



**CINEMA COLUMBUS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 31, 2025

## **Cinema Columbus Film Festival Announces 2025 Film Selections, Full Schedule**

***Tickets On Sale Today; Festival Set For April 30-May 4***

**\*\*photos available\*\***

Presented by [CAPA](#), the [Cinema Columbus Film Festival](#), recently named Best Film Festival in USA Today 2025 10Best Readers' Choice Awards, today announced the roster of independent films selected for the 2025 festival and its screening schedule for April 30-May 4.

The festival, which marks its fourth year in 2025, will present more than 20 screenings involving approximately 50 feature and short films at seven locations, including the Drexel Theatre, Gateway Film Center, Studio 35 Cinema & Drafthouse, Grandview Theater & Drafthouse, McConnell Arts Center, the Wexner Center for the Arts, and the Southern Theatre.

“The picture Cinema Columbus paints of the film industry is of more unsung independent works: stories of places you have never heard of, voices of those you have yet to meet, regular everyday folks making artistic films day in and day out. There is beauty and joy in the independent film landscape, and in particular, in our Ohio region. It’s an honor to present a mix of local, regional, and global cinema to our capital city this spring,” Cinema Columbus Film Festival Director Brett Reiter said.

The 2025 festival will open at the Southern Theatre with ***Down to the Felt***, directed by Columbus filmmaker Jon Osbeck and written by a trio of Columbus residents - Osbeck, Dino Tripodis and Ralph Scott. Filmed on location in Columbus, ***Down to the Felt*** tells the story of a down-on-his-luck compulsive gambler who has second thoughts after hiring a hitman to kill him. Tickets are \$11.

The festival will close with a screening of the 1984 concert/documentary “STOP MAKING SENSE: A Film by Jonathan Demme and Talking Heads,” with a special guest appearance by Jerry Harrison. Tickets start at \$39.

The 2025 Cinema Columbus Film Festival is presented through the generous support of the Ohio Arts Council and Ohio Goes to the Movies, with media support from WCBE, WOSU, and Orange Barrel Media.

**Tickets for all films go on sale at 10 am on Monday, March 31.** Tickets to individual screenings are \$10, unless otherwise indicated.

Tickets can be purchased in-person at the CAPA Ticket Center (39 E. State St.), online at [www.CinemaColumbus.com](http://www.CinemaColumbus.com), or by phone at (614) 469-0939. Pre-purchasing is recommended, but if inventory allows, tickets may also be purchased at the door.

The full schedule for the 2025 Cinema Columbus Film Festival is available online, including all special events and filmmaker appearances. Visit [www.CinemaColumbus.com](http://www.CinemaColumbus.com) for the most up-to-date information.

## CINEMA COLUMBUS 2025

### Wednesday, April 30

**7 pm - *Down to the Felt*** dir. Jon Osbeck

Southern Theatre (21 E. Main St.)

Paul Murphy, a charming, underdog gambler, is on a bad roll. In one day, he’s gambled away the down payment on a house, been kicked out by his girlfriend, and lost his job, forcing him to move back into his childhood home with his mother. But after a chance meeting with David Solomon, a troubled and conflicted Jewish hitman who has a death wish of his own, a deadly plan is set into motion which could change Paul’s dysfunctional take on luck. Paul gets two weeks to take it “down to the felt,” to go all in, before David kills him so his mom can collect on Paul’s insurance policy. It’s Paul’s final two minutes in his game of life. But when Paul starts winning, and meets the alluring and mysterious Erica Chambers, who knows her way around a poker table, life becomes a race against time for Paul to call off the hitman and stop the deadly hand been dealt.

**Post-Screening Event:** Moviegoers are invited to stay after the screening for a Q&A with Osbeck and actors from the film.

## Thursday May 1

**7 pm - *They're Here*** dir. Pachó Velez & Daniel Claridge

Wexner Center for the Arts (1817 N. High St.)

*They're Here* uses UFO culture to explore perception and the human quest for connection. New York, with many UFO sightings, is home to believers like Cookie, her friend Steve, comic Twon, and spiritual devotee Dave, who share their encounters, revealing humor and empathy in their search for a shared experience.

**Post-Screening Event:** Virtual Q&A with filmmakers.

**7 pm - *I Really Love My Husband*** dir. GG Hawkins

Gateway Film Center (1550 N High St.)

Just one year into her marriage, Teresa (she/her) hopes her honeymoon in the tropical paradise of Bocas del Toro, Panamá will be the pinnacle of her relationship thus far. Yet, upon arrival, her perception of her husband Drew (he/him) as a people-pleasing golden boy begins to push her to the edge. Stripped of the routines that barely sustain their newlywed bond and unwilling to confront her true feelings, Teresa becomes captivated by Paz (they/them), a free-spirited expat who manages their vacation rental. In an impulsive attempt to reignite their fading connection, Teresa suggests a wild way to spice up their marriage.

