



[BLKBRD]
FILM + ARTS FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

MAY 19TH – MAY 22ND, 2022

CORTLAND, NEW YORK

Welcome to Blackbird,

In late February of 2020, a group of 30 incredibly talented student interns and I were working non-stop to put together a festival event like no other. The Blackbird Film Festival of 2019 had been a massive success with unprecedented filmmaker and community turnout, but we were determined to outdo ourselves!

But you know how that story ends...

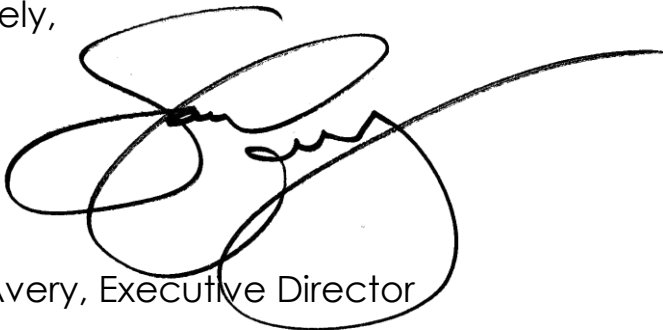
Since March 18th of 2020, the Blackbird has been forced to reinvent itself again and again – as many of us have during these very challenging times. And so, on a frigid-cold weekend in early October of 2020, what was to be the most prominent edition of the Blackbird Film Festival concluded in a frost-covered field at Greek Peak as community members flashed their headlights from a socially safe distance following the final drive-in screening before heading home... It was truly a heartbreaking moment.

Then in 2021, my team and I hit the drawing boards again and concocted a massive outdoor summer festival with tented film screenings, endless live music, an artisan craft fair and more utilizing that same exact field from 2020! While the “film camp” experience was certainly unique, it wasn't without its challenges. Relentless technical complications, unbearable late June heat, and horrifying thunder/lightning storms made the weekend feel like something out of the twilight zone for festival staffers... I'm pretty sure I experience some form of undiagnosed medical exhaustion the week following and vowed never to run an outdoor film festival again.

And so, here we are! Back in Brown Auditorium at SUNY Cortland – away from extreme weather and swarming insects – for the 8th annual Blackbird Film Festival. It feels like a lifetime ago since we last used this space but it's wonderful to be back with a full weekend of Films, Special Events, and more!

I hope you enjoy all that Blackbird has to offer and THANK YOU for your support – especially those of you who rode the roller coaster with us in 2020 and 2021!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Avery', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Sam Avery, Executive Director

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FILM + ARTS FESTIVAL

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MAY 19TH – MAY 22ND, 2022

CORTLAND, NEW YORK

THURSDAY, MAY 19TH

FEATURE FILM:

RE-OPENING: A LOCKDOWN MOCKUMENTARY

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 3pm

Re-Opening is a fully improvised lockdown mockumentary following the cast and crew of a struggling theater as they attempt to reopen after months of lockdown, encountering setbacks along the way.

SHORTS BLOCK:

MICRO MADNESS

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 5pm

This diverse block includes 20+ micro-short films, all under 3 minutes in length followed by a Micro-Award Ceremony and Reception.

SPECIAL EVENT:

BLACKBIRD PAINT + SIP

Old Main 2nd Floor, Room 220 ► 7pm

The Blackbird Film Festival hosts a guided painting class for Filmmakers and the Community! Enjoy a glass of wine or beer while creating a unique film themed piece of art - Tickets Required.

SHORTS BLOCK:

TWISTED DARKNESS

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 9pm

This collection of psychologically thrilling films will leave you feeling a bit uneasy on your return home in the dark.

VISIT WWW.BLACKBIRDFILMFEST.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH

VIP ONLY EVENT:

SUNRISE ADVENTURE

Meet at BRU64 ► 8am – 11am

Filmmakers and VIP guests are invited on a Sunrise Adventure (weather pending) to Greek Peak for a casual nature hike. Trip will end at the Hollywood Restaurant for the Film Trivia Luncheon.

