

Celebrating 14 years at the movies

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

Sponsored in part by:



Greater Polson
Community
Foundation



**Whitefish
CREDIT UNION**

Take
Me
Home!

SWEET
DATE
NIGHT

Saturday 4:30pm



Saturday
9:30am

You're
invited!
Open to
the public!

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026

SHOWBOAT STADIUM 6
416 MAIN STREET | POLSON

ENCORE WEEK:
FEB. 16-19

flicpolson.com

WELCOME to FLIC 2026!

Be Our Guest... and invite your friends!

Welcome to the Flathead Lake International Cinemafest (FLIC)! Thank you for joining in this celebration of independent films from around the world. For over a century, movies have been our cultural campfire.

This is FLIC's 14th annual festival. Each year, press releases are sent out, radio ads run on multiple stations, weekly Kerr Radio "Lighter Side" segments are broadcast, and posters are placed around town. Even so, many people in this area are genuinely surprised to learn that there's a film festival in Polson! Sometimes, people don't know what they're missing. That's where you come in! Your assignment, should you choose to accept it, is to tell your friends and family about FLIC! While we're grateful for wonderful film lovers like you, we'd love to see more people discover FLIC! So, please be a FLIC ambassador and take some programs with you to share with people you think might enjoy attending, and then tell them when you'll be here so they can join you! It will make a difference.

Please note the FLIC sponsors, volunteers, and committee members listed in this keepsake program. Many thanks to them, the Showboat Stadium 6, and to you, our special guest!

With gratitude,
David and Jessica King
FLIC Producers



Tickets (\$7.50 each per block) are available for purchase from the Showboat Stadium 6 @ 406-883-5603, or in person at the theater: 416 Main Street, Polson. All-Access Passes are \$50 and may be purchased at the theater or on-line @ FlicPolson.com. All-Access passes cover the festival weekend events and all encore screenings. All FLIC screenings are at the Showboat Stadium 6, 416 Main Street. Prior to the festival weekend, FLIC can also be reached at 406-883-1678. Screenings are on a first-come, first-seated basis, with individual tickets available on site for each screening block. There is no reserved seating.

Support FLIC with FLIC MERCH!

FLIC branded merch is available for purchase at the merchandise table in the lobby. Stop by and check out our FLIC hats, long sleeved T-shirts, stickers and more. FLIC accepts cash, credit card, and Venmo!



Also visit the merch table to pick up your free FLIC pen to keep track of your favorites in the program and to fill out your Audience Award pick!

The Impact Award

FLIC is about more than movies. There are many devoted people who give hours of their time to FLIC and the Polson community and we want to honor them. The annual Impact Award is given to an individual or organization whose contributions have enhanced and positively impacted FLIC and the community of Polson. The Impact Award will be presented during the Awards Show at 4:30 on Sunday afternoon.

Another Way to Say THANK YOU!



Look for ballot boxes in the lobby!

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIDAY : FLIC 2026 gets underway at 4:30pm on Friday, February 13th with a catered gathering in the lobby of the Showboat Stadium 6, 416 Main Street, Polson. We will have all the sweet and savory treats before FLIC screenings commence at 6pm. FLIC ticket or pass required.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON: On Saturday, February 14th at 4:30pm, there's a break in screenings for another catered event in the lobby at the theater. Screenings resume at 6pm.



SUNDAY MORNING: On Sunday morning, February 15th at 9:30am, The Good Coffee Roasting Company, 214 Main Street, Polson, is hosting a light breakfast mixer for filmmakers and festival attendees -- who can purchase a wide variety of drinks and delicious fresh baked goods. This will provide a fun jumpstart to FLIC's final day of weekend screenings.

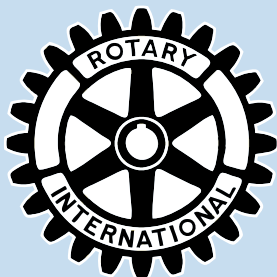


SUNDAY AFTERNOON: FLIC 2026 draws to a festive close with our Awards Show and dessert reception on Sunday, February 15th, at 4:30pm. Delicious desserts are provided by the Flathead Cookie Jar and Super1 Foods. FLIC ticket or pass required.

FLIC KIDS' SCREENING

FLIC's **FREE** Saturday Morning Kids' Screening is back! The Bad Guys 2 will be screening on Saturday, February 14 at 9:30am. Bad Guys 2 is rated PG.

In the action-packed chapter from DreamWorks Animation's acclaimed comedy smash about a crackerjack crew of animal outlaws, our now-reformed Bad Guys are trying (very, very hard) to be good, but instead find themselves hijacked into a high-stakes, globe-trotting heist, masterminded by a new team of criminals they never saw coming: The Bad Girls.



There are no advance tickets for this **free** event. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest you arrive shortly after 9 am so you and your children can pick up your free breakfast and juice. The screening begins promptly at 9:30am. The Polson Rotary Club has provided this free breakfast and screening for many years.

Please thank them when you are served!



A dedicated team of people work year-round to bring FLIC to the Showboat Stadium 6. We are grateful for their dedication to FLIC and the Polson community at large!

FLIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Becky Dupuis, President
Julia Howlett, Vice President
Sarah Beck, Secretary
Lisa Geiger, Treasurer

FLIC DIRECTOR

David W. King

FLIC PRODUCERS

David W. King and Jessica King

COMMUNICATIONS

Michael Brandt and Deb Larson

SPONSORSHIP

Toni Young Whealon

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Jessica King, Desiree Alexander

FILM JUDGES

Sarah Beck, Julia Howlett, David W. King, Jessica King, Mike Morelli

FESTIVAL GRAPHICS

Jessica King
Zoo-Lab Business Services Studio
double entendre design, inc.

