



NOVEMBER 12-14



MICHIGAN
FILM FESTIVAL

2010 PROGRAM



MICHIGAN FILM FESTIVAL

It's been a delight to construct this celebration of Michigan's creative community, and I couldn't be more proud.

Though only in its second year, the 2010 Michigan Film Festival has grown to have something for everyone, all for free and open to the public.

We've compiled a mix of Michigan-made films. Some were referred by other Michigan festivals, some by Michigan universities and some by invitation. All are impressive.

Our panels aim to educate the film industry on everything from TV shows to tax incentives. We're hoping to answer questions while presenting networking opportunities.

For the film enthusiast looking for a demonstration of the filmmaking process, there's the Live! Production Workshop. This starts on Friday at the UICA with the screenwriting workshop, where a three-minute script is written to be filmed before a live audience the following day. Saturday's crime-scene setup and special-effects makeup demonstration prepare the set to become a missing scene from The Godfather trilogy. Filming runs from 4-7 pm and gives the audience the opportunity to see the script unfold. This year we'll create three different edits, screening them on Sunday at GVSU.

Working with a team of community-minded individuals (we're entirely volunteer-run) to bring this festival to life has been a joy. We're proud of the wealth of talent in our Michigan filmmaking community.

It's a pleasure to share it with you.

Jen Pider
Michigan Film Festival Director

HARVESTING MICHIGAN-MADE FILMS

Watch all the top films from festivals throughout the state. Join a workshop to help write a scene to be shot during the festival. Learn how sets are built and costumes are designed. For enthusiasts, creators and lovers of films, the Michigan Film Festival is the best of everything in Michigan film.

OUR MISSION

To promote the Michigan perspective in film along with the Michigan filmmaking community by sustaining an event that includes educational workshops, panel discussions and lectures; exhibition venues displaying recently crafted Michigan-made works; and partnerships between local entities involved in supporting the Michigan film industry.

CO-FOUNDERS

Jen Pider, Kerri VanderHoff, Chuck Peterson, Josh Depenbrok, Phil Meade, Matt Fulk, Justin Godley

PARTNERS

The Michigan Film Festival is organized by Pider Enterprises in partnership with GRAM, UICA, GVSU, ACTIVESITE and WMFVA.

WHAT TO DO?

Everything. At any time, you could be watching a film, learning about a certain aspect of filmmaking or even creating a film. The Michigan Film Festival is for anyone from an overly enthusiastic film devotee to a person with a passing interest in motion pictures.

FILMS

Every film screened at the Michigan Film Festival was either invited by us, referred by another Michigan festival or submitted by a university showcasing the work of faculty or students.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Learn from industry professionals through exciting discussions and presentations on how films are made and what it really takes to create a finished masterpiece.

WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

This is your chance to get involved in making a film. Participate in the writing, set design, sound design and editing of various projects to be shot during the festival.

MUSIC SUPERVISORS' SHOWCASE

This showcase highlights Michigan composers and musicians. Enjoy live performances featuring displays of their work in film and video projects. Lanyard required.

COST

None. All films, workshops and events are free and open to the public, except where noted.

- Films
- Educational Programming
- Workshops and Presentations

2010 SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- 6:00 pm UICA Lower Level ●●●
Screenwriting Workshop
This workshop, led by University of Michigan professor Veerendra Prasad, produces a three-minute script to be filmed on Saturday.
- 6:30 pm UICA Theater
Opening-Night Celebration with media hosts Gerry Barnaby, Stephanie Webb and John Serba. This free event includes a screening of *Bilal's Stand* with lead actor Julian Gant in attendance and a cash bar.
- Bilal's Stand** Sultan Sharrief
Invited by MFF
Bilal works long hours to keep up his grades and his family's long-owned taxi stand. Despite a series of setbacks at home, Bilal secretly submits a college application and takes up ice carving in order to win a scholarship. Now, he's forced to decide whether to continue running *The Stand*—the only life he's ever known—or take a chance at social mobility. Feature Length.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- 11:00 am GVSU University Club ●●
Faculty Round-Table Discussion
Participating university faculty members discuss teaching techniques and subject material.
- 12:00 pm UICA Theater ●
Annabelle and Bear Amy Weber
Referred by Waterfront Film Festival
The dramatic, tender story of a man who finds himself suddenly thrust into fatherhood, and the unexpected journey that leads him to discover the life-altering love found in the heart of his little girl. Feature Length.
- 12:00 pm GRAM Frey Lecture Room ●●
Making Episodic Television in Michigan
Come on Over and Noodle and Doodle producers Teresa Thome and Patrick Ziegler discuss their success stories.
- 1–9:00 pm UICA Monroe Gallery ●●●
Live! Production Workshop
A live demonstration on how to shoot a scene—in this case, an homage to *The Godfather*. At 1 pm, Cindy Zastrow will set up a crime scene and Dawn Butler will do special-effects makeup. Filming begins at 4 pm with director Harper Philbin. Dailies will be reviewed following the shoot, and three edits will be screened at GVSU Loosemore on Sunday at 4 pm.
- 1:00 pm GVSU Loosemore ●
Film-School Shorts
Walter's Wife Andy Fortenbacher
(GVSU student)
The Darkroom Eric Yang (GVSU faculty)
October Surprise Harper Philbin (GVSU faculty)



