

SCHEDULE



10/10

FRIDAY NIGHT PREMIERES

6:30 pm - Students/Amateurs

8:30 pm - Amateurs/Pros

Finalists announced at the end of each block.

10/11

SATURDAY MAIN EVENT

12:30 pm - Online Entries Screening

3:00 pm - The Black Hills Night Hike Premiere!

7:00pm - Finalists with a new short starring your hosts.

~9:45 pm - Award Ceremony!

Following The Award Ceremony - After Party @ 7th Sister

To view a full schedule of films and a film guide, visit 72Fest.com

AUDIENCE CHOICE

Vote for your favorite film on Saturday Night.



SATURDAY AFTER PARTY
7TH SISTER
228 NORTH MARKET STREET

CREDITS



HOSTED BY

Doug Powell & Mikael Johnson

OPENING & INTERSTITIALS

Joey McAdams

AWARD CEREMONY AND TEAM BUMPS

Mike Yamrus

POSTER PHOTO

Mike Yamrus

PROGRAM DESIGN

Brennen Sadowski

AWARDS DESIGN

Roland Metal Art

“MIKAEL & DOUG” IMPROVISED BY CAST

Written/Directed by
Clark Mikael Doug Sam

Starring:

Mikael Johnson

Doug Powell

Harper Yamrus

Teddy DeFoggi

Clark Kline

Cameras:

Mike Yamrus

Samuel Tressler IV

Zack Cutler

Edit:

Clark Kline

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Clark Kline

PHOTOGRAPHY

Brennen Sadowski

20th Anniversary Poster Design

Danielle Ong

72 FILM FEST COMMITTEE

Tim DeFoggi, Mike Yamrus,
Samuel Tressler IV, Clark Kline, Em-
ily Cisney, Brennen Sadowski, Ryan
Kurtz, Jordan Holt

MEN BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Ryan Kurtz, Tim DeFoggi

LAUNCH PARTY AT 7TH SISTER

Hosted by Doug Powell & Mikael
Johnson

Confessional:

Jordan Holt & Zack Cutler

72 Film Fest Launch Podcast

Hosted by Ryan Kurtz

VOLUNTEERS

Zack Cutler

Jordan Holt

Brandon Murrell

Gabe Murrell

Amy MacDonald

Jeremy MacDonald

Melissa Rogers

Sarah McCullough

Stone Yamrus

SILVERVOX BOARD

Carrie Delente

Tim DeFoggi

Brennen Sadowski

Brad Eberhardt

Clark Kline

Walter Chalkley

J.T. Smith

Dan Silver

Greg Enloe

Kate Costlow

SUPPORT



ARCHAI MEDIA

Wonder Book
& Video



SERIOUS
grip & electric



ZAGUTO



TYM PANIC
EDIA

FLMKR
MEET^



72 FILM FEST



ABOUT 72

72 Film Fest is an annual time-based film competition where Pro, Amateur, and Student teams have only 72 hours to make a film.

FILM GUIDE AVAILABLE AT 72FEST.COM

AWARDS

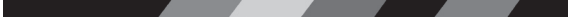
The 2025 Jury looked at the overall film, various skills and how well the teams adapted the criteria. Awards will be given for Best of the Fest, Best Pro, Best Amateur, Best Student, Best Film Under 5 Minutes, as well as skill categories like Acting, Writing, Editing, Cinematography, Original Music, Sound and more!

Some categories will receive awards designed by Roland Metal Art.

RULES

All filmmakers are in attendance. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the movie premieres with the teams, friends and family all nervously awaiting their time on the big screen! So be polite, courteous and cheer for your favorites. No Heckling. Please no texting, calls or web surfing in the auditorium. Enjoy the social experience of film! If you must get up during the screenings, be mindful of your volume in the lobby.

THEME



FLASHBACK AKA RETROSPECTIVES

This year is all about celebrating the past, with teams choosing from 72 pieces of criteria from all of the previous years and challenged to make new films based on them...From International Proverbs to Fairy Tales, Dreams to Hollywood Mashups, it's an (almost) complete history of the 72 Film Fest themes. The were optionally challenged to work with the original team whose criteria they chose (utilizing Year 17's Lab Partner theme), and allowed up to 15 seconds to flashback to past entries. The result is unlike any other year, an eclectic blend of what's come before with new, returning and veteran 72 Film Fest filmmakers tackling the challenge! The genres range from Comedy to Horror, Dramas to Animation...there's even a Documentary or two.

IN PERSON AND ONLINE

This year we introduced a simultaneous online competition that will grow each year. Those entries will screen online Friday 8:30pm and at Weinberg Center Saturday 12:30pm.