**FLIC PROGRAM
DESIGN & CONTENT**

Jessica King and David W. King

WEBSITE

Striped Rhino Website
Development

THEATER OPERATIONS

Gary and Becky Dupuis
Polson Theatres, Inc.
James Bauer, Manager

EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

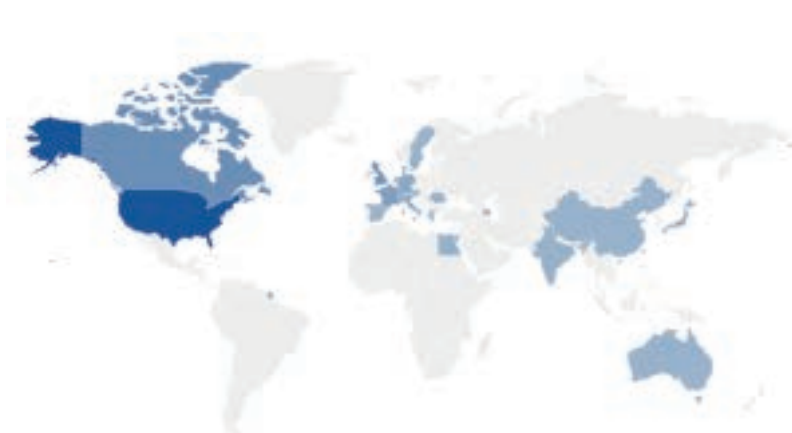
Jesse Vargas Media

CATERING

Kim Smart

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

FLIC could not happen without the invaluable contributions made by our dozens of generous donors and volunteers. Many thanks to everyone involved. Please take a moment to thank the people you see serving the festival. We appreciate them!



FLIC 2026's entries (not just official selections) hail from France, Switzerland, Japan, Italy, Azerbaijan, Taiwan, Sweden, Romania, Netherlands, Israel, India, Greece, Egypt, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Cyprus, China, Australia, Austria, and the USA, including 13 Montana grown films. FLIC's judges score films on a 1-10 scale in 10 categories. The highest scoring official selection this year scored 297. A perfect score is 300. A score of 270+ is equal to 90% or higher.

- FLIC Mission Statement -

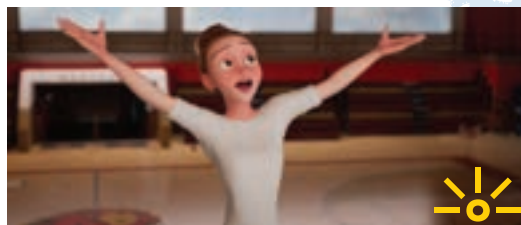
To provide filmmakers a quality venue to share their work with engaged audiences and enrich the arts and business communities of Montana.

A few reminders:

- Important: Please turn off your cell phone in all screenings. If you must use your phone, please exit the theater first.
- The Showboat Stadium 6 absorbs many expenses in order to host FLIC. Please visit their amply-supplied concession stand!
- Due to the short gap between screenings, please help by cleaning your seating area as you exit.
- Please visit our local merchants and eateries! Many help sponsor FLIC. Polson is excited to have you in town for FLIC 2026!
- FLIC thanks every filmmaker who entered this year. We are grateful for your participation.



A Vineyard Cinderella Sat 12:15p Greece, 10m, *Doc Short, PG* - The revived Greek grape variety Malagousiá is like a fairytale woven from the taste of its grapes and the rhythm of a waltz.



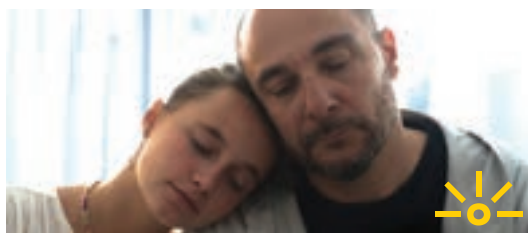
Am I Dreaming? Sun 2:15p UK, 3m, *Animation, G* - Kirstin's dream of being with Dan, the most popular boy in school, takes her to outer space and to a fairy tale castle. Her dream comes true... or does it?



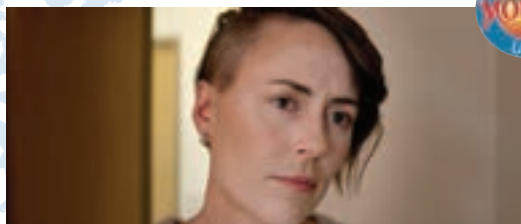
Bluebottle Theory Sat 12:15p UK, 10m, *Narr Short, PG-13* - Ever wanted to take the shot? Drew does. Every bloody day. Bluebottle Theory is a darkly comic noir-style thriller with a twist. Sponsored by Mission Valley Security.



Chasing Tables Fri 8:15p USA, 44m, *Doc Feature, PG* - Chef Jordan Taylor's rise in the Sioux Falls culinary scene appears to be an unmitigated success. His story, however, is much more interesting than that.



Ciao Bella Fri 8:15p & Sat 8:45p Denmark, 11m, *Narr Short, PG-13* - On the morning of her 15th birthday, Bella tries to hide the evidence of her nightly adventures and new found womanhood from her protective father.



Daughter of the Plains Sat 12:15p USA-MT, 38m, *Narr Short, PG* - An A-List film actress returns to her rural Montana hometown hoping to reconnect with the son she abandoned for fame 20 years earlier.



Dieter Sun 12p Switzerland, 10m, *Animation, PG* - An ailing sculptor tries to recapture his fleeting memories until the end of his journey, where he loses himself and vanishes.



Dual Fri 8:15p USA, 21m, *Narr Short, R (language and violence)* - An expecting couple retreats to their cabin during a global crisis and discovers the real threat to their security is more familiar than foreign.



Films that have received one or more nominations.



Eugene O'Neill's The First Man Sat 6p USA, 2h25m, Narr Feature, PG13 (loss in child-birth) - Set in 1920s Connecticut, this powerful psychological romantic drama delves into themes of obsession, grief, and betrayal.



Farmacy of Light Sun 2:15p USA, 1h26m, Doc Feature, PG - With chronic disease and malnutrition skyrocketing, a renegade farmer uncovers the link between human health and the dire need for local, light-filled food.



