

PRESS RELEASE

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Full Program Revealed for 3rd Salida Film Festival

Annual event will showcase curated shorts & features, Colorado talent and industry conversations

Salida, CO- On April 23rd, Arts & Culture Salida announced the full program and [box office information](#) for the 3rd Salida Film Festival, scheduled for May 9-12, 2024 at the SteamPlant Event Center in the Salida Creative District in beautiful downtown Salida, Colorado.

The four-day event will showcase several new features including AMERICAN FICTION (Opening Night Film and Winner of the 2024 Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay), THELMA (starring Oscar® nominee June Squibb and the legendary Richard Roundtree in his final role), REMEMBERING GENE WILDER, and A HOME IN PARADISE from Colorado director Julie Jackson.

Two short film programs and other activities have been slated for the weekend, including a pilot of a new independent documentary series (“Brewability”) from SeriesFest, a live podcast with several industry professionals, and the new Craft & Coffee conversations that will kick off each day of the festival.

“We’re incredibly excited to reveal this amazing lineup of films and special events,” says City of Salida Arts & Culture Supervisor and Director of Salida Film Festival Patrick O’Brien. “Audience growth leading up to our third film festival is a testament to Salida’s love of independent cinema, and we know they’re going to love this year’s program.”

O’Brien leads programming and events at the Salida SteamPlant Event Center in the heart of the Salida Creative District. He has introduced numerous film series to the City of Salida, and in 2022 was tapped to direct efforts for a multi-day film festival after receiving a Blueprint 2.0 grant from the Colorado Office of Film Television and Media. Previously, O’Brien was a member of the executive team at Denver Film Society, where he led development efforts to support and expand programs for Denver Film Festival and several other annual mini festivals.

“With so many options for viewing content, the program gives a nod to all the storytellers creating right now with a proud emphasis on those living and working locally or in the Rocky Mountain region,” says O’Brien.

Festival Passes are only \$85 and available at [Salida SteamPlant Box Office](#). Passes provide access to all film programs, conversations and events. Individual tickets are also available for \$11 per program.

FEATURE FILMS

AMERICAN FICTION

Director: Cord Jefferson

Opening Night Film – Sponsored by Colorado Office of Film Television Media

7:00pm - Thursday, May 9

Thelonious “Monk” Ellison’s writing career has stalled because his work isn’t deemed “Black enough.” Monk, a writer and English professor, writes a satirical novel under a pseudonym, aiming to expose the publishing world’s hypocrisies. The book’s immediate success forces him to get deeper enmeshed in his assumed identity and challenges his closely-held worldviews. Film is Rated R. Winner of the 2024 Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

A HOME IN PARADISE

Director: Julie Jackson

Sponsored by We Are Chaffee

5:30pm - Friday, May 10

A HOME IN PARADISE will premiere at Salida Film Festival, and is the hard work of We Are Chaffee, local director and producer Julie Jackson and videographer and editor Sarah Hamilton. The film highlights the lives of several Chaffee County community members and their efforts to access and bridge the housing, mental and behavioral health, and socio-economic divide. A call to action, A HOME IN PARADISE encourages conversations and community engagement to mend the divided “paradise” for many that call Chaffee County home. Film is Not Rated. In-person guests will be in attendance for post-film panel discussion immediately followed by a reception.

THE ARC OF OBLIVION with Short Film: THE LOST SEASON

Director: Ian Cheney

7:45pm - Friday, May 10

THE ARC OF OBLIVION explores a quirk of humankind: in a universe that erases its tracks, we humans are hellbent on leaving a trace. Set against the backdrop of the filmmaker’s quixotic quest to build an art in a field in Maine, the film heads far afield – to salt mines in the Alps, fjords in the Arctic, and ancient libraries in the Sahara – to illuminate the strange world of archives, record-keeping, and memory. Film is Not Rated. Preceded by THE LOST SEASON (directed by Kelly Sears, filmmaker and CU-Boulder Cinema Studies & Moving Image Arts professor), the film premiered at 2024 Sundance Film Festival.

TRUE STORIES

Director: David Byrne

Late Night Looks – Songs on Screen

10:00pm - Friday, May 10

This *Late Night Looks* section of Salida Film Festival revisits a visual and musical gem. Talking Heads’ David Byrne uses a fictional Texas town as the backdrop to satirize the eccentricities of America in TRUE STORIES. Starring John Goodman, Swoosie Kurtz and Spalding Gray. Film is Rated PG.

THELMA

Director: Josh Margolin

12:30pm - Saturday, May 11

Inspired by a real-life experience of filmmaker Josh Margolin's own grandmother, THELMA shines a spotlight on an elderly grandmother as an unlikely action hero. The film features Oscar® nominee June Squibb (NEBRASKA) in her first leading role, as well as the final performance of trailblazing actor Richard Roundtree (SHAFT). Film is Rated PG-13.

