

36th annual
mSPIFF™ minneapolis st. paul
international
film festival
April 13-29, 2017

mspfilm.org | info@mspfilm.org | 612.331.7563 | [@mspfilm](https://www.instagram.com/mspfilm) | [#mspiff](https://www.facebook.com/mspiff)
125 SE Main Street, Suite 341, Minneapolis, MN 55414

MINNEAPOLIS ST. PAUL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL EARLY TITLES ANNOUNCED

MINNEAPOLIS – March 1, 2017. The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul today released an early glimpse at the bold, exciting and moving works from emerging and veteran filmmakers from around the world to be included in the 2017 Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF). The Festival returns April 13-29, 2017, bringing 250 new films representing 70+ countries to audiences throughout the region.

This year, MSPIFF—the largest international film event in the Midwest—expands to include select screenings at the Capri Theater in Minneapolis, in addition to screenings at its hub at the St. Anthony Main Theatre, the Uptown Theatre, Metropolitan State University's Film Space in St. Paul and the Marcus Wehrenberg 14 Theater in Rochester.

“With freedom of movement and expression increasingly challenged here and abroad, and on the heels of the best-attended Arts Advocacy Day in history, the Film Society is proud to welcome attendees and artists from all parts of the world, providing a valuable public showcase for international film not otherwise available in the region,” said the Film Society’s Executive Director, Susan Smoluchowski. “In this spirit, the 2017 Festival will present *Passages*, a special selection of films and conversations highlighting the global reality of shifting populations and politics, identity and social change.”

Screeners will be provided upon request (if available), as well as more in-depth summaries, director bios, images, etc. Please contact Festival Publicist Connie Shaver: connieshaver@charter.net.

THE DARKNESS (LAS TINIEBLAS)

Director Daniel Castro Zimbrón attending

In the aftermath of a catastrophe that has made the earth stop spinning, Argel’s world is in permanent twilight, blanketed by a toxic fog. A strange and ravenous monster stomps around the family home, where young Argel, his older brother, his little sister, and his father cower in fear. When his older brother mysteriously disappears, Argel takes it upon himself to seek out the monster, revealing the darkest of family secrets. **Program: Dark Out.** Directed by Daniel Castro Zimbrón. Mexico. 2016. 92 min. In Spanish w/English subtitles.

DEAN

From comedian and musician Demetri Martin comes this very strange and funny tale about true love, death, and real estate. Dean (played by Martin), a young illustrator, and his father, Robert (Kevin Kline), are still in mourning over the death of Dean's mother, who died a year ago. Will both men be able to find love in the wake of death? **Program: New American Visions.** Directed by Demetri Martin. USA. 2016. 87 min. English.

FIRST DAUGHTER AND THE BLACK SNAKE

Director Keri Pickett attending

Environmentalist Winona LaDuke just wants to be with family, tend her garden and put up solar panels. When she learns that Canadian owned oil company Enbridge plans to build a new pipeline through her Minnesota tribe's land, she must spring into action if she is to save her sacred wild rice watersheds and Lake Superior itself. **Program: Documentaries, MN Made.** Directed by Keri Pickett. USA. 2017. 104 min. English.

THE HAPPIEST DAY IN THE LIFE OF OLLI MÄKI (HYMYILEVÄ MIES)

Naïve, and as eager to box as he is to bake bread in his small hometown of Kokkola, Olli Mäki is a man who simply appreciates what he's been given in life. When he's afforded the chance to fight on the big stage—the World Boxing Association featherweight championship—he not only is skeptical that he can beat the great American boxer Davy Moore, but he happens to realize that he's fallen deeply in love right around the time of the fight. Winner of the Un Certain Regard at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival. **Program: Midnight Sun.** Directed by Juho Kuosmanen. Finland. 2016. 92 min. Finnish, English w/English subtitles.

IT'S ONLY THE END OF THE WORLD (JUSTE LA FIN DU MONDE)

Louis is a gifted playwright, returning to his family home after a 12-year absence to deliver important news: he has terminal disease, and not long to live. The family he meets are a collection of strangers—like his youngest sister and his new brother-in-law—or they're angry, debilitating people whom he wishes were strangers. Over the course of the long weekend, Louis keeps trying to deliver the bleak news, only to be interrupted, berated, ignored, and, at one point, almost physically abused. **Program: World Cinema.** Directed by Xavier Dolan. Canada. 2016. 97 min. In French w/English subtitles.

