

DOCUMENTARY·SHORT·COMEDY  
HUMAN INTEREST·NARRATIVE  
THRILLER·OUTDOOR·INTERNATIONAL

EXPLORE THE ALTERNATIVE

# RAINIER.FILM

RAINIER INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

13TH ANNUAL • MAY 17-19, 2019

FESTIVAL PROGRAM



# venues & festival highlights

Located in the foothills of Washington's Cascade Range, the Rainier Independent Film Festival is dedicated to providing true independent filmmakers a unique screening experience. Nestled in the Ashford Valley, RIFF mixes films, workshops and a laid-back atmosphere that inspires creativity and presents a great opportunity to escape the city, slow down and mingle with film industry artists.

## Cine-Round at Whittaker's Basecamp

30205 State Route 706, East – Sponsored by Whittaker's Motel and Historical Bunkhouse

We had an amazing run at the Wellsprings Yurt in years past, and this year we are excited to launch our very own Cine-Round at Whittaker's Motel & Historical Bunkhouse! RIFF 2019 welcomes filmmakers and guests to view films in this uniquely spectacular yurt located just behind our motel.

## Mt. Rainier Lions Theater

27726 State Route 706, East – Sponsored by AVMS

This rustic hall was built in the early 1900's, and has been home to the Ashford community's gatherings, and socials of all types. If the walls could talk they'd speak of decades of history amongst the wood floors, walls, stage, and fully functioning kitchen. This is a great venue with good acoustics and capacity for 200 movie-goers. Easy to find, one mile west of Ashford on highway 706.

## Opening Night Film: Return to Mount Kennedy

In 1965, Robert Kennedy was the first man to summit Mount Kennedy in the Yukon Territory, named in honor of his late brother. Leading that expedition was Jim Whitaker. 50 years later, Jim's sons Bob and Leif, along with Christopher Kennedy, decide to climb the mountain again in honor of their fathers' joint accomplishment and unique friendship.

This beautiful film is about family, friendship, loss and discovery. It's raw, real and inspirational. Bobby Whittaker will be joining us for a Q & A after the film – and the Opening Night Gala follows!

## TSMR – The Student Movie RIFF

Now in year three – twenty-one teams of students from the Eatonville, Morton, Mineral, Orting, Yelm and Bethel school districts submitted films.

Join us Saturday, 10:00 am at the Lions Theater – we will screen the top ten films, announce the top three films, and the top film which will receive \$1,441.10 in production services – a tribute to Mt. Rainier's elevation. The top three films will also have encore presentations throughout the festival.

## Closing Night Film: Phoenix, Oregon

We enthusiastically welcome back RIFF-award winning writer/director Gary Lundgren (*Calvin Marshall, Redwood Highway, Black Road*) in person with his new film – A comedy of midlife reinvention and the redeeming power of friendship.

Defying midlife haze, two friends seize an unlikely opportunity to reinvent their lives, quitting their jobs to restore an old bowling alley and serve the "world's greatest pizza."

Starring James Le Gros (*Drugstore Cowboy, Living In Oblivion*), Lisa Edelstein (*Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce, House*), Jesse Borrego (*Fame*), Diedrich Bader (*Napoleon Dynamite, Veep*), and Kevin Corrigan (*The Departed, True Romance*).

It will be followed by the Award Ceremony and Gala...tons of fun!

### Rainier Independent Film Festival 2019

- Win Whittaker, Co-Founder/Director
- Sarah Wheat Whittaker, Co-Founder/Co-Director
- Warren Etheredge, Curator-In-Residence
- Tonya M. Skoog, Assistant Director
- Andrea Edmondson, Co-Founder/Coordinator
- Teresa Oltman, Creative Director
- Jude Freeman, Technical Director

# schedule

Film Genre Index —

A: Animation DF: Documentary Feature DS: Documentary Short SF: Student Film  
 NF: Narrative Feature NS: Narrative Short CF: Comedy Feature

