9 PM				

Membership really does have its privileges!

CDFF Members receive access to all of these exclusive perks during and after the Fest: visit chagrinfilmfest.org

- Two tickets to the VIP reception and a premiere film
- Awards Party sponsored by Carnegie Investment Counsel
- And many more “Members Only” special invitations and events
- Plus first access to in-person film events
- Call 440-247-1591 for info!

Sunday October 6

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

12:30 PM Small Town Universe (90 mins)
 2:45 PM European Dream (76 mins)
 5:30 PM The Job of Songs (72 mins)

Chagrin Falls Intermediate School Theater

11:00 AM Fiery Fox (90 mins)
 1:00 PM American Delivery (85 mins)
 3:15 PM Environmental Shorts
 Driving Sweep (10 mins)
 I am Kanaka (15 mins)
 The Red Bellied Lemur (16 mins)
 Hive (25 mins)

South Franklin Circle
 12:00 PM Film Fest Award Winner TBA

- S** Special Event
- P** Panel event
- M** Not suggested for younger viewers

	Chagrin Valley Little Theatre	CFIS Theater
10 AM		
11 AM		Fiery Fox (pg.22)
12 PM		
1 PM	Small Town Universe (pg.28)	American Delivery (pg.9,16)
2 PM		P
3 PM	European Dream (pg.9,21)	Environmental Shorts (pg.35)
4 PM	P	
5 PM		
6 PM	The Job of Songs (pg.7,24)	S
7 PM		

Purchase passes and tickets for CDFF On Demand and In Person Screenings!

CHAGRIN Documentary FILM FEST Box Office 10/1-10/6 at Chagrin Valley Little Theatre

Online tickets, passes and membership packages:
chagrinfilmfest.org

Call the Fest office: Starting September 5th 440-247-1591

In-person film – individual ticket: \$15

CDFF On Demand single film streaming: \$12

Special event tickets as listed (pg.6)

Doc Lover Pass: \$100 includes 8 days of unlimited streaming (no in-person events)

Discover Pass: \$200 includes 8 days of unlimited streaming and 10 film tickets

CDFF On Demand
 October 7-13

Detailed film listings begin on page 16

The Festival Doesn't End on Sunday!

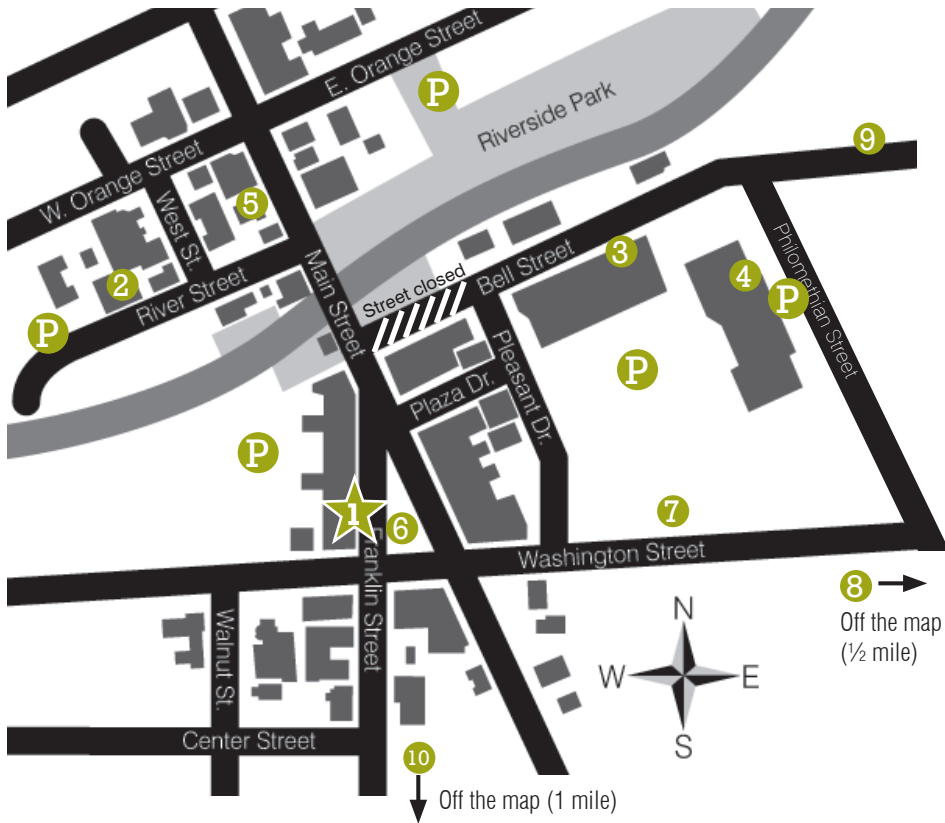
CDFF ON DEMAND

OCTOBER 7th - 13th 2024
chagrinfilmfest.org



See the films you missed! Rewatch your favorites!

Film Festival Venues



- 1 **CDF On The Triangle**
3 N. Franklin St.
- 2 **Chagrin Valley Little Theatre**
40 River St.
- 3 **Federated Church**
76 Bell St.
- 4 **CFIS Theater**
75 Philomethian St.
- 5 **CDF Live on Main Chagrin Falls Township Hall**
83 N. Main St.
- 6 **Triangle Park Screen**
11 North Franklin St.
- 7 **Chagrin History Center**
87 E. Washington St.
- 8 **St. Joan of Arc**
496 E. Washington St.
- 9 **Valley Art Center**
155 Bell St.
- 10 **South Franklin Circle**
16600 Warren Ct.

Bourbon Experience

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 5:30 PM

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre for film, Patio by CVLT

Bid on exclusive bottles of bourbon from a rare collection while grooving to the legendary tunes of country artist Fred Burch. Sip on a specially crafted bourbon cocktail and let the good times roll! \$35 ** individual ticket includes film *Film: 348 Songs* (pg 7, 16)

Sponsored by Craig Lyndall and Mark Lyndall



ILLUMINATE

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The Illuminate Student Film Experience invites high school students to experience inspiring documentary films and meet talented filmmakers. Illuminate's mission is to engage, enrich, and educate high school youth through the art of documentary film and to inspire them to ask the overarching question: "What is the human spirit capable of?" For information, email Illuminate@chagrinfilmfest.org

2024 Films EVERYONE HAS A STORY

Films available on CDFF on Demand (unless otherwise noted) beginning Oct. 7 – chagrinfilmfest.org



348 Songs

348 Songs Midwest Premiere

Directed by Irish Johnston

United States, 43 minutes

348 is the amazing number of songs written by Fred Bruch, a 91-year-old songwriting legend from Nashville's golden era. Despite penning classics like "Tragedy," covered by Paul McCartney, Fred remains an unsung hero of music. His family and fellow musicians reveal the magic of 1960s Nashville and the creative process that shaped an era. Fred's contagious laugh and ability to tell a great story will touch your soul. You'll leave humming forgotten tunes created by this overlooked musical genius.

