



For immediate release

2018 Elgin Short Film Festival Finalists Announced

Four finalists have been selected to compete in the 10th annual Elgin Short Film Festival set for Saturday, September 22, 2018 at The Hemmens Cultural Center, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin, and five other films will compete for the two final spots during the Elgin Fringe Festival.

The six finalists will consist of the top three films from each of the two categories, Live Action and Animation, going head to head for the top prize of \$1000 and trophies. Winners will be selected by a panel of celebrity judges, and audience members will cast their votes for their favorite film. The audience vote has had an impact on who has won in previous years. In other words, your vote does count! Awards and monetary prizes will be presented to the top three films.

The fabulous and always witty Mike Toomey, a regular performer on the WGN Morning News, will again bring his comedic talents as Master of Ceremonies to present this year's finalists.

Chamber Music on the Fox returns to the festival to present a live chamber performance to premier a new piece by composer Steven Ingle that will accompany the screening of the 1902 French adventure silent film "A Trip to the Moon."

Filmmakers will begin arriving on the red carpet at 6:00 p.m. Preshow entertainment includes musicians, interviews with the finalists, strolling characters and more. Film screening of the six chosen films begins at 7 p.m.

This year's finalists are:

Margaret and the Moon

Live Action, Directed by Trevor Morgan

An unpopular little girl falls in love with her imagination and learns the true value of friendship.

Polaris

Animated, Directed by Hikari Toriumi

A young polar bear leaves home for the first time, but finds it difficult to bid her mother farewell.

The Last Dance

Live Action, Directed by Chris Keller

In the not-too-distant future, an old man works alone in his garage – click-click-clicking the hours away on an old desktop computer. His name is Hugo, and he's making something... Something great...

The Go Cart

Animated, Directed by Kailyne R. Waters

A lone shopping cart injured and seized for scrap breaks free and navigates a world of danger, changing his fate and bringing happiness to those he encounters.

There are five semi-finalists competing for the final spot in each category. On Thursday, September 13th and Friday, September 14th, 7:30 PM, five films will be shown at the Blue Box Café, 176 E. Chicago St, Elgin, IL, and the top films in each category, based solely on audience votes will win their chance to compete in the finals for the top prize. They are:

Kill the Engine

Live action, Directed by Derek Frey

Three broken men decide to kill themselves by carbon monoxide poisoning, but the group suicide is foiled when the vehicle of their demise fails to start.

The Cape

Live Action, Directed by Andrew Olson

For eleven happy years Kara was fiery and independent, leaping over tall couches, jumping off the dock, and best of all reading comic books with her Dad, especially her favorite - The Scarlet Raven, a Golden Age Heroine. Now, on her first Summer Vacation to Cape Cod after losing her father, Kara finds a gift from yesteryear in a magical kite shop – an authentic Scarlet Raven Cape, just like the ads in the back of the comics from when her Dad was a boy.

The Amazing Neckbeard

Animated, Aaron Legg - Writer/Director/Animator/Editor

A comic book nerd discovers what it truly means to be a hero in this stop-motion animated short.

Not OSHA Approved

Animated, Directed by Julian Wimmer

Set in a beige wasteland of office furnishings and uncomfortable clothing “Not OSHA Approved” follows two days at the headquarters of one of the world’s most nameless companies. Based very loosely on events from the short story collection “Secret Life” by Jeff VanderMeer we follow the unintended consequences of bringing outside house plants to the office, and a cautionary tale reminding us to never -under any circumstances- take someone’s pen.

Bob and Edgar

Live Action, Directed by Bill Redding

A man and his dog ... or is it?

As you can see it will be a great evening. Come on out and grab a seat, a drink, and enjoy gourmet popcorn by Mama Lee’s, all sold in the lobby before the show and at intermission.

Don’t pass up the chance to vote for the last two finalists during the Elgin Fringe Festival. Go to <http://www.elginfringefestival.com/> for tickets and information.

Tickets to the Elgin Short Film Festival (including chamber performance and red carpet reception) are \$10 and may be purchased at The Hemmens Box Office, online at www.hemmens.org or by phone 847-931-5900. The Hemmens Cultural Center, located at Symphony Way in downtown Elgin, IL, is easily accessible from I-90. Parking is free. Please check us out on Facebook for updates.