Celebrating Independent Films
All-Day Local Filmmakers Celebration
Integrated Digital Storytelling
Pathbreaking YouTube
Transmedia Photo Chain
WRIF/CATV 48-hour Film Slam
Gala Opening with Filmmakers
Live Concert with Tom Rush & Jim Rooney

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April 25-28, 2014
White River Indie Film Festival
White River Junction, Vermont

Photo: still from The Forgotten Kingdom. Andrew Mudge, Director
Venues

Tupelo Music Hall
188 S Main St, White River Junction (parking on site)

Hotel Coolidge
39 S. Main Street, White River Junction (parking on street)

Main Street Museum
58 Bridge Street, White River Junction (park on street)

CATV (at the Tip Top Building)
85 N Main Street, White River Junction (parking on site)

Friday, April 25

THROUGH A LENS DARKLY
2:00 PM • FREE • At Tupelo Music Hall

Documentary • USA • 92 Minutes

Thomas Allen Harris’s extraordinary documentary is a unique examination of the way black photographers—and their subjects—have used the camera as a tool for social change from the time photography was invented to the present. The film tackles the burden of representation and serves as a testament to the redemptive powers of creativity.

A unique examination of the way black photographers—and their subjects—have used the camera as a tool for social change from the time photography was invented to the present. The film tackles the burden of representation and serves as a testament to the redemptive powers of creativity. The screening of the film was made possible with support from Jamie and Nancy Horton.

DIGITAL DIASPORA FAMILY RE-UNION (DDFR)
3:45 PM • FREE • At Tupelo Music Hall

The innovative transmedia companion to the film—Through a Lens Darkly—the “Family Reunion” reimagines the social network by inviting audiences to participate in building the One World One Family Album (#1WORLD1FAMILY) by uploading and sharing their own family photos. Festival goers are invited to upload images to Instagram using #1WORLD1FAMILY to participate in building the One World One Family Album (#1WORLD1FAMILY) by uploading and sharing their own family photos. Festival goers are invited to upload images to Instagram using #1WORLD1FAMILY.

OPENING NIGHT GALA/RECEPTION/ THE FORGOTTEN KINGDOM
6:00/7:00 PM • $35 • At Tupelo Music Hall

96 Minutes

The party begins at 6 with a cash bar and delicious hors d’oeuvres provided by Mel’s Gourmet/Tastes of Africa.

Andrew Mudge’s remarkable first feature-leg is also the first full-length film ever made in Lesotho, an ancient and rugged kingdom in southern Africa. The protagonist, Atang, leaves the hustle of Johannesburg to return to his ancestral land of Lesotho, where he must bury his estranged father in the remote, mountainous village where he was born. Stirred by memories of his youth, he falls in love with his childhood friend, Dineo, now a radiant young schoolteacher. Discussion with Forgotten Kingdom Director Andrew Mudge immediately after the film.

Saturday, April 26

DIRTY WARS
10:00 AM • $9/7 • At Tupelo Music Hall

Documentary • USA • 87 Minutes • Unrated

Dirty Wars follows investigative reporter Jeremy Scahill into the heart of America’s covert wars, from Afghanistan to Yemen, Somalia and beyond. Part political thriller and part detective story, Dirty Wars is a gripping journey into one of the most important and underreported stories of our time.

PATHBREAKING YOUTUBE
12:30 PM • FREE • At Tupelo Music Hall

Google’s Head of Community Affairs Matt Dunne will present ways in which the YouTube platform has changed and empowered creators.

AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY: THE EVOLUTION OF GRACE LEE BOGGS
2:00 PM • $9/7 • At Tupelo Music Hall

Documentary • USA • 82 Minutes • Unrated

What does it mean to be an American revolutionary today? Grace Lee Boggs is a 98-year-old Chinese American woman in Detroit whose vision of revolution will surprise you. A writer, activist, and philosopher rooted for more than 70 years in the African American movement, she has devoted her life to an evolving revolution that encompasses the contradictions of America’s past and its potentially radical future.

The screening of the film is made possible with support from Jamie and Nancy Horton.

SHORT TERM 12
2:00 PM • $9/7 • At Main Street Museum

Drama – USA – 96 Minutes – Rated R

SHORT TERM 12 is told through the eyes of Grace (Brie Larson), a twenty-something supervisor at a foster care facility for at-risk teenagers. Grace comes to find—in both her work and the new teenager in her care—surprising sources of redemption. And while the subject matter is complex and often dark, this lovingly realized film finds truth and humor in unexpected places.

WISCONSIN RISING
4:00 PM • $9/7 • At Main Street Museum

Documentary • USA • 57 Minutes • Unrated

Following Governor Scott Walker’s announcement of his controversial ‘Budget Repair Bill,’ the people of Wisconsin rose up, occupied their state capitol and took to the streets. While Wisconsin Rising highlights one state’s rejection of a conservative take-over, it can be seen as a microcosm of what is at stake in a time of fiscal crises, ideologically-driven budgets and social reforms.