S **Thurs 10/3 Federated Church, 5:15 PM**
Fri 10/4 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 5:30 PM

Sponsored by Lyndall Insurance



7 Beats Per Minute

7 Beats Per Minute Ohio Premiere

Directed by Yuqi Kang

Canada, 99 minutes

Imagine holding your breath for 6 minutes or more to become a world champion. Enter the visually stunning world of free diving. This breathtaking documentary invites you to witness the courage and strength of renowned free diver Jessea Lu, as she overcomes her doubts and personal struggles. Extraordinary underwater shots capture every heart-pounding moment of one diver's journey back to her beloved sport. Lu's triumph over fear powerfully showcases the strength of the human spirit.

Weds 10/2 South Franklin Circle, 7:00 PM
Fri 10/4 CFIS Theater, 5:15 PM

Sponsored by South Franklin Circle



American Delivery

American Delivery

Directed by Carolyn Jones

United Republic of Tanzania, United States, 85 minutes

The shocking maternal mortality rates in the United States surpass those of other developed nations. This documentary unveils stories of hope and resilience from women across the country, confronting this growing crisis head-on. In Cleveland, Ohio, the MetroHealth community has united to address critical healthcare gaps. This poignant exploration of motherhood in America highlights the joys and challenges of maternal healthcare.

P **Sun 10/6 CFIS Theater, 1:00 PM**

Sponsored by First Year Cleveland (CWRU), National Council of Jewish Women/Cleveland



Special Event



Panel event



Not suggested for younger viewers

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES



The Animal Thing

The Animal Thing

Directed by Adam Linzey
United Kingdom, 89 minutes

Most see the controversial life of Andrew Linzey, animal rights pioneer and maverick theologian, as a great success. Andrew, however, sees it much differently. In this intimate documentary crafted lovingly by Linzey's son, we follow Linzey's journey as he challenges the Anglican Church, Oxford University, and societal norms in his lifelong fight for animal welfare. This warm, thought-provoking film educates rather than preaches, offering a fresh perspective on faith, ethics, and our relationship with animals.

Thurs 10/3 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 1:30 PM
Fri 10/4 South Franklin Circle, 6:45 PM

Sponsored by Rotary Club of the Chagrin Valley



Art for Everybody

Art for Everybody

Directed by Miranda Yousef
United States, 99 minutes

If you think you know artist Thomas Kinkadee, the prolific "Artist of Light," think again. Behind the beauty of his paintings lay a turbulent reality. This gripping biopic unravels the divide between Kinkadee's celebrated artistry and the personal struggles that defined his life. His family recounts Kinkadee's descent from a troubled past and reveals a life overshadowed by fame and the pursuit of perfection. The surprise ending of this story is not to be missed. *(Audience is invited to bring their favorite Kinkadee treasure to display)*

Weds 10/2 CFIS Theater, 7:30 PM
Sat 10/5 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 5:30 PM

Sponsored by Joanne Zettl, Realtor



Blink

Blink Festival Premiere

National Geographic

Directed by Edmund Stenson and Daniel Roher

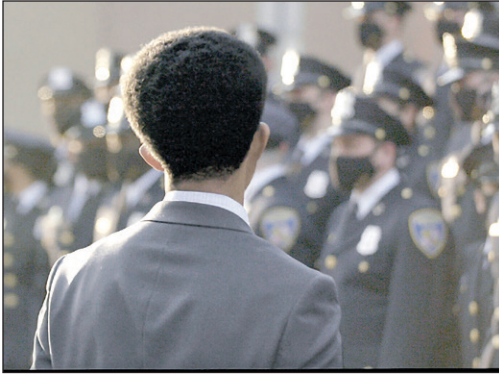
Namibia, Zambia, Tanzania, Turkey, Mongolia, Indonesia, 90 minutes **(Not available for streaming)**

From Oscar® winner Daniel Roher and Edmund Stenson, BLINK follows the Pelletier family on a world tour after learning three of their children would soon lose their vision. The Pelletier's reaction to this heartbreaking news is an unforgettable testament to a parent's love. Without hesitation, they quit their jobs, pull their kids out of school and take them on a bucket list trip around the world, allowing them to imprint images of the wonder and beauty of our planet before they lose their sight. In the process the family becomes more deeply connected and ready to face the reality of their future. *Opening film.*

Tues 10/1 CFIS Theater, 7:00 PM

Sponsored by Ohio Humanities

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES



The Body Politic

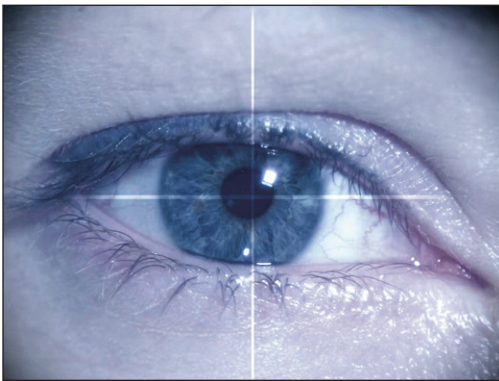
The Body Politic **Ohio Premiere**

Directed by Gabriel Francis Paz Goodenough
United States, 90 minutes

“You need to be the change if you want change” are the words Baltimore Mayor’s Brandon Scott lives by as he tackles violence plaguing his beloved city. Unfiltered access to the mayor’s first year reveals his commitment to change despite surging violence and opposition. Through Brandon Scott’s journey we see his resilience and gain insight into the complexities of governance. *Rick Jackson will virtually interview Mayor Scott following the film.*

P **Weds 10/2 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 5:15 PM**

Sponsored by Cavitch, Familio Durkin



Broken Eyes

Broken Eyes

Directed by Dana Conroy
United States, 78 minutes

After laser correction eye surgery goes wrong and changes this filmmaker’s life forever, she uses investigative journalism to reveal thousands of patients in a clandestine network that have been irreversibly affected with complications from LASIK surgery. Her personal journey challenges perceptions and raises important questions about medical ethics and patient safety for elective procedures.