	Marching Forward	Chad Peterson & Zach Plumb (GVSU students)
	Mugs	Joshua Courtade (Compass Film Academy faculty)
	Close Shave	Matthew Lohr (Compass Film Academy student)
	Rooms	Jacob Mendel (University of Michigan student)
	The Saxophone Player	Joshua Amir (University of Michigan student)
	Scents and Nonsense	Chris Knauer (University of Michigan student)

1:00 pm GRAM Frey Lecture Room ●●

Anatomy of a Short Film

George Bradshaw presents his new short film, Public Museum, shot entirely in Michigan with Michigan cast and crew. Following, he walks the audience through a scene in script form, showing the steps taken to get from the page to the screen.

1:30 pm UICA Theater ●

Film Festival Shorts Program 1

Parasites: A User's Guide Sharon Shattuck
Referred by Traverse City Film Festival

The word "parasite" comes with loads of vile connotations. But in nature, nothing is purely good or evil. This film explores the relationship of some helminths to humans as an example of parasites that can help people. 27 Minutes.

Waking Artist Jacob Mendel
Referred by East Lansing Film Festival

An adaptation of Franz Kafka's The Hunger Artist following the cinematic artist who refuses to sleep. 4 Minutes.

Raised Alone Sam Kadi
Referred by Arab Film Festival

Murad Brandley's obsessive work habit endangers his relationship with his son, Adam. Now an accomplished violinist, Adam performs his world-renowned solo, a glimpse at his childhood attempt for reconciliation. 27 Minutes.

Pigment Kyle Dufendach
Referred by Detroit Independent Film Festival

Amanda seeks out an artist who magically transforms her appearance by simply painting over her image on paper. The possibilities seem limitless, but Amanda wrestles with who she is becoming and how far she must go to be truly happy. 9:30 Minutes.

2:00 pm GRAM Frey Lecture Room ●●

Film Festival Panel

Participating film-festival representatives discuss their strategies and missions while sharing successes and challenges.

3:00 pm UICA Theater ●

Film Festival Shorts Program 2

Coffee Futures Zeynep Guersel
Referred by Ann Arbor Film Festival

Coffee Futures weaves together the Turkish custom of coffee fortune telling with Turkey's decades-long attempt to join the European Union and investigates the collective psychology of anticipating an uncertain national future. 22 Minutes.

Rethinking the Rules Chris Knauer
Referred by Detroit 48 Hour Film Festival

Jason Strawberry knows realty like the back of his hand, but the one thing he doesn't know is how to ask out Alli, the love of his life. 7:21 Minutes.

Qing Lou Nu Bryan D. Hopkins
Referred by Detroit Independent Film Festival

Qing Lou Nu explores the life of an Asian prostitute trapped by a contradictory world of passion and obligations, all of which climaxes when one of her naïve clients confesses his love. Inspired by Edgar Allen Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart. 25 Minutes.

Retreat Robert Butler
Referred by Lakeside Film Festival

Dateless to her senior prom, a young woman gravitates to the monumental Picture Rocks National Park in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where she gets in touch with her mind and spirit. 11 Minutes.

The Spirit of Isabel Robert Butler
Referred by Flint Film Festival

Alone, desperately seeking work and on the verge of eviction from her apartment, Isabel hits the streets of Detroit. Ashamed and tormented, she refuses to give up, having faith that hope and redemption are just around the corner. 19 Minutes.

3:00 pm GVSU Loosemore ●

Detroit Civil Rights Trilogy Clayton Rye
Submitted by Ferris State University

This film chronicles three poignant personal histories and is a result of professional development that strives for cultural competence. 60 minutes.

3:00 pm GRAM Frey Lecture Room ●●

New Avenues for Film Distribution

Gorilla Pictures, Josh Leo, Mike Ramsdell, Bob Goodrich and John Otterbacher explore ways to use new media and technologies to distribute film and video.

5:00 pm UICA Theater ●

Horror Shorts from Thriller!Chiller!