\*FIA — Indicates Filmmaker in Attendance

## FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019

		<b>SHOW TIMES</b>	<b>Mt. Rainier LIONS THEATER</b> 27726 State Route 706 East
~	~	7:00 pm	Welcome to the Ball (NS) 5 min Return To Mount Kennedy (DF) 80 min *FIA
~	~	9:00 pm - to ?	<b>Opening Night Gala</b>

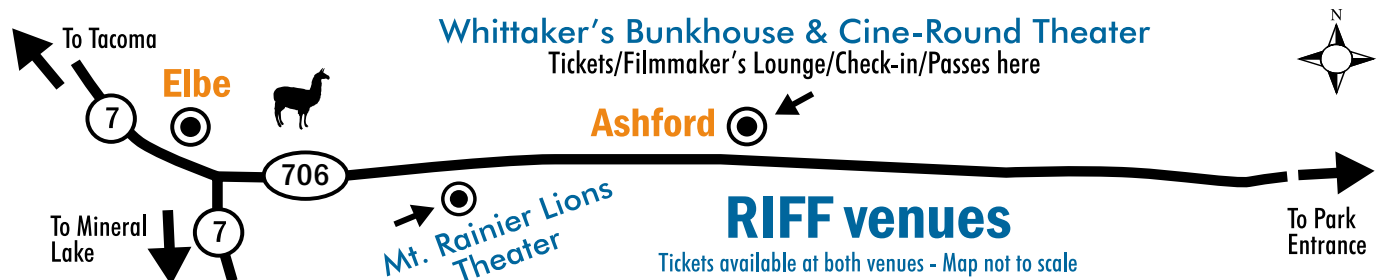
## SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019

<b>SHOW TIMES</b>	<b>CINE-ROUND at Whittaker's</b> 30205 State Route 706 East	<b>SHOW TIMES</b>	<b>Mt. Rainier LIONS THEATER</b> 27726 State Route 706 East
~	~	10:00 - 11:30 am	TSMR/The Student Movie RIFF - Film Competition *FIA
11:30 am	Warren Etheredge Workshop "What's Your Story?" held at Mt. Rainier Lions Theater (info page 7)		
1:15 - 2:15 pm	Suncatcher (NS) 12 min FEPPS (DS) 10 min — 3 Days (NS) 12 min *FIA Mine Forever (NS) 9 min — Lifelines (NS) 9 min *FIA	1:00 - 3:00 pm	<b>Warren Etheredge's "Indie Film Selections"</b> The Push (DF) 84 min
2:30 - 3:45 pm	Riplot (DF) 67 min	3:00 - 5:00 pm	<b>Warren Etheredge's "Unholy Smokes"</b> Forest On Fire (DS) 30 min Wildland (DF) 77 min
4:00 pm	Born as a Girl (DF) 61 min	5:00 - 7:00 pm	Sac De Merde (NS) 13 min — Sombra City (NS) 10 min Stand/Still (NS) 6 min *FIA — White Noise (NS) 6 min Future Self (NS) 7 min — Mr. Sam (NS) 30 min
~	~	7:00 - 8:30 pm	The Son, The Father (NS) 13 min *FIA Poor Greg Drowning (NF) 78 min *FIA
		9:00 pm	Hudson (NF) 73 min

## SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019

<b>SHOW TIMES</b>	<b>CINE-ROUND at Whittaker's</b> 30205 State Route 706 East	<b>SHOW TIMES</b>	<b>Mt. Rainier LIONS THEATER</b> 27726 State Route 706 East
11 am - 12:30 pm	Here's Your Flag (NS) 6 min This Being Human (NS) 14 min *FIA The Quiet Force (DS) 37 min Discharged (A) 30 min *FIA	11 am - 12:30 pm	<b>"Made in the Pacific Northwest"</b> Reaching for the Andes (DS) 29 min *FIA Sayéik (DS) 24 min — The Second Session (NS) 13 min *FIA Emotional Tourist - Raising a New Generation (DS) 4 min *FIA
1:00 - 2:30 pm	A Fresh Perspective (DS) 12 min The Sacred Place Where Life Begins (DS) 25 min *FIA	1:00 - 3:00 pm	<b>"Produced by Warren Etheredge"</b> Last Requests (NS) 18 min — Love Birds (NS) 8 min Is This Okay (NS) 3 min — Icarus Stops for Breakfast (NS) 13 min
2:30 - 3:45 pm	Mossville (DF) 51 min	3:00 - 4:00 pm	La Loche (DF) 56 min
~	~	4:00 - 5:30 pm	Olympia (NF) 90 min
		6:00 pm - to ?	Phoenix, Oregon (CF) 109 min *FIA <b>Award Ceremony and Closing Night Party</b>

\*FIA — Indicates Filmmaker in Attendance





# RIFF films



A Fresh Perspective



Discharged



Emotional Tourist



FEPPS - Pathways After Prison



Hudson



La Loche



Lifelines



Mine Forever

## **A Fresh Perspective** | Documentary Short | USA | 11:38 min | Director Aaron Hose | Filmmaker in Attendance

In 2018, a group of African-Americans create the nation's first-ever black beer festival, a historic event aiming to reshape the future of craft beer. Craft beer is an annual multi-billion dollar boom for the United States economy. Yet, the overwhelming majority of this industry remains white-male-dominated, with women and minorities occupying a small fraction of its workforce and brewing culture.

— Plays Saturday PM/Cine-Round

## **Born as a Girl** | Documentary Feature | Poland | 61 min | Director Marek Klosowicz

Pregnant girls at the age of 13 or grandmothers at the age of 26 are of no surprise in Colombian slums. In the poorest social class, violence against women is especially striking: rape, sexual abuse or sex trafficking of minors happen on everyday basis. The situation in Colombia has forced over 7 million people to leave their homes. Most of them now live in slums. Such a situation is the most difficult for women, who are additionally victims of violence and stigmatization resulting from a characteristic to Latin America machismo culture. — Plays Saturday PM/Cine-Round

## **Discharged** | Animated Short | USA | 30 min | Director Major Jas Boothe | Filmmaker in Attendance

A mismatched quartet of not-so-honorably discharged veterans unleash the good, the bad and the dark side of patriotism on Hollywood. — Plays Sunday AM/Cine-Round

## **Emotional Tourist - Raising a New Generation** | Documentary Short | USA | 3:44 min | Dir. Alvaro Letelier

Highly personal in its approach, but global in its vision, EMOTIONAL TOURIST explores ways we can increase peace and create nurturing, creative spaces for future generations. — "Made in the PNW film", Plays Sunday PM/Lions Theater

## **FEPPS - Pathways After Prison** | Documentary Short | USA | 9:46 min | Director Greg Westhoff

The Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS) provides a rigorous college program to incarcerated women in Washington and creates pathways to higher education after women are released from prison. Their goals are to increase women prisoners' economic and personal empowerment, contribute to family stability and reduce recidivism through college education.

— Plays Saturday PM/Cine-Round

## **Future Self** | Narrative Short | USA | 7:03 min | Director Sean Lewis

Jeffrey has a crush on Teegan. Teegan doesn't know who Jeffrey is. Luckily, VHS tapes keep showing up in the local mini-libraries around town to tell Jeffrey how to change that fact, for better or worse.

— Plays Saturday PM/Lions Theater

## **Here's Your Flag** | Narrative Short | USA | 6:06 min | Director Jon Lewis

An Army officer shows up at Mrs. Cavanaugh's front door with a flag to replace her dead son—who isn't dead yet, because he only enlisted yesterday. She's pretty upset, until she learns that Eddie's going to die a hero, and that makes it all better.

— Plays Sunday PM/Cine-Round

## **Hudson** | Narrative Feature | USA | 73 min | Director Sean D. Cunningham

A man embarks on a trip with his estranged cousin Hudson to spread his late mother's ashes. They meet an unusual woman along the way and their simple road trip turns into a dysfunctional adventure.