Thurs 10/3 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 11:30 AM
Fri 10/4 Federated Church, 11:00 AM

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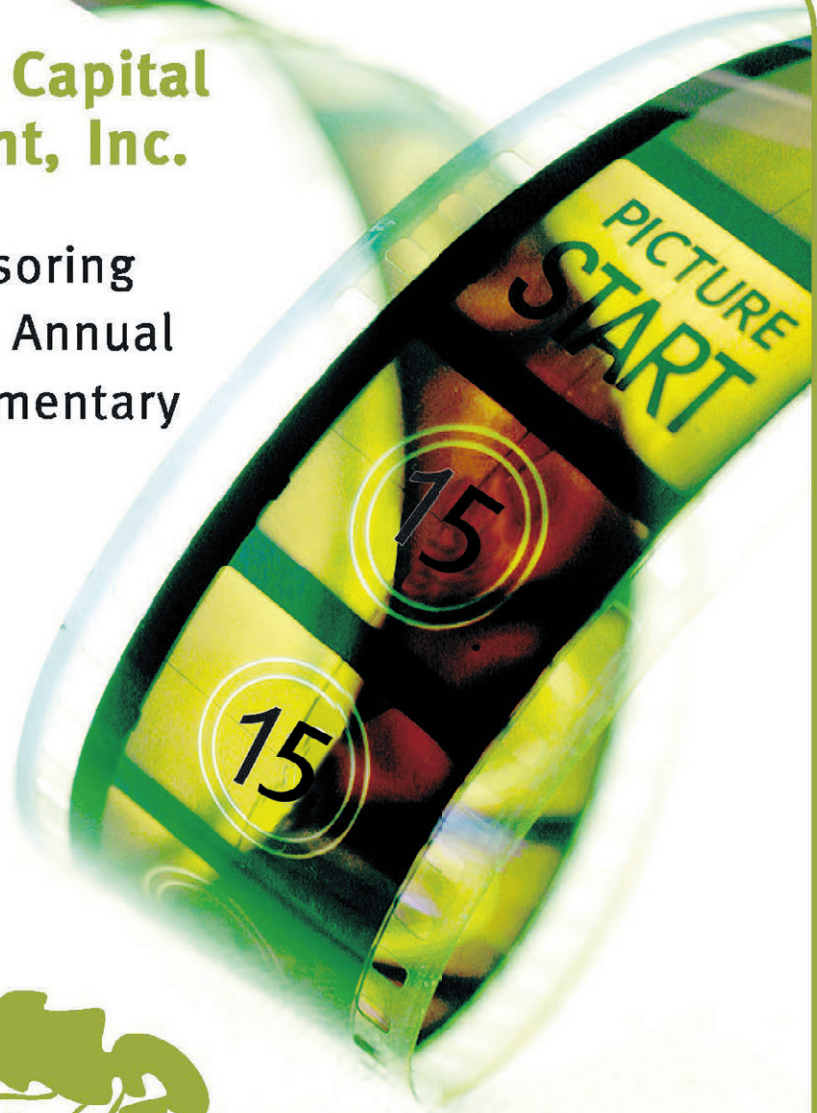
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“What Chagrin Falls has done has given the platform a voice that hasn’t been heard for nearly four decades. That’s the power of film and that’s the power of documentary.”

— **Matt Waldeck, Lovely Jackson**

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES



Diary of an Elephant Orphan

Diary of an Elephant Orphan

Midwest Premiere

Directed by Hermien Roelvert-Van Gils

South Africa, 105 minutes

Meet Ellie, a baby elephant orphaned by poaching in Africa. Dedicated caregivers in a local elephant refuge work to nurse Ellie, a sweet albino calf, back to health with a chance for a new life. In the process, profound bonds are forged as intimate moments take us through the orphan's preparation to join a herd of elephants raised at the sanctuary. With stunning cinematography, the transformative power of love and care for these majestic creatures shines through.

Thurs 10/3 Federated Church, 12:30 PM

Sat 10/5 CFIS Theater, 3:00 PM

Sponsored by BNY Mellon

In Loving Memory of Sydell Miller



The Donn of Tiki

The Donn of Tiki **Emerging Filmmaker**

Directed by Alex Lamb, Max Well

United States, 100 minutes

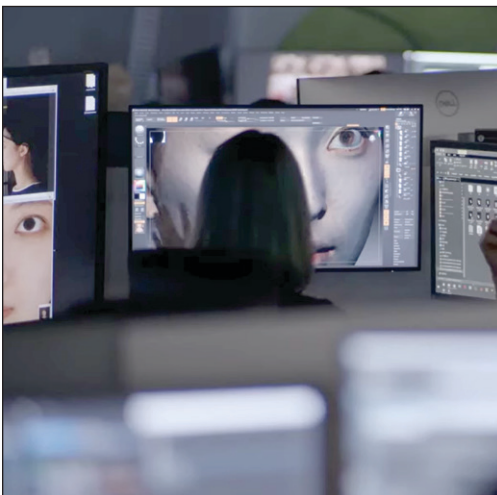
Ever wonder why you have an umbrella in your drink? Thank Donn Beach, the "Donn of Tiki" and visionary behind iconic tropical shirts and rum-based cocktails! Beach's legacy is a cultural phenomenon that influenced generations of tiki enthusiasts. His creativity transformed a simple concept into an enduring lifestyle. Donn Beach's innovations continue to resonate and shape modern culture. Hang onto your paper umbrellas as you enjoy learning about the Tiki cultural icon and the birth of tropical cool. *(Come early to enjoy custom Tiki cocktails from Tiki*

Underground cocktail bar, available for purchase.)

S

Fri 10/4 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 7:30 PM

Sponsored by The Worley Heater Team



Eternal You

Eternal You **Spotlight Documentary**

Directed by Hans Block, Moritz Riesebeck

Germany, United States, 87 minutes **(Not available for streaming)**

It's probably the biggest business idea of the digital age and possibly the most troubling. If you had the chance to see and talk to deceased loved ones, would you do it? ETERNAL YOU examines the AI technology which allows for uncanny digital replicants of loved ones. Following tech start-ups that use a wealth of data to develop "digital doppelgangers," which promise to immortalize people on earth, the film raises several questions, such as: Can a digital entity compensate for the loss of a loved one? How will human memory be affected? How far is too far when dealing with love, loss and eternity?

Thurs 10/3 Federated Church, 7:00 PM

Fri 10/4 CFIS Theater, 7:30 PM

Sponsored by Fidelity Investments

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES



The European Dream

The European Dream

Directed by Mooly Landesman

Israel, Germany, 76 minutes (**Not available for streaming**)

Julius Klausner and Robert Graetz, German Jewish industrialists, defied the odds to build their economic empires from scratch. In 2016, a letter listing looted artworks from WWII brings their two grandchildren on a poignant journey to reclaim their lost art. Fritz Enderlein, is an 88-year-old German lawyer who fought in the Wehrmacht and now works to restore works of art stolen during the Holocaust to the rightful owners. Together, they navigate a complex web of bureaucracy, concealment, and denial as they delve deeper into the world of art.

Weds 10/2 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 2:30 PM

P Sun 10/6 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 2:45 PM

Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Cleveland/Israel Arts Connection



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FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES



Face Down – The Disappearance of Thomas Niedermayer

Face Down - The Disappearance of Thomas Niedermayer

Directed by Gerry Gregg

Australia, Germany, Ireland, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, 85 minutes

In 1973, Thomas Niedermayer became a pawn in the violent chess game of “The Troubles.” Kidnapped by the IRA, his fate took a tragic turn when he was brutally murdered. Now, five decades later, Niedermayer’s grandchildren uncover the harrowing truth of their grandfather’s untimely death. Unravel the complex web of personal tragedy and political turmoil that defined Northern Ireland in the 1970s.

