

stories that INSPIRE

SEPTEMBER 13-15 | GREEN LAKE, WI FREELANDFILMFEST.ORG

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WELCOME BACK TO GREEN LAKE AND THE FREELAND FILM FESTIVAL!



In our frontline work to protect people and nature, Freeland discovered long ago that good storytelling saves land and lives. We created this film festival to promote stories and storytellers that aim for positive change. This mid-September weekend, we are featuring 50 new soulful stories for you about people, wildlife and ecosystems that are bucking the odds, overcoming exploitation and inspiring hope for our planet and humanity.

Get ready to open your minds and hearts. When reviewing the films and recruiting our panelists, we were moved by the compassionate and brave protectors we have in our world. In Children of Bal Ashram, we meet a couple who have devoted their lives to rescuing tens of thousands of children from trafficking, many of whom triumphantly grow to become child protectors themselves. In Protecting Tichora Conservancy we follow a group of Green Lake natives as they tirelessly go the extra mile to protect a vital patch of their lake's ecosystem from commercial development. In Tigerland we join Pavel in Russia who devotes his life to saving the Siberian tiger from extinction. In Liyana, traumatized, yet vibrant and adorable children from Swaziland take us on a magical, animated odyssey of their lives, which helps them recover while sharing key insights about life with us. The festival is full of such stories of adventure, recovery and heroism.

The weekend also includes talks and performances by renowned directors, celebrities, musicians, human rights campaigners, farmers and conservationists from across the world to the shores of Green Lake. We hope you enjoy the program we created for you, including the films, panels, musical performances and parties. And we hope you wander through this beautiful town that we are proud to call home.

- Steve Galster, CEO OF FREELAND & Rich Christian, BOARD MEMBER & EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

FESTIVAL PRODUCER

Dawn Borchardt

MUSIC COORDINATOR

Marcella Jones

VENUE MANAGERS

Hollie Wierschke, Leyton Schiebel, Katy Darr & Rebecca Montalvo

PROJECTIONISTS

Greg Babush, DeWitt Davis, Justin Dean & Ryan Putskey

EVENT & DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Evelyn Galster

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

Sam La Strapes

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Jen Harter

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Luis Palomino Benitez, Thomas Eddy, Molly Ferrill, Kurt Sensenbrenner, Claire Lind & Colin Sytsma





TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets can be purchaed at www.freelandfilmfest.org/ticket, in-person starting Tues 9/3 at Town Square (cash/check/card) on weekdays from 12-5pm, or at venues 30 minutes before the first show of the day.

Opening Night Film + Party \$20

Party Only Tickets will be sold on a space-available basis starting at 9pm for \$10

All Films are Ticketed

Regular \$8 • Senior 62+/Student/Active Military \$7

Workshops are \$5

The following are free and open to the public

Panels, Lecture, Classic with a Conscience film

VIP Weekend Pass \$125

Experience the festival like a VIP! Wear your beautiful VIP pass to get access to all films & public events. Pass is non-transferable.

VENUE INFORMATION



Town Square 492 Hill St.



Thrasher Opera House 506 Mill St.



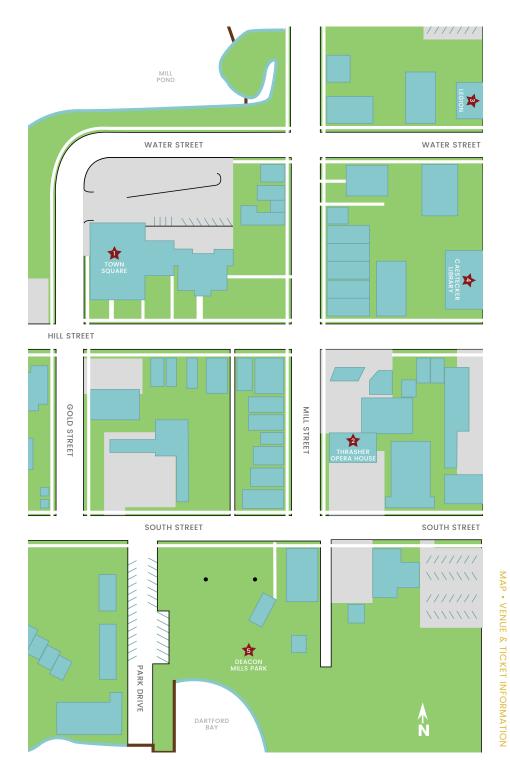
The American Legion 518 Water St.