— Plays Saturday PM/Mt. Rainier Lions Theater

## **La Loche** | Documentary Feature | Canada | 56 min | Director Les Stroud

After a deadly school shooting in a remote Canadian aboriginal community took the lives of four people and injured seven others, a caring teacher sought to present a healing opportunity for the students. She asked a TV celebrity that the students admired, if he would consider coming on a canoe trip with 8 boys directly affected by the shooting. Les Stroud, creator and host of the international TV series *Survivorman*, boarded a plane for the far northern community of La Loche, Saskatchewan, with no agenda but to spend time with the students, in the greatest place of healing on earth; the wilderness. This is a story of how nature heals.

— Plays Sunday PM/Lions Theater

## **Lifelines** | Narrative Short | Canada | 8:30 min | Director Catharine Parke | Filmmaker in Attendance

Overwhelmed by the trials and tribulations of high school, Arielle finds refuge in a dangerous habit — until her best friend discovers her secret. — Plays Saturday PM/Cine-Round

## **Mine Forever** | Narrative Short | Canada | 8:30 min | Director Calum Smith

Lines blur between love and obsession, consent and manipulation, as loving couple Josie and Mike find themselves torn between two contrasting realities. "Mine Forever" is a romantic comedy gone wrong, and a psychological thriller for the post-#MeToo era.

— Plays Saturday PM/Cine-Round

## **Mossville** | Documentary Feature | USA | 75 min | Director Alexander Glustrom

There once was a town called Mossville — a community rich in natural resources and history, founded by formerly enslaved people —



Future Self



Here's Your Flag



where neighbors lived in harmony, insulated from the horrors of Jim Crow. Today, however, Mossville no longer resembles the town it once was. Surrounded by 14 petrochemical plants, Mossville is the future site of apartheid-born South African-based chemical company Sasol's newest plant — proposed as a \$21.2 billion project and the largest in the western hemisphere. As Sasol encroaches on citizens' property with buyout offers, Stacey and other community members have to decide whether to exist in a chemical war zone, or abandon land that has been in their families for generations. — [Plays Sunday PM/Cine-Round](#)

**Mr. Sam** | Narrative Short | USA | 29:35 min | Director Zeus Kontoyannis

Today is a big day for Mr. Sam. Not only is he going to reveal to his mother that he's finally found the love of his life but he's also telling her that he's gay. And that's just the start to his day because Sam is in for a huge surprise. — [Plays Saturday PM/Lions Theater](#)

**Olympia** | Narrative Feature | USA | 90 min | Director Gregory Dixon

McKenzie Chinn stars as a struggling artist, navigating work and romance in the Windy City. When her boyfriend asks her to drop everything and move cross-country, she soon discovers that her biggest obstacle may be herself. Featuring quirky animation and a revelatory central performance, Olympia is a heartfelt story for anyone who's ever felt adrift on the rough seas of adulthood. It is a coming-of-adulthood story, brought to life through my dynamic, yet personal, cinematic expression. — [Plays Sunday PM/Lions Theater](#)

**Phoenix, Oregon** | Comedy Feature | USA | 109 min | Director Gary Lundgren | Filmmaker in Attendance

A comedy of midlife reinvention and the redeeming power of friendship. Defying midlife haze, two friends seize an unlikely opportunity to reinvent their lives, quitting their jobs to restore an old bowling alley and serve the "world's greatest pizza." Starring James Le Gros (Drugstore Cowboy, Living in Oblivion), Lisa Edelstein (Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce, House), Jesse Borrego (Fame, Blood In Blood Out), Diedrich Bader (Napoleon Dynamite, Office Space, Veep), and Kevin Corrigan (The Departed, Pineapple Express, True Romance) — The film takes a comedic look at the existential crisis many face when trying to find meaning and relevancy at midlife. Despite controlling bosses, dead-end jobs, and broken relationships, the two leads must awaken hibernating courage and resilience in order to take new risks and keep dreams alive. Gary Lundgren is a RIFF award winner (Black Road) and multi-film RIFF alumni. — [Plays Sunday PM, Closing Night Film/Lions Theater](#)