Sat 10/5 Federated Church, 6:45 PM



The Fiery Fox

The Fiery Fox **US Premiere**

International

Directed by Dmitry Shpilenok

Russia, 90 minutes

Filmed over a three year period, become immersed in a young Fiery Fox’s journey in breathtaking wilderness. Orphaned and vulnerable, the fox must navigate its first winter alone, encountering diverse animals who become both friends and foes. A mesmerizing story revealed through the fox’s eyes, viewers will witness the raw beauty and harsh realities of nature. This film invites reflection on the delicate balance of life in the wild and the enduring spirit of creatures who persevere against all odds. This is a journey you won’t soon forget.

Sat 10/5 CFIS Theater, 10:30 AM

Sun 10/6 CFIS Theater, 11:00 AM

Sponsored by First Federal Lakewood



Finding Happy

Finding Happy

Directed by Maria Bertrand

Thailand, United States, 74 minutes

After losing her relationship, income, home, and her dog, a heartbroken woman saves an injured day-old sparrow not realizing how he would change her life. FINDING HAPPY takes us on a journey across oceans to explore the healing power of connection told through other unlikely human-animal bonds. The film is centered around one tiny sparrow, named Happy, and how his rescue story became a beacon of hope worldwide. This inspiring and heartfelt film is sure to leave you with a smile and a renewed connection to the world around us.

Fri 10/4 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 1:45 PM

Sat 10/5 Federated Church, 1:00 PM

*Sponsored by Carolyn F. Nemeč MD, IFMCP
In Loving Memory of Shelly Artz*

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES



A Good Wolf

A Good Wolf **Midwest Premiere**

Directed by Ramey Newell

United States, Canada, 92 minutes

The land bordering Denali National Park is part of a 40 year debate. The conflict between state and federal authorities, fur trappers, and wildlife advocates are at the center of the discourse. This film underscores deep-seated differences in conservation ethics and human interests on public lands.

Wed 10/2 South Franklin Circle, 12:00 PM

Thurs 10/3 CFIS Theater, 5:15 PM



Inheritance

M Inheritance **Ohio Stories**

Directed by Matt Moyer, Amy Toensing

United States, 81 minutes

The unfiltered truth about the opioid epidemic is filmed over 11 years in a southern Ohio community. The story follows the life of one boy and five generations of his extended family. The story focuses on 12 year-old Curtis. Like many others, he lives in a community affected by substance use, joblessness, poverty, and a deteriorating sense of belonging. Young Curtis speaks of hope and optimism, as his difficult story is played out.

P Fri 10/4 Federated Church, 3:00 PM

Sat 10/5 Federated Church, 3:00 PM

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FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES



The Job of Songs

The Job of Songs **Spotlight**

Directed by Lila Schmitz

Ireland, 72 minutes (*Not available for streaming*)

On the rugged west coast of Ireland, a community of musicians seek connection through traditional Irish music. Tourists flock to take in the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher, but the real treasure lies in the soulful, acoustic sounds wafting out of pubs and living rooms of Doolin, County Clare. The denizens of this unspoiled coastal village of tight-knit neighbors revel in the passion and history of traditional folk songs, using music as a thread connecting generations.

S Sun 10/6 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 5:30 PM Festival Closing

Sponsored by MerryMeeting Group



Letters From The Battlefield

Letters From The Battlefield

Ohio Stories

Directed by Jude Pago

India, Indonesia, Vietnam, United States, 62 minutes

Jacqueline Lundquist, the wife of former Ohio Governor Richard Celeste, unveils a deeply personal odyssey of her father's Vietnam War experience. Hundreds of letters and tapes were created by her father, Donald C. Lundquist before his death. Jacqueline unearths these relics and begins a quest to understand her father by retracing his footsteps through Vietnam. Interviews with political figures make this documentary an interesting testament to the universal human experience within the chaos of war.

Wed 10/2 CF Historical Society, 9:00 AM

Fri 10/4 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 3:40 PM

Sponsored by Chagrin History Center



Mainstream Sellout

M Mainstream Sellout Live From Cleveland: The Pink Era

Festival Premiere

Directed by Sam Cahill

United States, 120 minutes (*Not available for streaming*)

Experience Machine Gun Kelly's epic homecoming in this high-energy concert film. Follow MGK's sold-out world tour, culminating in a massive 50,000-fan show at Cleveland's FirstEnergy Stadium. Enjoy exclusive backstage access and a full set from his Mainstream Sellout tour finale. This film captures the raw energy of MGK's return to his roots, offering fans an intimate look at the rock star's journey home.

S Sat 10/5 CFIS Theater, 7:00 PM

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FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES



Michelin Stars: Tales From The Kitchen

Michelin Stars: Tales From The Kitchen **Spotlight**

Directed by Rasmus Dinesen

Germany, Denmark, 82 minutes **(Not available for streaming)**

A behind the scenes look at how the coveted Michelin Stars are awarded to chefs and restaurants and the intense work it takes to hold on to the distinction. Chronicling the inner workings of the culinary world, this film reveals the impact of the little red book on the world of haute cuisine through the eyes of chefs, critics and patrons.

P **Thurs 10/3 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 5:30 PM**

Sponsored by M Italian Restaurant



The One With Hope

The One With Hope

Directed by Martyna Wojciechowska, Ewa Marcinowska

Poland, 64 minutes

Nigerian children accused of witchcraft are being saved by Anja Ringgren Lovén, who founded Land of Hope. She captured global attention when a photo of her rescuing a 2-year-old boy went viral. Explore Anja's dual life between Denmark and Nigeria, revealing the relentless challenges she faces in her crusade. Viewers witness the harsh realities and complexities of humanitarian work, where the true cost of saving lives is measured in resilience and unwavering dedication.

Wed 10/2 South Franklin Circle, 4:00 PM

In loving memory of Gennifer Johnson, Beloved Daughter of Linda Harper



Porcelain War

M **Porcelain War**

Directed by Brendan Bellomo, Slava Leontyev

Ukraine, Australia, United States, 87 minutes

In war-torn Ukraine, devastation and heartbreak are felt daily by a porcelain artist, her family and friends. The balance between destruction and creation is a metaphor, likening the human spirit to fine porcelain...fragile yet remarkably strong. Raw footage captures these incredible individuals, finding beauty in the chaos of war. A difficult film that demonstrates how art and expression can sustain people through unimaginable hardship. This unexpected and heartwarming film will stay with you long after the movie ends.

Thurs 10/3 CFIS Theater, 7:30 PM

Sponsored by Elk & Elk

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES



Ripples of Plastic

Ripples of Plastic **Midwest Premiere**

Ohio Stories

Directed by Chris Langer

United States, 45 minutes

This compelling documentary unveils the hidden crisis threatening North America’s Great Lakes. The invasion of microplastics into Earth’s largest freshwater system endangers delicate ecosystems. Activists race against time to solve this critical issue. From groundbreaking research to community action, the film showcases efforts to preserve these majestic waters and reveals the shocking reality of plastic pollution. Viewers will gain a new perspective on water conservation and environmental stewardship. This powerful journey challenges us to rethink our relationship with plastics and water.