Focal Point Fri 8:15p USA, 22m, Narr Short, PG-13 (drug use) - In a dystopian future, a grieving scientist discovers Earth exists within a single neuron. He then launches a desperate quest to find his son.



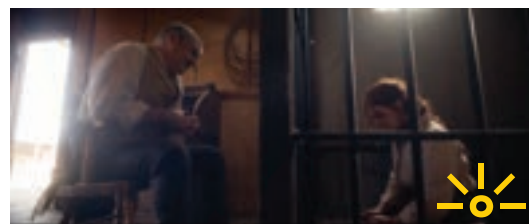
Following the Line Sun 12p Taiwan, 7m, Animation, PG - In 1970s Taiwan, a mother works long hours in lieu of raising her kids. "Grandma," represents countless young women of that era.



Fractal Sat 12:15p USA, 6m, Narr Short, PG A broken widower confronts his grief in order to decide if his second chance at happiness is worth the destruction of the human race.



INFINITY! Sun 12p USA, 11m, Narr Short, PG - A famous Japanese-American dance duo must choose between their passion or their lives as World War II internment camps begin to rise in the US.



Kidd Fri 8:15p & Sat 8:45p USA, 10m, Narr Short, PG - A violent incident forces a young outlaw to confront the consequences of her actions by the hand of her father, the local sheriff.



Laurel Moon Fri 8:15p USA-MT, 20m, Narr Short, PG-13 (alcohol abuse) - After sharing a walk home with an unexpected companion, a grieving mother leaves all she has left so she can finally live. Sponsored by Montana Department of Commerce



Leaving a Legacy Sat 2:30p USA, 19m Doc Short, PG-13 - A look inside the first-ever women's category at Red Bull Rampage, where Chelsea Kimball and other riders reshape what freeride mountain biking can be.



Life Support Sat 12:15p & 8:45p USA, 11m, Narr Short, PG-13 - An emergency doctor with his own trauma struggles teaches a young medical student what it truly means to save a life.



Lone Mountain Sat 2:30p USA-MT, 23m, Narr Short, PG - A confused miner finds himself trapped in a mysterious time loop at an abandoned campsite. As each cycle deepens, he uncovers buried truths from his past.



Memories from Ground Zero Sat 2:30p USA, 8m, Doc Short, PG-13 (9/11 footage) Depicts the personal, vivid recollections of a firefighter who was immersed in the chaos and devastation at Ground Zero on September 11, 2001.



Mothers Sat 12:15p France, 22m, Narr Short, PG - A single mother is asked if she will consent to allow her dying child's heart to save the life of another boy, a patient in need of a transplant.



Mu Fri 6p & Sun 12p Canada, 3m, Animation, G - Mu is a young magician who struggles to get through her day as she mourns the loss of her mother.



Neah Bay: Restoring Ancestral Waters Sat 12:15p USA, 15m, Doc Short, G - A coalition of Tribal leaders works to remove massive Neah Bay debris in order to restore healthy waters and traditional foods to the Makah community.



Of Wind and Water Fri 6p USA, 6m, Doc Short, G - Ned Kahn is a renowned large-form kinetic sculptural artist whose work explores the "confluence of science and art."



Films that have received one or more nominations.



One in Five Hundred Sat 12:15p USA-MT, 1h, Doc Feature, PG - Explores the catastrophic floods that tore through Yellowstone National Park and its surrounding gateway communities in 2022.



One Moment Sun 12p USA, 11m, Narr Short, G - A young barista learns what it means to take hold of a moment from a strange woman across the way who reflects on her past.



Paper Flowers Fri 6p USA, 1h41m, Narr Feature, PG-13 - When a young man is diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, his life is completely upended — and love, loss, tragedy and hope soon fill his world.



Percy Talks - Joseph's Story Sat 2:30p USA, 6m, Animation, G - A creator with Autism talks to children on the spectrum in search of understanding of what autism really is.



Piconland: The Quest for the Perfect Picon Punch Sat 2:30p USA, 26m, Doc Short, PG Piconland invites viewers on a journey across the "big empty" of Nevada to find the perfect Picon Punch and drink life to the fullest.



Project Panthalasis Sun 12p USA-MT, 10m, Doc Short, PG-13 (language) - Two rambunctious high school rock climbers seek to complete the most intimidating feat of their new climbing careers.



SnowBugs Sat 2:30p USA, 3m, Animation, G During a snow day, three girls find themselves in a tricky situation after one of them goes too far during a snowball fight. Sponsored by Jane Irwin.



SoCal Snowy Owl Fri 8:15p USA, 28m, Doc Short, PG - When a rare Arctic snowy owl visits a California suburb, people's encounters with this majestic visitor change their lives for the better.



Sophie's Death Sun 12p UK, 15m, Narr Short, R (violence) - Maya's story reveals the toxic marriage pressure culture in Asia, and how it can become fatal. Heartache bound in mystery.



Steakout! Sat 2:30p USA, 8m, Narr Short, PG-13 (language) - Sean's going to a steak dinner. Patrick's going to a stakeout. Unfortunately they're both stuck in the same car.



Tepeyac: Legacy of Health Sun 12p USA, 27m, Doc Short, PG - Explores the vision, inspiration and people behind Clinica Tepeyac, AKA the Tepeyac Community Health Center in Denver, Colorado.



The Beneath Sat 12:15p Netherlands, 8m, Narr Short, PG-13 - When a mysterious underground creature threatens a woman's garden sanctuary, her battle to save it forces her to confront herself.



The Bullfighter Fri 8:15p USA-MT, 13m, Doc Short, PG-13 - Bullfighters are rodeo's unsung heroes. Like firefighters, bullfighters put their lives on the line to protect others. Sponsored by Montana Department of Commerce.



The Eve of May Sun 2:15p USA, 1h30m, Narr Feature, R (language, attempted rape) Two women, generations apart, summon the strength to face the demons of their pasts — and the struggles of the present.



The forest of souls Sat 2:30p France, 5m, Narr Short, PG - A young accoustician wants to invent a new way of travelling through time to find the souls of the departed.