**Poor Greg Drowning** | Comedy Feature | USA | 78 min | Director Jeffrey Scott Collins | Filmmaker in Attendance

Greg is a love addict whose girlfriend left him for their couples therapist. Depressed, heartbroken, and unemployed, Greg must find a roommate to help pay rent. But Greg scares all potential roommates away, except for a girl named Peyton who moves in and whom Greg falls madly in love with. This film is a grounded comedy about heartache, loss, depression, friendship, family, and love addiction. It's about picking oneself up from rock bottom with the help of those closest to them. It explores looking in the mirror, and learning to forgive those that have hurt you. — [Plays Saturday PM/Lions Theater](#)

**The Quiet Force** | Doc. | USA | 37:05 min | Directors Hilary Byrne and Sophie Danison | Filmmaker in Attendance

In many American ski towns, the tourism and services economies would grind to a halt without their Latino populations. In a place like Jackson, Wyoming, the Latino community is a mix of documented immigrants and undocumented workers — many of whom are facing increasing risk of deportation under the current Presidential Administration, often resulting in family separation. Through individual experiences in tourism-driven mountain communities, this film explores social and economic impacts of the Latino immigrant workforce relating to national immigration policies.

— [Plays Sunday AM/Cine-Round](#)

**Reaching for the Andes** | Documentary Short | USA | 27 min | Director Neal Barenblat

Tyler Armstrong, a fourteen year-old mountaineer, goes to Peru intent on climbing Artesonraju, an almost 20,000 foot peak prominently featured in the Paramount Pictures logo. — "[Made in the PNW film](#)", [Plays Sunday AM/Lions Theater](#)

**Return to Mount Kennedy** | Feature Documentary | USA | 80 min | Director Eric Becker | Filmmaker in Attendance

In 1965, Robert Kennedy was the first man to summit Mount Kennedy in the Yukon Territory, named in honor of his late brother. Leading that expedition was Jim Whitaker, the first American to summit Everest and original fulltime employee of REI. 50 years later, Jim's sons Bob and Leif, along with Christopher Kennedy, decide to climb the mountain again in honor of their fathers' joint accomplishment and unique friendship. Seattle-based filmmaker Eric Becker's touching documentary combines archival footage—including several Kennedy home movies—with interviews from Jim himself and those who knew him best as we follow three sons and the journey literally in their fathers' footsteps. This beautiful film is about family, friendship, loss and discovery. It's raw, real and inspirational. Bobby Whittaker will be joining us for a Q & A after the film. — [Plays Friday PM, Opening Night Film/Lions Theater](#)

**Riplot** | Documentary Feature | USA | 67 min | Director Mike Scholtz

A celebrity death pool is an unusual game in which players pick famous people they think will die in the next year. It's like a fantasy football draft, but with elderly presidents and ailing musicians. Riplot follows seven friends from Fargo over the course of a year as they make their selections and live with the consequences. Society often frowns on any unusual or excessive attention to death. Some people have called this hobby "morbid" and "weird" and "just plain wrong." But for these seven competitors, this game of death has taught them the value of life. — [Plays Saturday PM/Cine-Round](#)

**Sac de Merde** | Narrative Short | USA | 13:27 min | Director Greg Chwerchak — [Plays Saturday PM/Lions Theater](#)

Based on a true story, this is the tale of Mazel Mankewicz, an unlucky-in-love yet irrationally optimistic New Yorker who thinks her luck has changed when she spends the night with the man of her dreams. As it turns out, he might just be full of shit. Literally.



