



## **8<sup>th</sup> annual Coastline Children's Film Festival**

**March 9 - March 18, 2018**

**10 days of award-winning features, documentaries, and shorts at several screening locations along with hands-on workshops and a young filmmakers competition**

*(Films as of September 8, 2017)*

Acorn Theater, Box Factory for the Arts, Bridgman Public Library, Citadel Oak Room, Krasl Art Center, New Buffalo Township Library, Michigan City Public Library and the Stanley Clark School/South Bend

## FEATURE FILMS

### **And Long Live the Queen 1995 Netherlands 115 min subtitles Ages 10 and up**

Sara is an imaginative little girl who lives with her mother and grandfather. Though she is happy enough, she dreams of reuniting her mother with her seldom seen father, a national chess champion. When one of her school chums introduces Sara to the world of chess, she begins to spin an elaborate tale involving the White Queen. Tired of the White King's laziness, the Queen decides to attack her rivals vigorously. With elements to please the whole family, this Dutch comedy-drama follows the exploits of Sara and her Queen as they scheme to bring her estranged parents back together.

### **Birdboy: The Forgotten Children 2017 Spain 76 min subtitles Animated Ages 10 and up**

There is light and beauty, even in the darkest of worlds. Stranded on an island in a post-apocalyptic world, teenager Dinky and her friends hatch a dangerous plan to escape in the hope of finding a better life. Meanwhile, her old friend Birdboy has shut himself off from the world, pursued by the police and haunted by demon tormentors. But unbeknownst to anyone, he contains a secret inside him that could change the world forever. Based on his own graphic novel, Alberto Vázquez's *The Film* is a darkly comic, mind-bending fantasy. Gorgeous graphic imagery brings to life a surreal and discordant world populated by adorable (and adorably disturbed) animated critters, searching for hope and love amid the ruin.

### **The Breadwinner 2017 Ireland 94 min Animated Ages 8 and up**

From executive producer Angelina Jolie and Cartoon Saloon, creators of the Academy Award®-nominated *The Secret of Kells* and *Song of the Sea*, comes the highly anticipated new feature based on Deborah Ellis' bestseller. *The Breadwinner* tells the story of Parvana, a 12-year-old girl growing up under the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001. When her father is arrested, Parvana dresses as a boy in order to work and provide for her family. Together with her best friend Shauzia, she risks discovery to try to find out if her father is still alive.

### **Celestial Camel 2015 Russia 90 min subtitles Ages 10 and up**

Twelve-year-old Bayir is the son of a poor family of herders. He bears the responsibility of retrieving a mother camel, which has run away to find the colt that Bayir's father sold to some film people. Bayir has to bring her back; his whole family's survival depends upon it. His parents have gone away and his two siblings are too young to help. Bayir has to set out on his own on an old motorbike that is far too big for a boy of his size. His journey takes him across the vast, dry Kalmykian steppe. Sand storms and perilous terrain halt his progress and he has some strange encounters. Shamans invoke the much longed-for rain, a young girl dances for him, the police unjustly arrests him, and an illegal petrol depot goes up in flames. Fortunately, he also meets a good friend with all sorts of useful skills. Meanwhile, Bayir has found out where the mother camel will probably be. But it is a long way away. It is a magical journey into a world that is utterly unique.

### **The Day My Father Became a Bush 2016 Netherlands/Belgium/Croatia 90 min subtitles Ages 8 and up**

Ten-year-old Toda lives an idyllic life with her baker father, concocting sweet confections to the delight of their town. But when her father is drafted to join the war between the "Ones" and the "Others," their tranquil existence is upended. With her father gone and war dangerously encroaching on their town, Toda must make the secret trek to her mother's home across the border. Along the way, she meets corrupt officials, narrow-minded neighbors, sketchy smugglers, and—luckily—friend and fellow refugee, "Stickie." Together, they are bolstered by camaraderie and bravery. With strikingly earnest performances from the young actors and without allusions to any specific nationalities, *The Day My Father Became a Bush* provides a wistfully universal story about the power of resilience and empathy over fear and bigotry.

### **Mary and The Witch's Flower 2017 Japan 100 min Animated subtitles Ages 8 and up**

Academy Award-nominated director Hiromasa Yonebayashi (*The Secret World of Arrietty*, *When Marnie Was There*) helms the film based on Mary Stewart's 1971 children's book *The Little Broomstick*. It was adapted for the big screen by writer Riko Sakaguchi. The story centers on an ordinary young girl named Mary, who discovers a flower that grants magical powers, but only for one night. As she is whisked into an exciting new world beyond belief, she must learn to stay true to herself. Studio Ponoc founder and two-time Academy Award-nominated Yoshiaki Nishimura (*The Tale of The Princess Kaguya*, *When Marnie Was There*) produces the film. The film is the first feature from the Japan-based Studio Ponoc.

