



Irma (Dir. Charles Fairbanks)

Film Streams announces program for second annual Local Filmmakers Showcase (August 19 – 25)

OMAHA (7/12/11) – Film Streams, Omaha’s nonprofit cinema, is excited to announce the program for its 2011 Local Filmmakers Showcase, a curated program featuring the work of area artists.

Now in its second year, the Local Filmmakers Showcase returns to Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater this August 19-25 and features the work of seven artists from throughout the state of Nebraska. Once again, the perspectives, subject matters and filmmaking styles on display are amazingly diverse. In a little less than two hours, audiences will see: an intimate portrait of the former world champion of women’s professional wrestling; a lovely music video for Omaha band Thunder Power; an experimental short challenging assumptions about language and the meaning of words; a personal documentary about one family’s struggle with mental illness; a photographic stop-motion short chronicling a massive rattlesnake roundup in rural Oklahoma; a whimsical look at thirty-something relationships; and a stirring drama about love and sacrifice.

The showcase presents all seven films together as a single 100-minute program showing daily August 19-25. The week-long run will kick off on Friday, August 19 at 7:30 p.m. with a special opening night premiere screening and post-party with the filmmakers. The event is open to the public, with tickets on sale now.

Tickets to all screenings of the Local Filmmakers Showcase are \$9 general, \$7 for seniors, students, teachers and military, and \$4.50 for Film Streams Members. A percentage of the box office for the week-long run will go to each of the directors whose films are featured in the program.

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Film Streams' 2011 Local Filmmakers Showcase (cont'd)

Following a highly competitive process that brought dozens of submissions, the following titles and directors were selected for the 2011 Local Filmmakers Showcase by an independent jury of area artists and arts supporters:

Irma (Dir. by Charles Fairbanks; 12 minutes)

Frontier Renaissance #8 (Dir. by Joshua France; 4 minutes)

In Silence and Tears (Dir. by Molly Zavitz; 51 minutes)

Tongue Is Scissor (Dir. by Teal Gardner; 2 minutes)

My Dad's Illness (Dir. by Megan Plouzek; 21 minutes)

One Too Many (Dir. by Ryle Smith; 5 minutes)

The Snake Show (Dir. by Joel Sartore; 2 minutes)

More information about the films and filmmakers can be found on the following pages.

The 2011 Local Filmmakers Showcase includes work by three filmmakers—Charles Fairbanks, Joshua France and Ryle Smith—who had films selected for the inaugural showcase last year. The other four filmmakers will be featured in the showcase for the first time.

To be eligible for consideration, directors needed to be residents of Nebraska, Iowa or South Dakota, and their films could not have screened publicly for a paying audience (outside of film festivals). Aside from time constraints, the program's format was determined entirely by the quality and diversity of films under consideration.

Launched in 2010, Film Streams' Local Filmmakers Showcase was created to celebrate the fantastic creativity at work throughout the region. A program about the inaugural Local Filmmakers Showcase will air on NET Television on August 19, the same night as the premiere of the 2011 showcase.

The 2011 Local Filmmakers Showcase was curated by jurors Sara Adkisson Joyner, Andrea Dominguez, Roger duRand, Mark Hoeger, Peggy Jones, Simon Joyner, Maggie and Bob Mundy, Derek Pressnall, and Betiana Simon.

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

Please see the following pages for more information about the films and directors featured in the Local Filmmakers Showcase.

Local Filmmakers Showcase

Friday, August 19 – Thursday, August 25, 2011 · Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater
Running Time: 7 films, approx. 100 minutes.

Irma

Directed by Charles Fairbanks; 12 minutes

An intimate musical portrait of Irma Gonzalez, the former world champion of women's professional wrestling. Filmed in Ciudad Nezahualcóyotl—a notorious district of Mexico City—IRMA contradicts everything we have come to expect from stories reported from Mexico. Featuring music written and performed by Ms. Gonzalez, Irma's story surges with love and deceit, masculine strength, feminine charms, and an extraordinary sense of humor.

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About the filmmaker: **Charles Fairbanks** is a wrestler and filmmaker. His recent work focuses on pro wrestling in Mexico, where the artist fought as the One-Eyed Cat with a camera built into his mask. Fairbanks grew up in rural Nebraska until a wrestling scholarship took him to Stanford, where he studied Art and the History of Science. In 2010 he received his MFA from the University of Michigan, and was selected by Werner Herzog to take part in the first Rogue Film School. He is currently a visiting professor at the UNICACH in Chiapas, Mexico, wrestling and filming toward his first feature.