The Green Box: At the Heart of War Sun 12p USA, 56m, Doc Feature, R (Holocaust images) - Examines one family's sacrifices during WWII, as shared trauma ripples through decades and generations.



Films that have received one or more nominations.

FRIDAY

Friday 6-8p	Mu	3m
	Paper Flowers*	1h41m
Friday 815-10p	Whitefish Credit Union Member Story: The King Family & FLIC	6m
	Ciao Bella	11m
	Laurel Moon	20m
	Focal Point*	22m
	Dual	21m
	Kidd*	10m

*Films with an asterisk denote Filmmaker
Q&A following the screening
(confirmed at time of printing, subject to change).

SATURDAY

Saturday 930-1130a	Children's Screening: The Bad Guys 2	1h44m
Saturday 1130a-1215p	Lunch Break - Check Page 13 for a list of local eateries!	
Saturday 1215-215p	The Wishing Wand	3m
	Life Support	10m
	Fractal	5m
	The Beneath	8m
	Mothers	22m
	Daughters of the Plains*	38m
	Bluebottle Theory*	10m
Saturday 230-430p	SnowBugs	3m
	The forest of souls	5m
	Percy Talks - Joseph's Story	6m
	The Little Ancestor	11m
	Walter	12m
	Lone Mountain	23m
	Steakout!*	8m
	The Solution*	17m
Saturday 430-6p	Dinner Break - Catered event in lobby or visit a local option!	
Saturday 6-8p	The Last Picture Shows*	1h20m
Saturday 815-10p	The Real Yellowstone*	1h27m

SUNDAY

Sunday 12-2p	Greater Polson Community Foundation	2m
	Following the Line	7m
	Dieter	11m
	Infinity!	11m
	Sophie's Death	15m
	Mu	3m
	One Moment	11m
	Valle Crucis	22m
	The Tulip*	5m
Sunday 215-415p	Am I Dreaming?	3m
	The Eve of May*	1h30m

FRIDAY

Friday 6-8p	Greater Polson Community Foundation	2m
	Of Wind and Water	6m
	Ullberg: Wind in the Sails*	1h14m
Friday 815-10p	The Bullfighter	13m
	SoCal Snowy Owl*	28m
	Chasing Tables*	44m

SATURDAY

Saturday 930-1130a	Children's Screening: The Bad Guys 2	1h44m
Saturday 1130a-1215p	Lunch Break - Check Page 13 for a list of local eateries!	
Saturday 1215-215p	Whitefish Credit Union Member Stories - Fred Flint	4m
	A Vineyard Cinderella	10m
	Neah Bay: Restoring Ancestral Waters	14m
	The Marks We Leave*	6m
	One in Five Hundred*	1h
Saturday 230-430p	Greater Polson Community Foundation	2m
	Memories from Ground Zero	8m
	Leaving a Legacy*	19m
	Piconland: The Quest for the Perfect Picon Punch*	27m
	Timberwolf Tracks: The 80th Anniversary of Liberation*	29m
Saturday 430-6p	Dinner Break - Catered event in lobby or visit a local option!	
Saturday 6-830p	Eugene O'Neill's The First Man	2h30m
Saturday 845-10p	Life Support	10m
	Ciao Bella	11m
	The Solution*	17m
	Kidd*	10m

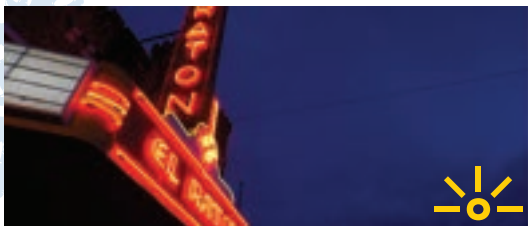
SUNDAY

Sunday 12-2p	WFCU Member Stories - Flathead Area Mountain Bikers	6m
	Project Panthalasis	10m
	Tepayac: Legacy of Health	27m
	The Green Box: At the Heart of War	56m
Sunday 215-415p	Farmacy of Light	1h27m
(SCREEN 5 - see note below)		

*Films with an asterisk denote Filmmaker Q&A following the screening
(confirmed at time of printing, subject to change).



The Sunday 2:15 pm screening block will take place on **Screen 4** and **Screen 5**. During this time, the Awards Show will be set up in Screen 6. This will allow us to start the Awards Show at 4:30 pm. You are cordially invited to attend the show AND our dessert reception immediately following!



The Last Picture Shows Sat 6p USA, 1h20m, Doc Feature, PG - Ten states. 10,825 miles. 123 theaters. Even in vast cinema deserts, there are oases of community and gathering that remain.



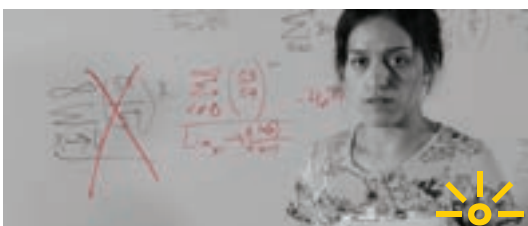
The Little Ancestor Sat 2:30p Canada, 11m, Animation, G - An ancestral house builds itself, then comes to life and unveils its long life of one hundred and fifty years in this whimsical journey.



The Marks We Leave Sat 12:15p USA-MT, 6m, Doc Short, PG - Follows Bozeman-based artist Hailey Hosken as she creates a painting inspired by her experience climbing in the Gallatin Canyon. Sponsored by Montana Department of Commerce.



The Real Yellowstone Sat 8:15p USA-MT, 1h27m, Doc Feature, PG13 - Exposes the untold story of the American West through the eyes of multigenerational ranching families. Can the next generation remain on the land?



The Solution Sat 2:30p & 8:45p USA, 14m, Narr Short, R (violence) - A frustrated math professor resorts to drastic measures to re-assert her authority over her genius-level teaching assistant.



The Tulip Sun 12p USA, 5m, Narr Short, PG A WWII soldier, left for dead, finds the will to keep fighting through the gift from a girl his Division liberated.