SPECIAL EVENT:

FILM TRIVIA LUNCHEON

Hollywood Restaurant ► 11am – 1pm

Whether you're a film trivia buff or just love lunch, join Blackbird for something challenging, delicious, and fun! Full lunch menu and bar will be available for purchase. Order food at 11am, Trivia starts at 11:30am.

SHORTS BLOCK:

MATERIAL WORLD

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 1:30pm

This wonderful collection of short films includes poetic documentaries, fascinating animations, and science fiction thrillers all focused on the THINGS that make up our world.

SHORTS BLOCK:

RELATION...SHIT

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 3:30pm

Not all relationships conclude in with a happy ending... This collection of short films featuring a variety of characters that find themselves on the far-side of perfect.

SHORTS BLOCK:

FRIDAY NIGHT FEELS

Brown Auditorium Theater ▶ 5:30pm

Who doesn't like a good cry on a Friday night? This collection of dramatic short films is sure to give you the feels - the good and the sad!

SPECIAL EVENT:

RHYTHM & VIBE MUSIC VIDEO PARTY

BRU64 on Main Street ▶ 8pm – 10pm

For the first time ever, Blackbird is hosting a Music Video Screening Party at BRU64 on Main St in Cortland! This Party / Screening combo will feature over 30 films with original music!

NOTES:

SATURDAY, MAY 21ST

VIP ONLY EVENT:

BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE

Old Main 2nd Floor, Room 220 ► 8am – 9:30am

Filmmakers and VIP Guests are invited to a buffet style breakfast with several "get-to-know-you" roundtable activities!

SHORTS BLOCK:

BROTHER'S KEEPER

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 10am

A collection of heartbreaking short films featuring characters who must account for their sibling in one way or another.

SHORTS BLOCK:

STUCK IN LIFE

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 12pm

This collection of short films focuses around the struggle of mental health and coping with feelings of despair and depression.

SPECIAL EVENT:

INDIE FILM DISTRIBUTION

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 2pm – 3:30pm

So, you made a short film! Now what? Blackbird and the NYWIFT come together to host a panel discussion focused on leveraging the short film into something more. Special guests include Will Phelps (*The Binge, Big Time Adolescence, Crush*), Stacey Maltin and Margarita Zhitnikova (*Triple Threat, Landing Up*), and Jessica Michael Davis (*Escaping Ohio*). Moderated by Tammy Reese.

SHORTS BLOCK:

LOVE THYSELF

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 4pm

A beautiful mix of films featuring characters who struggle with self-doubt and their identity.

SHORTS BLOCK:

LYRICAL, SATIRICAL, POLITICAL

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 6pm

A fantastical mash-up of musicals, poems, and satires that comment the status of the world's many problems! A definite must see!

VIP ONLY EVENT:

BLACK FEATHER SOCIAL

Lynne Parks' Alumni House ► 8pm – 10pm

Filmmakers and VIP guests are invited to the Parks Alumni House for a fun filled evening of good times, food, and drink! Semi-Formal dress is encouraged - not required :-)

VIP ONLY EVENT:

MIDNIGHT MASH-UP

Lynne Parks' Alumni House ► 10pm - ???

After the party is the After Party! Filmmakers and VIP guests are invited the basement bar of the Alumni House for a late-night evening of impromptu films screenings and debauchery.

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INSTAGRAM ► [blackbirdfilmfest](#)

FACEBOOK ► [facebook.com/blackbirdfilmfest](#)

ONLINE ► [blackbirdfilmfest.com](#)

#blackbirdfilmfest

SUNDAY, MAY 22ND

VIP ONLY EVENT:

BREAKFAST BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Old Main 2nd Floor, Room 220 ► 8am – 9:30am

Filmmakers and VIP Guests are invited to a buffet style breakfast during which several Film Festival Directors will be discussion the "behind-the-scenes" of festival management and answering any questions you may have.

SHORTS BLOCK:

FRIENEMIES

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 10am

Roommates, Friends, Lovers... Let's face it, people aren't always the easiest to deal with - especially if they are like any of the characters in this funky collection of shorts!

FEATURE FILM:

TRIPLE THREAT

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 12pm

A relationship between three best friends - on the verge of their Broadway debut - is put to the test when diverging dreams meet the realities of adulthood - Q&A with director Stacey Maltin and producer Margarita Zhitnikova to follow.

SHORTS BLOCK:

IN LOVING MEMORY

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 3pm

This incredibly moving block of films centers around the grieving process and how we all find ways to remember the ones we loved.

SHORTS BLOCK:

DEAD & GONE (SORTA)

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 5pm

A wonderfully fun collection of short films in which not all the protagonists are alive... And yet, they remain behind to "haunt" those still on earth in one way or another!

SPECIAL EVENT:

AWARD CEREMONY & RECEPTION

Brown Auditorium Theater ► 6:30pm

Join Blackbird for a Red-Carpet Reception followed by the 2022 Award Ceremony celebrating the many wonderful films featured in this year's lineup!

NOTES:

2022 FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS

SAM AVERY

Executive / Artistic Director

CLOE KING

Festival Marketing & Social Director

MITCH ENSMAN

Director of Event Operations

JULIE FIGARRA

Director of Special Events

ALL-STAR TEAM

Shannon Delaney

Andrew Fauvelle

Nolan Harpp

Amanda Lerch

Alex Locke-Wright

Andrew Magee

Alyssa Marley

Madison Napoli

Amelia Ponirakis

Emily Seip

TOP 10 PROJUDGES

Yasmin Mistry

Brian Larson

Funke Alafiatayo

Maryll Botula

Nick Ronan

Anna Niebert

Lilly Pelliccia

Nicola Rose

David Schumann

Bradley Silvius

FILM MODERATORS

Carl Hansen

Karl Richter

Kyle Thompson

Amelia Ponirakis

Christopher Boulton

John Fink

Jess Irish

Christine Banna

Vincent Turturro

Jamie Thalman

Mike Hayhurst

STUDENT FILM JUDGES

Alyson Roberts

Grace Crema

James Gulbin

Joe Pozzolano

Jordan Lauterborn

Keaona Grey Outlaw

Kyle Schairer

Laurette Ginter

Liam Grennan

Lily Byrne

Marissa Metcalf

Robert Harding

Sam Russell

Scott Van Etten

Timur Mohamed

Yamelli Hernandez

Hailie Addison

Jessica Gares

Erica Mirlas

Keenan Englerth

John Vivenzio

Kate Hammer

Sharon Chen

Chad Flaska

Mathew Adams

Nicholas Fiacco

Alexandra Mendez

Natalie Medina

Chiara Cannata

Alec Winters

Maria De la ossa

Saadatu Watson

Andi Bruce

Matthew McCormack

Sim Sagiroglu

Karla Delgado

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Ricardo Nelson

Kevin Pristash

Kyle Cannon

Katie Keyser

Ty Marshal

Zack Sonoco

Zachary Sedor

Michelle Enright

Mavis Lefever

Kelly Gregory

Tim Fox

Caroline Kaltefleiter

Paul van der Veur

Maryalice Griffin

Christopher Tucker

Dan Monti

Lisa Train

Ann Bersani

Hairy Tony

Tanya Maggs

Meghan Vanderson

Mohan Nair

Gary Evans

Erik Bitterbaum

Mark Prus

Bruce Mattingly

Michael Bersani

Jane Henion Avery

And a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all the community members who continue to show their love and support for Blackbird year after year!

2022 SELECTION STATISTICS

Total Film Submissions: 1196

Films Accepted: 136

Acceptance Rate: 11.4%

FEATURING:

71 Films by Women Writers/Directors

33 Films by BIPOC Writers/Directors

30 Films by LGBTQ+ Writers/Directors

Learn More About Blackbird at
www.Blackbirdfilmfest.com