OTELO BURNING
4:00 PM • $9/7 • At Tupelo Music Hall

Documentary • USA • 57 Minutes • Unrated

Shot in Durban, South Africa, the film tells the story of a group of township kids who discover the joy of surfing. It’s set in 1989, against a backdrop of brewing conflict between two political groups in Lamontville. On the day that Nelson Mandela is released from prison, Otelo is forced to choose between surfing success and justice. This is a beautifully made, insightful and entertaining film that captures a turbulent time in the history of South Africa.

GMO OMG
6:45 PM • $9/7 • At Tupelo Music Hall

Documentary • USA • 57 Minutes • Unrated

Director and concerned father Jeremy Seifert is in search of answers. How do GMOs (genetically modified organisms) affect our children, the health of our planet, and our freedom of choice? These and other questions take Seifert on a journey from his family’s table to Haiti, Paris, Norway, and the lobby of agro-giant Monsanto, from which he is unceremoniously ejected. Along the way we gain insight into a question that is of growing concern to citizens the world over: what’s on your plate?

The screening of the film is made possible with support from Bill Stetson.

Panel discussion follows with Will Allen of Cedar Circle Farm and Sylvia Davatz of Solstice Seeds.

Cuisine available between GMO OMG and Go For Sisters provided by Elver Restaurant, 188 S Main St, White River Junction, VT

GO FOR SISTERS
9:15 PM • $9/7 • At Tupelo Music Hall

Documentary • USA • 123 Minutes • Unrated

Two-time Academy Award nominee John Sayles ( Lone Star) returns to the Mexican border. Bernice and Fontayne grew up the closest of friends, but took very different paths in life. But when Bernice’s son Rodney goes missing on the Mexican border, she needs someone who can navigate Rodney’s world without involving the police... and turns to Fontayne. The pair enlist the services of Freddy Suarez (Edward James Olmos), a disgraced ex-LAPD detective, and plunge into the underbelly of Tijuana, quickly finding themselves in a potentially deadly cat-and-mouse game with a ruthless gang of human traffickers.
Sunday, April 27

LOCAL FILMMAKERS SCREENINGS & CELEBRATION

10:00 AM–7 PM • Free • At Hotel Coolidge

While many people think of New York or LA as the places to go if you want to be a filmmaker, the Upper Valley is actually a hotbed of filmmaking talent! We showcase six filmmakers this year: Brothers Billy and Aaron Sharff, Anne Macksoud, Jeffrey Ruoff, Stefan Van Norden, Douglas Harp, and Matt Bucy. What are the themes that fascinate these filmmakers? Who are their influences? What are the challenges and rewards of making films in the Upper Valley? Each film will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker.

Screening & Celebration Schedule:

9:45 AM: Douglas and Peter Harp, Spittle and Twigs (2012–14, 2 min.) This little Andy Goldsworthy spoof was a total lark, totally impromptu, and cooked up on the spot two Christmases ago: no script, no storyboards. Peter (cameraman and editor) and I just really like Goldsworthy’s work.

Douglas is a graphic designer with a studio in Hanover. He says: “Despite having the rudiments of filmmaking technology in my iPhone, I am not a filmmaker, nor do I presume to ever become one. That pursuit is best left to the real filmmakers whose work is being shown here. That said, I am delighted and honored to share a bit of moving-picture light-heartedness with this year’s WRIFF audiences.”

10:00 AM: Stefan Van Norden Hand of Brick (2013), by Stefan Van Norden is about the Densoo Brick Company that operated from 1800 to 1974, in Lebanon, NH. It produced bricks for most of the major buildings in the Upper Valley, including Baker Library. The film explores the labor-intensive process of brick-making and delves into the lives of the men who worked there. It also highlights the bee hives kilns used at the brickyard.

Stefan Norden is a gardener by profession. This is his first film. We will show excerpts from Hand of Brick and Stefan will talk about his exciting new film about gardening.

11:15–12:15: Jeff Ruoff, Still Moving: Pilobolus at Forty (2013, 38 min.) In the 1970s, at Dartmouth College, the collective Pilobolus innovated a collaborative, improvisational style and organization that transformed modern dance. On the eve of its fortieth anniversary, Pilobolus thrives as an arts organism. Still Moving: Pilobolus at Forty will follow the lifecycle of the company, its evolution, transformation, regeneration.

Jeffrey Ruoff is a documentary filmmaker, film historian, and an associate professor of Film and Media at Dartmouth College. His anthology Coming Soon to a Festival Near You: Programming Film Festivals was published in 2012 by the University of St Andrews.

1:00 PM: Matt Bucy Spooners (2013, 17 min. Audience Award, Seattle International Film Festival) The story of two men and their epic quest for a grown-up bed. Matt was the director of photography of this charming comedy that comments on the intrusion of technology into our personal lives. Matt will also show excerpts and talk about his work on Star Trek, the web series.