The Wishing Wand Sat 12:15p USA, 3m, Narr Short, G - If you had a magic wand, what would you wish for? This film was made by a first-time filmmaker with Downs Syndrome.



Timberwolf Tracks: The 80th Anniversary of Liberation Sat 2:30p USA, 29m, Doc Short, PG - Follows the children of the 104th 'Timberwolves' Division as well as a Dutch survivor who was saved by the Timberwolves when she was 8 years old.



Films that have received one or more nominations.



Ullberg: Wind in the Sails Fri 6p, USA, 1h13m, Doc Feature, PG - Profiles sculptor Kent Ullberg, whose reverence for the natural world led to some of the world's most celebrated wildlife monuments.



Valle Crucis Sun 12p USA, 22m, Narr Short, R (violence and language) - A struggling novelist's solitude is shattered when a neighboring cattle farmer shoots his dog for chasing his cows.



Walter Sat 2:30p USA, 12m, Narr Short, PG After his parents' messy divorce, a ten year old boy clings to a bucket of water that he insists is his "pet wave," Walter.

Don't forget!



You've seen the films, now vote for your favorite to win the Audience Award. Ballots are in the lobby!

Simply fill out your ballot and put it in the ballot box in the theater lobby. The Audience Award will be presented during FLIC's Awards Show on Sunday, February 15 at 4:30 pm. Join us in Screen 6!



Films that have received one or more nominations.

If you need a break from film screenings or want to make the most of dinner and lunch breaks, check out our downtown merchants and restaurants. They, like us, are excited you are here and look forward to welcoming you for warm food, drinks, or some retail therapy!



Hungry?

Check out our local eateries... within walking distance!



Betty's Diner
49779 US Hwy 93
The Cove Deli & Pizza*
11 3rd Ave West
The Durham
49494 US Hwy 93
Fiesta en Jalisco*
110 Main Street
Lake City Bakery*
49493 US Hwy 93
Mrs. Wonderful's Bakery
103B 3rd Ave. East
Good Coffee Roasting Co.
214 Main Street
Perfect Shot Tavern
218 Main Street

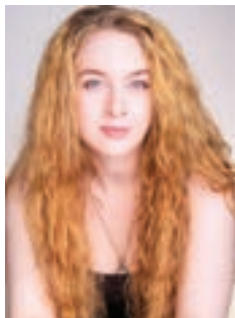
*closed on Sunday



Visit our Main Street Store Fronts - they're eager to welcome you!

(Open Friday & Saturday)

HandMade Montana
212 Main
219 Main Clothing
219 Main
Bear Grass Candles
222 Main #A
Second Nature Gifts & Goods - 305 Main
Mission Mountain Natural Foods - 319 Main
Sandpiper Art Gallery
306 Main Street
River Rock Mercantile
7 3rd Ave E
Alpine Designs
111 3rd Ave E
The Little Montana Shop
214 Main Street Unit B



Britt Crisp
Writer/Director/Cast

Britt Crisp || Kidd || Friday 8:15 pm & Saturday 8:45 pm

Britt Crisp is a first time filmmaker and long-time actress from Texas and Georgia. She began her acting training under the mentorship of Dr. George Mengert at the age of 10 in Atlanta. Britt attended The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles in order to pursue film and television training. Through her production company, The Underdog Circus, Britt has created her first short film "Kidd," a period Western which follows the beginning of a young outlaw's story as she is forced to make a difficult decision by the local Sheriff. When she isn't acting, Britt enjoys old (and all) movies, video games, boxing, hiking, and being home in Los Angeles.



Ray Nomoto Robison
Producer/Writer/Director

Ray Nomoto Robison & Stephanie C. Jones The Eve of May || Sunday 2 pm

Upon graduating from Montana State University's Film School, Robison bounced around a number of media-related jobs in Montana and Washington. He landed a producer/director position at a television station in Southern Oregon. Over the next 35 years, he produced television commercials, marketing videos, and occasionally ventured into narrative filmmaking, earning some success on the festival circuit and securing distribution for a couple of his feature films. Now retired, Robison is creating independent films that fulfill the passion inside him.



Stephanie C. Jones
Cast

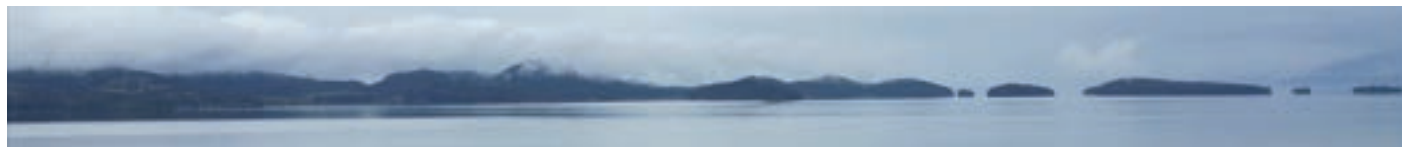
A Bakersfield, California native, Stephanie C. Jones trained in theatre performance and has been performing at venues in Southern California and in Oregon for over 20 years. She now resides in Oregon and in recent years has moved in to film work. She had a supporting role in An Affair Remains, a short film which screened at FLIC in 2019. Stephanie made her feature film debut with the independent film Bad Fish (2023) followed closely by The Eve of May (2025). She is looking forward to a productive year in front of the camera with several projects already lined up.



Luke Roberts
Writer/Director/Cast/
Producer

Luke Roberts || Bluebottle Theory || Saturday 12:15 pm

Luke wrote, produced, co-directed and starred in the multi award-winning short film, Bluebottle Theory. He has optioned previous writing, including a comedy series to Channel-X, maker of BBC television series Detectorists. Luke has twice been a semi-finalist in the Austin film festival screenwriting competition, a script consultant for Marv Studios and he advised Chris Morris during his development of Four Lions. Luke also wrote the short, spooky, lyrical tale, Vesty (available on Amazon) under the name Ed Rippingdale.



