

# First Annual



**Berkeley Springs Film Festival**

**Support the Arts!**

**October 1st - 3rd, 2021**

**At The  
Historic Star Theater**



**For Information and Tickets Visit**

**[www.BSFilmFestival.com](http://www.BSFilmFestival.com)**

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*Please support the Historic Star Theater by purchasing concessions. Thank you for your support!*



**Historic Star Theatre  
Berkeley Springs, WV**

# *Welcome*

Welcome to the first annual Berkeley Springs Film Festival!

Thank you for your support! We wouldn't have a film festival if it weren't for patrons like you!

For a small festival, we have an exceptional selection of films. Many are from local filmmakers within 100 miles of Berkeley Springs, 6 were filmed in WV, and some over-seas. The list includes an animated film, many narrative (scripted) films, and documentaries; and short films and feature films with budgets ranging from a few dollars to half a million dollars. Many of the films will be debuting at our festival!

33 films were submitted to the festival and the judges selected the best 22 to be screened. The films are not rated, but none include nudity or excessive profanity. Also, we told filmmakers not to submit films having to do with COVID or political themes. We figured you get enough of that on TV. However, we did select a great non-partisan documentary about reaching across the aisle for prison reform (The First Step).

The judges selected films that they believe you would like to see and that have good entertainment value. In addition to providing a great program for viewers, we wanted to make our festival very supportive of filmmakers. While some have mastered the technical aspects of the art form and are making a living wage, most are struggling. Film festivals mean a lot to independent filmmakers. They provide a venue for filmmakers to see their hard work (many of whom spend hundreds or thousands of hours on a project) shown on the big screen for the first time. Our festival also provides a free festival pass, a free lunch, free seminar on marketing independent films, lots of awards they can use for promotion, and an opportunity to network with other filmmakers and possibly collaborate on future projects.



Film festivals also provide a rare opportunity for filmmakers to get direct audience feedback in order to learn and grow in craft and art. Please take some time to meet the filmmakers, compliment them on their accomplishments, and share your thoughts on their film. Also please show your support and encouragement by staying for the Awards Ceremony from 7:00 to 7:30 PM Saturday evening. If you are interested in film, introduce yourself to a filmmaker whose work you like, and offer to volunteer on their next project. They are always looking for people to share in their passion and effort.

The festival also wouldn't be possible without the generous support of the Star Theater. Please support them by purchasing concessions so that we are invited back again next year. Also please consider having lunch at The Fairfax Coffee House one block from the theater. See their ad on page 7 for more information.

We would also like to thank the following for their significant efforts: Jack Galloway, Ellen Lachewitz, Rick Watson, Amanda Hollins-Teixeira and all our wonderful volunteers!

Now get some popcorn (with real butter!), sit back, and enjoy the show on the big screen at the Historic Star Theater!

Sincerely,



Brett Hammond  
Managing Director



Will Devokees  
Technical Director

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 1, 2021

### Meet and Greet

6:30 to 8:30 PM - Friday

This is not a formal event. Some of us will be having dinner and hanging out at Tari's Cafe (33 North Washington Street) in the bar from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Please stop by if you would like to pick up your Festival Pass early, and meet some filmmakers and have a drink. If you plan on dinner, I suggest reservations.

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 2, 2021

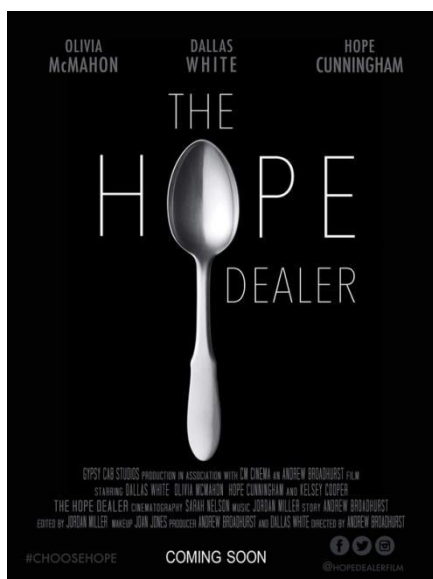
### Theater Doors Open

9:00 AM - Saturday

Theater doors open so you can pick up your Festival Pass, and grab a seat in the theater.

