



ADRIAN  
international  
FILM  
festival

MAY 17/18  
2019

PROGRAM



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# Staff



## Michael Neal // Festival President

I am very excited to be back for a second year! We had a ton of fun in year one and certainly learned a few things along the way. The weather tried to slow us down last year but the positive energy from hundreds of filmgoers helped us overcome multiple thunderstorms. After taking in feedback from our filmmakers, judges, and community members, we hope this year's event is a clear step forward towards our goal of becoming a premier festival in the Midwest. I have no doubt that with the tireless efforts of the Festival planning committee, we will eventually reach that goal.

*Take in the art. Ask questions. Have a drink. Make a new friend. Enjoy Downtown Adrian!*



**Scott Westfall Ph.D.**  
// Rabble Rouser



**Brandon Farver**  
// Public Relations Director



**Nate Adams**  
// Program Director



**Hollie Smith**  
// Graphic Design Manager



**Cynthia Beaubien**  
// Director of Projects



**Chris Momany Jr**  
// Technical Consultant



**Connor Armour**  
// Co-Multimedia Coordinator  
Intern



**Tad Davis**//  
Co-Multimedia Coordinator  
Intern



**Jason Shroeder**//  
Co-Multimedia Coordinator  
Intern

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## 2019 Planning Committee

Jim Berryman // Benjamin Carrico // Melissa Conklin // Erik Gable // Justin Gifford  
Frank Hribar Ph.D. // Chuck Jacobson // Ray Lennard // Mary Murray // Mark Murray // Jere Righter  
Thomas Wassmer Ph.D. // Jacob Wilson // Christy Mesaros-Winckles Ph.D. // Amila Zecevic

# Sponsors

## OFFICIAL PARTNER



**ADRIAN STEEL®**

*Cargo Management Solutions for Commercial Vehicles*

## FEATURE PARTNERS

**Kapnick Insurance Group  
The Farver Foundation  
The Hickman Foundation**

### PROGRAM PARTNERS

- Adrian College
- Chaloner & Co.
- Hemisphere Marketing
- D&P Communications
- Beaubien Landscape Development

### OFFICIAL SUPPORTERS

- Adrian Insurance
- Croswell Opera House
- Armory Events Center
- Visit Lenawee
- Lenawee Historical Museum
- Pattoned Sales, LLC

## Festival Contact

 [AdrianFilm.org](http://AdrianFilm.org)

 [Filmfreeway.com/AdrianFilm](http://Filmfreeway.com/AdrianFilm)

 [@AdrianFilmFest](https://twitter.com/AdrianFilmFest)

 [AdrianFilmFest](https://www.facebook.com/AdrianFilmFest)

 [@AdrianFilmFest](https://www.instagram.com/AdrianFilmFest)

## QUESTION

**Information** // [Info@AdrianFilm.org](mailto:Info@AdrianFilm.org)

**Michael Neal** // [mike@AdrianFilm.org](mailto:mike@AdrianFilm.org)

**Scott Westfall** // [scott@adrianfilm.org](mailto:scott@adrianfilm.org)

**Brandon Farver** // [brandon@adrianfilm.org](mailto:brandon@adrianfilm.org)

**For 2020 Film Submissions** ➤ [Submissions@AdrianFilm.org](mailto:Submissions@AdrianFilm.org)

# Locations

## VENUES



FEATURE FILMS

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### **The Croswell Opera House**

129 E. Maumee Street.

*Capacity 600*



FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES

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### **The Armory Events Center**

230 W. Maumee Street

*Capacity 600*



RELAXER (FEATURE)

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### **AF Passholders Tent (outdoor)**

Winter & Maumee Parking Lot

120 W. Maumee Street

*Capacity 100*



SHORT DOC. / ANIMATION /  
SHORTS

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### **Lenawee Historical Museum**

110 E. Church Street

*Capacity 75*



STUDENT FILMS/  
FILM MARKET EVET #1 & #2

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### **City Chambers**

159 E. Maumee Street

*Capacity 100*

## LODGING

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### **Carlton Lodge**

1629 W. Maumee St

Adrian, MI 49221

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### **Super 8 Adrian**

1091 West US-223

Adrian, MI 49221

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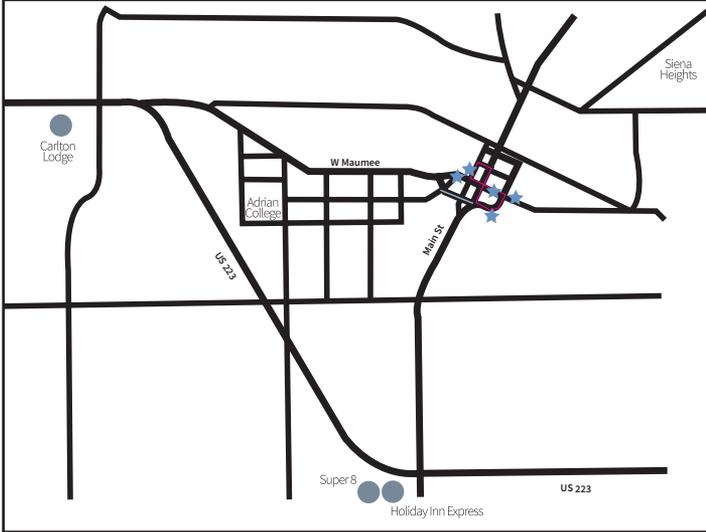
### **Holiday Inn Express**