Caestecker Library 518 Hill St.



Deacon Mills Park South & Park Streets







OPENING NIGHT

Opening night film + party tickets are \$20.

CHILDREN OF BAL ASHRAM • 64 mins

Fri • 7pm • Thrasher Opera House

At Bal Ashram, Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi and his wife Sumedha provide a home and family for boys rescued from child labor. As the boys play and learn, their education is more than simply academic. They learn their rights, and they learn to assert their humanity. From slaves to shock troops in the war against child labor – the children of Bal Ashram fight for their peers still trapped in bonded labor. Please join us for this hopeful documentary about some of the world's most compassionate heroes and heroines and welcome filmmaker Len Morris to Green Lake! **Director Len Morris in attendance.**

The film will be preceded by the following short films.

Moyang - inside all of us is an indigenous heart • 3 mins

A short film that takes us deep into Malaysia's jungles to uncover the secrets to balance, happiness and the fate of our shared world. **Director Farhan Umedaly in attendance.**

Protecting Tichora Conservancy • 6 mins

An inspiring story in Green Lake's own backyard, this film showcases the efforts of the Green Lake Conservancy, Green Lake Sanitary District and a small group of dedicated volunteers who worked together to save "the land between the lakes." Produced by Gathering Waters.

OPENING NIGHT PARTY

8:30-11pm • Town Square's Mill Pond Terrace

Join us after the film with music, food and drinks to celebrate the second annual Freeland Film Festival! Appetizers will be provided by Peppercorn Catering.

At-the-door tickets for the party only will be sold for \$10.

PANELS

All panels are free and open to the public.

Climate Change: What Can We Really Do to Reverse it?

Sat • 11am • Town Square

How conservation, agriculture, business & politics can stop the heat, together.

- Moderator: Mat Boerson Owner of local organic Boersen Farms
- Hon. Claudine Schneider Former Republican Congresswoman from Rhode Island, introduced the Global Warming Prevention Act of 1988
- Christian Shearer CEO, REGEN Network & Regenerative Agriculture expert
- Michael C. Mitchell CEO of MCM Group in Beijing, China, Freeland Board Member

Rewarding Goodness: Can the Technology Revolution Help Save the World?

Sat • Ipm • Town Square

Trailblazers in blockchain, crypto-currencies, and volunteerism discuss how tech can address today's biggest environmental and social challenges.

- Moderator: Daniel Swid Coordinator of Earth Pulse
- Jane Seymour Actress, Filmmaker, Founder of Open Hearts Foundation
- Katie Flynn Filmmaker, Creator of Young Hearts and new Young Hearts App
- Alan Laubsch CEO of GenBlue, regenerating earth and economy through natural capital
- Chris Brown Former Global Head of IBM's Safer Borders Program
- Steve Galster Founder of Freeland, Using AI and Blockchain to Create Good New Money and Recycle Dirty Old Money

Human Trafficking Around Us: How to Spot it, and What You Can Do to Help

Sun • 11am • Town Square

How to identify human trafficking and take action.