**Post-Screening Event:** Q&A with filmmaker.

**7pm - *OUTCRY in Ohio: Short Film & Conversation*** dir. Clare Major

McConnell Arts Center (777 Evening St.)

*OUTCRY: Alchemists of Rage* tells the story of Whitney Bradshaw as she photographs women mid-scream in cathartic group sessions where long-silenced stories conjure rage, sorrow, and joy. An activist and sexual abuse survivor, Whitney uses art to fuel action for women's rights, culminating in a grassroots fight for abortion access in Ohio.

**Post-Screening Event:** Bradshaw, film director Clare Major, and other leaders will be present for a thoughtful panel conversation.

**7 pm - Thursday Local Shorts**

Drexel Theatre (2254 E. Main St.)

- *The Sacred Society* dir. Benny Zelkowicz
- *forgotten* dir. Maddie McSteen
- *Before I Die* dir. Julian Foglietti
- *Styles Make Fights* dir. Spencer Merriss

- *The Ghost* dir. Allyson Morgan
- *Jim* dir. Noah Abrams

**Post-Screening Event:** Q&A with select filmmakers.

## Friday May 2

**5 pm - *Vacation Plantation*** dir. Alex Bezeau  
Drexel Theatre (2254 E. Main St.)

Today, in the American South, there are as many historic plantation sites open to the public as there are Krispy Kreme locations across the United States, these sites indulging tourists' fantasies, rather than the horrific realities of the past. *Vacation Plantation* grants unparalleled access to the modern American plantation tourism industry—from the priorities of today's plantation owners, to the political balancing act of state representatives, to the descendants of the enslaved fighting for change. Archaeologist Lauren Cudmore goes on a journey to understand why millions of tourists continue to vacation at these sites of historic trauma.

**5 pm - *Speak***. dir. Jennifer Tiexiera & Guy Mossman  
Gateway Film Center (1550 N High St.)

Ambitious teen orators hone their craft, vying for glory in a prestigious global speech contest. Through dedication and artistry, they prepare to showcase their talents on the ultimate stage.

**7 pm - *Lone Wolves*** dir. Ryan Cunningham  
Drexel Theatre (2254 E. Main St.)

When a single, pragmatic 40-something recruits the eclectic guy she didn't go to prom with back in high school to be her D-I-Y sperm donor learns that he's Autistic and navigating some significant mental health issues, her carefully planned hopes are turned upside down in one crazy weekend in Toledo, Ohio.

**Post-Screening Event:** Q&A with filmmaker.

**8 pm - Creative(s) Block - Short Films about Artists**  
Gateway Film Center (1550 N High St.)

- *Gioncarlo Valentine: Exposures* dir. Zeshawn Ali
- *Somewhere in Ohio...*dir. Will Cherry
- *Stuck in Frame* dir. Tyler Nguyen
- *Tessitura* dir. Lydia Cornett & Brit Fryer
- *Between Gigs* dir. Brittney Briggs

**Post-Screening Event:** Q&A with select filmmakers.

**9 pm - *Memories of Los Angeles*** dir. Shawn Bannon  
Studio 35 Drafthouse & Cinema (3055 Indianola Ave.)

Drift through time in Los Angeles, where grand movie palaces crumble, landmarks vanish, nature reclaims urban spaces, hidden oil wells come to light, and wildfires reshape a city in dramatic flux.

**Post-Screening Event:** Q&A with filmmaker.

## **Saturday May 3**

**1 pm - *Battersea*** dir. T.J. Sandella  
Drexel Theatre (2254 E. Main St.)

Estranged siblings reconvene at their childhood home, where they spend a precarious weekend drinking and talking, uncovering the narratives and secrets that have shaped their lives.

**Post-Screening Event:** Q&A with filmmaker.

**1 pm - *Canoe Dig It?*** dir. Samuel Dunning  
Grandview Theater (1247 Grandview Ave.)

A comical look into the world of “Freestyle Canoeing” as a group of canoeists compete for the title of “Top Paddler” on a lake in Maine.

**Post-Screening Event:** Q&A with filmmaker.

## **2 pm - Animated Shorts**

Gateway Film Center (1550 N High St.)

- ***Jus D’Orange*** dir. Alexandre Athané
- ***CARBOLOAD*** dir. Cole Thiele
- ***ONE*** dir. Thomas Richner
- ***Nostril*** dir. Michael Dondero & Shengnan Dong
- ***A Beetle’s Day Off*** dir. Ashley Olson
- ***Pride-In-Our-Steps*** dir. Jonathan Riles
- ***The Stairs*** dir. Faedra Hose
- ***Tennis, Oranges*** dir. Sean Pecknold

**Post-Screening Event:** Q&A with select filmmakers.

## **4 pm - Saturday Shorts 1**

Drexel Theatre (2254 E. Main St.)