Weds 10/2 South Franklin Circle, 5:30 PM

P Sat 10/5 CFIS Theater, 12:30 PM

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"The Cleveland Israel Arts Connection is proud to have been a sponsor of the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival since its inception. Our 15-year partnership has allowed us to share stories with uniquely Israeli perspectives with the community."

— **Debra S. Yasinow - Director, Cleveland Israel Arts Connection**

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES



Running for the Mountains

Running for the Mountains

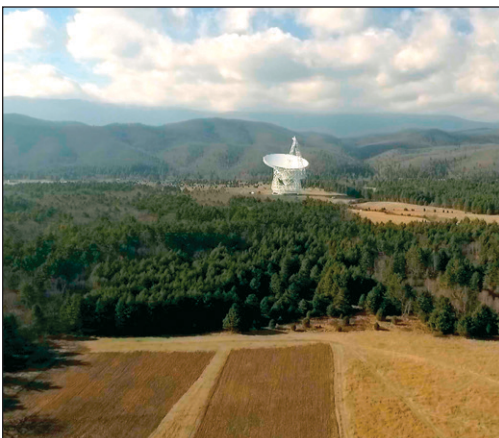
Midwest Premiere

Directed by Julie Eisenberg, Babette Hogan

United States, 77 minutes

West Virginia currently struggles with undercurrents of dark money and political maneuvering. Citizens unite to protect their state's natural resources from the forces of extraction industries. This film boldly confronts the pro-extraction politicians, including Senator Joe Manchin and coal baron Governor Jim Justice. Appalachia has long been a symbol of resilience and this documentary shows the tenacity and dedication of these individuals.

Wed 10/2 South Franklin Circle, 2:15 PM



Small Town Universe

Small Town Universe

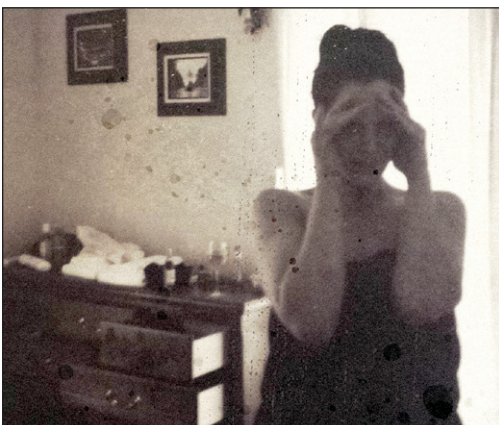
Directed by Katie Dellamaggiore

United States, 90 minutes

Cell phones and Wi-Fi are forbidden in Green Bank West Virginia, home to the world's most sensitive radio telescope. As they are forced to embrace a simpler existence, Green Bank's inhabitants forge deep bonds with science and nature, fostering a connection to the cosmos and their beautiful surroundings. This remarkable town showcases an alternative way of life, challenging our reliance on connectivity and revealing how scientific pursuits can shape a community's culture. *Could you survive in Green Bank?*

Sun 10/6 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 12:30 PM

Sponsored by Crawford Investment Counsel



Spyral

M Spyral Midwest Premiere

Directed by Bill Gutentag

United States, 81 minutes

Bipolar disorder affects more than 5 million Americans and their families. This powerful film is a raw look at the challenges and triumphs of living with this condition. Randy, a rising rock star, and Michelle, a gifted writer with a family legacy of addiction, navigate personal battles amidst growing success. Michelle continues to struggle with bipolar disorder and challenges Randy's unwavering commitment to protect their daughter. Filmgoers will witness an incredible story showcasing the enduring power of love.

Wed 10/2 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 12:30 PM

Fri 10/4 Federated Church, 1:00 PM

Questions? Call the Fest office (440)247-1591 or online chagrinfilmfest.org

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES



Torn

Torn World Premiere

Directed by Nim Shapira

United States, 80 minutes

Experience the Israel-Gaza conflict like never before - on New York City streets. Watch as a controversial poster campaign ignites fierce debates and confrontations, mirroring the complexities of a war thousands of miles away. This raw, balanced documentary offers rare insights into both sides of the struggle. From hostage families to Gaza civilians, witness the human stories behind the headlines. Featuring the Bandida artist from a previous CDFD selection, this film connects local art to global politics in surprising ways.

Fri 10/4 CDFD on the Triangle, 7:15 PM

Sat 10/5 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 12:00 PM



Troop 214

Troop 214

Retrospective Spotlight

Directed by George Csicsery

Hungary, United States, 60 minutes

Filmed in Hungary and the United States between 1988 and 1996, TROOP 214 is a personal odyssey of exile and return. Music, pageantry, and clashing ideologies mark this historical exploration of two competing youth organizations and their cultures. TROOP 214 uses interviews and archival footage to trace the history of scouting in Hungary from its origins before World War I, through suppression and exile after 1948, to the legal return of Scouts to Hungary in 1989. It is a journey with unusual twists and turns.

S **Thurs 10/3 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 7:30 PM**

Sponsored by NEO Hungarian Community, George Pogan and Jeanette Grasselli Brown



Ultimate Citizens

Ultimate Citizens Ohio Premiere

Directed by Francine Strickwerda

United States, 52 minutes

Everyone remembers a favorite teacher or coach when growing up. Meet an Iranian immigrant who makes a profound impact in America through coaching a diverse frisbee team of young immigrants and refugees. Experience the impact of one man's guidance and the determination of his young athletes as they forge their paths in an unfamiliar country. Through the lens of a simple frisbee, viewers appreciate how sports can bridge cultural divides and foster a sense of home for those seeking new beginnings.

Thurs 10/3 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 3:40 PM

Sat 10/5 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 1:45 PM

Sponsored by Sun and Spirit Wellness

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES



Witness to Revolution: One Doctor's Story of the Xinhai Revolution

Witness to Revolution: One Doctor's Story of the Xinhai Revolution

Directed by Kara White

United States, 60 minutes

Journey to early 20th century China through the eyes of an intrepid medical missionary. As the Xinhai Revolution erupts, we see history unfold through his vivid diaries and stunning photographs. This gripping documentary captures a world on the brink of transformation, blending frontline battlefield images with intimate accounts of medical and spiritual work. Experience the twilight of imperialism and the birth of modern China through one man's extraordinary lens and pen. A riveting tale of compassion, courage, and change in a land awakening to a new era.

Fri 10/4 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 10:15 AM

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The National Council of Jewish Women Cleveland has proudly partnered with CDFE for 10 years. We are grateful for being able to sponsor excellent films which promote awareness of critical social justice issues to the CDFE community."