### Film Block 1

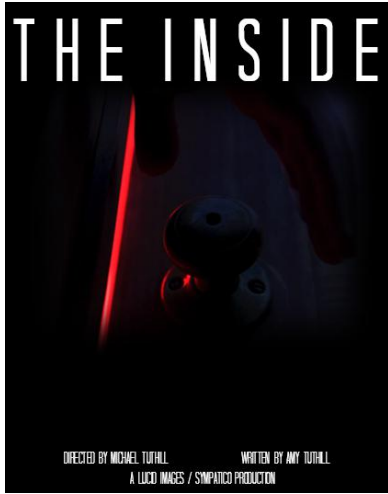
9:30 to 10:15 AM - Saturday



### The Hope Dealer (14 min)

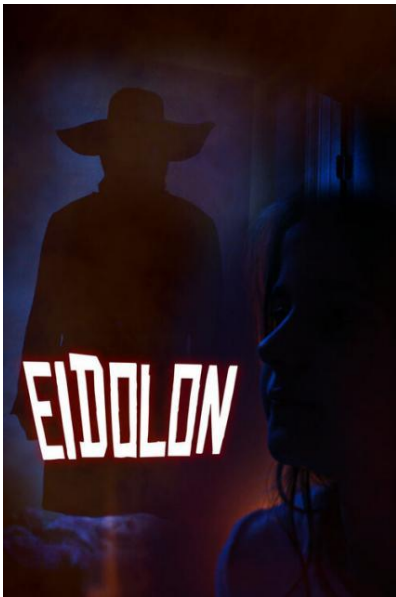
Directed by Andrew Broadhurst  
Martinsburg, WV

A heroin addict must choose between his family and his addiction in this raw and powerful film that encourages those struggling with opioid abuse to seek help, choose hope, and continue with recovery efforts.



**The Inside (24 min)**  
Directed by Michael Tuthill  
Frederick, MD

A mother and her son move into an old house with a dark and sinister secret. They experience random and strange occurrences and begin to wonder if it's the work of their depraved neighbor or something else entirely.



**Eidolon (7 min)**  
Directed by Michael Tuthill  
Frederick, MD  
Shot in Shepherdstown, WV and  
Sharpsburg, MD.

A young girl visits a graveyard and brings home an uninvited visitor.

Filmmakers Q&A to follow this film block.



**Historic Star Theatre**  
**Berkeley Springs, WV**

## Film Block 2

10:30 to noon - Saturday



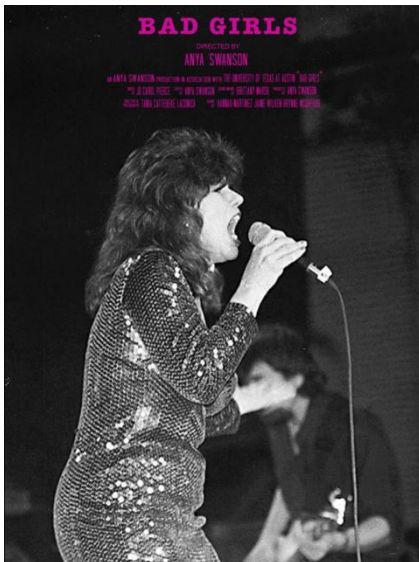
### Dancing Queens of Berkeley Springs (5 min)

Directed by Jules Happy Rone

Produced, Shot and Edited by Rick Watson

Berkeley Springs, WV

Join three ladies as they dance and inspire others to join in.



### Bad Girls (14 min)

Directed by Anya Swanson  
Austin, TX

The untold story of Jo Carol Pierce's music about Texas, sex, and religion in the 70s, and one artist's mission to give it the comeback it deserves.



### We Know Our Worth? (13 min)

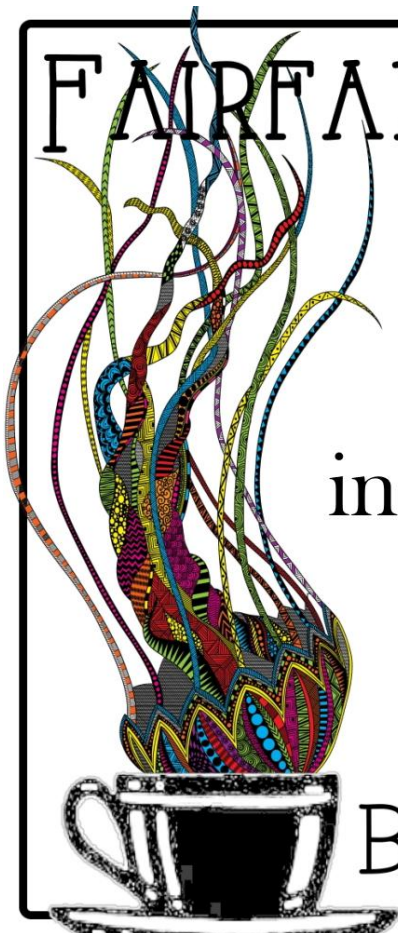
Directed by Behrooz Abbasi  
Iran

This is a documentary done in the Experimental Film style. It praises, appreciates and values the working class.