CRITERIA



2006 A THEME

For Year One we simply gave teams "themes", a word or a phrase to use as inspiration for their film.

2007 INTERNATIONAL PROVERB

For the second year of the Fest, criteria grew from a theme that consisted of only one word or simple idea, to a complete thought in the form of an international proverb.

2008 FIRST LINES OF BOOKS

Ah, the first sentence of a book. The possibilities are endless, or are they? We gave each team one opening sentence from a famous or loved book, and teams were tasked in making a film inspired by that sentence to create a new work with new characters.

2009 A POLAROID AND POE

Teams were given an image (Polaroid) and were asked to be inspired/influenced by it in creating their story. Some teams dissected the meaning behind the image, others approached it more literal. They were optionally challenged to be influenced by Poe

2010 FAIRY TALES

Teams were given a Fairy Tale and asked to adapt it. Whether that be updating it for modern audiences, breaking it down and finding its root, or simply adapting the base story (when possible).

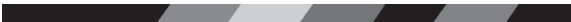
2011 A GAME OF TELEPHONE AKA FIRST AND LAST FRAMES

Each team was given a starting frame and an ending frame consisting of stills from previous 72 Film Fest entries. We then strung them together in order, creating a wonderfully surreal flow to Friday Night.

2012 SCRIPT FEST

Year 7. Teams were given finalist scripts from the summer screenwriting contest "72 SCRIPT FEST" to adapt into a short film. It was not a popular theme. For this year's criteria we gave a feature length script that was simply Clark saying "I will not do 72 Script Fest again."

CRITERIA



2013 SCIENCE!

Teams were each given a scientific theory or law and asked to adapt the principle into a film with an optional challenge to Make a Science Fiction film.

2014 THE PRODUCER AKA HOLLYWOOD MASHUPS

Each team chose 2 random secret VHS copies and were tasked in “Mashing Up” the movies into a new short film, similar to the common elevator pitch producers must hear and spread around to get a film made: ie “Rain Man meets Wizard of Oz.”

2015 BINARY (OPPOSITES)

Year 10 was “Binary”, specifically Binary Opposition. Each team was given a pair of opposites and were required to make them their central conflict. While Year 9 was This MEETS That, Year 10 was This VS That. Think Good vs Evil etc.

2016 TAROT

Year 11 was “Tarot”...aka A New Beginning. Each team was given a Tarot Card and a divination/meaning of that card and asked to write a story where the central character could have received that Tarot Reading.

2017 CONSTELLATION (MYTHS)

Teams were given a constellation, and were asked to adapt the myth behind the Constellation (mostly Greek mythology).

2018 FEARS AND SUPERSTITIONS

Each team was given a Fear or Superstition. They were to make that Fear or Superstition the MAIN CONFLICT or INCITING INCIDENT for their film. They were optionally challenged to make a Horror Film.

2019 HELP WANTED AKA PROFESSIONS

Each team is tasked with creating a film with the main character not only having the profession given, but the central conflict being related to that profession.

CRITERIA



2020 WILDCARD

Teams were given a frame (screenshot) from a past 72 Film Fest entry and asked to recreate the frame somewhere in their film. This was the simplest criteria so far because it was the year of Covid shutdowns, and making a film that year was challenging enough.

2021 THE INTERPRETATION AND RECREATION OF DREAMS

Teams were given a dream, and an interpretation of that dream. They could INTERPRET the dream- Tell a story where the MAIN CHARACTER is struggling in their real life with the elements present in the interpretation. OR RE-CREATE the Dream possibly in a surreal film.

2022 CLASSROOM AKA LAB PARTNERS/CLEAN SLATE

Criteria: Teams were given a LAB PARTNER (another team) to work on connective tissue between their films. Due to the nature of this year's Fest, we did not include this year in the 72 pieces of criteria, but we gave out an OPTIONAL CHALLENGE to pick a team and work with them.

2023 FLORIOGRAPHY

Teams were given 2 flowers and their meaning and tasked to make a film that used both flower's meanings. Optional Technicolor Challenge: Make your film as colorful as can be (props/costumes/color grade etc).

2024 OBSTRUCTIONS AKA ROAD BLOCKS

Filmmakers were tasked with choosing their own criteria from 25 possible OBSTRUCTIONS in FIVE Skilled categories: Acting, Writing, Editing, Cinematography and Production Design. Each obstruction is meant to push the team, with the technical obstructions influencing the films thematically.