- Moderator: Hon. Debra Walker Cook County Circuit Court Judge
- Hon. Virginia M. Kendall US District Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, author of several books on child exploitation
- Diana Dombrowski Journalist who authored 2019 Gannett News Agency feature story on human trafficking in Wisconsin
- L. Martin Capuder Executive Director, Global Trafficking Center, NASA Kennedy Space Center

Native American Ecosystem Regeneration Models: Lessons for the World

Sun • Ipm • Town Square

How some tribes are expanding their forests in the midst of global deforestation

- Moderator: Farhan Umedaly Award-winning filmmaker
- Dylan Jennings Bad River Tribal Council Member of Lake Superior Ojibwe
- Ritchie Plass Menominee Native American storyteller & educator
- Jason Schlender former Vice Chairman, Lac Corte Oreilles Tribal Nation

Water: Recovering our Lifeblood

Sun • 2pm • Caestecker Public Library

Discuss the impact and mitigation of climate change on water resources.

- Moderator: Thomas Eddy Botanist, adjunct biology professor, co-founder Green Lake Conservancy land trust
- Paul Gunderson Green Lake County Land Conservationist
- Maureen Muldoon Geology Professor, UW Oshkosh; US Geological Survey
- Renee Richer Assistant Professor, UW Green Bay
- Daniel Wright Assistant Professor, UW Madison, College of Engineering
- Chris Pollack Local farmer

WORKSHOPS + LECTURES

All workshops are \$5. Tickets available online or in-person at workshop.

LECTURE

Beyond Social Media: Transforming Public Opinion to Action through Hands-on Experience.

Sun • 2:30pm • Town Square

Michael C. Mitchell, Producer of Live Aid and the 1984 Olympics, Board Chairman of Freeland, and CEO of MCM Group will discuss his latest venture, *Freeland Nature Camps*.

WORKSHOPS

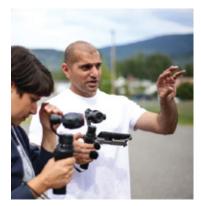
StoryScope: What Lies Beneath our Tales of Recovery?

Sat • 12:30pm-1:30pm • Caestecker Public Library

StoryScope is a communal, creative experience that features storytelling within story circles. Participants will be given an opportunity to narrate their own recovery stories and explore the festival's goals of hope, inspiration and recovery for people, animals, and ecosystems. Professor Jennifer Linde and John Genetter, Arizona State University, Hugh Downs School of Communications.

Catalyzing Positive Change Through Film

Sat • 2:30-4:30pm • Caestecker Public Library
Learn from award-winning filmmaker
Farhan Umedaly about how camera
innovation can enable self-sufficient,
stand-alone filmmakers to have ultrahigh production value and greater
access to be able to tell meaningful
stories about environmental and
social justice. Best for ages 15+.



MUSIC

Many of our films will have acoustic sets 20 minutes prior to the film start. Listen while you're getting a drink and finding your seat! All times listed are when music starts - please respect the musicians and enjoy their music! Visit our website to learn more about our musicians.



Traditional Native American Invocation/Welcome by Paul Cloud, Ho Chunk Veteran & Indian Community School Eagle Singers

Sat • 10am • Thrasher Opera House before From Mass to the Mountain

Indian Community School Eagle Singers

Sat • 2:10pm • The American Legion before Shorts Program 2

Sat • 4:10pm • Thrasher Opera House before Livana

Sat • 7-8pm • Deacon Mills Park, full performance before Soylent Green!

Mambo Surfers

Sat • 4:10pm • Town Square before Silent Forests

Sat • 6:40pm • Thrasher Opera House before Centerpiece Film Kifaru

Phil Gatewood

Sat • 5:10pm • The American Legion before Shorts Program 3

Sun • 1:40pm • Thrasher Opera House before Shorts Program 1

Stu Marston

Sun • 6:40pm • Thrasher Opera House before Tigerland

Richie Plass

Sun • 12:40pm • Town Square before Panel: Native American Ecosystem Regeneration Models: Lessons for the World

Billy Dean & Rojo

Sat • 1:40pm • Thrasher Opera House before Ice on Fire

Sat • 7:10pm • Town Square before Ghost Fleet

FEATURE FILMS



Ghost Fleet • 90 mins
Sat • 7:30pm • Town Square
Sun • 4:30pm • Thrasher Opera House
Ghost Fleet follows a group of activists
who risk their lives on remote Indonesian
islands to find justice and freedom for the
enslaved fishermen who feed the world's

insatiable appetite for seafood. Bangkok-based Patima Tungpuchayakul, a Thai abolitionist, has committed her life to helping these "lost" men return home. Facing illness, death threats, corruption, and complacency, Patima's fearless determination for justice inspires her nation and the world. Directed by Shannon Service & Jeffrey Waldron.



