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Siuslaw News

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LCC, City Lights to present Northwest Filmmakers Festival Tour

A screening tour of the nine short films touted as the best of Portland's 42nd Northwest Filmmakers Festival makes a stop at City Lights Cinemas on Thursday, March 10.

The Best of the 42nd Northwest Filmmakers Festival Tour represents a cross-section of entries from the festival held in fall 2015. Sponsored by the Northwest Film Center, the festival attracts more than 400 entries from filmmakers in the greater Pacific Northwest region.

Following each year's event, the Northwest Film Center curates the entries to produce a screening tour to broaden the filmmakers' exposure and share their art in communities across the Northwest.

Two screenings will be held at City Lights Cinemas, 1930 Highway 101, at noon and 6:30 p.m., on March 10. A special discount is available to those who stop by Lane Community College Florence campus for a discount voucher, allowing \$5 admission at the door.

As part of the screening, featured filmmaker Stuart Eagon will also be in attendance to share his perspectives on his short film, "Memory," which won the festival's Audience Award for best experimental film.

Shot on 16mm black-and-white film, the short piece is part of a larger documentary in production that chronicles historic buildings and neighbor-

hoods in Portland.

Recently, Eagon learned that one of the buildings he filmed extensively for his documentary — Centennial Mills on the edge of the Pearl District — was being demolished.

"It's a central theme in Portland right now. There's a debate over preservation of historical buildings and districts versus builders and developers," Eagon said. "My piece is not meant to be political. It's an observation of the city and place in time. I thought shooting it on 16mm black-and-white film was the best way to preserve the urban landscapes and what they looked like over a period of time."

Eagon, 29, a self-taught filmmaker, prefers working with film rather than digital media.

"Film is this magical thing,"

he said. "It's printing actual light onto the celluloid. I think the younger generation has forgotten what a miracle that is."

The tour offers Eagon and other filmmakers an opportunity to reach a wider audience while also offering communities the chance to experience diverse films, said Ben Popp, screening tour curator and Northwest Film Center film services manager.

"I think it gives communities a different view that they may not have access to," Popp said. "The tour is a way to reach out and help them experience and see films that they're not going to get at the Redbox."

Films in this year's tour range from the three-minute documentary "Two Roads," from Sooke, British Columbia; filmmakers Troy Moth and Josh Lambert, who chronicle

the culture of the Anishinaabe people; to a 16-minute comedy "Dead Hearts," about a young mortician who finds his love.

City Lights Cinemas co-owner Michael Falter said he hopes the different styles of filmmaking represented in the screening tour will inspire local storytellers.

"Any time we can expose audiences to short films — and to their makers — we can help demystify the filmmaking process and inspire people to tell their own stories, right here in Florence," Falter said. "Short films, like short stories, break free from the three-act structure that we expect from long-form narrative. Simply opening up our story minds can be very liberating."

The other featured experimental film on the tour is "Hers is Where Yours Begins," by

Janet McIntyre of Portland, who uses the documentary form to craft a poem to her younger self.

Other featured films include: "Seven Ways from Sunday" by Robert Sickels of Walla Walla, Wash., which explores the concept of diversity through the eyes of seven different people; and two animated short features: "To See More Light" by Kurtis Hough of Portland and "Robot Pavlov Sputnik" by Oliver Hockenull of Vancouver, B.C..

"For Jean-Pierre Melville" tells the story of an assassin and is a hat tip to Melville, who influenced the French New Wave movement. The film, by Ira Flowers of Portland, won the Audience Award for short narrative.

Tickets can also be purchased at www.citylightscinemas.com.

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