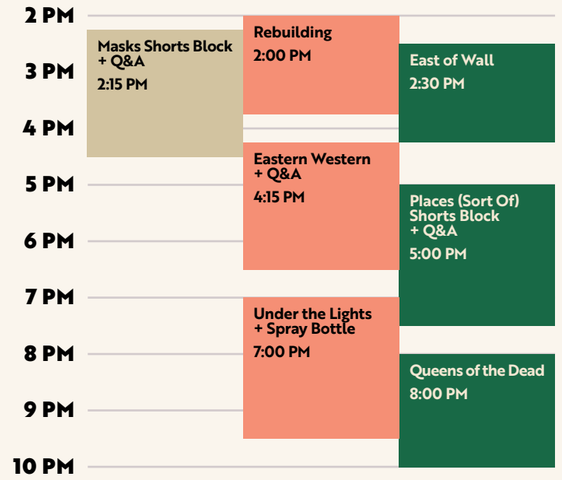
THURSDAY, OCT 23



FRIDAY, OCT 24



SATURDAY, OCT 25



SUNDAY, OCT 26



Roxy T1 Roxy T2 Roxy T3

DEAR FRIEND,

Welcome to the 11th annual Montana Film Festival, presented by the Roxy Theater.

As we were curating this year's selection, one overriding concern among the extraordinary films we selected rose to the surface: *family.*

There are found families, formed from necessity, like the displaced wildfire survivors of ***Rebuilding,*** the horse-training adoptees in ***East of Wall,*** or the zombie-battling club kids of ***Queens of the Dead.***

There are biological families: the estranged brothers of David Lynch's ***The Straight Story,*** the settlers of ***Train Dreams*** and ***Eastern Western,*** the unwavering mother/son bond at the heart of ***Under the Lights.***

And there are stories marked by the *absence* of family, by characters who seek tirelessly to fill its void. The lonely gravedigger of ***Dead Lover,*** the emotionally shattered and functionally motherless protagonist of ***Bloom,*** the titular widower in ***Randy As Himself***—all hope to recover a family that's been lost to them.

We never intend to program MTFF around a theme, but when one emerges, it always seems to reflect our current moment. As cinema itself becomes more and more threatened, whether that danger comes from repressive governments, new technologies, or changing audience patterns, the more those who love cinema can begin to feel like a kind of family.

That's a feeling we want to celebrate—and cultivate. And we think this year's lineup of 8 phenomenal features and 38 exceptional short films reflect that desire.

So thank you for joining us in Big Screen Country once again. Make yourself at home.

With love,

TEAM MTFF

SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT HAPPY HOUR
Thursday, October 23, Roxy Lounge, 5:00 PM–7:00 PM
Open to all MTFF audiences
Sponsored by DA Davidson

TREASURE STATE STUDIOS OPEN HOUSE
Friday, October 24, Treasure State Studios, 801 W Kent, 12:30 PM–2:30 PM
Open to all MTFF audiences
Sponsored by the University of Montana School of Visual and Media Arts

FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR
Friday, October 24, Roxy Lounge, 3:00 PM–5:00 PM
Open to all MTFF audiences
Sponsored by DoubleTree by Hilton, Farmers State Bank, Missoula Aging Services, and Water Works Seltzer

BEST PRACTICES FOR APPLYING TO THE BIG SKY FILM GRANT: BUSINESS BASICS FOR BSFG
Saturday, October 25, Theater 3, 11AM–12PM
Open to all MTFF audiences
Sponsored by Montana Department of Commerce Film Office

HIP STRIP SOIRÉE
Saturday, October 25, Clyde Coffee, 741 S Higgins Ave, 9:30PM–11:30PM
Open to all MTFF audiences
Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Modeling Agency

BEST PRACTICES FOR APPLYING TO THE BIG SKY FILM GRANT: ELEVATING THE BSFG APPLICATION
Saturday, October 26, Theater 3, 11AM–12PM
Open to all MTFF audiences
Sponsored by Montana Department of Commerce Film Office

PASSES & TICKETS

ALL-ACCESS PASS (In-Person & Virtual): _____ **$75**
ALL-SCREENING PASS (In-Person Only): _____ **$60**
5-PUNCH PASS: _____ **$45**
VIRTUAL FEST PASS: _____ **$20**
SINGLE TICKET (DISCOUNTS APPLY): _____ **$10**

Roxy Members receive significant discounts.

