



For immediate release

2019 Elgin Short Film Festival

Elgin, IL –The Elgin Short Film Festival (ESFF) is returning for its eleventh year. This is a one-of-a-kind event taking place in Elgin, IL on Saturday, September 21, 2019. The ESFF has drawn film entries from around the world making this an impressive event that has entertained film lovers since 2009.

The excitement for the Elgin Short Film Festival grows stronger every day. The 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.

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.

Festival Highlights:

- *The Top Six Films* (20 minutes or less) will be shown in the intimate 1,200-seat theater of The Hemmens Cultural Center. Beginning at 6:00pm the filmmakers and judges will walk and be interviewed on the red carpet before entering The Hemmens Cultural Center. The film screening starts at 7:00pm.
- *Chamber Music on the Fox* returns to the festival to present a live chamber performance that will accompany the screening of the 1928 film "Felix the Cat in Sure-Locked Homes."
- *Next In Finalists* – ESFF is excited to be part of the Elgin Fringe Festival again this year as audiences select the Next-In Finalists. Each film category (Live Action and Animation) will have five potential finalists. The top two, as voted on by the selection committee, will make the finals. The next three films in each category will compete to make the finals on *September 12th and 13th 2019* as part of the **Elgin Fringe Festival**. (elginfringefestival.com) The film in each category receiving the most Fringe Festival audience votes will be included for Festival presentation.
- A special People's Choice award will be presented based solely on audience votes.
- Awards and monetary prizes will be presented to the top three films.

The Red Carpet Reception starts at 6:00pm; Film Screening starts at 7:00pm. Refreshments will be sold in the lobby before the show and at intermission.

Tickets to the Elgin Short Film Festival are \$10 and may be purchased at The Hemmens Box Office, online at www.hemmens.org or by phone at 847-931-5900.

The Hemmens Cultural Center, located at the corner of Symphony Way and North Grove Avenue in Elgin, IL, is easily accessible from I-90. Parking is free.

The Hemmens Cultural Center
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