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Casey Logan, Communications Coord.
casey@filmstreams.org / 402-933-0259 x 11



Film Streams Launches 'Local Filmmakers' Initiative

Omaha, Nebraska— Film Streams, Omaha's nonprofit cinema, is thrilled to announce the launch of a new program dedicated to premiering the work of area filmmakers.

From August 6-12, Film Streams will present its first **Local Filmmakers Showcase**, a curated program of films by residents of Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. The showcase will screen for one week at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater, located at 1340 Mike Fahey (formerly Webster) Street, within the Saddle Creek Records complex in downtown Omaha.

"Since we opened the Ruth Sokolof Theater almost three years ago, we've celebrated the best of current international cinema, brought some of the greatest films of all time back to their rightful place on the big screen, and partnered with community organizations to maximize film's power to educate about social issues and the arts," said Rachel Jacobson, Film Streams' Founder and Director. "But until now, we hadn't figured out how to support artful local filmmaking without duplicating the great work that's already happening, particularly the Omaha Film Festival. With the help of a terrific jury, we've finally developed a formalized program honoring filmmakers in the surrounding region in a way that truly reflects our mission of promoting film as an important art form."

A jury of Omaha artists and arts supporters will curate the showcase, including Sara Adkisson Joyner and Simon Joyner, Jody and Roger duRand, Mark Hoeger, Peggy Jones, Maggie and Bob Mundy and Derek Pressnall.

The showcase will provide an opportunity for local filmmakers and artists to have a theatrical run and present their work for a full week at an arthouse cinema devoted to celebrating quality filmmaking. Films of all types and running times will be considered for the program, which will be approximately 2 to 3 hours in length in its entirety. Aside from time constraints, the program's format will be determined by the quality and diversity of films under consideration. The finished showcase could be a single feature, entirely short films, or some combination thereof. The jury's objective will be to create an entertaining, artistically interesting program for audiences while celebrating and providing a new forum for the work of area filmmakers.

Filmmakers who would like to submit a work for consideration are invited to send a DVD along with the attached form (also available for download at <http://bit.ly/c4aNR2>) to: Film Streams, Attn: Rachel Jacobson, P.O. Box 8485, Omaha, NE 68108. E-mail questions to rachel@filmstreams.org.

To be eligible, the director of the film must be a resident of Nebraska, Iowa or South Dakota. Students who are either residents of or attending schools full-time in one of those three states are welcome to submit. The idea is to provide a theatrical premiere for local filmmakers, so work that has previously screened publicly for a paying audience (outside of film festivals) will not be considered for this program. Films must be completed at the time of submission and received by Film Streams no later than May 15. Multiple submissions are allowed.

Film Streams will announce the program in June. Directors whose films are selected for the

showcase (as well as their families and friends) will be invited to an opening night celebration and screening. All filmmakers chosen will also receive a percentage of the box office for the week-long run at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater.

Film Streams is a 501(c)3 nonprofit arts organization dedicated to enhancing the cultural environment of the Omaha-Council Bluffs area through the presentation and discussion of film as an art form. More information can be found at www.filmstreams.org.

For media inquiries or requests, please contact Casey Logan at (402) 933-0259 or casey@filmstreams.org.

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Film Streams is grateful for the wonderful support of our members, individual donors, corporations, foundations, and government organizations who make our programming possible, including support from:



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