



Press release

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So many movies, so little time

What: Riverside Saginaw Film Festival, showing 26 movies and documentaries 42 times in four days -- Thursday, Aug. 20, through Sunday, Aug 23.

Where: At six Saginaw venues. The Temple Theatre, Pit and Balcony Community Theatre, Hoyt Library, Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, Court Theatre and Old Saginaw City Lawnchair Film Festival.

How much: \$5 for single admissions with two children's films free. \$25 for passes purchased before the festival opens; \$30 starting Aug. 20. Passes are on sale in Saginaw at the Red Eye, dawn of a new day and Magic Bean coffee houses and the Castle Museum.

Sponsors: Citizens Bank Wealth Management/Maxwell Pribil Fund, Hemlock Semiconductor Corp., Delta Public Broadcasting, Harvey Randall Wickes Foundation, Jury Foundation, David and Audrey Lewis, Morley Foundation.

For more information: Log on to www.riversidesaginawfilmfestival.org

Saginaw -- Imagine a film festival where children and their adults are invited to bring blankets and mats to snuggle on as they get served free popcorn. Where a 1927-vintage movie theater reverberates with the sound of its audience participating in a singalong version of the Oscar-winning "Mary Poppins." And where a short film contest

includes an entry by a California teen who already has won several moviemaking awards.

“You name it, we seem to have it this year,” says Janet I. Martineau, one of the founding members of the festival. It its third year, running Aug. 20-23, the Riverside Saginaw will showcase 26 movies and documentaries running 42 times in four days at six venues.

“For sports fans we have the documentary ‘Harvard Beats Yale, 29-29’ and the fictional ‘Sugar,’ about a player from the Dominican Republic seeking to score in the American baseball leagues,” says Martineau.

“And for those who like foreign films, the countries of France, Germany, Mexico, England, India and Israel are represented. One of them may strike a responsive chord for television viewers. ‘Afghan Star’ tells the true story of Afghanistan’s version of ‘American Idol,’ where participating it is risky given the wartime environment there.”

It was a winner at the Sundance Film Festival. “In fact, a good many of the films we are showing this year have won at Sundance or other films festivals.”

Martineau says another attention grabber is the documentary “Horse Boy,” about an autistic child who connects with horses, leading him and his family on a trip to Mongolia. “We are showing it before its official fall release.”

As has been the case with the first two years, Riverside Saginaw Film Festival also showcases works by Saginaw and Michigan filmmakers; one of them a zombie movie. And 19 short subject films from around the world will vie for \$600 in prize money.

“Check us out on www.riversidesaginawfilmfestival.org for a complete list of what we are showing when,” says Martineau. “At \$5 for single tickets and \$25 for a pre-festival pass, we’re an impressive bargain.”

About Riverside Saginaw Film Festival: Founded in 2007, the festival is an annual all-volunteer event held at six downtown Saginaw locations: the Temple Theatre, Pit and Balcony Community Theatre, the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, Hoyt Library, Court Theatre and Old Saginaw City Lawnchair Film Festival. Taking place Aug. 20-23 of this year, the festival will showcase 26 independent and foreign films, documentaries and children’s movies as well as the entries it its second short film contest.