**Napping Princess: The Story of the Unknown Me 2017 Japan 110 min subtitles Ages 9 and up**

The year is 2020, three days before the opening of the Tokyo Olympics. While she should be studying for her exams, Kokone Morikawa is often dozing off, stuck between reality and a dream-world full of fantastic motorized contraptions. But after her father, a talented but mysterious mechanic, is arrested for stealing technology from a powerful corporation, it's up to Kokone and her childhood friend Morio to save him. Together they realize that Kokone's dream-world holds the answers to the mystery behind the stolen tech, and they embark on a journey that traverses dreams and reality, city and country, and past and present. Their mission uncovers a trail of clues to her father's disappearance and ultimately a surprising revelation about Kokone's family. From visionary director Kenji Kamiyama (*Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex* and *Eden of the East*) comes a sci-fi fantasy that effortlessly weaves together the rapidly evolving technology of today's world with the fantastic imagination of the next generation. With an ambitious mix of multilayered action, whimsical characters and inventive machines, *Napping Princess* is a genre- and universe-blending film that shows that following your dreams is sometimes the best way to discover your past.

**The Steamroller and the Violin 1960 Russia 50 min subtitles Ages 10 and up**

The focus is on a few hours that Sasha, a 7-year-old violin student, spends in the company of a steamroller driver named Sergei. Sasha, though spunky, is a privileged child who is picked on by the rougher kids in his apartment house. Sergei, who comes to his defense and lets him operate the steamroller, seems a sort of hero, a stand-in perhaps for the father who never appears. The world seems fresh and immensely inviting and there are lots of lovely techniques in this dreamy film.

**Two Friends 1986 Australia 76 min Ages 13 and up**

*Two Friends*, the first feature film by Academy Award® winner Jane Campion (*Sweetie*, *An Angel at My Table* and *The Piano*). When *Two Friends* was shown at the 1986 Cannes Film Festival along with her three shorts, the film world heralded the brave new feminist voice of the extraordinary New Zealand director. *Two Friends* was written by renowned Australian novelist Helen Garner and the film's screenplay is articulate, assured and enthralling. The film begins in the present, when teenage girlfriends, Louise and Kelly, once inseparable, have already grown apart. Louise is in high school, gets good grades, and has a typical love-hate relationship with her divorced mother. Kelly, in bleached hair and punk gear, lives with friends at the beach and is experimenting with drugs and casual relationships. *Two Friends* then moves backwards in time over the past year in the girls' friendship. In five episodes, the film reveals the subtle changes that sent the two on their different paths. With the humor, fierce honesty and passionate sense of humanity that are the hallmarks of Campion's best work, she tells a story of missed opportunities and minor traumas that take on profound new meaning with the passage of time.

**Village of Dreams 1996 Japan 112 min subtitles Ages 10 and up**

Identical twin brothers Yukihiko and Seizo are famous artists embarking on a collaboration — a book based on their idyllic childhood in a remote hamlet near Kochi. Their beautiful paintings sweep us back to 1948, when they were in third grade. Known to everyone as “the brats,” the two grapple with catfish in the river, chase birds in the woods, and cause general mischief in the village and school. But the plot is secondary to the film's wonderfully vibrant sensations of childhood — the rich details of family life, the unintentional cruelty of youth, the mysteriously beautiful nature that envelopes them, the strong emotional bond between the twins, the fierce fights they enter into a the drop of a hat — are as memorable as any film in the last decade. Director Yoichi Higashi's sixteenth film in a praise-filled career is a charming and sparkling jewel.

**Wendy 2017 Germany 91 min subtitles Ages 10 and up**

Twelve-year-old Wendy doesn't care too much for her parents' decision to spend all of summer break at her grandmother's run-down horse ranch. Ever since grandpa died, grandma is singlehandedly running the ranch which has its direct competitor in the large, modern stable owned by Ulrike. After Wendy has a severe riding accident, she refuses to get back into the saddle – even though she used to be quite enthusiastic for and successful at competitive horseback riding. Yet as soon as she arrives, she meets the invalid horse Dixie, which just escaped from the butcher. Dixie seems to be quite fond of Wendy and follows her wherever she goes. The two loners are building a friendship which has the potential to forever change not only Wendy's life but could also save grandma's ranch from being sold. How long will Wendy be able to hide Dixie from the adults?