1077 West US-223

Adrian, MI 49221

*Event rates are available on May 17th and May 18th for Festival Pass purchasers.*

# Map



- KEY
- Lodging
  - ★ Venues
  - Pedal Pub Tour

# Important Info

## AF PASS HOLDERS TENT PRESENTED BY D&P COMMUNICATIONS:

At the northeast corner of Winter and Maumee Streets in the heart of the festival will be an outdoor communal area. Here, festival pass holders can take a break from the big screens, enjoy the sights and sounds of historic downtown Adrian, Michigan while enjoying a drink or grabbing a bite from one of the local food trucks. This location will also serve as the pickup/drop off point for the Pedal Pub tours, Friday night outdoor film screening, festival pass pickup, and Live Music by Michigan's own Blues, Funk, & Soul Band, Chris Canas, Saturday 4:30pm-6:30pm.

## CONCESSIONS:

Food and drink will be available in a variety of different venues around the festival. Alcohol will be available for sale at the Crowell Opera House, Armory Events Center, and the AF Pass Holders Tent. A full menu of concession items will be available at the Crowell Opera House for purchase. Complimentary popcorn and soda will be available at the Armory Events Center, the AF Pass Holders Tent, and the Adrian City Chambers.

## PEDAL PUB TOURS:

Pedal Pub tours of Adrian's downtown will be available Friday, May 17th from 6:00pm-10:00pm and Saturday, May 18th from 12:00pm-9:00pm, with tours beginning and ending at the AF Pass Holders Tent. Tours are an estimated 1-hour in length, and require moderate physical activity. Tours are free for all Festival Pass holders!



## CITY OF ADRIAN DISCOUNTS:

Hooligans (113 E. Maumee Street) 20% off food and beverage (entire bill). Plus no cover for evening entertainment (Johnathan Torrance/Native Heart - Friday // Soup Sandwich - Saturday)

Chaloner & Co. (108 W Maumee Street) 10% off Cigars and Accessories (Closed Friday)

Rice & Barley Taphouse (101 E Maumee Street) Free appetizer with the purchase of a meal.

# Reception & Awards Program



## Welcome to the Adrian International Film Festival!

Croswell Opera House

May 17th, 6:00pm // 45 minutes

All festival pass holders are invited to the official opening ceremony of the Adrian International Film Festival. Join emcee Gabe Schray and the Festival staff to learn about what to expect from Adrian's second annual international film festival. Actor Joshua Burge (*The Revenant* - 2015, *Relaxer* - 2018) will join the event as the Opening Program Speaker. Casual dress. Open to all festival pass holders.



## Adrian Film Awards

Armory Events Center

May 18th, 9:00pm // 60 minutes

All Festival pass holders are invited to the Adrian Film Awards. Emcee Gabe Schray will return with all the filmmakers and judges to name the winner of each category along with the audience choice selection. New Orleans Producer/Director duo Mallory Kennedy and CJ Wallace will offer our awards program keynote address. Prizes and awards will be presented by the sponsor of each category. Casual dress. Open to all festival pass holders.



## Important to Note

Audience Judging/Trivia cards must be dropped in designed boxes located at the **Armory Events Center** and **Croswell Opera House** by **Saturday, May 18th at 8:15pm.**

# Judges

## FEATURE FILMS

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**Billy Joynt**

Mind on Movies

**Gina Valentino**

Owner

Hemisphere Marketing

**Sheri Reeves Bleam Ph.D.**

Professor, Communication Arts  
and Sciences (retired, 2016)

Adrian College

## DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

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**Ryan Gleeson**

Kartemquin Films

**Issac Park**

POV Films

**Nathan Adams**

The Only Critic

## SHORTS

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**David Shaef**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of English  
Oakland University

**Joshua Guitar Ph.D.**

Wayne State University

**Joe Walderzak**

M.A., Media and Cinema Studies,  
DePaul University

## DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

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**Thomas Wassmer Ph.D.**

Professor of Biology  
Siena Heights University

**Jeff Vande Zande**

Professor, English  
Delta College

**Tom Collins**

Cinematographer

## ANIMATION

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**Andrew Denryter**

University of Miami

**Mark DiPietro**

Siena Heights University

**Andrew Winckles Ph.D.**

Adrian College

## STUDENT

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**Trishia Holt**

Siena Heights University

**Jennifer Letherer**

Assistant Professor,  
Communication and Media  
Spring Arbor University

**Adam Gould**

Assistant Professor, Cinema Studies  
Oakland University



Croswell  
Opera  
House

The  
Armory

Lenawee  
Historical  
Museum

City  
Chambers

AF  
Passholders  
Tent

**MAY 17**

6:00 pm	<b>Opening Program 6pm</b>						
7:00 pm	<b>When Jeff Tries to Save the World</b> 7:00pm						
7:30 pm		<b>Father the Flame</b> 7:20pm					
8:00 pm							
8:30 pm					<b>Relaxer</b> 8:30pm		
9:00 pm	<b>Book Week</b> 9:15pm						
9:30 pm		<b>Making Coco:</b> The Grant Fuhr Story 9:25pm					
10:00 pm							
10:30 pm							