## Preorder Lunch Now

This is a good time to pre-order lunch to avoid the rush. You can pre-order lunch so it is ready for you during the lunch break following this Film Block 2. Just go to the theater concession stand, ask for the menu to the **Fairfax Coffee House** (one of our sponsors) and they will take your order. Then stop by the coffee house 2 blocks away and pick it up to go and eat in the park across the street, or eat in with reservation. Please support our sponsors!

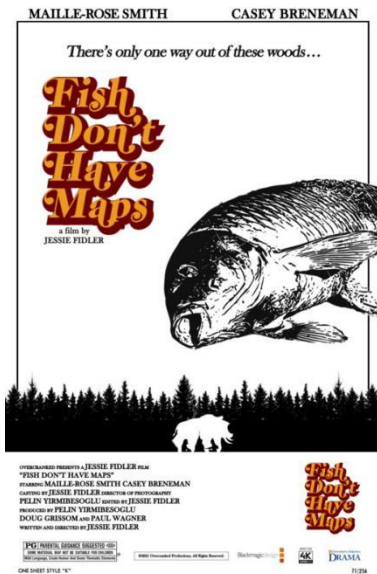


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Create light  
in the darkness, y'all.

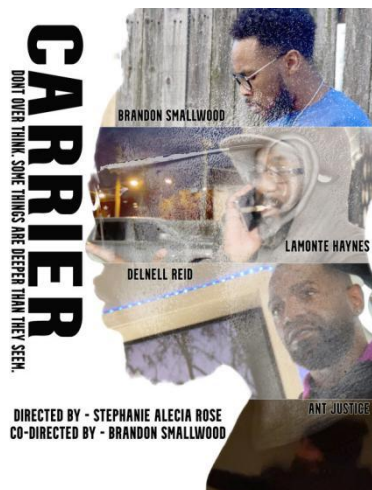
☺ Mama Trey

BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV



**Fish Don't have Maps (19 min)**  
 Directed by Jessie Fidler  
 Charlottesville, VA

Fish Don't Have Maps is an adventure film, starring the quirky friendship between the critical and nervous Jane and a stubborn hunter looking for revenge named Ida.



**Carrier (15 min)**  
 Directed by Stephanie Alecia Rose and  
 Brandon Smallwood  
 Tulsa, OK

In this intense silent film, embellished with a soundtrack that is dripping with heavy bass and lyrics, watch two best friends make perilous decisions to make money for rent.



**The Other (25 min)**  
 Directed by Saman Hosseinpuor and Ako  
 Zandkerimi  
 Iran

A religious and traditional man, after his wife's death, suspects she had a relationship with another man.

Filmmakers Q&A to follow this film block.

## Lunch Break

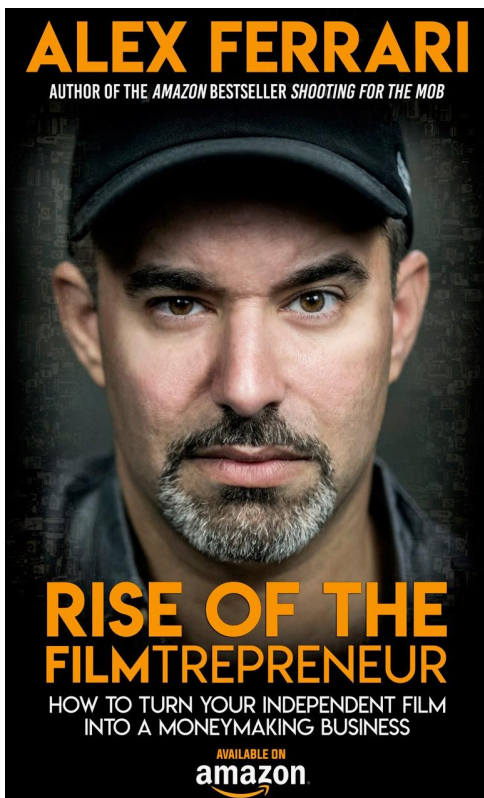
Noon to 1:30 PM - Saturday

This is a break in the schedule for lunch. Please enjoy one of the many wonderful restaurants in Berkeley Springs. Remember to take all your belongings with you when you leave the theater so the staff can clean it. And please support our sponsor: The Fairfax Coffee House (See ad on page 8).