Purchase tickets at The Roxy Theater box office, TheRoxyTheater.org, or MontanaFilmFestival.org.

The Roxy Theater box office is open a half-hour before showtimes each day.

CONNECT WITH US

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The 2025 Montana Film Festival is presented at the Roxy Theater.
718 South Higgins Avenue
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 728-9380

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL

This project is supported in part by a grant from the Montana Arts Council.

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Mike Emmons, *Programming Director & MTFF Artistic Director*
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FEATURE FILM SELECTIONS

DEAD LOVER 84 MIN

Dir. Grace Glowicki
Prod. Grace Glowicki, Ben Petrie, Yona Strauss
Oct 24 @ 8:00 PM

A lonely, corpse-stinking gravedigger finally meets her dream man, but their whirlwind affair is cut short when he tragically drowns at sea. Grief-stricken, she goes to morbid lengths to resurrect him through madcap scientific experiments, resulting in dire consequences and unexpected love.

EAST OF WALL 97 MIN

Dir. Kate Beecroft
Prod. Kate Beecroft, Shannon Moss, Lila Yacoub, Melanie Ramsayer, Wittney Horton
Oct 25 @ 2:30 PM
Oct 25 @ 7:30 PM

Tabatha, a young rancher in the South Dakota Badlands who rescues and resells horses, must make impossible decisions to handle financial uncertainty, a fractured family, and unresolved grief, all while providing refuge and training to a group of wayward neighborhood teenagers.

EASTERN WESTERN 107 MIN

Dir. Biliana Grozdanova, Marina Grozdanova
Prod. Biliana Grozdanova, Marina Grozdanova, Steven Demmler, Tony Armer, Cameron Wheeless
Oct 25 @ 4:15 PM + Q&A
Oct 26 @ 5:00 PM

Deep in the wintry mountains of the American frontier in the 1880s, Igor, an Eastern European immigrant and recent widower, struggles to raise his two-year-old son, Ivo. When Duncan, an American cowboy and friendly acquaintance, decides to move his horse-breeding business and family to California, Igor and Ivo join the wagon train headed West.

QUEENS OF THE DEAD 98 MIN

Dir. Tina Romero
Prod. Natalie Metzger, Matt Miller
Oct 25 @ 8:00 PM

When a zombie apocalypse breaks out in Brooklyn on the night of a warehouse party, an eclectic group of drag queens, club kids, and frenemies must put aside their drama and use their unique skills to battle the brain-thirsty, scrolling undead.

REBUILDING 95 MIN

Dir. Max Walker-Silverman
Prod. Jesse Hope, Dan Janvey, Paul Mezey
Oct 25 @ 2:00 PM
Oct 26 @ 7:15 PM

After losing his family ranch to a wildfire, Dusty winds up in a small FEMA camp in Colorado. The last of a long line of ranchers, he's stranded between the legacy of his land and the tragedy that has befallen it. But as he begins to reconnect with his young daughter, Callie Rose, and his ex wife, Ruby, and a world of people who all lost their homes like he did, he finds an unlikely community–and maybe even hope, beauty, and a future in this wild place.