**MAY 18**

12:00 pm	<b>I'd Like to be Alone Now</b> 12:15pm		<b>Doc. Shorts #1-6</b> 12:00pm - 3:00pm	<b>Film Market Event: Minding the Gap</b> 12:15pm			
1:00 pm		<b>Shattered Dreams</b> Sex Trafficking in America 1:15pm					
2:00 pm							
3:00 pm	<b>45 Days to be Rich</b> 3:00pm	<b>Screwball</b> 3:20pm	<b>Animation #1-6</b> 3:15pm - 4:45pm	<b>Student Films #1-8</b> 2:30pm - 6:00pm			
4:00 pm							
5:00 pm							<b>Live Music</b> 4:30-6:30pm
6:00 pm	<b>Film Market Event: The Fiddling Horse</b> 6:30pm	<b>Roll Red Roll</b> 6:00pm	<b>Shorts #1-8</b> 5:00pm - 8:00pm	<b>Film Market Event: The Correct Thing</b> 6:15pm			
7:00 pm							
8:00 pm							
9:00 pm		<b>Awards/Closing</b> 9:00pm					
10:00 pm							



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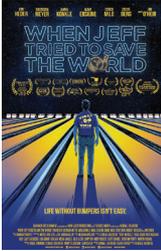
# FILMS

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# FEATURE FILMS

PRESENTED BY ADRIAN STEEL COMPANY

Croswell Opera House  
AF Pass Holders Tent



## When Jeff Tried to Save the World

// 93 minutes  
Kendall Goldberg  
United States

May 17th. 7:00pm  
Croswell Opera House

**Synopsis:** When the manager of an old-school bowling alley discovers the owner's plans to sell, saving Winky's World means pulling himself out of the gutter too.

**Director Bio:** Prior to JEFF, Kendall graduated with a B.F.A. in Film Production from Chapman University's Dodge College of Film & Media Arts. While at Chapman, she was selected as a Marion Knott Scholar and was mentored by Producer Richard Gladstein (Pulp Fiction, The Hateful Eight). She was honored with the Women of Chapman Endowed Filmmaker Grant, as well as the Zonta Award, to put towards her thesis film, GLORIA TALKS FUNNY, starring Candi Milo (Dexter's Laboratory, Astroboy). She was selected as a mentee for the 2019 Women In Film Mentoring Program. Kendall has three features and a docuseries in development through Bad Rack Entertainment.



## Relaxer

// 91 minutes  
Joel Potrykus  
United States

May 17th. 8:30pm  
AF Pass Holders Tent  
Outdoor Screening sponsored  
by D&P Communications

**Synopsis:** With the impending Y2K apocalypse fast approaching, Abbie is faced with the ultimate challenge - the unbeatable level 256 on Pac-Man - and he can't get off the couch until he conquers it. A survival story set in a living room.

**Director Bio:** American writer/director Joel Potrykus resides in Grand Rapids, MI. He works with a filmmaking band, Sob Noisse, including long-time collaborator Joshua Burge. His films have premiered at the SXSW Film Festival, Locarno Film Festival, and have screened at the Lincoln Center and the MoMa. He teaches filmmaking at Michigan State University.

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**Book Week** // 96 minutes  
Heath Davis Australia

May 17th. 9:15pm // **Croswell Opera House**



**Synopsis:** When it looks like his novel is going to be published, high school English teacher and once famous novelist – Nicholas Cutler - thinks his luck has finally changed. But what promises to be the best week of his life professionally, spirals into seven days of hell personally. A pregnant girlfriend, student in trouble with the law, a gravely ill brother in law and the prospects of living a life of unfulfilled dreams, force Mr Cutler to re-examine just what's most important in his life.

**Director Bio:** Heath Davis is a multi award winning filmmaker, teacher and journalist. Most recently Davis wrote, directed and produced the Australian feature film BROKE starring Steve Le Marquand, Max Cullen, Claire van Der Boom and Brendan Cowell.



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**I'd Like to be Alone Now** // 107 minutes  
Jon Dabach  
United States

May 18th. 12:15pm  
**Croswell Opera House**

**Synopsis:** In the face of death we all come to question our own path. "I'd Like to Be Alone Now" is an ensemble dramedy that takes place in one location – the house of a mourning widower and father. When Kyle loses his wife and three children to a car accident his entire family comes to help him mourn but instead they all turn inward to examine their own lives. Desperate for some private time for introspection, Kyle decides to nail himself into his room with some scrap wood. His brothers, friends, parents and even housekeeper are left to tend to him while they try to put the pieces of their own broken lives back together.