Guest filmmakers add so much to the overall FLIC experience and we are grateful for your participation. Thank you for submitting your films to FLIC and being game to travel to Montana in the dead of winter! We cannot wait to hear your stories about the production of your films and celebrate their success with you.

Rustin Thompson || The Last Picture Shows || Saturday 6 pm

Rustin Thompson is a writer and filmmaker and deejay based in Seattle. His recent films include "The Last Picture Shows" and "Died Without Issue." His hybrid essay film "Slow Revolution" played in several international film festivals, and his film "My Mother Was Here" won Best Documentary at the Tacoma Film Festival. Rustin is also the author of *Get Close: Lean Team Documentary Filmmaking* (Oxford University Press, 2019) and he hosts the Americana program Road Songs on KBCS.FM.



Rustin Thompson
Producer/Writer/Director

John Klein & Steve Kniss || The Solution || Saturday 2:30 pm & 8:45 pm

John Klein is a happily-married father of three, cinematographer, director, producer, screenwriter, lover of dogs, Instagram addict, and all-around joyful dude. He has shot projects of all shapes, sizes, and budgets all over the world, from sweeping documentaries to micro-budget thrillers. His award-winning short film *Static Space* screened at over 40 festivals, and his current feature film *Never Not Yours* (co-written and co-directed with Steve Kniss) is making the rounds at festivals around the country. He currently teaches digital media & film production at Elmhurst University.



John Klein
Writer/Director

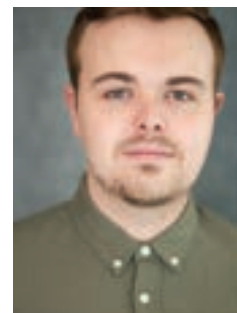
Steve Kniss is an award-winning independent filmmaker and Assistant Professor at Western Carolina University. He holds a BA in Digital Media from Eastern Mennonite University and an MFA in Cinema Directing from DePaul University's School of Cinematic Arts. He toured nationally with his award-winning short film, *Rear View*, and is currently touring with his co-directed feature film debut, *Never Not Yours*. He most recently served as co-director on the short film, *The Solution*, alongside his long-time collaborator John Klein. When not working on films or teaching, he can likely be found cheering on his beloved White Sox, Bears, or Bulls, in spite of their often losing ways.



Steve Kniss
Writer/Director

Kenneth Griggs || Timberwolf Tracks: The 80th Anniversary of Liberation & The Tulip || Saturday 2:30 pm & Sunday 12 pm

Kenneth Griggs is a Writer, Director, Producer, and Actor from Plains, Montana. After graduating from Flathead Valley Community College, he moved to Los Angeles where he started creating short films and screenwriting. He is the founder of the award winning *Treasure Sky Productions* (Best Pilot - Burbank International Film Festival) and is pleased to share his current proof of concept 'The Tulip' and documentary 'Timberwolf Tracks: The 80th Anniversary of Liberation' at FLIC.



Kenneth Griggs
Producer/Writer/Director

Tom Opre || The Real Yellowstone || Saturday 8:15 pm

Tom Opre is an award-winning filmmaker, human rights advocate, and conservationist whose work spotlights the intersection of environmental stewardship and rural human dignity. As a director, cinematographer, television producer, and Amazon best-selling author, Opre uses powerful storytelling to reveal how wildlife conservation is inseparable from the well-being of local communities. Opre leads global efforts to reconnect modern society with the natural world through education, outreach, and film.



Tom Opre
Writer/Director



Denise Thornton
Producer

Denise & Matthew Thornton || Ullberg: Wind in the Sails || Friday 6pm

Denise Thornton is a Filipino-American producer and the co-founder of Griffyn.Co Productions. Based in Austin, she brings more than two decades of leadership experience to her role as executive producer, overseeing development, production, and strategy across the company's slate. Her work includes the acclaimed *Silverfish* (2017), *Hero Complex* (2022), and *Psycho Soliloquy* (2019). Most recently, she produced *Ullberg: Wind in the Sails* (2024), a feature documentary tracing the artistic journey of sculptor Kent Ullberg.



Matthew Thornton
Writer/Director

Matthew Thornton is a Texas-based filmmaker, author, and educator, and the creative director of Griffyn.Co Productions. His work blends visual poetry with humanities-driven storytelling, shaped by 15 years of teaching history, English, and film studies to more than 2,000 students. He is the author of *Imitating Life: The Art of Modern Acting* and co-host of the *Creative Moonlighting* podcast. Matthew's latest film, *Ullberg: Wind in the Sails* (2024) will premiere on PBS Texas beginning May 2026 as part of its statewide broadcast initiative. Across his work, Matthew is dedicated to stories that illuminate culture, resilience, and the human condition.

Max Neace || Steakout! || Saturday 2:30 pm



Max Neace
Writer/Director

Max Neace most recently produced the upcoming horror film *Illomen* in Malibu, CA; the upcoming mini-series *Perfect Sundays* in Doylestown, PA; the feature film *Oddities*, starring Adrienne Barbeau, Lovie Simone, and Lilimar Hernandez and the feature film *Red Camellia*, starring Carly Chaikin, Douglas Smith, Sean Bridgers, and Chloe Guidry in Louisville, KY. He wrote and directed the thriller, *Shift*, in Los Angeles, CA. Further feature producing credits include *The Red Mask*, *Goblin*, *Still: A Michael J. Fox Documentary*, *What We Do Next*, *Stalker*, and *Don't Tell a Soul*. He is a graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts and generally just a very cool guy.

Mitch Milbauer || The Marks We Leave || Saturday 12:15 pm



Mitch Milbauer
Director/Editor

Mitch is a documentary filmmaker, cinematographer, and colorist focused on telling visually-driven stories at the intersection of adventure sports and human experience. Drawing on a background in mountain sports and expedition experience, Mitch has filmed surfing along the Chilean coastline, technical skiing and climbing in the Tetons, and remote bikepacking expeditions across diverse landscapes. He is currently pursuing an MFA in Science and Natural History Filmmaking at Montana State University, training toward his AMGA Ski Guide Certification, and practicing the art of adequate surfing.