THE STRAIGHT STORY 112 MIN

Dir. David Lynch
Prod. Neal Edelstein, Mary Sweeney, Alain Sarde
Presented alongside **YOUR OPINION, PLEASE** dir. Marshall Granger
Oct 23 in 35mm @ 7:00 PM
Oct 26 in 35mm @ 2:00 PM

A retired farmer and widower in his 70s, Alvin Straight learns that his distant brother Lyle has suffered a stroke and may not recover. Alvin is determined to make things right with Lyle while he still can, but his brother lives 240 miles away in Wisconsin, while Alvin is stuck in Iowa with no car and no driver's license. He hits on the idea of making the trip on his old lawnmower, beginning a picturesque and deeply spiritual odyssey.

TRAIN DREAMS 102 MIN

Dir. Clint Bentley
Prod. Marissa McMahon, Teddy Schwarzman, Will Janowitz, Ashley Schlaifer, Michael Heimler
Oct 24 @ 5:30 PM
Oct 26 @ 2:30 PM

Based on Denis Johnson's beloved novella, Train Dreams is a portrait of Robert Grainier, a logger and railroad worker who leads a life of unexpected depth and beauty in the rapidly changing America of the early 20th Century.

UNDER THE LIGHTS 104 MIN

Dir. Miles Levin
Prod. Natalie Metzger
Presented alongside **SPRAY BOTTLE** dir. Jenna Kanell
Oct 25 @ 7:00 PM

Sam, a teenage boy with epilepsy, is so desperate to feel normal that he wants to go to prom, knowing the lights will cause a seizure.

SHORTS BLOCKS

MASKS 110 MIN
Oct 24 @ 7:45 PM + Q&A
Oct 25 @ 2:15 PM + Q&A

These films brilliantly—and often hilariously—explore artifice, performance, and subterfuge in all their variations. Actors audition for roles and agonize over callbacks, crime victims recreate their traumas for reality TV, secrets are hidden, attractions concealed. The ten extraordinary shorts in this program compel the viewer to watch actively, to look behind the masks.

Azi; Beefmaster Inn; The Callback; Candy Bar; I want to go to Moscow; No Hands; The Other Girl; The Pic; Randy as Himself; Trauma Bonds

PLACES (SORT OF) 112 MIN
Oct 25 @ 5:00 PM + Q&A
Oct 26 @ 2:15 PM + Q&A

How does setting–a sense of place, the look of a landscape, the law of the land–shape a story? These nine stunning films take the audience on a journey from the mountains of Yellowstone to the rooftops of Saigon, from a California diner boiling over with political tension to a valley in the Philippines where nothing is what it seems. The stories they tell are as varied and beautiful as the landscapes their characters inhabit.

Encuentro Americano; It Doesn't Pass; Mango; Paydirt; Ragamuffin; Rooftop Lempicka; Sierras; The Truck; Vox Humana

KEEP MONTANA WEIRD 110 MIN
Oct 23 @ 7:15 PM + Q&A

Big Screen Country can inspire some strange visions, and these three ambitious films, all made here in the Treasure State, are the proof. In this triptych, a young woman searches for meaning in an increasingly unnerving therapy group, scavengers journey across a blighted landscape, and three young Missoulians party in the wake of an almost-apocalypse. Montana has always been a refuge and inspiration for iconoclastic and boundary-pushing artists; these films are helping keep that tradition alive.

Bloom; Orchards of a Futile Heaven; Tenants of Nighmageddon

ANIMATION 85 MIN
Oct 24 @ 5:15 PM + Q&A
Oct 26 @ 4:45 PM + Q&A

Animation has always been a part of MTFF, but it's finally getting its own program! Come with us to a far-future society cursed with immortality, to a surreal Mardi Gras street party inspired by Bruegel, to the pastoral poetry of the American heartland–and that's just three of the offerings here. Whether made by first-time animators or industry legends, these visionary films push the boundaries of the medium, exploring new methods and creating new forms.

Bullet Time; Enbyknownst; Father Alphonse and the Fight Between Carnival and Lent Hurikán; Jesus 2; Larval; Marquis, Repeat; My Jeopardy; Take Me Drunk I'm Home; Wandering Horse;
Plus preview selections from **Spoon River Anthology**

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