Ice on Fire • 90 mins
Sat • 2pm • Thrasher Opera House
An HBO documentary produced by
Oscar-winner Leonardo DiCaprio,
George DiCaprio and Mathew Schmid
and directed by Leila Conners, Ice on Fire
is an eye-opening documentary that

focuses on many never-before-seen solutions designed to slow down our escalating environmental crisis. The film goes beyond the current climate change narrative and offers hope that we can actually stave off the worst effects of global warming. Directed by Leila Conners.



Centerpiece Film - Kifaru • 95 mins Sat • 7pm • Thrasher Opera House Kifaru follows the lives of two young, Kenyan recruits who join Ol Pejeta Conservancy's rhino caretaker unit - a small group of rangers who care for and protect Sudan (Kifaru in Swahili), the last

male northern white rhino. Spanning over the course of the their first four years on the job, 'Kifaru' allows viewers to experience the joys and pitfalls of conservation firsthand and view extinction in real-time.

Pre-Feature Short - Stolen Apes • 18 mins (Playing before Kifaru)

After a sting operation in Bangkok for two trafficked Orangutans leave those accountable with no consequence, Daniel Stiles, a detective in the illegal wildlife trade, thinks of new ways to combat illegal great ape trafficking.

Director Colin Sytsma in attendance.



Liyana • 77 mins

Sat • 4:30pm • Thrasher Opera House
Sun • 5pm • The American Legion
A Swazi girl embarks on a dangerous
quest to rescue her young twin brothers.
This animated African tale is born in the
imaginations of five orphaned children

in Eswatini who collaborate to tell a story of perseverance drawn from their darkest memories and brightest dreams. Their fictional character's journey is interwoven with poetic and observational documentary scenes to create a genre-defying celebration of the transformative power of storytelling. Directed by Aaron Kopp & Amanda Kopp.

Note: While sensitively handled, the film deals with challenging family histories and lingering impact of HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa. Ages 10+ recommended.



Silent Forests • 108 mins
Sat • 4:30pm • Town Square
Sun• 11:30am • The American Legion
An intimate, character-driven portrait of
conservationists and activists struggling
to stop forest elephant poaching in Africa's
Congo Basin region. Silent Forests explores

this story—through a range of dynamic subjects—one of Cameroon's first female eco-guards, a grassroots wildlife law enforcement group, a Congolese biologist studying elephant behavior, a reformed elephant poacher, and a team of anti-poaching sniffer dogs led by a Czech conservationist. As passionate and tenacious as these conservationists are, they are up against huge institutional challenges like corruption and lack of funding that threaten to derail all their attempts to fight for the future of the forest elephant.

Director Mariah Wilson in attendance.



Soylent Green (1973) • 97 mins
Sat • 8pm • Deacon Mills
Our Classic with a Conscience series presents the 1973 film starring Charlton Heston.
The year is 2022, Earth is overpopulated

and polluted; natural resources have been exhausted and nourishment comes from

Soylent Industries, a company that makes food consisting of plankton. A Soylent board member is murdered and Detective Thorn (Heston) investigates only to discover a bizarre and disturbing secret ingredient used to manufacture Soylent Green. Directed by Richard Fleischer.



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Closing Night Film - Tigerland • 91 mins Sun • 7pm • Thrasher Opera House Tigers are the subject of myths and folktales, poetry and art. Half a century ago, in the jungles of India, a young forest officer rallied the world to save tigers from extinction. Today, the creed is carried on in

Far East Russia by the guardians of the last Siberian tigers, who risk everything to save the species. Directed by Academy®-Award winning filmmaker Ross Kauffman (Born into Brothels) and produced by Oscar® winner Fisher Stevens (The Cove), Tigerland is the story about our relationship with one of the world's most revered creatures. Directed by Ross Kauffman.



