

BUSINESS SPONSORS

Grundman Insurance

Primrose

Akin Lumber

Backgrounds Coffee & Hair Designers

Bella Vita Salon Fire & Salt

Lone Arranger Real Deal

Preferred Properties of Iowa

Interested in becoming a sponsor?

Visit Corning Opera House About Us page
or call 641-418-8037



Thank you for
attending our
first Film Festival!

**IOWA NEBRASKA HEARTLAND
FILM FESTIVAL** ♡

MARCH 7 & 8, 2025

CORNING OPERA HOUSE

Corning Opera House
800 Davis Ave., Corning, IA 50841
www.CorningOperaHouse.com
641-418-8037

WELCOME TO IOWA NEBRASKA HEARTLAND FILM FESTIVAL 2025!

Our first year. The whole process has been educational! After researching film festivals and discovering there are none in southwest Iowa, we decided to accept the challenge and offer students through adults the opportunity to showcase their films. Michael White, Professor at Wayne State, Nebraska provided much needed expertise and encouragement to make this festival a reality! We were pleased to have 79 entries for our first year and from those we selected the following 42 films to show. We are eager for you to visit downtown Corning and share this time with you. We hope you enjoy our Iowa and Nebraska films.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Iowa Nebraska Heartland Film Festival would like to hear about your experience. Please take a couple of minutes after the festival to share your experience and complete the survey. Thank you!



Thanks to Primrose
for Saturday's Celebration Party
9 - 11 pm



The ratings E (Everyone) T (Teen) M (Mature) were determined by our screeners for your guidance.

The Last Damn E

Nicholas Kapanke, 2023, 25 min., Documentary

The film explores the origin and sociocultural impact of The DAMN, a 240 mile, 24 hour, point-to-point gravel bicycle race known as the *Day Across Minnesota*. While hundreds have attempted The DAMN, the final running stays true to its name and raises the stakes to test riders in a way they've never experienced before on Minnesota gravel.

The Thing with Feathers^* T

Anja Oelofse, 2024, 24 min., Drama, Fantasy

Feeling lost after her father's death, Sarah miraculously meets her younger self and goes on a journey of forgiveness and self-discovery.

Time To Shine E

Jim Fields, 2024, 20 min., Documentary

In the 1990's, Ivory Star was one of the most successful rock bands in Nebraska. Siblings Dave & Donette Smith shared their musical passion and their regional rise to success with their band, Ivory Star. However, not all dreams come true in the music business.

Voice of the Voiceless^ E

Luqman Mohammed., 7 min., Drama

This is a short film about a poor and unkempt boy who eventually overcomes poverty, homelessness, and bullying when a middle-aged man brings him to his home and cares for him.

Waiting for Mom Outside the Cemetery^ T

Joshua Fiser, 2024, 6 min., Student

Mary has a concerning way of coping with her mother's death. The truth comes out when she has a conversation with her brother outside of the cemetery where their mom is buried.

^Student Film *First Time Filmmaker

E = everyone **T** = Teen **M** = Mature

Friday, March 7, 2025

5:50 PM

OPENING NIGHT WELCOME

6 – 9 PM

FRIDAY NIGHT FILM BLOCK

Please refer to schedule and film overviews on the following pages.

9 – 10:30 pm AFTER PARTY

Join us for drinks and light refreshments in the second lobby and auditorium, sponsored by COH Board of Directors

Saturday, March 8, 2025

9:00 AM

WELCOME BACK

Join us for complimentary donuts & coffee

9:30AM

SATURDAY FILM BLOCK

Please refer to schedule and film overviews on the following pages.

8:45 PM

AWARD CEREMONY (AUDITORIUM)

9:00 PM

AFTER PARTY AT PRIMROSE

619 Davis Avenue.

Join us for drinks and camaraderie.