## Filmmaker's Luncheon and Seminar

12:15 to 1:15 PM - Saturday

The Filmmaker's Luncheon is free for all filmmakers with films selected for the festival that have reserved a seat. Others may purchase a ticket for \$10 by reserving a seat via email at [BSFilmFestival@gmail.com](mailto:BSFilmFestival@gmail.com) while available. Noted author Alex Ferrari will speak about how to market your independent film in a rapidly changing distribution environment. The event takes place at the Morgan Art Council's Ice House located at 138 Independence Street, just 2 blocks from the theater.



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## Film Block 3

1:30 to 2:45 PM - Saturday



### ...And Then The Darkness (14 min)

Directed by Andrew Higgins  
Harrisburg NC

A pharmacist seeks revenge as he searches for the man who took everything from him.



### Forty Years From Now (20 min)

Directed by John Manna  
Mahopac, NY

Forty years after graduation, three High School friends reunite to fulfill a pact to dig up a coffee can they buried containing predictions and secrets written by their younger selves. The contents spark revelations about their

past, while potentially changing the course of their futures. The film challenges the widely held belief that "you can never go back" while exploring tough questions of whether it's ever too late to chase a dream.



### Chloe and the Five Elements (12 min)

Directed by Gordon LePage  
New Sharon, ME

A stop-motion animated film about a girl that falls into the five elements while walking in the wood.





### **Amber's Halfway Home (30 min)**

Directed by Melissa Armstrong and Jason Pidgeon

Woodstock VA, Greenfield TN

In Amber's Halfway Home, a film crew follows Amber for one day. During that day, she rescues 19 dogs. Some are dumped on the roadside and left to survive on their own. Others are living in unhealthy conditions at the unregulated and pitifully funded shelters. Watch as one woman saves these homeless animals from certain death.

Filmmakers Q&A to follow this film block.

## **Film Block 4**

3:00 to 4:30 PM - Saturday



### **The First Step (1:26)**

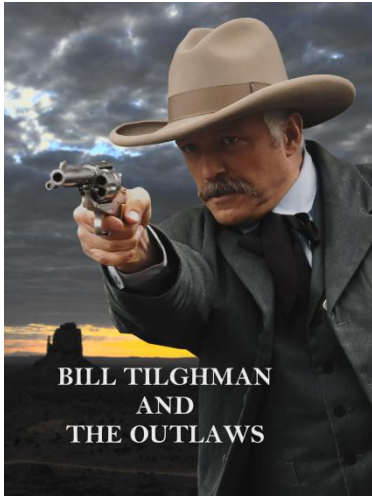
Directed by Brandon Kramer  
Washington DC

Van Jones, a Black progressive activist controversially crossing party lines to win bipartisan support for criminal justice reform and the response to the addiction crisis. Van's journey building bridges in a time of extreme polarization takes him deep into the drama of the Trump administration, internal divisions within both parties, and the lives of activists fighting on the frontlines for their communities.

Filmmakers Q&A to follow this film block.

## Film Block 5

4:45 to 6:45 PM - Saturday



### **Bill Tilghman and the Outlaws (1:56)**

Directed by Wayne Shipley

Finksburg MD; Filmed outside Berkeley Springs WV

In 1915, the Wild West is a fading memory until a moving picture production company travels to Ft. Bowers, Oklahoma, to ask aging Marshal Bill Tilghman to play himself in a shoot'em up also starring real outlaws Cole Younger and Frank James.

Filmmakers Q&A to follow this film block.

## **Awards Ceremony**

7:00 to 7:30 PM - Saturday

Awards will be giving out on stage at the Historic Star Theater following a brief break so you can run to the lobby to get your beer, wine and refreshments. Please support the filmmakers by staying for the awards ceremony. Then we'll move to a local pub to continue the party!

*Please support the Historic Star Theater by purchasing concessions. Thank you for your support!*

**Sunday - October 3, 2021**

**Theater Doors Open**

9:00 AM

Theater doors open for a second day of independent films.

**Film Block 6**

9:30 to 11:00 - Sunday



**The High Frontier: The Untold Story of Gerald K. O'Neill (1:30)**

Directed by Ryan Stuit

Long Beach, CA

This documentary tells the untold story of the late physicist Dr. Gerard K. O'Neill. In 1977, O'Neill wrote the book *The High Frontier: Human Colonies in Space*, which sparked an enormous grassroots movement to make space available and beneficial for all mankind. The film is told

through his peers, family, and the younger generation who followed that movement and are now leading the modern day space industry.

