



## **Meet the Filmmakers: Film Streams' 2011 Local Filmmakers Showcase (August 19-25)**

OMAHA (8/12/11) – It's not often one has the opportunity to see films by a National Geographic photographer, an art-rock vocalist and a Stanford-educated professional wrestler within a single sitting. This year, Film Streams' Local Filmmakers Showcase offers that and more.

Presented as a single 105-minute program, the 2011 showcase will screen August 19-25 at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater. The week-long run will begin with a special premiere screening with the filmmakers on Friday, August 19 at 7:30 p.m., with a post-party immediately following. The event is open to the public and tickets (\$9 general, \$7 students, seniors, teachers and military, and \$4.50 for Film Streams Members) are on sale now at [www.filmstreams.org](http://www.filmstreams.org).

The showcase features a diverse slate of films, including comedy, drama, documentary, music video and experimental short. More importantly, it also celebrates the work of seven outstanding artists from throughout Nebraska, each of who bring a unique point-of-view and creative voice to the program:



Based in Lincoln, **Joel Sartore (THE SNAKE SHOW)** is a lifelong Nebraskan and photographer for National Geographic Magazine. In over two decades, he has covered everything from the remote Amazon rain forest to beer-drinking, mountain-racing firefighters in the UK. In addition to National Geographic, he has completed assignments for Audubon Magazine, Time, Life, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated, and contributed to numerous book projects. His two-minute film, THE SNAKE SHOW,

is a stop-motion short created from over 70,000 still images captured at a massive rattlesnake round-up in rural Oklahoma.



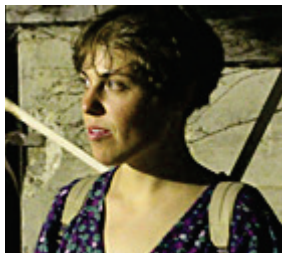
**Ryle Smith (ONE TOO MANY)** is one of three filmmakers who will be featured in the Local Filmmakers Showcase for the second year in a row. In contrast to last year's dark and mysterious ONE GOOD TURN, Smith's five-minute short ONE TOO MANY is a more comic story about thirty-something romance. This year he can also be seen in the new Colin Hanks film LUCKY, which was shot in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Based in Omaha, he works as an actor, director, voice talent, commercial illustrator and commercial videographer.



When she began making the personal documentary MY DAD'S ILLNESS, **Megan Plouzek** was attending Nebraska Wesleyan University and taking video production classes at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She was also interning at NET Television, where the film—a very candid story about her family's struggle with her father's mental illness—sparked a conversation amongst the production staff.

Following its appearance in the Local Filmmakers Showcase, MY DAD'S ILLNESS will premiere on NET Television's NET1/HD on Friday, September 9 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., with additional air dates on NET1/HD and NET2 through September 21. The televised program will include Plouzek's 20-minute film followed by a half-hour discussion, "Chronic Mental Illness & the Family."



**Teal Gardner (TONGUE IS SCISSOR)** is an interdisciplinary artist from Lincoln who frequently works with video, paint, photography, words, cardboard, a microphone and other living human beings. She sings for the band UUVVWWZ, whose 2009 self-titled album was released on Saddle Creek. Gardner keeps a blog ([www.goodymob.blogspot.com](http://www.goodymob.blogspot.com)), publishes a zine ([www.particlezine.tumblr.com](http://www.particlezine.tumblr.com)), and this

summer works as an art specialist at Prairie Hill Learning Center.



**Molly Zavitz (IN SILENCE AND TEARS)** is co-founder of Hunger Artist Films and co-owner and professional digital videographer and editor for The Silver Screen, Inc. She co-wrote, directed and edited IN SILENCE AND TEARS, which earned an Award of Merit at The Indie Fest and was an Official Entry at the 2011 Iowa Independent Film Festival. The Hunger Artists—Molly and her husband Aaron Zavitz,

Patrick McNally, Scott Kurz, Eric Griffith and Aaron Jordan—are currently working on a short action film, which Molly and Aaron are co-directing.



A music video for the song "Home Office" by Omaha band Thunder Power, **FRONTIER RENAISSANCE #8** is—as the name suggests—part of an ongoing series of films made by Joshua France. An Omaha native, France is appearing in the Local Filmmakers Showcase for the second year in a row. In 2010, his satiric short VANITY NO. 1, featuring Will Meinen, drew big laughs at the opening night premiere.



Born and raised in Lexington, Nebraska, **Charles Fairbanks (IRMA)** is a wrestler and filmmaker. His recent work focuses on professional wrestling in Mexico, where he competes as the One-Eyed Cat with a camera built into his mask. He studied Art and the History of Science at Stanford and received an MFA from the University of Michigan. After seeing a Film Streams post about iconoclastic director Werner Herzog starting a “Rogue Film School,” Fairbanks applied and was accepted as part of the school’s first class. He is currently a visiting professor at the UNICACH in Chiapas, Mexico, wrestling and filming toward his first feature. He is the only filmmaker who has had three films in the showcase, which is only in its second year; the 2010 program included Fairbanks’ PIONEERS and WRESTLING WITH MY FATHER.

### **Tickets & More Info**

Tickets to all screenings of the 2011 Local Filmmakers Showcase—including the opening night premiere and post-party on August 19—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.

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.

### **NET Television program will highlight 2010 Local Filmmakers Showcase**

Just as the 2011 Local Filmmakers Showcase gets under way, a statewide audience will be able to watch selections from Film Streams’ 2010 showcase thanks to NET Television.

“Omaha Filmmakers’ Showcase” will premiere on NET1/HD on Friday, August 19 at 7 p.m.—the same night that the 2011 showcase premieres at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater—with repeat broadcasts airing through August 28. The program will feature five of the 2010 showcase films in their entirety: HUMP by Lindsay Trapnell, VALENTINE, NEBRASKA by Patrick Geske, ONE GOOD TURN by Ryle Smith, SYNC OR SWIM by the Animutts and WRESTLING WITH MY FATHER by Charles Fairbanks.

“We are positively thrilled that NET has decided to air selections from last year’s showcase, exposing these filmmakers’ talent to an even wider audience,” said Film Streams Executive Director Rachel Jacobson.

“It’s gratifying to work with our region’s growing independent film community, which brings fresh sensibilities to story-telling,” said David Feingold, Assistant General Manager, Content for NET Television. “Film Streams plays an essential role in connecting these artists to new audiences. We’re very pleased to support their efforts.”

“Omaha Filmmakers’ Showcase” will repeat on Saturday, August 20, at 7 p.m. on NET2, as well as Thursday, August 25 at 10 p.m. and Friday, August 26 at 7:30 p.m. on NET1/HD. It can also be seen on NET2 on Saturday, August 27 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, August 28 at 8:30 a.m. NET1, NET2 and NET-HD are part of NET Television, a service of NET. For complete television program schedules, visit [www.netNebraska.org/television](http://www.netNebraska.org/television).

### **About the Local Filmmakers Showcase**

Launched in 2010, Film Streams’ Local Filmmakers Showcase was created to celebrate the fantastic creativity at work throughout the region. The inaugural showcase took place August 6-12, 2010, and was later featured on the NET Television program “Nebraska Stories.”

The first Local Filmmakers Showcase included 14 films by 13 filmmakers or filmmaking teams. 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. The 2010 Local Filmmakers Showcase premiered on August 6, 2010 with a sold-out opening-night screening and post-party.

Film Streams’ Local Filmmakers Showcase is curated by an independent jury of artists and arts supporters.

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



**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](http://www.filmstreams.org).