JOHNNY CARSON BIRTHPLACE TOURS

Saturday from 2 to 5 pm

500 13TH Street (corner of 13th & Davis Avenue)

\$10 per person or ask about group rates

Auditorium Friday

- 4:30 PM Registration
- 6:00 PM The Cross
- 7:30 PM Crimson Archer
- 9:00 PM After Party at Opera House

Auditorium Saturday

- 9:00 AM Registration & Coffee
- 9:30 AM Dancing in the Moonlight
- 9:46 AM Waiting for Mom (Outside Cemetery)
- 9:53 AM A Touch of Jazz
- 10:00 AM Look Away
- 10:05 AM Christmas Feast
- 10:18 AM The Thing with Feathers
- 10:43 AM Black Hawk's Final Resting Place
- 11:11 AM Crickets
- 11:35 AM **LUNCH break**
- 12:35 PM Bones and Shadows
- 12:41 PM Sicily Street
- 12:51 PM Outside the Lines
- 1:03 PM The Film that Almost Ruined our Marriage
- 1:23 PM Time to Shine
- 1:44 PM The Last DAMN
- 2:09 PM **15 Minute Break**
- 2:24 PM Abraham's Bridge
- 3:01 PM 5 Seasons Ski Team
- 3:55 PM Car-Centric
- 4:55 PM **DINNER break**
- 5:55 PM My Heart Remembers
- 7:18 PM Remote
- 8:33 PM Awards announcement
- 9:00 PM After Party at Primrose

Sicily Street T

Daryl Hrdlicka, 2022, 9 min., Comedy

Two "made" women from a certain "family" decide to help educate the youths of America.

The Bittersweet Truth About Parking^ E

Blake Bodlak, Anja Oelofse, 2025, 18 min. Comedy

A man in an odd relationship with a parking spot undergoes a process of self-reflection.

The Cross T

Micael White, 2023, 1 hr. 30 min., Drama

When Delore and Vivienne, French Catholic immigrants, open a successful restaurant in a rural Iowa town in the 1922, they are tormented by the Ku Klux Klan. Fearing for their three teenage daughters, they are forced to confront the hidden prejudice of their community as they fight for the wellbeing of their family. Based on true story.

The Entomologist's Wife T

Shelby Hagerdon, 2025, 12 min., Animation, Experimental, SciFi

This film follows one man's desperate attempt to save his wife through their study of moths and is heavily inspired by German expressionist films, like "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari," "Nosferatu," and "Metropolis."

The Film That Almost Ruined Our Marriage* E

Darin Blair, 2024, 18 min., Comedy

After attending their first film festival, a couple is inspired to give film making a try.

^Student Film *First Time Filmmaker

E = everyone **T** = Teen **M** = Mature

Outside The Lines E**Joseph Glitter, 2024, 11 min., Documentary**

Bus driver by day, artist by night. As a bus driver, Anthony Pena of Omaha must stay between the lines and strictly follow rules. As an artist he is free to draw outside the lines and create art that reflects his views on racial inequality and social injustice.

Paper Plate* T**Brian Nguyen, 2024, 1 hr. 46 min., Drama Comedy**

Four robbers are stranded in a village credit union after immediately botching a would-be series of bank heists in rural Midwest America.

Remote* M**Matthew Tribble, 2023, 1 hr. 14 min., SciFi/Fantasy/Horror**

A TV reporter and a photographer must fight for their lives when their investigation into a murder uncovers dark secrets and violent grudges among the local residents.

Sepulcher* E**Brian Rivera, 2024, 6 min., Experimental SciFi/Fantasy/Horror**

A man travels a desolated land looking for mythical object that can bring back life to the land.

Seventy-four E**Bill Thibeault, 2024, 15 min., Drama**

Gary, Greg and Kelly Jo Sage, brothers from a patriotic family, live a simple life in Niobrara Nebraska. When the Vietnam war breaks out half a world away, Gary, joins the Marines. Conflict ensues. One by one the other two brothers follow until finally all three young men are assigned onboard the Navy Destroyer, Frank E. Evans. Based on true events, June 3, 1969.