**DOCUMENTARIES****Dancing Dreams 2010 Germany 89 min subtitles Ages 13 and up**

A few years ago, world-famous dancer and choreographer Pina Bausch selected 40 teenagers who had never heard her name to be part of her dance piece *Contact Zone*. For 10 months through opening night, the young dancers discover Bausch's genius and their own bodies. Pina Bausch died in 2009. A sensation at the 2010 Berlin Film Festival, *Dancing Dreams* is a testament to Bausch's revolutionary work. While the film serves as a fitting elegy for Bausch, it also speaks to young people seeking creative fulfillment...a stimulating examination of the many ways in which art can give an electric charge to everyday experience.

### **Deaf Jam 2011 USA 70 min Ages 12 and up**

ASL poetry changes Aneta Brodski's life. Poetry, friendship and respect transcend politics as Aneta finds herself in an unexpected collaboration. In *Deaf Jam*, Aneta Brodski seizes the day. She is a deaf teen introduced to American Sign Language (ASL) Poetry, who then boldly enters the spoken word slam scene. In a wondrous twist, Aneta, an Israeli immigrant living in the Queens section of New York City, eventually meets Tahani, a hearing Palestinian slam poet. The two women embark on a collaboration/performance duet - creating a new form of slam poetry that speaks to both the hearing and the Deaf.

### **Midsummer in Newtown 2016 USA Ages 12 and up**

In the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy, a theater production comes to Newtown, Connecticut, seeking to cast local children in a rock-pop version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The project is aimed at healing the hearts and minds of a community devastated by the school shooting that occurred just over one year prior to production. From auditions and read-throughs to dress rehearsals; we witness the children find their voice, build their self-confidence, and ultimately shine on opening night. *Midsummer in Newtown* is a testament to the transformative force of artistic expression to pierce through the shadow cast by trauma, and to the resilience of a community that is fighting to not be defined by tragedy.

### **Supergirl 2016 USA 80 min Ages 10 and up**

When a nine-year-old girl breaks a powerlifting world record, she turns into an international phenomenon and “Supergirl” is born. Naomi Kutin seems like a typical Orthodox Jewish pre-teen, until her extraordinary talent transforms the lives of her family and thrusts her into the headlines. We follow Naomi’s coming-of-age story as she fights to hold on to her title while navigating the perils of adolescence—from strict religious obligations to cyber-bullying, and health issues which could jeopardize her future in powerlifting. Can she still be “Supergirl” if she can no longer break world records? With a passionate family supporting her each step of the way, Naomi must learn to accept herself and discover she is as strong inside as she is outside.

### **TRUST: Second Acts in Young Lives 2010 USA 78 min Ages 13 and up**

This is about creativity and the unexpected resources inside people you might discount because they are young or poor. This award-winning film follows an 18 year-old Hondureña, Marilín who, with the help of a troupe of immigrant teenage actors, courageously leaves behind the cultural violence of her past, and creates a bright future for herself. TRUST is a story of resilience, a hopeful film about the intersection of community, storytelling and courage.

### **The Unseen 1997 Czech Republic 53 min subtitles Ages 10 and up**

People imagine, that the blind live in darkness and know nothing about the things around them. But they have a concrete image of everything.” says photographer Daniela Horníčková, who led blind children from the Prague Jaroslav Ježek School to capture their surroundings on still camera. The children took pictures at school, on field trips, at home or the dormitory mostly focusing on things they knew by touch. In 1995, director Miroslav Janek entered the project and shot a documentary stimulating comprehension of the issues and uniqueness of the creative process.

## SHORT FILMS

### **Under The Husk/ Oher:kon 2017 USA 27 min Ages 12 and up**

This film follows two Mohawk girls on their journey to become Mohawk women. Friends since childhood, Kaienkwinetha and Kasennakohe are members of the traditional community of Akwesasne on the U.S./Canada border. Together, they undertake a four-year rite of passage for adolescents, called Oheró:kon, or “under the husk.” The ceremony had been nearly extinct, a casualty of colonialism and intergenerational trauma; revived in the past decade by two traditional leaders, it has since flourished. Filmmaker Katsissionni Fox has served as a mentor, or “auntie,” to many youth going through the passage rites. Fox shares two girls’ journey through adolescence, as they rise to the tasks of Oheró:kon, learning traditional practices such as basket making and survival skills as well as contemporary teachings about sexual health and drug and alcohol prevention. It is a personal story of a traditional practice challenging young girls spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically, shaping the women they become.