THE LOST CITY OF Z

Based on author David Grann's bestselling book, *The Lost City of Z* is the stirring account of one of one of the most mysterious and compelling archaeological tales in history. At the turn of the 20th Century, British explorer Percy Fawcett journeyed deep into Brazil, down the Amazon River, where he discovered evidence of a previously unknown civilization that built an enormous city in the middle of the dense jungle. But the English scientific community found this ludicrous, as they regarded indigenous populations as "savage", unable to create such a complex environment. Fawcett, supported by his devoted wife, Nina, son, Jack, and aide-de-camp Henry Costin, returned again and again, hoping to find more evidence, until his mysterious disappearance in 1925. **Program: Special Presentations.** Directed by James Gray. USA. 2016. 141 min. English.

PASSAGES SHORT FILMS

MSPIFF presents a moving collection of short films from Sweden, Greece, Syria, West Africa and the United States that detail the challenges that refugees face on their journey to new lands.

Program: Passages. Various directors. 2016. 86 min. Various languages w/English subtitles.

STARLESS DREAMS (ROYAHAYE DAME SOBH)

For seven years, director Mehrdad Oskouei tentatively worked with Iranian authorities to film the lives of women locked up in a detention facility outside of Tehran. Sentenced for murder, drug dealing, possession, hijacking cars, and many other crimes, the young women, who answer to a number, a name, or just “nobody”, unflinchingly discuss their various crimes, the hell that awaits them in society, and the privacy of their own homes. "Roger Ebert once called the movies 'a machine that generates empathy,' and *Starless Dreams* ... is just such a machine." —Stephen Holden, *The New York Times*. **Program: Passages, Documentaries.** Directed by Mehrdad Oskouei. Iran. 2016. 76 min. Persian w/English subtitles.

THE TRUTH BENEATH (BIMILEUN EOPDA)

Director Lee Kyoung-mi attending

Determined to become a politician, former news anchor Jong-chan has fought to secure the Korea Party's nomination in Daeson, readying to battle lawmaker Noh Jae-soon in the coming election. Things take a turn for the strange when his daughter Min-jin suddenly disappears. Min-jin's anxious mother Yeon-hong takes matters into her own hands by going to the police and investigating on her own. When her investigation uncovers a darker side to local politics, no one is spared. **Program: Asian Frontiers.** Directed by Lee Kyoung-mi. South Korea. 2016. 102 min. Korean w/English subtitles.

WINGS

Silent film with live performance by Prima Vista Quartet

Arguably the last great silent film, this epic of World War I air combat has to be seen to be believed, a thrilling and ultimately harrowing experience in an era of stuntmen, real planes and no CGI. The first film to win the Oscar for Best Picture, *Wings* is a silent movie concert performed by the Prima Vista Quartet with the original score composed by Baudime Jam.

Program: Special Presentations. Directed by William Wellman. USA. 1927. 144 min. Silent, w/English intertitles.

THE WORLD IS MY COUNTRY

Director Arthur Kanegis attending.

The World Is My Country is the story of “World Citizen #1”: Garry Davis, who spent 65 years of his life as a citizen of no nation, only Earth. For years he traveled around the globe on his “World Passport” while engaging in adventures so unique that his life made a front-page headline in *The New York Times* and inspired stories in *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times* and other worldwide media. Davis was a pioneering thinker, author of 10 books, and founder of the World Service Authority, an organization that issues World Passports to stateless refugees and to people who think global, and above the nation-states that carve up our one globe. **Program: Passages, Documentaries.** Directed by Arthur Kanegis. USA/France/Germany . 2017. 83 min. English.

MSPiFF is presented by the Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul, a dynamic 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to fostering a knowledgeable and vibrant appreciation of the art of film and its power to inform and transform individuals and communities.

The Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival is generously supported by the *Star Tribune*, Cedarwoods Foundation, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Minnesota State Arts Board Legacy Amendment Funding, National Endowment for the Arts, McKnight Foundation, US Bank, The Minneapolis Foundation, Minnesota Philanthropy Partners, Indeed Brewing Company, Depot Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, numerous international Consulates, and the 2,000+ Members of the Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul.