

**NEWS RELEASE
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**7th Annual Montana Film Festival
November 18-21, 2021**

MISSOULA, MT—Take the time to connect, be inspired, and watch cinema when the seventh annual Montana Film Festival returns this month, in-person, at The Roxy Theater, November 18 - 21. This year's lineup features 9 feature-length and 11 short films as well as the return of the Montana Film Forum.

The Montana Film Festival seeks to promote bold independent films from around the world and to engage its community with remarkable, shared, cinematic experiences. This year's festival hosts the US premiere of **Montana Story**, a moving drama about two estranged siblings reuniting at their family's Paradise Valley ranch (Nov. 18). Co-directors Scott McGehee and David Siegel (*The Deep End*, *What Maisie Knew*) will be in attendance. MTFF is also hosting the Montana premiere of legendary director Jane Campion's first feature film in more than a decade, **The Power of the Dog**, a visionary western starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Jesse Plemons as Montana ranchers and featuring a haunting score by Jonny Greenwood (Nov 19). Filmmaker Toby Poser will be in attendance for the visually striking folk horror film **Hellbender**, about a young woman uncovering her family connections to witchcraft, which causes a rift with her mother (Nov 19). **Sooyii (Creatures)**, a gorgeous epic shot in the Pigani language on the Blackfoot Reservation with an all-Native cast will be followed up by a Q&A with director Krisztian Kery (Nov 20). **We Burn Like This**, the debut film from former MTFF director and friend of the Roxy Alana Waksman, will have its Missoula premiere with the filmmaker in attendance (Nov 20).

Running during the festival on Saturday and Sunday, and co-presented with the Montana Film Office, the **Montana Film Forum** is open to anyone interested in or currently working on films in Montana. Forum programming includes a series of talks and panels about the art of editing, training to become an Assistant Camera, the festival circuit, how to become an extra on set, a makeup demo, and much more. The Montana Film Office will be conducting a crew survey during the forum, as well as gathering reactions and stories from current crew in the state of film in Montana. Film Commissioner Allison Whitmer plans to include a set-safety discussion, along with a summary of resources and services for filming in-state. All forum events are free, but some require signup in advance, which can be done on the MTFF website.

This year's festival includes a few free events, open to the public to experience the films on the big screen. MTFF kicks off on Thursday, November 18 with a free Shorts Block screening that includes several Montana-made short films. A Q&A with the filmmakers in attendance will follow the screening. Later that night, MTFF hosts an Opening Night party at Western Cider with live music by Jonny Fritz starting at 10pm. The annual Hip-Strip Soiree at Clyde Coffee across from the Roxy offers more dancing space this year and music by DJ Bullitt following the Saturday night screenings on November 20th.

Montana Film Festival passes go on sale on November 5th. All-Access Passes are \$60. Single screening tickets are \$9 and Roxy member, senior and student prices apply. Film Forum sessions and festival parties are free and open to the public. Visit montanafilmfestival.org for full event listings and program access.