^Student Film *First Time Filmmaker

E = everyone **T** = Teen **M** = Mature

Conference Room Friday

5:50 PM I-21
7:15 PM Paper Plates

Conference Room Saturday

Start Time	Title
10:15 AM	Buried Treasure
10:33 AM	High Contrast
10:40 AM	Voice of the Voiceless
10:48 AM	The Bittersweet Truth about Parking
11:07 AM	Lethia
11:15 AM	Of Robots and Rednecks

11:32 AM **LUNCH BREAK**

12:32 PM	Dirt
12:39 PM	Not Just Deliveries
12:45 PM	Sepulcher
12:53 PM	Freakin' Weekend
1:01 PM	In Your Head
1:12 PM	The Entomologist's Wife
1:26 PM	Across the Counter
1:41 PM	Seventy Four
1:57 PM	Coming Home

2:17 PM 10 Minute Break

2:27 PM	Before the End Game
3:11 PM	Iowa Black History
3:43 PM	500 Years of Friendship
4:33 PM	Nebraska's 400

4:57 PM DINNER Break

2025 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

500 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP* E

Abby Mohaddes, 2024, 49 min, Documentary/Historical

Director Mohaddes shares the story of her father's enduring bond with his college friends, spanning over 40 years. Dubbed the Nebraska Group, these men from Iran found solace and strength in each other's company during the Iranian Revolution and Iran Hostage Crisis.

A Touch of Jazz^ E

Mason Schnurstein, 2025, 5 min, Short

A Trumpet player finally gets her chance in the spotlight

Abraham's Bridge E

Elinor Pierce, 36 min, Documentary

A mosque, synagogue, church and interfaith center are connected by a circular bridge, organic donation garden and a quietly disruptive vision in Omaha. Can this model of coexistence in the American Midwest bridge the rising currents of division?

Across The Counter* E

Brad Thorman, 2024, 14 min, Drama

Across the Counter is a love story set in New York City during the eventful summer of 1964. The courtship between Henry and Sofia under the watchful eye of Sofia's father unfolds across the counter of the family diner. The story is one of love, loss, dreams and the power of silence.

^Student Film *First Time Filmmaker

E = everyone **T** = Teen **M** = Mature

My Heart Remembers E

Melinda Myers, 2024, 1 hr. 22 min., Drama Inspirational

Set in 1903, My Heart Remembers tells the story of Isabelle Sandler, a young woman whose life is upended when her adoptive brother reveals she is not biologically part of the Sandler family. Cast out and stripped of her inheritance, her journey becomes one of healing and hope, as she seeks justice for the vulnerable while confronting her own insecurities. Based on a book Kim Vogel Sawyer

Nebraska's 400 E

Miles Landaw, 2024, 24 min., Documentary

Nebraska WAS one of the last remaining states without a Vietnam memorial. Four Vietnam veterans embarked on a journey of leading, concepting, and fundraising for Nebraska to have the biggest and most interactive Vietnam veteran memorial to date.

Not Just Deliveries E

Andrew W. Paulson, 2023, 5 min., Animation, Comedy

An anthropomorphic bat works at a retail job, delivering online orders to customers. However, one of his runs to deliver to a customer is severely hindered, racing against the time limit his boss has set him.

OF Robots and Rednecks T

Ken Davis, 2025, 17 min., Exerimental

Dark Cloud NE, a town ashamed of its past and petrified of its future, is about to receive a wakeup call when a stranger comes to town.

**The concession stand is open –
remember to visit it!**

^Student Film *First Time Filmmaker

E = everyone **T** = Teen **M** = Mature

I-21 T**K Evans, 2024, 1 hr. 25 min., Drama Thriller**

After the disappearance of some of her close friends on her 21st birthday, overly determined Isa is left to pick up the tragedy, and at the expense of her boyfriend Liam. Years later, lost, misguided, and frustrated, Isa is about to call it quits. But not before the lead she's been looking for comes knocking at her door.

In Your Head E**Dale Campbell, 2024, 10 min., Animation, Drama, Fantasy**

At one point or another, we all venture out into the world, leaving whatever family we knew behind. All these people around you, and yet you have the audacity to feel alone. Opportunity around every corner, and yet all you can do is stay In Your Head.

Iowa Black History: Mayors, Music & One Free Man E**S. Torriano Berry, 2025, 30 min., Documentary**

A brief history of how African Americans have impacted the State of Iowa through politics, music, and the historic civil rights achievements of Alexander Clark.

Lethia^ E**Caleb Huet, 2024, 7 min., Drama Sci-fi**

A college student, Lethia finds herself on a very quiet, empty campus, but why?