- ***A Summer’s End Poem*** dir. Lam Can-Zhao
- ***Belly Belly*** dir. Gabriel Carnick
- ***Matinee Baby*** dir. Thom Hilton

- *Lyrical* dir. Carter M. Stewart
- *exuvia* dir. Scott Burkhardt

**Post-Screening Event:** Q&A with select filmmakers.

#### 4 pm - Documentary Shorts

Grandview Theater (1247 Grandview Ave.)

- *Resonancia* dir. James Choi
- *Trans Heaven, Pennsylvania* dir. Hansen Bursic
- *Don't Cry For Me All You Drag Queens* dir. Kristal Sotomayor
- *Patient* dir. Lori Felker
- *The Fly Collectors* dir. Jeff Arak
- *Mother's House* dir. Garret Harkawik

#### 4:30 pm - *Shopping for Superman* dir. Wes Eastin

Gateway Film Center (1550 N High St.)

The origin story of your friendly neighborhood comic shop. Tracing the 50-year history of the local comic book store's far-reaching impact, we examine their cultural significance and the numerous threats they face today.

**Post-Screening Event:** Q&A with filmmaker.

#### 7 pm - *Inheritance* dir. Matt Moyer & Amy Toensing

Drexel Theatre (2254 E. Main St.)

*Inheritance* explores the underlying causes of the opioid epidemic in America through the life of one boy and five generations of his extended family over 11 years. Curtis, a bright and hopeful 12-year-old, grows up surrounded by love and struggle while every adult in his family—parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins—battles addiction. Curtis's America is a country where people and communities are struggling with an epidemic of substance use disorder, joblessness, poverty, and a deteriorating sense of belonging.

**Post-Screening Event:** Q&A with filmmaker.

#### 7 pm - Saturday Shorts 2

Gateway Film Center (1550 N High St.)

- *Lucky Lenny* dir. Jack Campise
- *Ah-Ma Burns* dir. Max Kane
- *Argie Berman* dir. Fon Davis
- *The Blessing* dir. Emma Pillsbury
- *Ladybug* dir. Donovan Myles Edwards
- *Say As I Say* dir. Daniel Solé

**Post-Screening Event: Q&A with select filmmakers.**

**Sunday May 4**

**1:30 pm - Sunday Local Shorts**

Gateway Film Center (1550 N High St.)

- *I Had A Really Good Day* dir. Mags Chamberlain
- *Memoir* dir. Jordan Sommerlad
- *ORANGE* dir. David James & Essie Baird
- *STACY IS GONNA BE A STAR!!!* dir. Lindy Tran
- *Picture of a Lost Family* dir. Aram Riazi
- *Like What Would Sorrow Look* dir. Hao Zhou

**Post-Screening Event: Q&A with select filmmakers.**

**7 pm - *Stop Making Sense: A Film by Jonathan Demme and Talking Heads* dir.**

Jonathan Demme

Southern Theatre (21 E. Main St.)

Cinema Columbus Film Festival will present a screening of the 1984

concert/documentary “STOP MAKING SENSE: A Film by Jonathan Demme and Talking Heads,” with a special guest appearance by Jerry Harrison. Newly restored in 4K to coincide with its 40th anniversary, the 1984 film was directed by renowned filmmaker Jonathan Demme and is considered by critics as the greatest concert film of all time.

**\*Films and post-screening events are subject to change without notice.**

###

#### **About Cinema Columbus**

Cinema Columbus celebrates the diverse people and stories brought to life by independent filmmakers, sparking curiosity, conversation, and understanding through independent film. Cinema Columbus works collaboratively with venues throughout central Ohio to establish an outstanding annual film festival bringing independent film from around the globe, and here at home, to our audiences. For more information, visit [www.cinamacolumbus.com](http://www.cinamacolumbus.com).

#### **About CAPA**

Owner/operator of downtown Columbus’ magnificent historic theatres (Ohio Theatre, Palace Theatre, Southern Theatre) and manager of the Riffe Center Theatre Complex, Lincoln Theatre, Drexel Theatre, Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts (New Albany, OH), and the Shubert Theatre (New Haven, CT), CAPA is a non-profit, award-winning presenter of national and international performing arts and entertainment. For more information, visit [www.capa.com](http://www.capa.com).

CAPA’s 2024-25 season is made possible in part by an investment of public funds from the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to

strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically. CAPA also appreciates the generous support of the Greater Columbus Arts Council, City of Columbus, Franklin County, and The Columbus Foundation's Jane H. Zimmerman Arts, Martha G. Staub, and Richard G. and Mary Jo Seyler funds.

Contact:

Jim Fischer

(614) 719-6624

[jfischer@capa.com](mailto:jfischer@capa.com)