Toxic Puzzle • 91 mins

Sun • 3:30pm • Caestecker Public Library

Dying from diseases like Alzheimer's and

ALS is a tormenting process. The diseases

are on the increase worldwide. Aided by
climate change and pollution, scientists
believe a substance in the environment,

produced by some of the smallest organisms on Earth, is the culprit. This is a medical detective story, a hunt for the hidden killer, following scientist Paul Cox and his team on a worldwide quest to find a cure. The team believes they have found something. Narrated by Harrison Ford & Directed by Bo Landin.

Subject Renee Richer in attendance.

Pre-Feature Short - Becoming Ocean • 9 mins (Playing before Toxic Puzzle) When climate-change journalist Eiren Caffall was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, she realized that, like the planet, she was slowly drowning. Directed by Scott Foley.



Special Screening - From Mass to the Mountain Director's Cut • 85 mins
Sat • 10:30am • Thrasher Opera House
With new, never-before-seen archival footage From Mass to the Mountain - Director's Cut brings you to Eastern
Panama, where decades of government

corruption and neglect have impoverished the region. But thanks to the tireless efforts of one priest to build infrastructure, protect watersheds, and conserve the rainforest, life is looking up for the locals. **Directors Colin Sytsma & Kurt Sensenbrenner & subject Father Wally in attendance.**

SHORTS PROGRAM 1 64 min

Sat • 11:30am • The American Legion + Sun • 2pm • Thrasher Opera House



Interconnections: Everything is Connected • 15 mins
Do you ever wonder if what you do really makes
a difference? In this short film, we weave inspiring
stories about the ripple effects of our actions in an
interconnected world. Directed by Rose Madrone.



Flying with Spider Monkeys • 8 mins
Habitat encroachment and trafficking for the pet
trade threaten the spider monkey population in
Southern Mexico. Conservation scientist Denise
Spaan and her team are exploring a new way to
detect and count the monkeys using drones and

thermal cameras. Through their research, they discover that algorithms used by astrophysicists will be a breakthrough for the conservation and preservation of the species. **Director Luis Palomino in attendance.**



Faith, Hope, Love • 5 mins

Zino Chan, a musician from New Zealand, wrote and performed this song *Faith, Hope, Love* based on the experiences of a sex trafficking victim. This is one woman's hopeful story of how she escaped. Directed by Sylvia Yu Friedman.



See the World's Largest Bat Colony • 1 min

Bats aren't confined to living in caves or haunted mansions, they also thrive in cities. Enjoy this super short about the world's largest urban bat colony in Austin, TX. Director **Kurt Sensenbrenner in person** (2018 winner, Freeland's Audience Award).



City Swim • 9 mins

A chronicle of Milwaukee's first open river swim in 75+ years. The film celebrates the renewed health of the Milwaukee River while telling the stories of the swimmers who participated in this historic swim. Directed by Joseph Brown (2018 winner, Freeland's Best Local Filmmaker Jury Award).

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The Mexican Galapagos (La Isla Galápagos Mexicanas) • 13 mins

In the middle of the Chihuahuan desert, an incredible discovery has been made. There is an archipelago of lagoons that host the planet's oldest organisms and a biological diversity on

par with the Galapagos Islands. This treasured area is currently under threat. Directed by Tania Claudia Castillo.



Living with Bees • 1 min

Shot entirely on a cellphone, an indigenous Mayan woman follows the Melipona beekeeping tradition in Mexico, helping to preserve this endangered species. **Director Molly Ferrill in attendance.**



Being with Elephants • 12 mins

Throughout the Siana region of the Maasai Mara, local rangers must monitor and react to the shrinking elephant corridors in order to prevent collisions of man and beast. *Being with Elephants* follows local Maasai rangers who educate their

community about the importance of elephants to the ecosystem as well as methods of coexistence. Directed by James Martin.