**Director Bio:** After graduating from UCLA film school Jon quickly found success creating animated pilots for Vh1, Mtv, and G4tv. After a feature he wrote and produced called "Married Young" got stuck in post-production for several years Jon decided to direct his first feature with the knowledge that he would shoot it in 8 days and edit it in a week - that became his first feature "I'd Like to be Alone Now." Jon has since written and directed another two feature films and is in pre-production on his fourth.



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**45 Days to be Rich**  
// Runtime Not Available  
Hani Bay  
United States

May 18th. 3:00pm  
**Croswell Opera House**

**Synopsis:** After twenty years of separation, Jake and Joe's mom dies a millionaire in Greece, leaving a will to give her sons a chunk of her heir, only if they agree to live with their Greek brother for 45 days.

**Director Bio:** Michigan based actor Hani Bay, is an actor, writer and producer. Hani's dream to become an actor started when he was 7 years old. He started his acting training at young age, and got his degrees in both Improv and Method acting at the age of 18. Hani known for both his stage and film work, having done over twenty plays from Tennessee Williams to David Mamet's to many other great playwrights. Filmwise Hani did over ten students short movies, starring in most of them, in addition to doing his own. His first professional script that he wrote and starred was Beyond the Stenlight, got accepted to be filmed by production company JCP Films. Rated R.

# DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILMS

PRESENTED BY THE FARVER FOUNDATION

## The Armory Events Center



### Father the Flame

// 75 minutes

Chad Terpstra

United States

May 17th. 7:00pm

Armory Events Center

**Synopsis:** Pipes have long been considered a symbol of contentment and contemplation. Imagine what could be learned by exploring the lives of those that commit themselves to such a symbol. Father the Flame follows Lee Erck, a world-renowned pipemaker from far Northern Michigan, as he travels the globe exploring the nearly forgotten art of tobacco pipe making. Featuring a charming cast of characters—from the “royal” family of Danish pipemakers, to the Italian briar cutter known as the world’s greatest, to a fourth-generation Native American peace pipe maker— this story speaks to a slower pace of life, a luxury in our sped-up world. Beautiful and hypnotic, Father the Flame immerses the viewer in the cultural and spiritual significance of the tobacco pipe and what it can teach a modern generation about legacy and the things we leave behind.

**Director Bio:** Chad Terpstra is a director and cinematographer of independent and commercial films. He has worked all over the world and his documentary work has screened at SXSW, Telluride, AFI Docs and Palm Springs film festivals, along with numerous Vimeo Staff Picks. His commercial client list includes Lexus, Microsoft, and Uniqlo. When he’s not behind the camera, in the color suite, or guest lecturing at local universities, he’s hosting weekly film screenings at his home theater in Grand Rapids, Michigan where he lives with his wife and two children. He is currently finishing up his first feature documentary as director & cinematographer, FATHER THE FLAME.



### Making Coco: The Grant Fuhr Story

// 72 minutes

Don Metz

Canada

May 17th. 9:25pm

Armory Events Center

**Synopsis:** Barely 19, Grant ‘Coco’ Fuhr became starting goalie for the most exciting team in NHL history. In his mid-30’s, he played 79 games in an 82-game season to set a league record, then followed that ironman performance by playing 73 the following season on a completely rebuilt knee. During the decade and a half between, he employed his acrobatic style and cat-like reflexes to backstop five Stanley Cup champions and two Canada Cup winners, cementing a reputation as the ultimate “money goalie”. He also got himself demoted to the minors for calling the hometown fans jerks, announced his retirement at the age of 26 in an attempt to force a famously hardnosed general manager to renegotiate a long-term contract, and was suspended for an entire NHL season for conduct deemed “dishonorable and against the welfare of the league” for cocaine use, only to return and redeem himself as one of the game’s true greats.

**Director Bio:** Don Metz is an accomplished cinematographer, television producer and director with more than 30 years experience his credits include numerous documentaries and television specials. Don’s unique talent for connecting with the client and their vision has resulted in a string of highly successful productions and partnerships. Don is also a volunteer with a variety of foundations such as the Edmonton Inner City Agencies Foundation, Edmonton Oilers Foundation and the Shawn Bowley Memorial Fund. He received his education from the American Film Institute and the Sheridan College of Applied Arts & Technology.



## Shattered Dreams:

Sex Trafficking in America

// 55 minutes

Bill Wisneski

United States

May 18th. 1:15pm

Armory Events Center

**Synopsis:** Shattered Dreams

is a comprehensive documentary that examines the pervasive, dark underworld of sex trafficking in America. Heart wrenching personal stories from survivors of the illicit sex trade and leading experts reveal how vastly misunderstood and disregarded this important human rights issue has been. As hundreds of thousands of victims' lives are destroyed by this multi-billion-dollar industry, the complex challenge of targeting the cause of this deeply embedded problem is exposed. Will increased awareness finally drive real solutions to save lives or will we continue to let this underground industry thrive in America?