SILVERVOX

IGNITING CREATIVITY IN FILM AND PERFORMING ARTS

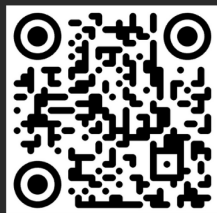
A Voice for Creativity. A Platform for Free Expression.

A Voice for Creativity. A Platform for Free Expression. SilverVox is a nonprofit based in Frederick, Maryland, dedicated to empowering filmmakers, musicians, and performing artists to create, connect, and be heard.

Through signature programs like the 72 Film Fest and the SilverVox Film & Music Festival, we're building a home for bold ideas, collaboration, and artistic freedom. We believe the arts and free speech are inseparable both vital to a thriving, creative society.

Join us in shaping a future where creativity flourishes and every voice matters.

Become a member at



[SILVERVOX.ORG](https://silvervox.org)

HOSTS



DOUG POWELL is excited to be back hosting the 72 Fest for year 20! Doug is a Frederick local with a background in stand-up comedy and storytelling who has co-hosted the fest on and off since 2010. Doug has starred in several short films including “Apocalypse Rock,” a short film by Star Wipe Films featuring Doug’s character

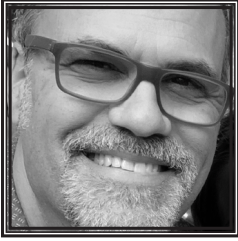
Tom as possibly the last man on earth spending his last days in a radio tower desperately attempting to contact someone. Doug worked as a stand-up comedian from 2000 - 2013 where he was based in Washington, DC and Baltimore. In 2014 Doug changed direction and began working as an electrician. Doug is now a Master Electrician in the state of Maryland and proud co-owner of Lumen Brothers Electric Company; a small, family-operated residential electrical company based in Frederick, Md. The 72 Fest is still one of his favorite projects to be a part of.



MIKAEL JOHNSON has been writing and performing in the DMV for over 21 years. He has been a part of the 72 Film Fest team every year except two or three...? A native of Middletown, Mikael got his start taking classes at the Maryland Ensemble Theater (MET), where he eventually joined the company and was cast in

several productions. Currently, he resides in Fairfax, Virginia, and is the proud father of the world’s greatest almost ten-year old girl. He is one-half of the improv duo, “ShawnMikael(s)”, and continues to perform regionally whenever he can. Mikael couldn’t be prouder to be a part of the 72 Film Fest team and wants to thank all the teams that come back year after year to participate—we couldn’t have done it without you.

JUDGES



EDUARDO SANCHEZ was born in Cuba in 1968. He studied television at Montgomery College in Rockville, MD and film at the University of Central Florida in 1994. It was at UCF where Eduardo met his Haxan Films partners and in 1998 he co-wrote and co-directed *THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT*. He went on to helm various

indie features before moving into television, directing such shows as *SUPERNATURAL*, *LUCIFER*, *QUEEN OF THE SOUTH*, Ryan Murphy's *AMERICAN HORROR STORIES* and the season 1 finale of *YELLOWJACKETS*. He recently worked on *STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS* and directed a segment of the new horror anthology feature, *SATANIC HISPANICS*, which won the best horror director award at the 2022 FANTASTIC FEST.



RICHARD JEFFERIES grew up in Frederick, Maryland where he graduated from Frederick High School in 1974. After 36 years of building a career in Hollywood, Richard returned to live in the Frederick area. During his time in Hollywood, Richard delivered 28 feature film writing assignments to major studios including *Tron*:

Legacy, *Cold Creek Manor* (which he also executive produced) and *Man of the House* at Disney, *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer* at Fox, *Searchers* and *The Bad Place* at Warner Bros. Richard has done uncredited writing work on many movies including sci-fi features *Virus*, *Species* and *Imposter*. Richard wrote, directed and produced *Organism aka Living Hell*, which premiered on Syfy Channel and wrote the cult horror classic *Scarecrows*. Richard joined Wiseacre Films in 2010, where he co-wrote and produced the Christmas comedy *Elf-Man* and *China Bigfoot: Legend of the Yeren*, which was shot in the remote mountains of central China. Jefferies was a creative consultant to Sam Tressler's "*Leda*" and Danielle Weinberg's "*Invasion*"

JUDGES CONT'D



MATT EDENS In more than two decades writing for television, Matt has scripted everything from Saturday morning cartoons to true crime documentary series such as A&E's City Confidential, Snapped on Oxygen and Murder Comes to Town for Investigation Discovery.

Currently, he is the head writer for Fatal Attraction on TV One.



INDRANI DESOUZA has over 3 decades of experience in the film & television industry. Originally from Toronto, Canada, she moved to the US in 1986. After several years of teaching at another acting studio she realized that it was time to open a place of her own. She's quickly

gaining a reputation for getting actors booked, and in fact, she is now listed as one of the preferred acting coaches at some of Hollywood's top-tier talent agencies. Indrani's unique approach is getting noticed. "I'm not reinventing anything. The age-old techniques are the same, they haven't changed in years. That's because they work. What I do differently has to do with my delivery. I teach in a manner that's approachable, honest and simple. My job is to give actors the tools they need to move into the Hollywood mainstream".



RONA MENSAH is an accomplished Professional Broadcaster, Emcee, and Actor. She is best known for having worked as a Radio and TV personality in Washington, DC Metro region. In addition, she serves on the Board of Trustees and is a Company Member of Maryland Ensemble Theatre where

she's just as comfortable contributing onstage as she is behind the scenes. She's thrilled to return to 72 Fest.

JUDGES CONT'D



ADELINE THERY is a French actress and musical artist living in Brooklyn, New York. Performing from a young age, she relocated to Barcelona in her late teens to study physical theatre. She later moved to New York and has continued to act and perform between Europe and the United States.

Her on-screen work spans between commercial and narrative, with roles in films such as *Are We Not Cats*, *Come to the Show* and *Leda*. She co-created the stage show *Este verano hice parapente y me reconcilié con el vacío*, and has completed her second full length music album under the stage name *Lizzy Young*.



SAMUEL TRESSLER IV is a filmmaker based in New York and Maryland. While working professionally in production camera work and post-production editing both at home and abroad, his focus lies on writing & directing narrative, concept-driven motion picture pieces both short and long.

A former participant of 72, Samuel joined the board in 2014 and became the first former team to collaborate with the fest in making a feature film, *Leda*, the 3D passion project now available on streaming and physical media.



ADAM LEMNAH is a transplant to Los Angeles who grew up in Frederick. I'm a film and television editor with work on shows including *Once Upon a Time*, *Drunk History*, *Amazing Stories* and *Lovecraft Country*. Recently I was the recipient of the Best Editing award at the 2021 LA Indie

Film Festival for my work on the feature film *AMERICAN CHERRY*, a coming-of-age thriller. When I'm not working, I am spending time with my wife and son and our two dogs, Betsy and Mando. @adamlemnah (IG) @AdamLemnah (FB)

JUDGES CONT'D



BETHANY MICHALSKI is a Los Angeles & Baltimore-based cinematographer and director. The instincts from her street photography days and MFA training from the AFI Conservatory (MFA Cinematography 19') have shaped her focus today. Michalski embraces her naturalistic

sensitivities and interest in blending the narrative & documentary worlds focusing on queer and female lead productions and stories. Most notably, Bethany's directing and cinematography work have premiered at SXSW, DGA, Vimeo Staff Pick, Nobudge, Camerimage, Outfest, and Cinequest. At SXSW 2025, the TV Pilot, Denim, she lensed won a SXSW Special Jury award. The feature film "She's the He" she lensed was also one of four feature films chosen for SXSW "Buzz Screenings 2025".



SKIZZ CYZYK is a filmmaker, writer, musician, artist, and film festival careerist. He has held positions at MicroCineFest, Maryland Film Festival, Slamdance, and Atlanta Film Festival, as well as serving on juries and advisory boards at many other festivals. His documentary features include Sound Mechanic, Icepick To

The Moon, Hit & Stay, and Freaks In Love. His short films include The French Toast Man, Alfred Jarry & 'Pataphysics, Little Castles, Managers Corner and music videos (Beach House, Young Fresh Fellows). He writes for music and film magazines, and performs music with The Stents, Go Pills, The Jennifers, Garage Sale, Half Japanese and Mink Stole & Her Wonderful Band.

JUDGES CONT'D



JASON STREFF was a founding member of the 72 Fest. Today, he balances life as a primary care and obesity medicine specialist in Michigan with family time, running, and adventures with his wife and kids. He's honored to return as a judge for the festival's 20th anniversary and looks forward to celebrating this milestone with the community.

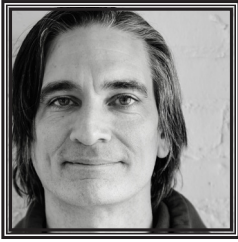


WALTER CHALKEY has been committed to bringing film and music to Frederick since the 1990s. First as a part of the Weinberg Center's movietime committee, then as co-director of the nonprofit film organization CinemArts which screened over 150 independent and international films and was a partner in the first 72 Film Fest. Walter was also the director of the Frederick Film Festival (The F3) - an international film and music festival - and the Maryland International Kids FilmFest which featured international children's films and animation workshops.



