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**For immediate release:**

## **MSP Film Presents MINNESOTA MADE FILMS at MSPIFF**

MINNEAPOLIS – February 27, 2020 - **MSP Film Society** is thrilled to announce **the first slate of films for the 39th Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF): the Minnesota Made Films!**

**New in 2020, MSP Film Society** is also pleased to **offer all Minnesota Made feature films an honorarium for premiering their films at MSPIFF!**

Running **April 9 – 25, 2020, MSPIFF** is Minnesota’s **largest film event** and one of the **longest-running film festivals in the country**. The **39th MSPIFF** once again brings **250+ bold and inspiring films** from **100+ cultures and countries** around the world to audiences in the Twin Cities and beyond.

“MSPIFF has an impressive track record of lifting up Minnesota filmmakers by offering a unique platform to premiere their films in a world-class festival, where they screen alongside some of the greatest filmmakers from around the world,” said **Susan Smoluchowski, Executive Director of the MSP Film Society, parent organization of MSPIFF**. “With the support of **McKnight Foundation**, we are pleased to **offer Minnesota filmmakers an honorarium for their participation in MSPIFF** and further **incentivize them to partner with MSPIFF for their Minnesota premieres.**”

MSP Film Society already offers year-round support to Minnesota filmmakers in myriad ways, from highlighting the Minnesota Made films in MSPIFF’s publicity efforts, to offering weeklong and one-off screening slots at St. Anthony Main Theatre for festival favorites, and by supporting local productions through our **Women & Film Fiscal Sponsorship Program**, which was launched at last year’s MSPIFF.

“We want to express our appreciation for the extraordinary effort and artistry that goes into each project,” said **Jesse Bishop, MSPIFF Programming Director**. “What better way to expand our support than by giving local filmmakers what they need most once they’ve reached the finish line: cash!”

As the film festival landscape expands, both locally and globally, and theatrical distribution opportunities for independent films continue to shrink, more and more filmmakers are utilizing the festival circuit to bring their films to audiences in as many communities as they can. **MSP Film Society has decided to prioritized their support of Minnesota feature filmmakers through this honorarium.**



**Minnesota Made Feature Films at the 39th MSPIFF include:**

***Bridge***

Featuring never-before-seen footage, Spencer Patzman’s debut documentary examines the collapse of the I-35W bridge over the Mississippi that killed 13 people and injured dozens more. Documentary

***Land of My Father***

Matthew Koshmrl’s debut documentary examines the unresolved trauma of the Japanese occupation of a Korean island by following the intersecting lives of several young Koreans as they protest Japan’s claim to the island territory of Dokdo-ri. Documentary

***Nina of the Woods***

Charlie Griak’s latest film is about an aspiring actress from a small town who is hired to give authenticity to a reality show tailing Bigfoot. But the forest has some secrets of its own, pushing Nina and the crew to confront larger realities in this haunting feature. Fiction

***Road to Damascus***

Tony Perkins’ modern day noir exposes the worst of America’s capitalist urges through Francis, a down-on-his-luck man, deeply in debt, and trying to remain sober. Then his roommate goes missing, and soon, so does everything he has come to believe. Fiction

***Stories I Didn’t Know***

As co-directors Melody Gilbert and Rita Davern trace the sweeping immigrant story of Rita’s ancestors from the Burren in County Clare, Ireland, Rita faces a reckoning with the complicated history of the land where they settled in Minnesota. Documentary

***Tuscaloosa***

Phil Harder’s lush 1970s period piece follows a young man from a well-off Southern family facing the draft, life after college, first love, and a family mystery that may also involve murder. Fiction

***Raise Your Voice***

Maribeth Romslo’s moving documentary follows the passionate student reporters at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and their work to cover their school shooting, the NRA, and student voices around the world. Documentary

**The complete MSPIFF line-up will go live on [mspfilm.org](http://mspfilm.org) on March 19, 2020. Tickets to MSPIFF screenings are \$15 General Public, \$11 Film Society Members, and \$8 Youth under 25 and Students w/ID. MSPIFF Passes and 6-Packs are on sale now.**

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