Coyote Joel Potrykus

With no family, no friends and no real home, Coyote turns to drugs to try to escape the horrors of his late-night madness. Joshua Burge of Friction Records' Chance Jones stars in this genre-mixing, postmodern short. 24 Minutes.





Snow Blowing over the Dead of Winter

Daena Makela

The irradiated air from nuclear devastation and an unforgiving winter breathed new life into the bodies of the recently deceased, making them walk once again with a taste for the flesh of the living. 13:26 Minutes.

Ta-Ta's Last Stand

Jason Roth

A plucky young woman tries to make the best of life after a zombie apocalypse, but finds survival isn't always pretty. A horror/comic tale in the vein of The Twilight Zone. 20 Minutes.

5:00 pm

GVSU Loosemore ●

Grown in Detroit

Mascha Poppenk

Referred by Blue Water Film Festival

Detroit has earned its notorious title as one of the most dangerous cities in the U.S. However, the city and its residents have surprisingly emerged with their own solution. Nature has taken over and the city is "greening" from within. 60 Minutes.

6:00 pm

GVSU Loosemore ●

Eating in Place

Submitted by Calvin College

Over the last decade and a half, interest in eating locally has taken root and grown into a movement in West Michigan. Who is involved and what are their reasons? Could a new emphasis on local food systems help revive the Michigan economy? 60 Minutes.

6:30 pm

UICA Theater ●

The Frontier Boys (Sneak Peek)

John Grooters

Invited by MFF

A basketball season is shattered by the tragic drive-by shooting of the team's biggest star. Racism, loyalty, friendship and faith are at the heart of a story that reveals how young men struggle to discover what really matters in this life and beyond. Feature Length.

7:00 pm

GVSU Loosemore ●

November Requiem

Brian Belanger

Referred by Grand Rapids Film Festival

50 years after the Carl D. Bradley maritime tragedy, the rural town of Rogers City begins a grass-roots effort to heal itself by returning to the wreck of the vessel to bring back a token of the heart. Feature-Length Documentary.

8:00 pm

GVSU Loosemore ●

Lake Invaders

John Schmit

Submitted by Grand Valley State University

This documentary explores exotic-species invasions in Lake Huron. Biologists from around the Great Lakes describe the invaders, the damage they've caused and efforts to manage Lake Huron's ecosystem and fisheries. 56 Minutes.

9:00 pm

UICA Theater ●

High School (Michigan Premiere)

John Stalberg, Jr.

Invited by MFF

High School follows its teenage stoner protagonists on a hilariously unpredictable school-day adventure in which they'll do anything to keep their futures from going up in smoke. Starring Michael Chiklis, Matt Bush, Sean Marquette, Adrien Brody, Colin Hanks. Feature Length.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

12:45 pm

UICA Theater ●

Lost and Found Shop

Alexander Slain

Invited by MFF

Eclectic characters saturate a shop where lost possessions can be reacquired. The viciously callous shopkeeper finds his patience tested by a persistent little girl unable to remember which memory she lost. 8:26 Minutes.

1:00 pm

UICA Theater ●

Art House

Victor Fanucchi

Invited by MFF

Under-achieving art students face eviction by a dishonest dean and a philistine big donor with the intention of turning the students' colorfully run-down home into a golf-team dormitory. Friendships are tested, secret loves are confessed and futures are put on the line. Feature Length.

1:00 pm

GRAM Frey Lecture Room ●●

Business and Legal Aspects of Filmmaking

Attorneys from Miller Canfield and Dickinson Wright join accountants from Kahn & Company, PLC and Schellenberg & Evers discuss what professionals have been doing for production company clients, moderated by Joe Voss of Clark Hill.

2:00 pm

UICA Monroe Gallery ●●●

The Business of Acting

Malinda Petersen, owner of MP Talent Agency, shares information on the business side of an actor's career, including headshots, résumés, demo reels, audition etiquette and what an agent does for an actor.

2:30 pm

GRAM Frey Lecture Room ●●

The Impact of Incentives on Retaining Michigan's Workforce

Putting the unemployed to work. This panel is moderated by Richard Jewell and includes Thad Johnson of Critical Moves USA, Mitch Nyberg from Muskegon Community College, Stasia Savage of IATSE Local 26 and a SAG representative. Followed by a meet and greet.

3:00 pm

GVSU Loosemore ●●●

Sound Design Presentation

Paul Wesselink of Grooters Productions looks at his sound-design work on *Frontier Boys* and explains the how and why behind a scene.

3:00 pm

UICA Theater ●

Fitful

Rich Brauer

Invited by MFF

An inspector for the Historic Trust spends the night on an abandoned ship on a desolate waterfront on the offer of its self-appointed caretaker who applied for historical status. What follows is a sleepless night of bad dreams and creepy reality. Feature Length.





- 3:30 pm GRAM Frey Lecture Room ●●
Nurturing the Michigan Filmmaking Community
A panel bringing together alliances, coalitions and associations to discuss successful community-building practices. Moderated by Deb Havens of WMFVA, Mark Adler of MPA, Gary C. Shifflet of MCA-I and a board member from the WMFO.
- 4:00 pm GVSU Loosemore ●●●
The Art of Editing: Live! Production Workshop Screenings
Editors Steve Julin, Keith Golinski and Joel Swierenga screen their edits and discuss their choices while comparing and contrasting the shorts.
- 4:30 pm UICA Theater ●
Fairview St. Michael McCallum
Referred by Muskegon Film Festival
Paroled after serving four years in prison for involvement in an armed robbery he took the fall for, James Winston is ready to start anew. When a murder occurs, Jim becomes the prime suspect and is hounded by two detectives determined to make him pay for his past. Feature Length.
- 5:00 pm GVSU Loosemore ●
Michigan Film Festival Competition
All the entries in the 2nd annual Michigan Film Festival Competition will be screened. These films were created specifically for the competition with required elements: a character pointing to a spot on his or her hand as a geographical reference within Michigan's Lower Peninsula a reference to the Upper Peninsula and a Michigan-owned business.
- 6:00 pm UICA Theater ●
Small Change Chris Penney
Invited by MFF
An average guy fed up with office life and corporate jargon with a grim outlook on his future uncovers a path of self-discovery and new-found direction when he meets a figure from the past that encourages him to follow his dreams. Feature Length.
- 6:30 pm GVSU Loosemore ●
Vladimir Kay Bouma
Invited by MFF
As Vladimir, Rodolfo and their three squires race through the stars of time to rescue Rodolfo's daughter, they encounter a strange new world quickly filling with their enemies. New battle lines are drawn as vampires and shape-shifters rally for a final showdown. Feature Length.
- 8-11:00 pm **Closing Party at the JW Marriot Mixology Lounge**

MUSIC SUPERVISORS' SHOWCASE

Saturday, November 13 at ACTIVESITE @ 40 Monroe Center (lanyard required)

Watch some of Michigan's top composers and musicians perform live while viewing some of the movies and videos to which they lent their talents.

- 5:00 pm **David Purnell**
David, the owner of DP Creative Audio, has been a professional musician and guitar instructor for 20 years. He composes and produces soundtracks with an eclectic mix of styles for films, ads, television and the web.
- 5:25 pm **Josh Schicker**
Putting words to the intangible and inexpressible is the goal of singer-songwriter Josh Schicker. A strong, soulful voice with a few stories to tell, Schicker is in his prime.
- 5:45 pm **Luke Wilson**
Lucas spent five years as the front man/lead songwriter of the soulful rock band Sweet Japonic and is currently recording his first solo album—an honest, open look at loss, pain and sadness, but also rebirth, happiness and faith.
- 6:05 pm **Ben Scott-Brandt**
Ben Scott-Brandt makes music that feels touchable and squirmy, focusing with child binoculars on the cloud of hazy signifiers and feelings associated with nostalgia and memory. He's released 15 recordings of his own material and collaborated on dozens of other projects with well-known musicians.
- 6:25 pm **Hawks and Owls Stringband**
Hawks and Owls, consisting of Bruce Ling, Becca Lynn and Joe VanAcker, combine old-time fiddle music, folk, country blues, bluegrass, Irish music and original compositions in their performances.
- 7:30 pm **Karisa Wilson Band**
Karisa Wilson is an award-winning acoustic artist who threads the world's musical genres into a unique, soulful blended style with vocals of an angel. Her debut album, *Little Girl*, was awarded Album of the Year by West Michigan's prestigious indie station, WYCE 88.1 FM.
- 8:20 pm **Mines**
The Mines describe their music as "epic indie pop rock." The Mines are most often compared with such bands as Muse, Arcade Fire, Killers, U2 and Coldplay.
- 9:10 pm **FlashClash**
FlashClash draws from influences spanning centuries of electronic indie music unearthed from the ashes of the megacities after the war of 2608. Their live shows are one thousand years in the making and change perspectives using stunning experimental visuals and oceans of sound.
- 10:00 pm **Four Finger Five**
Four Finger Five, comprised of guitarist/lead singer Joe Sturgill, bassist Mike Phillips and drummer Steve Harris, is known for the full, powerful sound they create with only three members. The band was recently named one of Billboard Magazine's Top 5 New Bands Breaking the Rules.



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