UNICACH in Chiapas, Mexico

Frontier Renaissance #8

Directed by Joshua France; 4 minutes

A musical video for "Home Office" by Omaha band Thunder Power.

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About the filmmaker: **Joshua France** is a Nebraska native who grew up in the South of Omaha.



In Silence and Tears

Directed by Molly Zavitz; 51 minutes

A selfless nurse sacrifices his job and sanity to care for his wife.

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About the filmmaker: **Molly Zavitz** graduated with a B.A. in Fine Arts/Art History from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She is co-founder of Hunger Artist Films. Molly received an award at the 2007 Fort Omaha Film Conference for UNBROKEN, which she wrote and directed. She is co-owner and a professional digital videographer and editor for The Silver Screen, Inc.. Molly co-wrote, directed and edited IN SILENCE AND TEARS, The Indie Fest Award Winner 2011 and Official Selection of the Iowa Independent Film Festival 2011. The Hunger Artists, Aaron & Molly Zavitz, Patrick McNally, Scott Kurz, Eric Griffith and Aaron Jordan, are currently working on a short action film, which Molly will co-direct with her husband, Aaron.



Local Filmmakers Showcase (cont'd)

Tongue Is Scissor

Directed by Teal Gardner; 2 minutes

TONGUE IS SCISSOR is the end-product of an exploration in the deconstruction of linguistic meaning.

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About the filmmaker: **Teal Gardner** is an interdisciplinary artist from Lincoln who frequently works with video, paint, photography, words, cardboard, a microphone and other living human beings. She keeps a blog (goodymob.blogspot.com), sings in a band (UUVVWWZ), publishes a zine (particlezine.tumblr.com), and this summer works as an art specialist at Prairie Hill Learning Center.



My Dad's Illness

Directed by Megan Plouzek; 21 minutes

A very candid story about my family's struggle with my dad's mental illness. I tell this story in hopes it will spark a conversation about mental illness. It is sad to see so many families struggling and remaining silent.

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About the filmmaker: **Megan Plouzek** has always had a desire to tell inspiring stories. She began making MY DAD'S ILLNESS while attending Nebraska Wesleyan University and taking video production classes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The film sparked a conversation amongst the production staff at NET, where Plouzek was interning, and will air on NET this September.



One Too Many

Directed by Ryle Smith; 5 minutes

A critical yet comical look at romantic relationships between men and women in their mid-30s.

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About the filmmaker: **Ryle Smith's** background is in fine art (painting, drawing, music), theater (performing, directing, writing) and advertising. He is working currently as an actor, director, voice talent, commercial illustrator and commercial videographer. Ryle appears in the Colin Hanks film LUCKY, opening in theaters July 2011. His previous film ONE GOOD TURN was featured in Film Streams 2010 Local Filmmakers Showcase.



Local Filmmakers Showcase (cont'd)

The Snake Show

Directed by Joel Sartore; 2 minutes

Each year snakes and enthusiasts alike converge on Mangum, Oklahoma for the town's annual rattlesnake derby. This stop-motion film (drawn from over 70,000 still images) takes a look inside the tradition.



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About the filmmaker: A lifelong Nebraskan, **Joel Sartore** brings a sense of humor and mid-western work ethic to all of his National Geographic Magazine assignments. In over two decades and more than two dozen stories with the National Geographic Society, Joel has covered everything from the remote Amazon rain forest to beer-drinking, mountain-racing firefighters in the United Kingdom. In his time with National Geographic, he has focused on endangered species and land use issues. He is co-founder of the Grassland Foundation, and a founding member of the International League of Conservation Photographers. He has written several books, including *Photographing Your Family*, *Face to Face with Grizzlies*, *Nebraska: Under a Big Red Sky*, and most recently *RARE: Portraits of America's Endangered Species*. Besides the work he has done for National Geographic, Joel has completed assignments for Audubon Magazine, Time, Life, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, and contributed to numerous book projects.



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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:



Film Streams is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the cultural environment of the Omaha-Council Bluffs area through the presentation and discussion of film as an art form. For more information, visit us online at

www.filmstreams.org.