Filmmakers Q&A to follow this film block.



**Historic Star Theatre  
Berkeley Springs, WV**

## Film Block 7

11:00 AM to 1:10 PM - Sunday



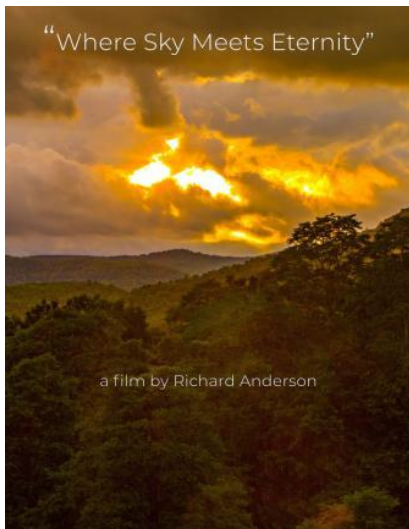
### Dancing Queens of Berkeley Springs (5 min)

Directed by Jules Happy Rone

Produced, Shot and Edited by Rick Watson

Berkeley Springs, WV

Join three ladies as they dance and inspire others to join in.



### Where Sky Meets Eternity (59 min)

Directed by Richard Nelson Anderson  
The River House, Capon Bridge, WV

A documentary film about an art project that took place during the pandemic year of 2020. It describes how each artist approached their "assignment" and what this project represents to the artists, to the community, and why projects like this should pop up all over

the country, for the good of the country.



### Breathe (8 min)

Directed by Jacqueline M Druga  
South Park Township, PA

After a post-apocalypse event, a lone survivor reflects on their prior life to decide whether or not to live.

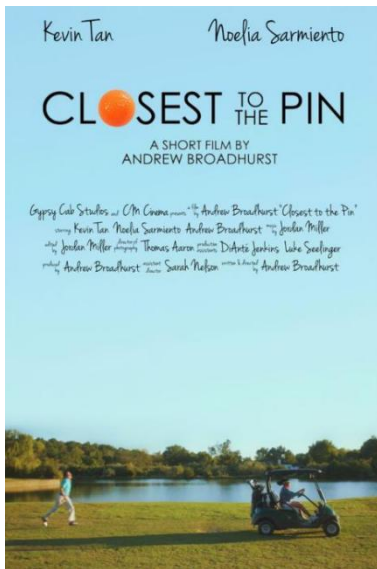




**Gene (31 min)**  
 Directed by Rico Mickens  
 Ladysmith, VA

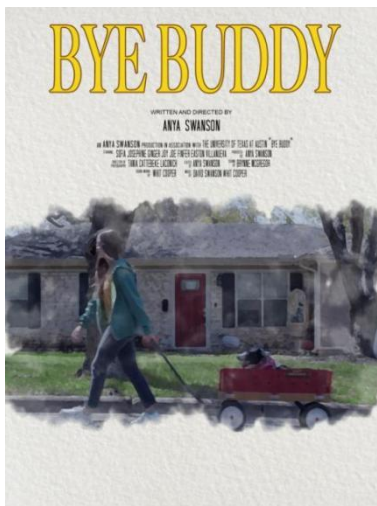
A team of Geneticists working on an enhanced soldier program for the Govt., discovered one of their own created something in secret, far from the beaten path. As the clock ticks for the soldier to be introduced before government officials, they discover the Doctor's own creation

was released into society and they have to terminate it.



**Closest to the Pin (5 min)**  
 Directed by Andrew Broadhurst  
 West Virginia

A competitive couple ups the ante during a friendly round of golf.



**Bye Buddy (10 min)**  
 Directed by Anya Swanson  
 Austin, TX

When Kate is about to head off to college, her parents decide it's time to put down their beloved old dog, Buddy. She does everything she can to prevent the inevitable, but must ultimately come to terms with losing her childhood pet and beginning this next chapter of her life.



**The Cave of Bektau-Ata (14 min)**  
Directed by Oleg Boyarchuk  
Kazakhstan

Village boy crafts jewelry for the girl he fell in love with. He has heard of topaz gemstones in the mountains nearby which he is going to find. He goes into the mountains to find the precious stones. The hero loses connection with reality after falling abruptly from high altitude.

Filmmakers Q&A to follow this film block.



**Historic Star Theatre**  
**Berkeley Springs, WV**

# ALEX FERRARI

AUTHOR OF THE *AMAZON* BESTSELLER *SHOOTING FOR THE MOB*

A close-up portrait of Alex Ferrari, a man with a goatee and a black cap, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is dark and textured.

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