### **Big Mouth 2012 Canada 8 min Ages 10 and up**

Canadian filmmaker Andrea Dorfman won an Emmy nomination for her film *Flawed*. This animated short tells the story of Trudy, a little girl who is equal parts truthful and rude. A bright-minded and quick-witted child, Trudy has an unfiltered and deeply curious way of looking at the world. Here, events force her to question what it means to speak the truth, and comes to understand how our differences make us unique.

### **Charley Bowers—Four silent films Ages 6 and up**

A WILD ROOMER 1926, Charley, a brilliant inventor, has forty-eight hours to make a convincing demonstration of his newest machine in order to collect an inheritance from his father. NOW YOU TELL ONE 1926, The liars’ club meets to vote on who can tell the most unbelievable story. Along comes Charley, the brilliant inventor of a universal grafting process, whose story takes the cake. MANY A SLIP 1927, Charley decides to invent an anti-skid banana peel. THERE IT IS! 1928, Charley is a detective from Scotland Yard sent to America to solve the mystery of a haunted house.

## **SILENT FILMS with Live Music**

### **The Immigrant (1917) and The Rink (1916) with Charlie Chaplin USA Ages 6 and up**

Nearing the end of his contract with Essanay, Chaplin found himself pursued by all the major studios. In February 1916 he accepted a highly lucrative offer from the Mutual Film Corporation that made Chaplin the highest paid entertainer in the world. Mutual gave him his own studio, renamed Lone Star, and he began work on what would be a dozen shorts over the next two years, some of the best of his career. **The Immigrant**, which contains elements of satire, irony, and romance as well as cinematic poetry, endures into the twenty-first century as a comic masterpiece. The film is the best constructed of his two-reel films and was Chaplin's favorite among all his short comedies. It was Chaplin's penultimate film with Mutual. The Mutual pictures were really where he solidified his characters, themes, and directing style, and the twelve shorts he made there were so successful, critically and commercially, they influenced filmmakers for years to come, **The Rink** is simplicity itself and relies almost entirely upon Chaplin's near mishaps when skating about for its laughs. Here the Tramp is employed as a waiter (one who can tell what someone has eaten simply by examining the customer's tie) who loves to spend his downtime at the local skating rink. There he attempts to get closer to the young woman he's taken a fancy to (Edna Purviance), while fending off Mr. Stout (the inevitable Eric Campbell). Henry Bergman appears in drag as the put-upon Mrs. Stout, hilarious in the finale as she slowly skates about behind everyone else. The core of this short is in the choreography of Chaplin's roller ballet, what John McCabe referred to as his 'dance and bumps and falls and near misses, so beautifully choreographed that it becomes a beautiful soundless waltz.

### **For Ireland's Sake 1914 35 min Ages 6 and up (screens before Chaplin films)**

*For Ireland's Sake* tells the story of Marty O'Sullivan (Jack Clark), a young blacksmith who is illegally forging arms for the rebellion against English rule. He's caught in the act by a band of redcoats but manages to evade capture thanks to some quick thinking and fortunate wardrobe choices from his best girl, Eileen (Gene Gauntier). She hides Marty in her voluminous cloak and points the soldiers in the opposite direction. Marty next tries to hide in the chimney of the local tavern but is soon smoked out by the English. However, the pub patrons overpower the soldiers and steal their muskets. This leads to a manhunt but Marty is safely hidden in a watery cave. Eileen delivers food to her fugitive boyfriend but fails to realize she is being followed by a soldier in uniform. One would think that a person in Eileen's position would be on the lookout for anyone wearing red who might be following. Nope. Eileen leads them right to Marty and both are arrested. Fortunately, Father Flanagan (Sidney Olcott) is permitted to visit them in prison and since metal detectors were not yet invented and since priests wear conveniently long robes, he is able to sneak a file to Marty. Our young couple soon break out of jail and are married by Flanagan just before hopping on a boat for America.

### **Safety Last with Harold Lloyd 1923 USA 73 min Ages 6 and up**

The comic genius of silent star Harold Lloyd is eternal. Chaplin is the sweet innocent, Keaton the stoic outsider, but Lloyd—the modern guy striving for success—is us. And with its torrent of perfectly executed gags and astonishing stunts, *Safety Last!* is the perfect introduction to him. Lloyd plays a small-town bumpkin trying to make it in the big city, who finds employment as a lowly department-store clerk. He comes up with a wild publicity stunt to draw attention to the store, resulting in an incredible feat of derring-do on his part that gets him started on the climb to success. Laugh-out-loud funny and jaw-dropping in equal measure, *Safety Last!* is a movie experience par excellence, anchored by a genuine legend.