Mark Maynard || Piconland: The Quest for the Perfect Picon Punch Saturday 2:30 pm



Mark Maynard
Director

Mark Maynard wrote and directed the award-winning documentary *Piconland* about the Basque-American cocktail, the Picon Punch. His story collection *Grind* was the 2016-17 Nevada Reads Book and he's the recipient of the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame Silver Pen Award. He teaches English, creative writing, and journalism at Reno's Truckee Meadows Community College. He has an M.A. in Journalism from the University of Nevada, and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Antioch University Los Angeles. *Piconland* is his first film.

Justin Bergh & Skott Chandler || Chasing Tables || Friday 8:15 pm

Justin Bergh is an Assistant Professor of Multimedia Journalism at Black Hills State University. He is an accomplished documentary filmmaker, most recently directing *Chasing Tables*, which earned multiple international film festival selections and awards. His scholarly work includes articles in *Journal of Folklore Research* and *Elder Mountain: A Journal of Ozark Studies*, as well as contributions to *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Food Issues*. His work has been recognized with numerous honors, including the South Dakota Board of Regents Award for Academic Excellence and the College Media Association Honor Roll Adviser Award.



Justin Bergh
Producer/Director

Skott Chandler is an award-winning photographer and filmmaker, currently serving as Associate Professor of Photography at Black Hills State University. His recent documentary film, *Chasing Tables*, premiered on South Dakota Public Broadcasting and was featured at multiple film festivals worldwide. He has taught a wide range of courses in photography and digital media, advised student organizations, and served on boards such as the Society for Photographic Education. His work has been published in numerous catalogs and magazines, and he has received honors including the Outstanding Teacher Award and Outstanding Advisor Award.



Skott Chandler
Producer

Hugo Sindelar || One in Five Hundred || Saturday 12:15 pm

Hugo Sindelar is an Assistant Professor at the Montana State School of Film and Photography. Hugo has a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering Sciences, and an M.F.A. in Science and Natural History Filmmaking. After graduating with his Ph.D. in Engineering, he decided to pursue a career in science filmmaking. His films have covered a diverse array of topics including western wildfires, thermophiles in Yellowstone, elk, soil carbon research, and an Arctic climate monitoring expedition. He is currently working on films about permafrost thaw in Alaska and water quality improvements at Chief Plenty Coups State Park.



Hugo Sindelar
Producer/Director

Maddy Reynolds || Leaving a Legacy || Saturday 2:30 pm

Maddy Reynolds is a director and editor in the outdoor space, driven by a deep connection to the outdoors and a commitment to authentic storytelling. Her experience includes film work for companies like Teton Gravity Research, Heli Adventures and The Public Works, and freelance work for Red Bull, Specialized, CMH Heli, Smartwool, and Protect Our Winters. When Maddy isn't stuck behind a computer screen editing films or elbow deep in the dirt trying to get the shot, she's probably moving down a mountain very fast – sometimes unintentionally.



Maddy Reynolds
Director

Mahesh Pailoor || Paper Flowers || Friday 6 pm

Mahesh Pailoor is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker working across feature films, network television, and documentaries. His work has screened at SXSW, Cannes Lions, and the Smithsonian. He directed and co-wrote the independent feature *Brahmin Bulls*, praised by *The New York Times* as a "warm debut," and has directed episodes of NBC's *The Blacklist* and CBS's *S.W.A.T.* He is a graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts and earned an MFA in directing from the American Film Institute, where he was the recipient of the Franklin J. Schaffner Fellow Award. He is currently completing a documentary about the Eaton Fire in Altadena.



Mahesh Pailoor
Director



Denver Holt
Cast

Denver Holt || SoCal Snowy Owl || Friday 8:15pm

Holt is a widely published author who has been featured in many articles from National Geographic to the New York Times, as well as in many television programs. He has educated and entertained people from all walks of life and enjoys guiding, meeting new people, and expanding his knowledge of wildlife and the natural world. His Snowy Owl research has been the focus of the British Broadcasting Company's (BBC) documentary series, *Frozen Earth*, a sequel to the highly acclaimed *Planet Earth* series. Denver has also been the keynote speaker for many major bird festivals in the United States and gave a TEDxBozeman talk in 2023.



Raphaël Buisson
Director/Writer/Producer

Raphaël Buisson || Focal Point || Friday 8:15 pm

A graduate of USC School of Cinematic Arts, Raphaël Buisson is a director, producer, and cinematographer from Paris, currently based in LA. His work blends emotional storytelling with genre, often using science fiction as a lens to explore themes of alienation, addiction, and societal decay. Raphael has directed, produced, and shot dozens of short films, music videos, feature films, and commercial projects. His work has earned multiple festival awards, with screenings at international festivals. He is currently in pre-production on a new sci-fi feature exploring underwater life as a DP. As a director, he is also preparing a multi-perspective feature set in the underworld of nightclubs, and developing a feature-length expansion of the world introduced in *Focal Point*.



Richard Bednarski
Producer/Cinematographer

Richard Bednarski || Piconland: The Quest for the Perfect Picon Punch Saturday 2:30 pm

Richard Bednarski is an accomplished multimedia journalist, focusing on the intersection of environmental and cultural storytelling. His award-winning work as Director of Photography and Editor on "Piconland" showcases his exceptional ability to blend storytelling with visual artistry. He has an M.A. in Journalism from the University of Nevada. With over two decades of visual storytelling experience, Richard pulls from a diverse background to document life around him.



John Roberts
Producer/Director

John Roberts || Bluebottle Theory || Saturday 12:15 pm

John produced and directed the multi-award winning short film, *Bluebottle Theory*. John's varied career has encompassed producing music videos and television commercials in London. His writing on film genre has been published in the UK and USA. He is an English teacher and Head of Film Studies at a large school in Bedford. He is also a multi-published writer on film genre.