HOLY FRIT

Director: Justin S. Monroe

Closing Night Film

6:30pm - Saturday, May 11

A talented yet unknown Los Angeles artist bluffs his way into a commission for the largest stained glass window of its kind. Yet, he doesn't know how to make it and seeks help from an Italian glass maestro to complete the project in time. Film is Not Rated.

REMEMBERING GENE WILDER

Director: Ron Frank

Last Look Presentation

4:30pm - Sunday, May 12

This loving tribute to Gene Wilder celebrates his life and legacy as the comic genius behind an extraordinary string of film roles, from his first collaboration with Mel Brooks in THE PRODUCERS, to the enigmatic title role in the original WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY, to his inspired on-screen partnership with Richard Pryor in movies like SILVER STREAK. It is illustrated by a bevy of touching and hilarious clips and outtakes, never-before-seen home movies, narration from Wilder's audiobook memoir, and interviews with a roster of brilliant friends and collaborators. Film is Not Rated.

SEE MORE THAN... ENVIRO(MENTAL) SHORTS

Sponsored by GARNA, High Country Bank, Protect Our Winters, Salida Mountain Sports

3:00pm - Saturday, May 11

A package of documentary shorts that will bring you outside and get you thinking about the individual forces that impact our lives.

RIVER MAMMA (dir. Sarah Hamilton) – Ride along on a lifelong raft guide's journey through single motherhood, bringing her 8-month-old to the only job she ever knew while grappling with societal expectations.

BODY OF A LINE (dir. Henna Taylor) – In this animated documentary, Madeleine Sorkin undertakes an intimate and creative journey to climb the most difficult rock climb above 13,500 feet in the world: the Dunn-Westbay Direct on Longs Peak in Colorado.

THE HYPOCRITE (dir. Amie Engerbretson) – A film that aims to squarely address imperfect advocacy in the world of snow sports.

SVALBARD: FELT ESSENCE OF (dir. Alexandra Lockhart) – This choreographic expression filmed in Svalbard, Norway immerses us in the environment, in hopes of learning from and experiencing the essence of the place, and then respond.

CLIMATARIUM: A RURAL EDUCATION ROADMAP (dir. Julie Jackson) – Discover three communities in rural Colorado coming together to solve the climate crisis, one student career pathway at a time.

SEE MORE THAN... SCRIPTED SHORTS

2:30pm - Sunday, May 12

Sometimes memories and heartache compel us forward, making new connections and strengthening old ones, and often brings a smile.

THE MOVE (dir. Eric Kissack) – A couple moving in together for the first time learn new things about each other, their apartment and the universe.

DEATH & RAMEN (dir. Tiger Ji) – On his final night alive, a ramen chef goes on an unintended odyssey with the Grim Reaper.

BIG GEORGE (dir. Jamie Effros) – A working actor struggles in the “business” and finds himself trying to justify to his nine-year-old daughter – and to himself – why he’s still chasing his dream.

REST STOP (dir. Noah Sellman) – In the near future, a young auto mechanic struggles to keep his family’s roadside rest stop afloat and find his place in a newly mechanized world.

DEEP IN MY HEART IS A SONG (dir. Jonathan Pickett) – Based on the life of singer Johnny Bencomo, an aging country musician who’s struggling to make ends meet receives an offer for an unusual private gig.

EXTRA FRAMES

Extra Frames is an offering of panels and discussions that take place over the festival weekend. Become inspired, entertained and “centered” with special engagements by filmmakers and guests.

SeriesFest Spotlight

Individual Tickets only \$9

11:00am - Saturday, May 11

Join SeriesFest and the creative team behind a series based on Denver’s restaurant and bar Brewability as they discuss the process of making an independent documentary series. After watching “Brewability”, participate in the conversation by providing feedback on this Colorado pilot in progress brought to you by SeriesFest.

We Are Chaffee – Live Podcast

1:00pm - Sunday, May 12 at SteamPlant Theater

We Are Chaffee podcast host Adam Williams engages in an in-depth conversation with Chaffee County Film Commissioner Julie Jackson.

Craft & Coffee

9:30am - Friday, May 10 at the SteamPlant Annex

9:30am - Saturday, May 11 at the SteamPlant Annex

9:30am - Sunday, May 12 at the SteamPlant Annex

Casual conversation with local creatives. Sponsored by Salida Council for the Arts.

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The City of Salida, CO, is the statutory seat of Chaffee County with a population of approximately 5,700 residents. Salida is a family-friendly community ideally situated in central Colorado - known by many as the "Heart of the Rockies," both for its geographic location and the abundance of arts, cultural and recreational amenities found here. The city is dedicated to maintaining a safe, fiscally responsible and forward-thinking government where residents, businesses and visitors can thrive. Explore more about Salida at www.cityofsalida.com.