Look Away^ E**Caleb Huet, 2024, 4 min, Drama Sci-fi**

In a world where people can't look at each other or they die, two people have an unexpected encounter.

^Student Film *First Time Filmmaker

E = everyone **T** = Teen **M** = Mature**Before The Endgame E****Tom Lombard, 2024, 43 min., Drama**

An uplifting, if somewhat surreal, story of life and death... and life. A material disadvantage or uncomfortable position is an opportunity for a satisfying comeback.

Black Hawk's Final Resting Place E**Russ Fry, 2015, 26 min., Documentary**

Black Hawk fought and lost a war in 1832 as he tried to retake his homeland. He died in 1838. His grave was robbed the following year. The history books say his remains were destroyed in 1853 in a fire at Burlington, Iowa. The history books are wrong.

Bones and Shadows E**Tom Lombard, 2023, 5 min., Animation, SciFi/Fantasy/Horror**

A cinematic presentation of visual poetry that was previously published in comic book form. It's a glimpse of a reality that we both embrace and fear.

Buried Treasure T**Jacob McCauley, 2025, 17 min., Comedy^**

When two clowns overhear from a friend that Lee's, the richest family in town is having a birthday party and need some clowns for the event. When it is revealed that there is also some treasure in their backyard, the clowns scheme up a heist that will make them rich.

Car-Centric E**Joseph Glitter, 2025, 60 min, Documentary**

Omaha is one of the most car-centric cities in America. This film addresses why remaining car-centric is unsustainable and explores alternatives that will help Omaha grow into a thriving and vibrant city.

^Student Film *First Time Filmmaker

E = everyone **T** = Teen **M** = Mature

Christmas Feast *^ T

Andrew Rosdail, 2024, 11 min., Short

Kelsey's plans for the perfect Christmas are disrupted by the arrival of a mysterious guest.

Coming Home * T

Chuck Martens, 2020, 20 min., Drama

A grieving father and a detective cope with a ten-year missing person's case.

Crickets^ E

Bardia Seiri, 2025, 24 min., Drama, Comedy

Three estranged friends, desperate to escape the weight of their lives, reunite for an impulsive road trip. But as the open road unearths hidden truths and forgotten dreams, finds them confronting their pasts and who they truly are.

Crimson Archer (a GI Joe fan film) * T

Pierre Doanetto, 2022, 1 hr. 29 min., Action

A group of G.I.Joes save one of their own from the hands of Cobra, a terrorist organization out to rule the world

Dancing in the Moonlight^ E

Landon Boettcher, 2023, 14 min., Romance, Drama

Don is an aspiring writer and hopeless romantic who finds love and compassion with the new girl, Ellie. When Ellie discovers that her childhood cancer has returned, Don makes it his mission to ensure the rest of Ellie's life is just as good as it was, if not better than when they met.

^Student Film *First Time Filmmaker

E = everyone **T** = Teen **M** = Mature

Dirt E

Ike Somanas, 2024, 5 min., Documentary

Dirt is the literal foundation of our lives. We walk on it, drive on it, build on it. But do we consider what it means to take care of it so it remains the solid base needed for a healthy future?

Five Season Ski Team, Cedar Rapids, IA * E

Melinda Myers, 2024, 53 min., Documentary

Cedar Rapids Five Seasons Ski Team Documentary of 2024 season

Freakin' Weekend T

Kasey Hiatt, 2025, 6 min., SciFi/Fantasy/Horror

A horror movie spoof about a couple trying to decide what to do for the weekend.

High Contrast^* T

Mason Schnurstein, 2024, 5 min, Action

An assassin is interrogated after a murder, leading him to his backstory involving a spy. The assassin attempts to kill the spy but is met with unexpected resistance as the spy's wife urges him to leave the dangerous profession. Despite a change in plans from his handler, the assassin remains determined and eliminates the spy. However, it's ultimately revealed that the spy was the interrogator all along and, in the end, was using said assassination to escape his past as a spy.

**The concession stand is open –
Come enjoy some refreshments!**

^Student Film *First Time Filmmaker

E = everyone **T** = Teen **M** = Mature