SHORTS PROGRAM 2 FEATURING CHABON

54 mins

Sat • 2:30pm • The American Legion



Chabon • 28 mins

Much of Haiti's forests have been destroyed as poverty forces many to risk their lives to illegally cut down trees to produce charcoal. Unlike other films produced on the matter, Chabon interviews the men and women directly involved in the sale

and production of charcoal, providing insight into the genesis of an industry that continues to put the lives of desperate Haitians at risk while destroying the nation's ecosystem. We meet environmentalist Kevin Adaire who offers new solutions. Directed by Samuel Tyler Powers & Jack Powers.

Subject Kevin Adair in attendance.



Saving Son Tra • 20 mins

Son Tra Mountain, an oasis of green in an otherwise developed landscape in central Vietnam, is under intense threat from development. This development is pushing the already endangered wildlife that lives there, including the stunning

red-shanked douc langur, ever closer to the brink of extinction. The heroine of the story began her research in Vietnam in the early 1970s when war was raging around her. The Douc Langur Foundation has been working for the past 13 years to protect this place and provide the wildlife there a safe haven. Directed by Ryan Deboodt.



Your Rivers Need You • 6 mins

The Red River in Kentucky was slated to be dammed in the early 60s, a plan that young landowner Joe Bowen supported. He even gave the speech in favor of the dam and against Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and the

Sierra Club. Not anymore. "In 75 years of living, I've changed my attitude about this wild river. The river is our's. So if it's our's, then it's also our responsibility." Produced by the US Forest Service.

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SHORTS PROGRAM 3 - 67 mins

Sat • 5:30pm • The American Legion + Sun • 5:30pm • Town Square



LUSH Cosmetics Presents: Trophy • 28 mins
Where does trophy hunting cross the line into
unsustainable wildlife trade? Each year, trophy
hunters in British Columbia kill hundreds of grizzly
bears for their heads, paws and hides. Those that
support the hunt claim it's necessary to maintain

balance in nature and provide economic advantages, yet some conservationists and activists say otherwise. *Trophy* challenges this controversial hunt that exists across North America and asks: Can we truly justify killing these animals for sport and ornaments? Produced by LUSH Cosmetics.



Protecting Tichora Conservancy • 6 mins
An inspiring story in Green Lake's own backyard,
this film showcases the efforts of the Green Lake
Conservancy, Green Lake Sanitary District and a
small group of dedicated volunteers who worked
together to save "the land between the lakes." A

former church camp and Boy Scout camp, today this protected land is known as Tichora Conservancy. Produced by Gathering Waters.



The Sun on Top of the House • 14 mins

The indigenous Haida have lived on Haida Gwaii since time began. With European exploration came the demise of their people and indigenous ways of life, and the island's dependency on diesel fuel for electricity. This is the powerful story

of how the Haida have taken back control of their sacred lands and become leaders in renewable energy. **Director Farhan Umedaly in attendance** (2018 winner, Freeland's Best Short Filmmaker Jury Award).



Welcome to Sixtinction • 3 mins

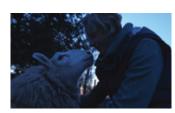
A short film about our choices, our actions, our legacy and our ability to cope with the critical issues this planet is facing. Every day, 200 species disappear. This is jeopardizing the lives of our children. Directed by Chiara Cant.



Meet the Pill Bug • 1 min

Have you ever seen a pill bug or a roly-poly in your backyard? I never gave these bugs much thought before but I got intrigued, did some research, and decided to share what I learned

by making this video in my backyard. **Director Kurt Sensenbrenner in person** (2018 winner, Freeland's Audience Award).



Crannog • 15 mins

A heartfelt documentary about a woman who cares for 48 rescued and sick animals, staying with them when they die. A tender contemplation on life, death and kindness. Directed by Isa Rao.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE - SATURDAY

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FESTIVAL SCHEDULE - SUNDAY