— **Elaine Geller, NCJW Cleveland Past President**

SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

All shorts streaming on CDFF On Demand, October 7-13

HIGHLIGHTED SHORTS

These not to miss films are either paired with a related feature film or screened as a special program.



Built Different

Built Different **Ohio Stories**

Directed by Constance Brenneman

United States, 40 minutes

This amazing story introduces us to Paige Calendine as she overcomes the challenges of being born without legs. Her mother Heidi says that Paige is "built differently" due to her determination as a competitor in gymnastics and archery. Paige's family and community plays a crucial part in nurturing the talent of this gifted young girl. This film challenges perceptions and proves that physical limitations need not define one's potential.

Weds 10/2 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 11:00 AM

Thurs 10/3 CDFF on the Triangle, 2:30 PM



Don't Look Away

Don't Look Away **Midwest Premiere**

Directed by Joseph Vitug Lingad

Canada, United States, 36 minutes

Imagine enduring more than 50 major surgeries. Take a glimpse into the world of Corey, a young man born with a rare facial deformity. Over a six-year time span, this film shows us the daily challenges Cory faces. Learn first-hand how the adversity of living with a facial difference can be used to inspire others. Corey shows the world that individuals with facial differences are much more than meets the eye.

Fri 10/4 CDFF on the Triangle, 4:00 PM



Ignited States

Ignited States **World Premiere**

Directed by Matt Chase
United States, 37 minutes

Jud Nichols has dedicated his life to fighting injustice and its lasting effects. After the murder of George Floyd, this zealous public defender becomes a video journalist almost overnight, capturing the unrest that erupts in the aftermath. As an insider in both legal and activist worlds, Nichols offers unexpected insights as he strives to make sense of a pivotal moment in history.

Wed 10/2 CDFF on the Triangle, 7:15 PM

Sat 10/5 Federated Church, 5:00 PM



Special Event



Panel event



Not suggested for younger viewers

BUY TICKETS Online: chagrinfilmfest.org
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SHORT DOCUMENTARIES



The Lost Sparrows of Roodepoort

Retrospective

Directed by Brock Carter, David Ponce

South Africa, United States, 29 minutes

"Nothing is as important to me as producing a work that is true to Sparrow and showing those who have not visited, just what the human spirit is capable of when faced with something immensely dark and frightening," David Ponce wrote these words upon returning from his trip to Sparrow Village, an AIDS orphanage in Roodepoort, South Africa. David was inspired to tell the story of the children of Sparrow Village and those who have devoted their lives to giving them a loving home, education and most of all...hope.



Wed 10/2 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 7:30 PM

The Lost Sparrows of Roodepoort

Sponsored by Peppertree Capital and Howard Mandel



Our League



Once Upon a Time in Sports



Regenerating Communities

Our League

Directed by Sam Cullman

United States, 35 minutes

Bowling leagues are an important part of Cleveland's history. Mahall's, a bowling alley and institution has been a place where men have gathered for decades. Today, a diverse cast of old school bowlers takes center stage, including Michelle, a transgender woman who has found acceptance in the league. This beloved local bowling landmark becomes a microcosm of broader societal transformations.

Wed 10/2 CDFD on the Triangle, 5:00 PM

Once Upon a Time in Sports

Directed by Mark Andrew Hamer

United States, 23 minutes

Sports legends Bob Golic, Austin Carr and Greg Pruitt take a nostalgic journey back to the golden age of CLE sports. Enjoy these engaging and influential figures as they unveil the stories that until now have remained hidden behind closed doors. Enjoy this unfiltered portrait of these great athletes, using archival footage, reenactments, and personal memorabilia to capture the essence of a bygone era. If you are a sport's fan this film is made for you.



Sat 10/5 CFIS Theater, 5:15 PM

Regenerating Communities

Directed by Ross Monagle

United States, 36 minutes

New life blossoms in a Cleveland neighborhood when four childhood friends transform their community through urban farming. Rid-All, their non-profit project, converts vacant lots into thriving greenhouses, showcasing the power of grassroots action. This real-life story of community rebirth proves that passion and perseverance can cultivate remarkable change. Rid-All is part of the Farmer Jones indoor farmers market, your fresh produce close to home!



Fri 10/4 Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, 12:00 PM

Sponsored by Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce

SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

ARTS SHORTS

Thurs 10/3 Federated Church, 2:45 PM | Sat 10/5 Valley Art Center, 2:00 PM

Sponsored by the Valley Art Center



Canyon Chorus

Canyon Chorus

Directed by Chris Cresci
United States, 16 minutes

Come for the singing, stay for the moving stories, and the breathtaking backdrop of Desolation Canyon! Outdoorsman and LGBTQ+ advocate Mikah Meyer reflects on his life's journey with his beloved mentor Larry Edwards, highlighting the importance of creating safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community to enjoy the great outdoors.



Sack Race with Knives

Sack Race With Knives: The Curious Art of Kevin Titzer

Directed by Jordan Barclay
United States, 25 minutes

Filled with handmade characters and repurposed old materials, Kevin Titzer's art is an alluring worldbuilding experience. Watch his captivating process as he races against the clock to create one of his most impressive art installations yet!



Sound Tracks

Sound Tracks

Directed by John Schaffer
United States, 10 minutes

In this beautifully reflective film, two autistic artists, a photographer and a composer share their reflections on navigating life and art on the autism spectrum. Gain a new perspective on what it means to be neurodivergent in the arts.

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SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

OUR SHARED PLANET: ENVIRONMENTAL SHORTS

Thurs 10/3 Federated Church, 10:30 AM | Sun 10/6 CFIS Theater, 3:15 PM

Sponsored by The Federated Church



Driving Sweep

Driving Sweep

Directed by Gregory Cairns
United States, 10 minutes

Join Katie Veteto as she learns to drive Idaho's iconic 4,000 pound sweep boat down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. You may find yourself holding your breath watching her navigate these rocky rapids!



I am Kanaka

I am Kanaka

Directed by Genevieve Sulway

United Kingdom, United States, 15 minutes

Before Western influence and exploitation, people indigenous to Hawaii called themselves Kanaka, not Hawaiian. Kaina Makua is one of many fighting to preserve their culture, traditions, and relationship to this sacred land.



The Red Bellied Lemur on the Verge

The Red Bellied Lemur on the Verge

Directed by Özlem Ayse Özgür

Madagascar, United States, 16 minutes

Climate change and habitat destruction has brought red-bellied lemur to the brink of extinction. Follow Stacey Tecot in her hands on field work with this beautiful species through the forests of Madagascar.



Hive

Hive Midwest Premiere

Directed by Ryan Rust

United States, 25 minutes

Learn the ins and outs of beekeeping with beekeeper extraordinaire Hank B., whose passion for honey bees and dedication to sustainability provides an inspirational example for all of us.