**Director Bio:** Bill Wisneski is an award-winning documentary director, producer, writer, and cinematographer. He has received eighteen Pacific Southwest Emmy Awards and dozens of other national accolades for his compelling documentaries. His films have been shown at more than fifty film festivals throughout the country and aired on numerous PBS stations in the Western United States.



## Screwball

// 105 minutes

Billy Corben

United States

May 18th. 3:20pm

Armory Events Center

**Synopsis:** They say South Florida is a sunny place for shady people and this is certainly true of steroid peddler Anthony Bosch and his most notorious client, Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees. While Bosch's medical credentials may be lacking, his storytelling skills are first rate as he hilariously details the rise and fall of his "health clinic", including mob connections, financial chicanery, his cocaine habit, and Rodriguez's eccentric behavior. The documentary plays like a madcap Floridian crime comedy in the vein of Elmore Leonard or the Coen Brothers while it raises serious questions about the ethics of professional sports. Powerful interests would be happy to let this story slip from memory, but Screwball makes it unforgettable.

**Director Bio:** Billy Corben, is an American documentary film director. As a co-founder of the Miami-based studio Rakontur, along with producing partner Alfred Spellman, he has created films such as Cocaine Cowboys, Dawg Fight, and ESPN's 30 for 30 The U and The U Part 2.

## Roll Red Roll // 80 minutes

Nancy Schwartzman United States

May 18th. 6:00pm // Armory Events Center



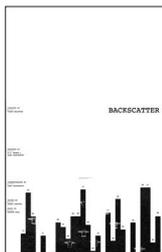
**Synopsis:** At a pre-season football party in small-town Steubenville, Ohio, a heinous crime took place: the assault of a teenage girl by members of the beloved high school football team. What transpired would garner national attention and result in the sentencing of two key offenders. But it was the disturbing social media evidence uncovered online by crime blogger Alex Goddard that provoked the most powerful questions about the case, and about the collusion of teen bystanders, teachers, parents and coaches to protect the assailants and discredit the victim.

**Director Bio:** Nancy Schwartzman is a documentary film director, producer, and media strategist who uses storytelling and technology to create safer communities for women and girls. Roll Red Roll premiered in 2018 at the Tribeca Film Festival, and Hot Docs, and is currently playing at over 20 festivals, and will have a robust impact campaign. She is the recent winner of the Adrienne Shelly Foundation's Excellence in Filmmaking Award. Roll Red Roll is her feature film debut. Her first film, The Line, a short documentary examining consent was used by the White House for a campaign around sexuality, and her follow-up film XOXOSMS, was on PBS/POV and BBC exploring love between two teenagers, bridged by technology.

# SHORTS

PRESENTED BY THE HICKMAN FOUNDATION

## Lenawee Historical Museum



### Backscatter

// 5:16

Tyler Moldovan  
United States

May 18th. 5:00pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** In the final days of the Cuban Missile crisis, a lone espionage agent tries to find his way home.

**Director Bio:** Tyler Moldovan is a visual thinker. Born in Dearborn Michigan, Tyler moved around a lot as a kid and after graduating high school in Canada, moved to southern Germany to take a job there for a short time. After two years Tyler moved back to Michigan and settled in Port Huron, where he met his creative partner Andrew Brown. They have been consistently creating low budget high value films & commercials in an attempt to hone their skills and make the next project more challenging than the last.



### Sparks!

// 17:20

Robert Benjamin  
United States

May 18th. 5:15pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** A happy, code-typing worker android falls in love with his human female supervisor. Just one problem: every time he sees her, his heart literally explodes.

**Director Bio:** Robert Benjamin has been writing and directing for over 15 years. He was born in Southern California in 1979, and grew up in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Robert received a degree in Film and Video at Fullsail University in 1999, where he received the Course Director's award in Creative Writing. He currently works in the industry as a Creative Director and Editor for Heart Sleeve Creative, a movie trailer post house in West Hollywood, and has received multiple Clio Entertainment Awards for his work. Robert has also many made short films, his latest being Sparks! A Robotic Love Story, currently making the festival rounds.



### Year of the Dog

// 23:00

Jeremy Johnson  
United States

May 18th. 5:40pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** Set in Los Angeles' iconic Chinatown, an unstable man becomes dangerously obsessed with a beautiful and mysterious woman.

**Director Bio:** Jeremy Ryan Johnson is a narrative and commercial director, writer, producer, editor, composer, and photographer. His most recent film "Twenty Years" won Best Short at the 2017 California Film Awards. He was head of development for Gunpowder, a Venice beach-based tea company that retailed in Whole Foods and on Amazon. Prior to that he was a signed recording artist with Sony in the band Pitty Sing.



### The Stone Maker

// 12:00

Ali Navaa  
Iran

May 18th. 6:10pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** A man who has a kidney problem is forced to sell his daughter for money.