### **The Little Princess 1917 USA 62 min with Mary Pickford Ages 6 and up**

This film is based upon the novel *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. This version is notable for having been adapted by famed female screenwriter Frances Marion. Sara Crewe, played by Mary Pickford, is treated as a little princess at the Minchin boarding school for children until it is learned that her father has lost his entire fortune, and she is made a household servant. She and Becky (ZaSu Pitts), another servant, become close friends who share their joys and sorrows. Christmastime draws near and the girls watch the preparations wistfully. Their loneliness arouses the sympathy of a servant of the rich Mr. Carrisford. On the night before Christmas, he prepares a spread for the servants in their attic. He calls his master to watch their joy, but both are witness to the servants being abused by Miss Minchin. Carrisford interferes and learns that Sara is the daughter of his best friend. He adopts Sara and Becky and in their new home they have a real Christmas.

## **Other Silent Films**

### **Sleeping Beauty 1954 USA 10 min Ages 10 and up**

Once upon a time in a beautiful castle lived a king and a queen who were very happy." This fairy tale tilts to the macabre when the castle falls into its 100-year sleep, awaiting the arrival of the young prince. The Grimm brothers' story stirred animator Lotte Reiniger deeply as a child, when she burst into tears at missing a cinema screening of an early version. She went on to become the foremost pioneer of silhouette animation.

### **Suspense 1913 USA 10 min Ages 12 and up**

The film lives up to its title and it looks amazing while doing it. Director Lois Weber combines close-ups, off-kilter angles, split screen, mirrors, inventive point-of-view shots, bold compositions and other devices to create a disturbing and stylish film. It's a powerful showcase for the numerous filmmaking techniques that were available in 1913 but rarely employed simultaneously and with such skill. *Suspense* is an example of silent film technical virtuosity.

### **The Blot 1921 USA 91 min Ages 12 and up**

In a time where women played a central role in creating the American cinema, Lois Weber was the outstanding woman filmmaker, writer and producer of the silent era. She was also one of the highest paid directors — man or woman — of her time! Weber's films were critically acclaimed financial successes that created huge controversies around the country. Newly restored, *The Blot* remains the most popular of the more than 100 films she directed. Weber's two remarkable young discoveries, Claire Windsor and Louis Calhern, rose to stardom with this film, and remained popular Hollywood actors for years. The scholarly and underpaid Professor Griggs and his family live in genteel poverty in a small college town. To help out the family, beautiful young Amelia Griggs (Claire Windsor) works in the public library. Next-door to the Griggs are the Olsens, a large and lively family of immigrants living high on the hog, thanks to a thriving shoemaking business. Amelia attracts the attentions of Phil West, the son of a college trustee and her father's laziest and naughtiest student. His rival for Amelia's affection is Reverend Gates, a gentle, sincere and impecunious minister. When Amelia falls ill from overwork, her mother tries to nurse her back to health. With the cupboards bare, the very proper Mrs. Griggs is sorely tempted to steal a chicken from her neighbor's kitchen. The ensuing commotion turns out to be a blessing in disguise.

### **International Youth Silent Film Festival Ages 6 and up**

This festival was founded by Jon "JP" Palanuk in 2009 after he attended a live theatre organ concert. So inspired by what he heard, he decided to " create a competition where young filmmakers can create their own silent movies." Silent films are the most classic form of movie entertainment and the easiest to create using modern technology – no sound editing, no problem. Judges have included Gus Van Sant. CCFF will screen local, regional and international winners.

**New York International Children's Film Festival** was founded in 1997 to support the creation and dissemination of thoughtful, provocative, and intelligent film for children and teens ages 3-18. See list of films below. <http://nyicff.org/festival/tour/>  
**KID FLIX 1 & 2.**

Each year, **Northwest Film Forum** selects more than 170 children's films from 50+ countries, reaching more than 10,000 people during festival screenings in Seattle and a subsequent festival tour of 15-20 U.S. cities. They stand for: racial equity and diversity, inclusivity, social justice, global awareness, and the best in age-appropriate, visual storytelling for young people. <https://www.childrensfilmfestivalseattle.org>. Films to be curated by Elizabeth Shepherd.