Hive

QUESTIONS? Online: chagrinfilmfest.org
Or call the Fest office: (440) 247-1591

I am so proud to be a part of the 15th annual Chagrin Documentary Film Fest. The breadth of people and tasks is immense, from managing film submissions, film selection, scheduling, venues, tech, marketing, volunteers, Homestay program, special events, sponsors.... The list is very long. I can confidently say that this team of dedicated workers has put together the best Fest yet! — Joe Constant, CDFV Volunteer Manager

SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

INTERNATIONAL STORIES

Thurs 10/3 CDFF on the Triangle, 11:00 AM | Fri 10/4 Triangle Park Screen, 12:00 PM

Sponsored by Carnegie Investment Counsel



Descendants

Descendants

World Premiere

Directed by Evan Shi

China, 6 minutes

Step into the world of the Blang people in Yunnan, where the art of tea-making is not just a tradition but a profound cultural heritage passed down through generations.

S Wed 10/2 CDFF on the Triangle, 2:30 PM, pg. 6



Die Laughing

Die Laughing

Directed by JL Pomeroy, Tom Broecker

Egypt, United States, 19 minutes

Egyptian comedy emerges as a daring arena where laughter is both a gift and a risk. Defiant in the face of oppression, comedians navigate the delicate balance between humor and political scrutiny, facing threats of imprisonment, deportation, or worse.



A Divine Journey

A Divine Journey

Directed by Annette M. King, Ivanovitch Ingabire

Kenya, Malawi, United States, 24 minutes

Divine Mugisha is a force to be reckoned with! Despite growing up in extreme poverty in a refugee camp, Divine has always focused on helping others. A pillar in her community, Divine takes steps to further her studies so she can better address the mental health issues that plague her camp.



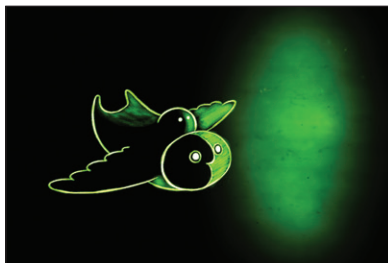
Las Manos De Obra

Las Manos De Obra

Directed by Karsu Nalbantoglu, Aidan Doyle

Panama, United States, 14 minutes

While many of us drink coffee every day, very few know where our coffee comes from, and the labor behind our cup of joe. An important story highlighting the plight of one indigenous community in Boquete, Panama as they struggle to keep up with the world's growing demand for this magic bean.



Two One Two

Two One Two

Directed by Shira Avni

Canada, 4 minutes

An engaging experimental animated documentary, TWO ONE TWO captures the experience of motherhood through shimmering clay on glass.

SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

OHIO STORIES

Wed 10/2 Chagrin Falls Intermediate School, 5:30 PM | Sat 10/5 Triangle Park Screen, 1:30 PM

Sponsored by the Chagrin Valley Jaycees



The Grandview Pizza Oven

The Grandview Pizza Oven

World Premiere

Directed by Adam Dew
United States, 26 minutes

The most deliciously absurd neighborhood feud you've ever seen, this documentary proves truth is stranger than fiction! Watch a simple backyard hobby spiral into a national spectacle.

S Sat 10/5 Triangle Park Screen, 12:00 PM



To the Bottom and Back

To the Bottom and Back

Directed by Joseph Porter
United States, 15 minutes

Brian Burger has never let the fact that he uses a wheelchair stop his adventurous spirit. When he embarks on a journey to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, his community rallies around him to assist in this beautiful film about friendship and resilience.



Why Not?

Why Not?

Directed by Colin Hodgson
United States, 20 minutes

After being diagnosed with ALS, Dave Hollister pursues his lifelong dream of recording an album. With the loving support of friends and family, Hollister is determined to use the time he has left to create something beautiful. This intimate, honest, and uplifting film follows his heartfelt journey. After all, *why not?!*



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SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

STUDENT SHORTS I

Fri 10/4 CDF on the Triangle, 5:30 PM | Sat 10/5 CDF on the Triangle, 2:30 PM

Sponsored by Ohio Goes to the Movies



Beyond Silence

Beyond Silence

Directed by JP Susantio
United States, 11 minutes

Imagine the joy of gaining your sense of hearing after a lifetime of deafness. Two Fort Wayne audiologists, Nora and Ken Stewart, dedicate their lives to bringing hearing care to people in need worldwide. Follow their journey making an impactful difference in so many lives.



A Girl Takes a Walk in the Forest

A Girl Takes a Walk in the Forest

World Premiere

In honor of Georgia Lynn Crawford

Directed by Kristen Lauth Shaeffer, Robin R. Shaeffer
United States, 10 minutes

A mother-daughter filmmaking duo with magic up their sleeves! As a seasoned filmmaker, this mother walks her talented elementary-age daughter through the filmmaking process, and together they create something truly special.



Kim Jong, Alfaman and the Probe

Kim Jong, Alfaman and the Probe: A LeMons Race

Ohio Premiere

Directed by Yasmin Sanie-Hay
United States, 28 minutes

Inspired by the famous Le Mans race, we have the "LeMons" race, where the only rule is that entrants can't exceed a \$500 budget on their cars. Watch these wacky teams as they push the boundaries of mechanics and creativity to create a truly one-of-a-kind event.

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SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

STUDENT SHORTS II

Thurs 10/3 CDFD on the Triangle, 5:15 PM | Sat 10/5 CDFD on the Triangle, 4:00 PM

Sponsored by Ohio Goes to the Movies



Funk: The Sound of Dayton

Funk: The Sound of Dayton

Directed by University of Dayton's 2024 Media Production Students

United States, 21 minutes

Did you know that Dayton, Ohio is home to the world's most influential funk bands? Explore the rise and fall of Dayton's thriving music scene, and hopes that Funk will reign in Dayton once again.



Soñando America

Soñando America

Midwest Premiere

Directed by Judit Angel

Mexico, United States, 32 minutes

This intimate documentary peels back the layers of Jesus and Ofelia Angel's journey from Degollado, Mexico. Beyond politics, it's a raw portrait of undocumented lives, familial bonds, and relentless hope. Through one family's eyes, we're challenged to reexamine the human impact of immigration in the pursuit of a better tomorrow.



When Beverly Met Reita

When Beverly Met Reita

Ohio Premiere

Directed by Brianna Rebecca Schatt

United States, 15 minutes

Old Hollywood star and "Wallpaper Queen" Reita was in search of a prodigy to pass down her wallpapering empire. When she met Beverly, almost 60 years her junior, she knew she had found that special someone. Explore this dynamic duo's bond in this beautiful film about love and friendship.

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SHORTS

Thurs 10/3 CDFD on the Triangle, 7:30 PM

Men of Massillon

Midwest Premiere

Directed by William Burr

United States, 19 minutes

The Massillon Washington football team hasn't won a state championship in 53 years. But with dedication and teamwork, this hardworking team sets out to claim victory once again.

Thinking Little: A School Garden Project

Directed by 2023 St. Edward High School IB Film Cohort.