Mossville



Olympia



Mr. Sam



The Quiet Force



Reaching For The Andes



Return to Mount Kennedy



Sac de Merde

# RIFF films continued...



Sayéik



The Second Session



Sombra City



The Son, The Father



Stand\Still



Suncatcher



White Noise

**Sayéik** | Documentary Short | USA | 24 min | Director Luke Holton – “Made in the PNW film”, Plays Sunday AM/Lions Theater  
A documentary film which discusses the importance of place names (toponyms) in the preservation of Alaska Native languages. The burning of Douglas Indian Village in 1962, and construction of Gastineau Elementary School over Tlingit graves in 1953.

**The Sacred Place Where Life Begins** | Doc. Short | USA | 24:45 min | Directors Kristin Gates, Jeremy La Zelle  
It’s best to experience what you’re fighting for. When two adventurers embark on a dangerous four-month expedition documenting the world’s longest land mammal migration through the Arctic Refuge of Alaska and Canada, they soon discover an incredible ecosystem protected by the Gwich’in Nation for more than 25,000 years, yet held on the precipice of collapse by resource development corporations. | **Filmmaker in Attendance** – Plays Sunday PM/Cine-Round

**The Second Session** | Narrative Short | USA | 13:07 | Director Michael Ward  
An immersive virtual reality therapy for confronting a stressful situation at work brings Meredith to some dark places. – “Made in the PNW film”, Plays Sunday PM/Lions Theater

**Sombra City** | Short Narrative | UK | 10 min | Director Elias Plagianos  
In the year 2037, a corporate assassin revisits a city lost in time and the love he left behind. Elias Plagianos is a past RIFF winner (The Crimson Mask) and multi-film RIFF director/writer alumni (Shoot Me Nicely, The Man From The City). – Plays Saturday PM/Lions Theater

**The Son, The Father** | Horror Short | USA | 13:11 min | Director Lukas Hassel | **Filmmaker in Attendance**  
The event on a young boy’s birthday has consequences far into the future for himself and his family. Director Lukas Hassel is a past RIFF award winner as writer/director for “Into The Dark.” – Plays Saturday PM/Lions Theater

**Stand\Still** | Thriller Short | USA | 5:38 min | Director Shawn-Caulin Young | **Filmmaker in Attendance**  
A psychological thriller about the dark underbelly of America’s highway system where a seemingly average middle-aged couple take desperate measures to have a child of their own. Based on terrifying true events. Director Shawn-Caulin Young starred in the RIFF award-winning film “Heart Baby!” – Plays Saturday PM/Lions Theater

**Suncatcher** | Short Narrative | USA | 12 min | Director Parker Croft  
For months Kira has been living out of her car in Venice, California. Today that changes. – Plays Saturday PM/Cine-Round

**This Being Human** | Documentary Short | Iraq Turkey USA | 14 min | Directors Aimie Vallat, Quido Ronge | **Filmmaker in Attendance**

A portrait of a young Iraqi who left everything behind at 15, in a solo quest for a more peaceable future; Hameed’s salvation is education in the US bound by a big altruistic dream. – Plays Sunday AM/Cine-Round

**3 Days** | Narrative Short | USA | 11:31 min | Director Julie Sharbutt | **Filmmaker in Attendance**

When three women friends sense danger on a camping trip, they keep each other laughing until a horrible twist makes them feel more alone than ever. – Plays Saturday PM/Cine-Round

**Welcome to the Ball** | Narrative Short | USA | 4:53 min | Director Adam Vincent Wright

A child learns sign language in hopes of making a new friend. – Plays Friday PM, Opening Night/Lions Theater

**White Noise** | Narrative Short | USA | 5:47 min | Director Frida Perez  
At the end of a tipless shift at a local diner, a young black waitress, Dolores, stumbles on a flier for a paid psychological study seeking diverse participants. Upon her arrival at the research facility, Dolores undergoes an experiment that tests her pain tolerance with the use of auditory and sensorial triggers which gradually intensify. Once the test is completed, we reveal that Dolores is unknowingly being watched by an unexpected audience. – Plays Saturday PM/Lions Theater



This Being Human



3 Days



Welcome to the Ball

“A film is – or should be – more like music than like fiction...”

