

**NEWS RELEASE
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September 27, 2022

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8th Annual Montana Film Festival

October 13 - 16, 2022

MISSOULA, MT— Celebrate independent filmmaking when the eighth annual Montana Film Festival returns to The Roxy Theater, October 13 - 16. This year's lineup features seven feature-length and 21 short films as well as parties, a trivia competition, and numerous Q&A sessions and talkbacks with filmmakers.

The Montana Film Festival promotes bold independent films from around the world and engages its community with remarkable, shared, cinematic experiences. This year's festival hosts the Montana premiere of the Montana-made epic **Butcher's Crossing** (Oct 13), a Nicolas Cage-starring adaptation of John Williams's classic novel about a doomed buffalo hunt. Ervin Carlson, Director of the Blackfeet Buffalo Program, who advised on the film, as well as members of the film's production crew, will be in attendance.

Friend-of-the-festival Lily Gladstone will also be in attendance for two films. The first, **The Unknown Country**, chronicles a grieving woman's road trip from the Dakotas to the Texas-Mexico border (Oct 14 and 16). The second, **Quantum Cowboys**, uses 12 different animation styles to tell a story that fuses the traditional western narrative with heady science fiction, and features cameos from an array of luminaries including singer Neko Case, director Alex Cox, and iconic actress Anna Karina in her final role (Oct 14). Both **Unknown Country** director Morrissa Maltz and **Quantum Cowboys** director Geoff Marslett will be present for talkbacks after the screenings.

MTFF has always been committed to showing films representing many different genres, and this year is no exception. **Bitterbrush**, a non-fiction portrait of two female range riders, will be followed by a Q&A with one of the featured riders, Hollyn Cardani (Oct 15). Horror film **Glorious**, starring Ryan Kwanten as a man who encounters a primordial deity in an adjoining bathroom stall, features the disembodied voice of UM alumnus/Academy Award-winner J.K. Simmons (Oct 13). Dark comedy **Funny Pages**, a coming-of-age story of a teenage cartoonist written and directed by Owen Kline, closes the festival out on Sunday (Oct 16). A special 35mm screening of Jim Jarmusch's indie classic **Stranger Than Paradise** is paired with the new short film **Stranger Than Rotterdam**, which chronicles producer Sara Driver's

attempts to smuggle *Stranger Than Paradise* into the International Rotterdam Film Festival in 1982 (Oct 15). The additional 20 short films curated by MTFE run the gamut from experimental animation to heartwarming comedy, with eight countries represented.

This year's MTFE includes a few free and open to the public events, starting with a Shorts Block that kicks off the festival October 13. The shorts program includes several Montana-made short films, and a Q&A with the filmmakers in attendance will follow the screenings. On Friday, October 14th, the festival hosts a movie trivia Happy Hour at Montgomery Distillery, complete with prizes for the top teams. The annual Hip Strip Soiree at Clyde Coffee will follow the Saturday night screenings on October 15th.

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