**Director Bio:** MA of Urban Design from University of Tehran. The Stone Maker is My first experience on Cinema And film directing. I'm very happy to be a part of your beautiful festival.



## The Passport

// 15:00

Olivier Hero Dressen  
Belgium

May 18th. 6:30pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** Somewhere in a big city, a man wakes up in a dark alley with no memory of who he is or how he got there. On a mission to figure out his identity, he discovers truths that were better left forgotten.

**Director Bio:** Olivier “Hero” Dressen is a Belgium director based in Shanghai since 2012. He has been drawing since he was a kid and directed animation films on digital and 16mm films. He also loves to mix different techniques such as photography, drawing, graphic design, video, etc. His primary directing style is characters driven and storytelling. Commercials, Music Videos, and Shorts his career as a director started in 2000. In 2012 I began a side career as a photographer for portraits, fine art, fashion and editorial magazines. Now I am currently based in Asia but also work overseas.



## Tiny's New Home

// 6:40

Chad Munger  
United States

May 18th. 6:50pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** Young girl struggles to understand why her prize winning fish is floundering, discovers happiness is sometimes easier to find in the company of others

**Director Bio:** After film school, Justin shot numerous shorts, music videos and independent feature films as a director of photography before taking the leap into directing. His short film Divorce Lemonade was an official selection at the Sundance Film Festival and won several awards at other film festivals before being picked up for online distribution by Cinetic Media. He is the recipient of the IFP production fund grant for his short film No Saving Seats and his award-winning short film, Tiny's New Home, was an official selection of the Toronto Film Festival.



## The Woodkin

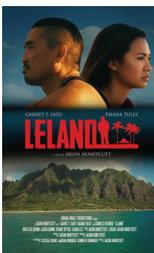
// 23:45

Mat Mot  
Poland

May 18th. 7:10pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** The Woodkin is a spirit of the forest, herald of change, the enemy of greed and gluttony. He punishes those who break the law of nature. After ten years of absence Krzysiek takes his son for a hunting trip where he does everything to win the boy back. While two men are getting closer some lines get crossed. The Woodkin wakes up.

**Director Bio:** Born in Beskids, Poland in 1992. He studied Victorian and American literature at the University of Tromsø. Graduated in translation studies. Since then he works as an illustrator and an animator. In 2015 started Film and Screen Media studies at Warsaw Film School. His first short film ‘Raspberries’ received The Best Polish Student Short award at the Manchester International Short Film Festival in 2017.



## Leland

// 19:30

Jason Honeycutt  
United States

May 18th. 7:35pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

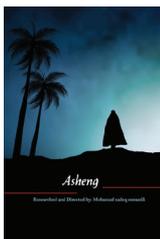
**Synopsis:** A genius daughter, bound by her duty to take care of her family, cannot go to college to live her life until her father figures out his. Can she overcome her father's mistakes in life and break the cycle?

**Director Bio:** Jason Honeycutt is an award-winning director, born and raised in rural Michigan. He grew up making 8mm and VHS movies from childhood. Working three jobs to pay for film school, he moved to Los Angeles where he has also directed and/or edited projects for Dreamworks, Universal Republic, AT&T, Sony Music, Disney, Justin Timberlake, Christina Aguilera, Pop Evil, etc. He is the winner of six Promax Gold Awards and, for the last 11 years, is still a part of the On-Air Promotions team at FX Network, where he helped them to win Promax's “Marketing Team of the Year” six times in a row and three Clio team awards.

# DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

PRESENTED BY KAPNICK INSURANCE

## Lenawee Historical Museum



### Asheng

// 29:56

Mohamad Sadeq  
Esmaeili Iran

May 18th. 12:00pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** Seven women who live in a frontier village in southeastern Iran, cooperate together to afford their livelihood. They decided to find a way to release their husbands who have been in prison for 18 years ago because of drug dealing.

**Director Bio:** My name is Mohammad Sadegh Esmaeili, I have studied cinema and master's degree in documentary production at Tehran University of Sound and Television. This documentary is my first professional film.



### Flying Fur

// 36:15

Alicia Wszelaki  
Matthew Nothelfer  
United States

May 18th. 12:40pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** Welcome to the friendly skies of animal rescue. Saving dogs and cats one flight at a time is the mission, but changing the fate of these lovable creatures is no easy task. Lives are at stake and failure is not an option. For ease of festival programming, this film is also offered in a 25 minute version by request.

**Director Bio:** Alicia lives in San Diego County and is part-owner of the media company, Path 88 Productions, which directs and produces documentaries and films. She has hosted and produced travel films for Lonely Planet TV as well as Condé Nast Video. She is a graduate of San Diego State University. Matthew Nothelfer has directed documentary shorts, documentary feature films, narrative shorts, and narrative features. Over the past three decades his career has been spent mostly on the road. He has traveled to all continents on the globe as a photographer, videographer, and cinematographer.