– Stanley Kubrick, director

Proud Sponsor of Dreams,  
Adventures and the  
Rainier Independent Film Festival

**RI** Rainier  
Mountaineering,  
Inc.

Mt. Rainier Lions Theater Sponsored by; and  
Projection & Sound Services for RIFF Provided by:





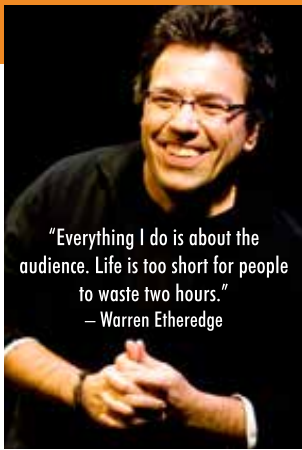
# Warren Etheredge Workshop: WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Saturday, May 18, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm — Mt. Rainier Lions Theater

Ideas are not worth nearly as much as you think they are. Fleshing them out and executing them, is what wins you the big bucks and gets you the green lights. In this exclusive, first-of-its-kind workshop, Warren Etheredge, will field pitches — both high-concept and low-brow — from attendees, and work with those sharing, to find the pitfalls in their heroes' journeys and the pathways to their saleability.

Don't miss this incredible, interactive workshop! RIFF is excited and honored to welcome Warren back again this year.

Warren Etheredge is a Storyfinder™, a successful producer, published author, staged playwright, veteran festival programmer and much sought-after public speaker. He has conducted over 3,500 interviews. He's launched a screenwriting program at the U. of Washington; was appointed the VP of Curation & Acquisitions for Tom Skerritt's start-up, Heyou Media; one of the founding faculty of TheFilmSchool, and The Red Badge Project. He has hosted multiple television series including Emmy®-nominated The High Bar, Scene! & Heard for GreatMovieScenes.org, Reel NW on KCTS and ArtsLink. He is the Co-founder and Curator for the Walla Walla Movie Crush, Director of the Auburn Adventure Film Festival, co-founder of RIFF and shorts programmer for The Seattle Jewish Film Festival.



"Everything I do is about the audience. Life is too short for people to waste two hours."  
— Warren Etheredge

## Indie Film Selections — Presented by Warren Etheredge

Recent festival highlights by USA filmmakers, hand-picked by our expert-guest curator.

All films shown at Mt. Rainier Lions Theater

### Saturday at 1:00 pm — "The Push"

**The Push** | USA | 84 min | Director Grant Korgan

The Push is an inspirational documentary about the power of never giving up. Grant Korgan is a world-class adventurer, nano-mechanics professional, and husband. On March 5, 2010, while filming a snowmobiling segment in the Sierra Nevada back country, the Lake Tahoe native burst-fractured his L1 vertebrae, and suddenly added the world of spinal cord injury recovery to his list of pursuits. On January 17, 2012, along with two seasoned explorers, Grant attempted the insurmountable, and became the first spinal cord injured athlete to literally PUSH himself — nearly 100 miles (the final degree of latitude) to the most inhospitable place on the planet — the bottom of the globe, the geographic South Pole. Grant and his guides reached their destination on the 100th anniversary of the first explorers to travel to the South Pole. Facing brutal elements, demanding topography and presumed physical limitations are just some of the challenges they faced along the journey.

### Saturday at 3:00 pm — "Unholy Smokes!"

Forest fires are becoming more common, in part due to climate change, in part due to the careless action of humans and, in part due to the cycles of nature. However, with every passing year, these devastating conflagrations become more impactful, more inescapable. In this program, we'll cover this hot topic from two angles. Forest On Fire explores the causes and consequences of the Eagle Creek Fire in Oregon. WILDLAND is a feature doc following one brave firefighting crew as they endure a season of blazes. In the paraphrased spirit of Andy Warhol, UNHOLY SMOKES! promises you 115 minutes of flame.