A quick note about film sponsorships: throughout the program and on screen at FLIC, you will see a handful of films sponsored by individuals or organizations. The films were independently made without the help, financial or otherwise, from the aforementioned individuals or organizations. The sponsorship option is presented by FLIC as an option for those looking to participate in the festival at a different level with a different level of visibility. There are several organizations outside of FLIC who do offer grants or donations for production, but our generous FLIC film sponsors exist independently of those charitable donors.



Best Picture - Feature

Eugene O'Neill's The First Man
Paper Flowers

Best Picture - Short

Ciao Bella
Kidd
Mothers
Life Support
The Solution

Best Documentary - Feature

Chasing Tables
One in Five Hundred
The Last Picture Shows
The Real Yellowstone
Ullberg: Wind in the Sails

Best Documentary - Short

Leaving a Legacy
Memories from Ground Zero
Neah Bay: Restoring Ancestral Waters
SoCal Snowy Owl
The Bullfighter

Best Animation

Am I Dreaming?
Dieter
The Little Ancestor
Mu
SnowBugs

Best Montana Film

The Bullfighter
The Marks We Leave
The Real Yellowstone

Best Director

Nitasha Bhambree & Declan Mulvey (Dual)
Britt Crisp (Kidd)
Mahesh Pailoor (Paper Flowers)
Hardeep Giani (The First Man)
John Klein & Steve Kniss (The Solution)

Best Actor

Rasmus Hammerich as The Father (Ciao Bella)
Phillip Charlie Daniell as Sheriff Turner (Kidd)
Andrew Chu as Dr. Danny (Life Support)
Kapil Talwalkar as Shalin Shah (Paper Flowers)
Vincent Andriano as Curt Jayson (The First Man)

Best Supporting Actor

Faran Tahir as Jay Shah (Paper Flowers)
Alan Turkington as Bigelow (The First Man)
Weston Cage Coppola as Ernest (Valle Crucis)

Best Actress

Britt Crisp as Billy Turner (Kidd)
Karina Testa as Sabira (Mothers)
Olivia Liang as Fiona Chang (Paper Flowers)
Charlotte Asprey as Martha Jayson (The First Man)
Diana Simonzadeh as Ruby Finnegan (The Solution)

Best Supporting Actress

Karolina Kwasniak as Ms. Lesko (Life Support)
Catherine Badet as Anna (Mothers)
Meera Simhan as Reema Shah (Paper Flowers)
Rebecca Lee as Lilly (The First Man)
Jocelyn Zamudio as Aiza Tahan (The Solution)

Best Cinematography

Adrien Bourguignon (Focal Point)
Dallas Sterling (Kidd)
David Symmons (The First Man)
Ben Kurstin (The Solution)
Drew Hisey (Valle Crucis)

Best Original Score

Raphael Dargent & Augustin Izoard (Focal Point)
Kristen Øhrn Dyrud (Paper Flowers)
Nick Norton-Smith (The First Man)
Alexa L. Borden & Connor Cook (The Solution)
Jason Shavey & Patrick McBride (Valle Crucis)

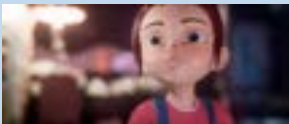
Films with one or more nominations are denoted with a  throughout the program.

WE'RE NOT DONE YET!

If you missed some films during the festival, you can catch award nominated films during the FLIC encore screenings the following week! Your All-Access Pass will admit you to encore screenings, or individual encore screening blocks are \$7.50 each. Special thanks to the Showboat Stadium 6 for giving FLIC a home for fourteen years running!

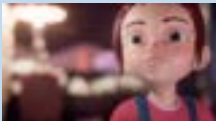
	1:00 pm	4:00 pm	6:30 pm
MONDAY FEBRUARY 16		Mu Kidd Mothers Dieter Life Support Ciao Bella The Solution	Am I Dreaming? Ullberg: Wind in the Sails
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17		Paper Flowers	WFCU: The Kings & FLIC The Last Picture Shows
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18	Eugene O'Neill's The First Man	GPCF Chasing Tables One in Five Hundred	WFCU: Fred Flint The Little Ancestor Focal Point Valle Crucis Dual
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19		Memories from Ground Zero The Real Yellowstone	SnowBugs The Marks We Leave WFCU: Mountain Bikers Leaving a Legacy The Bullfighter Neah Bay: Restoring Ancestral Waters SoCal Snowy Owl

ENCORE WEEK - SCREEN 6



← Scope

Flat →



When you come to see a film at the theater, it's either being shown in Scope or Flat. A DCP cinema projector takes about 20 seconds to make the switch between the two. The festival and encore week have been scheduled in such a way as to minimize those changes. If there is a longer than normal "break" between two films in a block, please be patient while the projector readjusts. The next film will start soon and will screen as the filmmaker intended!

STUDIO (\$4000+)



Greater Polson
Community
Foundation



MOVIE STAR (\$1000+)



Sarah Beck,
Broker



Jarecki
Charitable
Foundation



ANDERSON
BROADCASTING



DIRECTOR (\$500+)

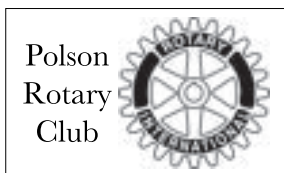
Ken Cook
& Family



EDGAR
MALDONADO

Terri Srch &
Bill Fagliano

CENTURY 21
Big Sky Real Estate
Pico Smith



SCREENWRITER (\$250+)

Larry & Dorothy Ashcraft, John & Nancy Gluekert,
Valerie Lindstrom, Jerry & Toni Whealon, Big Sky
Dental Clinic - Dr. Chris Clave, Eagle Bank,
Richwine's Burgerville

CINEMATOGRAPHER (\$100+)

Joe & Gerry Browning, Dennis & Nikki Desrosier, Bob &
Sharon Fulton, Howie & Julia Howlett, Jane Irwin, Paul &
Carlisa London, Jim & Debbie Ofstad, Bird Family Dentistry,
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Friday & Saturday Catering by



Awards Show Dessert Reception

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