## Behind Banana Vacuum // 12:17

Liam Morrison Canada

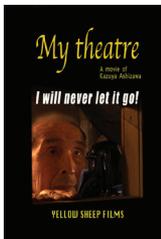
May 18th. 1:30pm// Lenawee Historical Museum



**Synopsis:** A behind-the-scenes look into this new-age punk band and its unexpected lead singer.

**Director Bio:** Lian Morrison is an award-winning filmmaker & graduate from the Prague Film School where she first learned to hone her skills in creative filmmaking. Today, she has her own successful filmmaking company, Tin Bird Productions based in St. John's, Newfoundland. Lian loves giving audiences glimpses of the lives of others in her films. Her first documentary "Flight of the Fisherman" was shot in rural China and earned her an Audience Choice Award (Smith Sound Film Festival), Emerging Filmmaker Award (The Nickel Independent Film Festival) as well as a nomination for "Best Short" (Canada China Film Festival). Her second documentary was an episode for CBC's series "Canada's a Drag"

which will be aired in February 2019. Banana Vacuum is her third documentary set to be finished post production in late January 2019.



## My Theatre

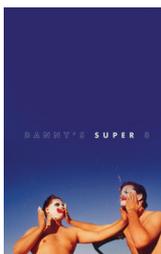
// 19:45

Kazuya Ashizawa  
Japan

May 18th. 1:50pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** The man closed the Cinema 55 years ago. Even so, people are coming. The man also put a fire on the projector today. "I will never let it go!"

**Director Bio:** Kazuya Ashizawa is a filmmaker living in Fukushima. He was born and grew up in Fukushima and he is continuously filming people who are close to him even after the disaster of "Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station" in 2011.



## Danny's Super 8

// 4:00

Colin Russell  
Alec Rodriques  
United States

May 18th. 2:20pm  
Lenawee Historic  
Museum

**Synopsis:** A look into the work of underground filmmaker Danny Plotnick and his love for Super-8 film.

**Director Bio:** Colin Russell and Alec Rodriques are a San Francisco-based directing duo. Colin grew up on Cape Cod, Alec in the San Francisco Bay Area.



## The Colorado Street Bridge Project

// 17:19

Guy Zhuoqin Yang  
China

May 18th. 2:30pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

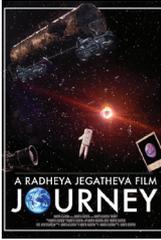
**Synopsis:** Built in 1913, the Colorado Street Bridge in Pasadena, California is known as an example of Beaux Art Architecture. Unfortunately it has also been known as the Suicide bridge ever since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Recently there has been a dramatic increase in suicide attempts which has caused great discomfort to the local residents and further threatens the reputation of the bridge as a historical landmark. The documentary takes the audiences on a journey to find a solution to deter suicide.

**Director Bio:** Born and raised in China. Guy Yang came to United States for higher education and eventually turned into a visual storyteller. In the past five years, Guy has been working as a one-man-band crew, independently producing, directing, filming and editing documentaries, journalistic pieces and short narratives. He is currently searching topics on dying arts, environmental issues and unsolved mysteries.

# ANIMATION

PRESENTED BY HEMISPHERE MARKETING

## Lenawee Historical Museum



### Journey

// 7:40

Radheya Jegatheva  
Australia

May 18th. 3:15pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** Alone in space, an astronaut drifts through the empty void. After finding another astronaut in the same predicament, she gives him a polaroid image of the Earth. They then team up to go on an epic journey across the universe to return to their planet. Will these star-crossed lovers find home?

**Director Bio:** Young Radheya Jegatheva's films have been selected to 7 Academy Award Qualifying Festivals along with an Australian Academy of Cinema & TV Arts (AACTA) Award nomination, which is Australia's equivalent to the Oscars. Radheya is a Perth based Australian filmmaker born in 1999 in Johor, Malaysia to parents of South Korean and Malaysian ancestry. He is a 2nd year Bachelor of Commerce and Arts student at Curtin University in Western Australia. Radheya's films had won awards in 6 of the worlds 7 continents with the last frontier being breached in July 2018, when one of his films played at Antarctica's Davis Research Station.



### Imagination

// 4:13

Marc Donahue,  
Roth Rind  
United States

May 18th. 3:30pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** As children, we viewed the world through the lenses of our imaginations. The carpet became lava, the shadows formed monsters, the family minivan was a spaceship. But the older we got, the more reality set in, and soon we forgot the magic our minds could create. We invite you to step back into your childhood and take a look through the lens once again in this stop-motion sensation, "Imagination."

**Director Bio:** Roth Rind, producer and co-director on "Imagination," hails from San Francisco, CA. He has been working in the industry for the past 10 years and is excited for what adventures await. Also, he loves Jurassic Park. Marc Donahue, co-director on "Imagination" hails from Los Gatos, CA. He has been creating unique stop-motion animation for many years and invites you to keep an eye out for three new projects in 2017.