Matt Bucy is a filmmaker, pilot, architect and developer who lives in White River Junction, but travels around the country shooting films for other people and himself.

2:15 PM: Anne Macksoud, The Wisdom To Survive (2014, 55 min.) Climate change is here. Will we have the wisdom to survive? The film features thought leaders and activists in the realms of science, economics and spirituality discussing how we can evolve and take action in the face of climate disruption. The film includes interviews with activists Bill McKibben, Joanna Macy, Roger Payne, Herschelle Milford, Quincy Saul, and more.

Anne Macksoud spent 17 years as a teacher (English literature, Theology, Photography, and Music) before transitioning to film and video production. Once she discovered the eye/heart-opening power of the documentary medium, she brought film into her classroom on a regular basis, then began making films and videos herself. “Although I enjoy the entire production process, I see film primarily as a means to an end—a useful tool for opening minds and hearts...”

4:00 PM: Bill Scharff, Aachen Scharff Before I Sleep (2013, 80 min.) is dramatic film co-directed, written and produced by Cornish, NH brothers, Aaron and Billy Sharff. The film features the amazing David Warner in the lead role. Other roles are played by Tom Szizemore, Bonnie Wright, Cynthia Gibb, Eric Roberts, Eugene Simon, Campbell Scott and Chevy Chase.

Filmed in the White Mountains, the film’s crew is also local, and includes Matt Bucy as Director of Photography and Nancy Heyl as Costume Designer.

Before I Sleep is Billy’s second feature film. He has made many experimental short films and in 2010 he made the feature The Sparrow and the Tigress. Billy is also a composer and member of Pahrib Boat, a popular local band. Aaron is a producer and actor.

6:00–7:00 PM: Celebration to honor local filmmakers and Slam participants.

IS THE MAN WHO IS TALL HAPPY?
AN ANIMATED CONVERSATION WITH NOAM CHOMSKY

1:00 PM • $9/7 • At Tupelo Music Hall

From the innovative director of Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind and The Science of Sleep, comes this unique animated documentary on the life of controversial MIT professor, philosopher, linguist, anti-war activist and political firebrand Noam Chomsky. Through complex, lively conversations with Chomsky and brilliant illustrations by director Michel Gondry himself, the film reveals the life and work of the father of modern linguistics while also exploring his theories on the emergence of language.

A passionate argument on behalf of the middle class, inequality for All features Robert Reich—professor, best-selling author, and Clinton cabinet member—as he demonstrates how the widening income gap has a devastating impact on the American economy. The film is an intimate portrait of a man who’s overcome a great deal of personal adversity and whose lifelong goal remains protecting those who are unable to protect themselves.

There will be a discussion with James Haslam, Executive Director of the Vermont Workers Center, immediately following the film.

THE INVINCIBLE DEFEAT OF MISTER & PETE

7:45 PM • $9/7 • At Tupelo Music Hall

Drama • USA • 108 Minutes • Rated R

During a sweltering summer in New York City, 13-year-old Mister’s hard-living mother is apprehended by the police, leaving the boy and nine-year-old Pete alone to forage for food while dodging child protective services and the destructive scenarios of the Brooklyn projects. Faced with more than any child can be expected to bear, the resourceful Mister nevertheless feels he is an unstoppable force against seemingly unmovable obstacles.

Q&A with film editor Jamie Kirkpatrick immediately following the film.

FILM SLAM SCREENING & AWARDS CEREMONY

7:00 PM • FREE • At Hotel Coolidge

CATV & WRIFF collaborate in an exciting Film Slam that pits team against team in a hair-raising bid to make the best short film in just 48 hours! The freshly minted movies are then screened on Sunday at 7 p.m. in front of a live audience and professional judges. Generous CASH prizes go to the BEST FILMS made by middle school, high school, and college/adult teams. Plus WRIFF offers a special prize for the best film made in White River Junction on the secret theme! Want to participate? Visit: http://catv8.org. Admission is free thanks to the Byrne Foundation and a Small and Inspiring grant from the Vermont Community Foundation.
FOR THE LOVE OF THE MUSIC: THE CLUB 47
FOLK REVIVAL

6:30 PM • $20 • At Tupelo Music Hall

The Club 47 Folk Revival is a documentary exploring the rich history of Club 47, the iconic Cambridge, Massachusetts folk music mecca from 1958-1968. Narrated by Peter Coyote, it explores the influence the Club had on a unique group of folk musicians, including Joan Baez, Taj Mahal, Judy Collins, Tom Rush, Maria and Geoff Muldaur, Jim Kweskin, Jackie Washington, Jim Rooney, Peter Rowan and many more. The film features previously unreleased audio recordings and photographs of Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Eric Von Schmidt.

The film will be followed by a short concert with folk legend Tom Rush and Grammy Award-winning producer Jim Rooney, both interviewed in the film.