

The shortest films around

We Like 'Em Short Film Festival is Aug. 11-14 in Baker City

By Lisa Britton

Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — Joan Gratz graduated with a degree in architecture and started her career.

It lasted two weeks.

Her passion was film — specifically claypainting, which involves working in front of a camera and applying bits of clay to create “a seamless flow of images.”

She made her first film when she was in school, and she hasn't really ever stopped.

“About 1967,” she said of her beginning in film. “A really long time.”

Gratz, who won an Academy Award in 1993 for her short film “Mona Lisa Descending a Staircase,” had two films accepted into the 13th annual We Like 'Em Short Film Festival, which happens Aug. 11-14 in Baker City.

“No Leaders Please” is an animated film based on a poem by Charles Bukowski.

The second, “Retention Department of Perpetual Exhaustion,” was inspired by Gratz's internet service provider, who has such a department.



WE LIKE 'EM SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

When: Aug. 11-14

Where: Churchill School, 3451
Broadway St., Baker City

Information: www.welikeemshort.com

“It is a place of last resort when there is no hope and never a solution,” she said.

For “Exhaustion,” Gratz is the producer/director, along with directors Chris Hinton, Jim Blashfield, Marv Newland, Martin Cooper and Chel White.

A special screening featuring Gratz and Jim Blashfield (a Grammy award-winning director) is set for Saturday, Aug. 13, at 7 p.m.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

All submissions to WLES must be less than 20 minutes long. In some years, films



Joan Gratz/Contributed Image

The short film “Retention Department of Perpetual Exhaustion” was inspired by Joan Gratz's internet service provider. The live action/animation film will be shown at the 13th annual We Like 'Em Short film festival, Aug. 11-14, 2022, in Baker City.

have been shorter than 60 seconds.

Brian Vegter, festival director, said 217 films were submitted this year from 34 countries. Those submissions were pared down to the 83 films featured in this year's event.

All screenings will be at Churchill School, 3451 Broadway St. Enter through the 16th Street parking lot. The first night is a drive-in movie; the rest will be inside Churchill.

Here is the schedule:

- Thursday, Aug. 11: 8 p.m.; free, family-friendly drive-in screening
- Friday, Aug. 12: 7 p.m.; \$5 per person

- Saturday, Aug. 13: 1 p.m.; family-friendly; \$5 per person
 - Saturday, Aug. 13: 4:30 p.m.; \$5 per person
 - Saturday, Aug. 13: 7 p.m.; features Gratz and Blashfield; \$5 per person
 - Sunday, Aug. 14: 6 p.m.; \$5 per person
- Proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative test (available onsite) is required for all indoor screenings. Kids ages 15 and younger have free admission for all screenings.

For a festival program, which lists the films, visit www.welikeemshort.com or check the Facebook page.

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