**Forest On Fire** | Documentary Short | USA | 29:50 min | Director Reed Harkness

The Eagle Creek Fire ravaged the Columbia River Gorge, causing communities to evacuate, and stranding 150 day-hikers who dramatically had to hike nearly 20 miles to safety. The fire was set by a 15-year-old boy who threw a lit firework into a dry ravine on the Eagle Creek Trail. This film includes accounts from an eyewitness who saw the boy start the fire, the stranded hikers, and people from the communities that persevered.

**Wildland** | Documentary Feature | USA | 77 min | Directors Alex Jablonski & Khalil Hudson

Epic and intimate in the same breath, WILDLAND tells the story of a single wildland firefighting crew as they struggle with fear, loyalty, love and defeat all over the course of a single fire season. What emerges is a story of a small group of working-class men, their exterior world, their interior lives, and the fire that lies between. The film was shot over two fire seasons with the filmmakers becoming wildland firefighters themselves. With unprecedented access they tell a story of how young men test themselves and grow up and ultimately what they carry with them along the way.

### Sunday at 1:00 pm — "Produced By: Warren Etheredge"

If you believe in something you put your money where your heart is. Or, at the very least, you invest your time and energy. In this exclusive program Warren Etheredge unveils four of the most recent short film's he's produced and then walks audiences through the process, from potential to pitfalls, from post-production to festival acclaim. This block serves as both screening and informal workshop.

**Last Requests** | Narrative Short | USA | 18 min | Director Courtenay Johnson

The day before the expiration of the last meal request program in Texas, a widow who has worked in the Huntsville Death House for 30 years prepares to cook her last, last meal.

**Love Birds** | Narrative Short | USA | 8 min | Director Ashley Mosher

An American woman travels deep into the Amazon jungle discouraged with her marriage and on a quest for adventure, nature and a new sense of belonging. She unexpectedly meets Noe, an amazonian painter who teaches her what true belonging really means.

**Is This Okay** | Narrative Short | USA | 3 min | Director Dylan Bandy A queer romance in public places.

**Icarus Stops for Breakfast** | Narrative Short | USA | 13 min | Director Abigail Zealey Bess

Icarus Stops for Breakfast is a magical story of love and the relationships that exist between humans and the landscape in which they live, based on the story Eating by Rick Bass.



The Push



FOREST ON FIRE



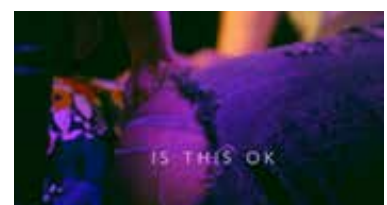
Wildland



Last Requests



LOVE BIRDS

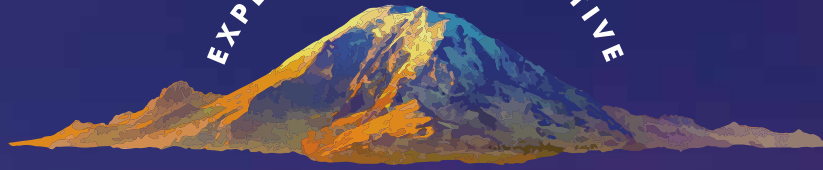


IS THIS OK



Icarus Stops for Breakfast

EXPLORE THE ALTERNATIVE



# RAINIER.FILM

RAINIER INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL



Riplist



Phoenix, Oregon



The Sacred Place Where Life Begins



Poor Greg Drowning



Born as a Girl



Return to Mount Kennedy

The Rainier Independent Film Festival would like to express special thanks to:

Visit Rainier – [visitrainier.com](http://visitrainier.com)

Harmon Brewing Company

The Mount Rainier Visitor Association

Whittaker's Motel and Historical Bunkhouse

AVMS

HTC

RIFF graphic design and artwork created and sponsored by Brook Design Services