United States, 19 minutes

Inspired by Wendell Berry's essay "Think Little," a group of students from St. Edward High School created FarmSTED to



Thinking Little: A School Garden Project

become a part of the thriving movement of urban gardening in Greater Cleveland.

SHORT DOCUMENTARIES

PEOPLE YOU NEED TO MEET

Thurs 10/3 CDFD on the Triangle, 1:00 PM | Sat 10/5 CDFD on the Triangle, 6:15 PM

Sponsored by Chagrin Falls Popcorn Shop



Dale

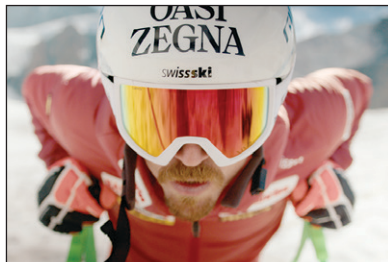
Dale

Midwest Premiere

Directed by Justin Streichman

United States, 9 minutes

Shattering barriers and bowing strings, Dale Hikawa's journey as the Los Angeles Philharmonic's first Asian American woman musician resonates beyond the concert hall. This film delves into the soul-stirring odyssey of an artist who dared to rewrite the score of her destiny.



La Roche

La Roche

Midwest Premiere

Directed by Nolan Büchi,

Basil Schneeberger

Switzerland, 28 minutes

Marc Rochat is one of the few elite slalom skiers in the world. After multiple losses and injuries due to his unconventional, often risky method of skiing, Rochat trains and rebuilds to take on the mountain once again.



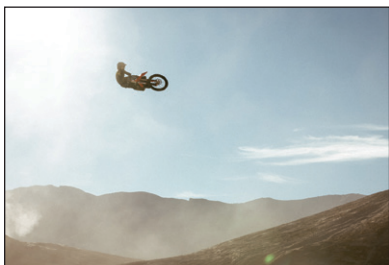
Still Alive

Still Alive

Directed by Santino Martirano

Italy, 27 minutes

Battling Cystic Fibrosis and a cancer diagnosis hasn't stopped Klaas Willems from thriving in the demanding sport of alpine climbing. Living ten years past the age doctors originally gave him to live, Klaas embarks on his biggest climbing expedition yet, aptly named "Still Alive."



While We're Here

While We're Here

Directed by Dylan Wineland, Aaron McClintock

United States, 9 minutes

After the sudden and unexpected loss of his beloved partner, Aaron turns to his lifelong love of dirt biking as a way to reflect, grieve, and heal.

A NOTE FROM THE CHAGRIN DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

The views expressed in the documentary films and by speakers are those of their filmmakers and subjects. They do not represent the views of CDFD, Fevered Dreams Productions, Festival sponsors or supporters. Accepted films are carefully selected by a diverse committee based upon the quality of the story telling and relevance of the film. The process includes multiple layers of consideration to present wide ranging and important topics. Documentary films, by their nature, can be controversial.

At the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival, we strive to create a respectful and inclusive environment for all attendees. As a film festival committed to providing a diverse and thought-provoking experience, we present films that cover a wide range of topics and perspectives. Some of the films may contain robust language and challenging ideas.

By attending the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival, you acknowledge that personal discretion is necessary when choosing films to watch. We cannot guarantee that all films will be suitable for all attendees, and we disclaim any liability for any discomfort, offense, or dissatisfaction arising from the content of the films screened.

2024 AWARDS

The CDFF award winning films will be announced on Saturday, October 5 at 10:00 am during The Festival Awards Ceremony at the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre. The awards include \$10,000 in cash prizes and distribution contracts for two winning films with Gravitas Ventures, and short film distribution from Microfilmz for the winner of the Best Student Documentary.



The awards ceremony is free and open to the public. (pg 7)

- | | |
|--|---|
| David Ponce Best of the Festival Emerging Filmmaker Award | Rotary of the Chagrin Valley "Service Above Self" Award |
| Best U.S. Documentary Award | Best Environmental Film Award |
| John A. Hellman International Award | Best Short Documentary |
| Ohio Humanities Excellence in Documentary Filmmaking Award | Best Local Documentary (Short) |
| | Best Student Documentary |

"Of all the world festivals we've attended, the most enthusiastic crowds came from a tiny village some 23 miles outside of Cleveland, Ohio called Chagrin Falls."

— **Kevin Foster**

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Barbara Christian, Laurie Dean, Sali McSherry, Grace Sullivan

Program Design:

Amanda Marrs

Award Ceremony Hosts:

Loree Vick and Rick Jackson

Awards Ceremony Video:

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CDFF Lounge & Celebration

Decor: Katy O'Neil

Festival Bartender: Scott Kulkin

Flowers: Jackie Belli

Sincere gratitude to our film selection team, award judges, Festival volunteers...and to so many who have joined us in making the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival a success.



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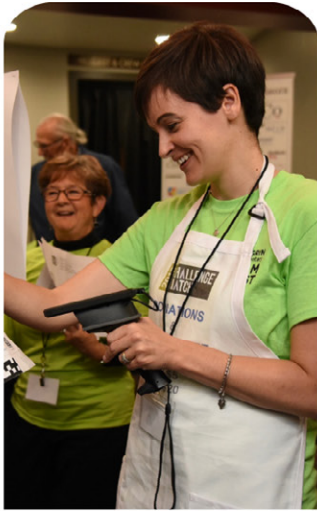


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On behalf of the downtown businesses in Chagrin Falls, we welcome you to our historic and beautiful village.

The village has supported the Chagrin Documentary Film Fest since its inception over a decade ago. We are very proud of how it has grown. We humbly ask that you consider supporting small business between films with purchases from our locally-owned, high quality and unique shops.

Thank you for your support.

Enjoy the fest!

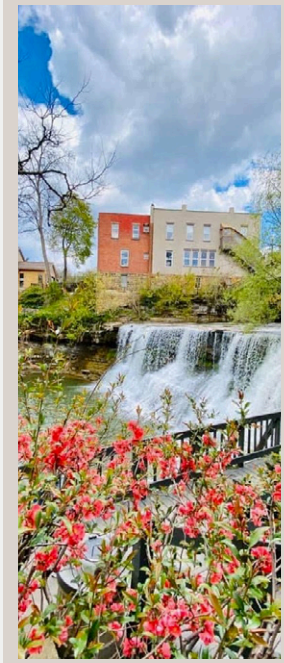
Sincerely,

William Tomko
Mayor, Chagrin Falls

Angie DeBernardo
Council President, Chagrin Falls



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The Chagrin Documentary Film Fest is a program of Fevered Dreams Productions, a 501(c)(3) organization (FEIN: 45-0566307) dedicated to educating audiences and empowering filmmakers to tell their unique stories.

“The Chagrin Documentary Film Festival brings diverse cultural and economic enrichment for the citizens of Cuyahoga County. I am thrilled that the County Council has invested in creating the Cuyahoga Connects space to inspire and educate the citizens of our county for years to come.”

— Cuyahoga County Councilman Jack Schron

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