CAOIMHE CARTY is a Northern California-based Video Editor from Ireland, which explains the confusing name. Originally intending to be a Zoologist she moved to the US and fell into the world of film, where she was able to combine her skills as an artist and classically trained musician. She has worked on a wide range of projects, including Green Day's feature film Turn It Around: The Story of East Bay Punk, broadcast shows for Animal Planet and Science Channel, TV commercials, Short Docs, and more. When not working she enjoys sketching, boxing, and writing the plot outline for her detective show which she hopes to some day pass off to someone who can actually write.

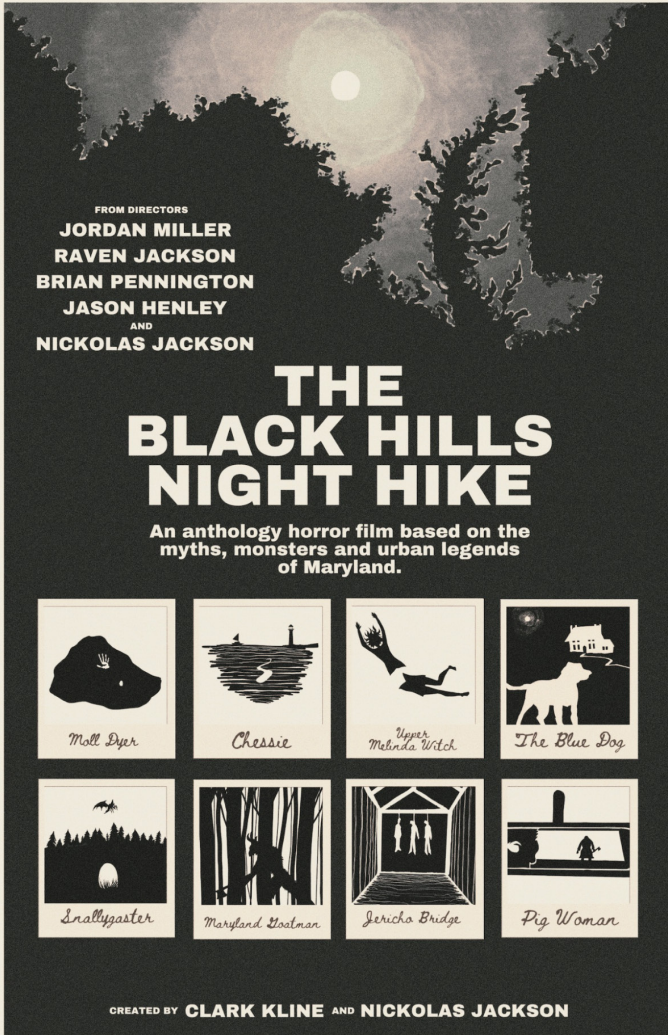
JUDGES CONT'D



MICHAEL TULLY In 2006, Michael's first feature, *COCAINE ANGEL* - chronicling a tragic week in the life of a young drug addict - made its world premiere at the International Film Festival Rotterdam. The film immediately solidified the director as one of the "25 New

Faces of Independent Film" (Filmmaker Magazine), a reputation that was reinforced a year later when his follow-up feature, *SILVER JEW* - a documentary capturing the late David Berman's rare musical performances in Tel Aviv - world-premiered at SXSW and landed distribution with cult indie-music label Drag City. In 2011, Michael wrote, directed, and starred in his third feature film, *SEPTIEN*, which debuted at the 27th annual Sundance Film Festival before being acquired by IFC Films' Sundance Selects banner. He returned to Sundance in 2014 with the world premiere of his fourth feature film, *PING PONG SUMMER* - an 80s set coming-of-age tale - which was quickly picked up for theatrical distribution by Gravitas Ventures. Subsequent feature films include *DON'T LEAVE HOME* (2018, Cranked Up Films/Shudder) and *LOVER, BELOVED* (2022, SXSW World Premiere).

PREMIERES 10.11 3PM



Years in the making, the feature film anthology *The Black Hills Night Hike* based on Appalachian myths and legends screens at Weinberg Center as part of 72 Film Fest Year 20! A handful of past and present 72 Film Fest teams wrote and directed the shorts including *Snallygaster*, *Upper Melinda Witch*, *Chessie*, *Goat Man*, *Jericho Covered Bridge* and more...come celebrate the first screening of the full feature film!

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FREDERICK, MD · JUNE 18-21 2026

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Experience the artistry of film and music from bold ideas to live performances.

ALL AROUND FREDERICK!

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