### Completely Fine // 3:57

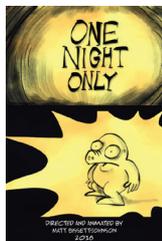
Samantha Aquino United States

May 18th. 3:45pm // Lenawee Historical Museum



**Synopsis:** Being diagnosed with many chronic/mental illnesses, Susie Aquanine struggles in her daily life to keep going. As the audience gets placed into her shoes they get to experience how draining it is to live with such illnesses every day. The audience will also get exposed to how friends, strangers, loved ones, and even teachers engage with Susie and her illnesses and how the educational system really treats someone who truly just needs patience and love.

**Director Bio:** Growing up with chronic and mental illnesses being a huge part of her life, Samantha Aquino brings a new perspective to the table. With her claymations primarily discussing PSA's about illnesses and specific issues, she hopes to spread awareness and open the eyes of those who cannot imagine how it is to live with them. Aquino has been editing for 6 or so years and hopes to one day break into the world of film, especially with her favorite claymation company Laika.



**One Night Only**  
// 1:42  
Matt Bissett-Johnson  
Australia

May 18th. 4:00pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** The amazing Pigly puts on the show of a lifetime.

**Director Bio:** Matt Bissett-Johnson is an Australian animator and cartoonist. He wrote and animated for ABC music television show, Recovery, from 1998-2000. He records all the music for his short films. He submits animations to festivals, and in 2015 and 2018 won the Stanley Award for Animator Cartoonist from the Australian Cartoonists Association. He continues to cartoon as a gag and political cartoonist.

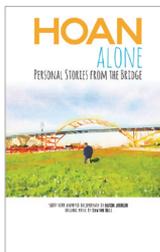


**Count Your Curses**  
// 8:30  
Lorène Yavo  
Belgium

May 18th. 4:10pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** In a town where supernatural beings are part of everyday life, two roommates face a recurring problem: their house spirit was devoured by an unknown creature overnight. They go on their way to find a replacement spirit and a solution to their pest problem.

**Director Bio:** Lorène Yavo (b.1994) is a Belgian director. She received her diploma of secondary education in 2012 and began her studies at ENSAV La Cambre. In 2015, she directed her first film, "Nadir". The next year she directed the short film "Twisted" as well as "Alive" a music video for the band Amarante. In 2017, she directed her graduation film "Count Your Curses".



**Hoan Alone:** Personal  
Stories from the Bridge  
// 8:30  
Aaron Johnson  
United States

May 18th. 4:25pm  
Lenawee Historical  
Museum

**Synopsis:** Milwaukee's Daniel Hoan Memorial Bridge is the crown over Summerfest and has become one of the city's most recognizable landmarks. But it's also a popular site for suicides. This animated documentary explores the issues of the bridge and suicide through three intimate interviews. Follow animator, Aaron Johnson, as he shares the stories of Dave, John, and Mary.

**Director Bio:** After graduating from Columbia College Chicago in 1998, Aaron has gone on to a 20-year career in animation. Outside of his daytime professional work, Aaron has remained active in his independent filmmaking pursuits. Johnson has been recognized nationally for his independent animation including awards for animated television commercials.

# STUDENT

PRESENTED BY ADRIAN COLLEGE

## Adrian City Chambers



### Crushed

// 18:45

Benjamin Rezjer  
United States

May 18th. 2:30pm  
Adrian City Chambers

**Synopsis:** A lonely hick running a rural motel falls for a girl on the run and vows to keep her safe, but when a strange repairman shows up unannounced, we discover a bloody truth which will leave one man crushed.

**Director Bio:** Born in Minnesota. Chicago Based Filmmaker. Alumni of The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and DePaul University. As a writer/director, I like honoring my Midwestern roots by making films about people and places not often seen in most costal festivals.



### The Game

// 12:10

Matthias Pöltinger  
Germany

May 18th. 3:05pm  
Adrian City Chambers

**Synopsis:** An assignment becomes life-threatening for a private detective when he meets a client and soon finds himself in an abandoned sanatorium.

**Director Bio:** Matthias Pöltinger is a writer and director known for To Shoot and Protect (2017) and The Game (2018). His interest in filmmaking grew from a very young age. He started out making short stop-motion videos and moving on to making live-action short films with his friends before applying to "die medienakademie" in Munich, where he studies film directing in the 6th semester.



### An American Family

// 18:52

Kieu-Anh Truong  
Vietnam / United States

May 18th. 3:30pm  
Adrian City Chambers

**Synopsis:** An African American mother, her teenage son, and their expecting Filipina tenant form an unorthodox family over quiet moments in a shared kitchen.

**Director Bio:** Kieu-Anh was born in Viet Nam and is currently an MFA Film candidate at Syracuse University (NY, USA). She also attained a degree in Cinema Production at Ithaca College (NY, USA)



### One // 12:00

Handuo Zhang  
China / Canada

May 18th. 4:00pm //  
Adrian City Chambers

**Synopsis:** Everyone is living life by oneself while being in an infinite white space. One's environment is created and based on one's deepest memories. After an unknown amount of time, One starts to forget. The white space exists while doing nothing, or is it actually doing everything? What can one do?

**Director Bio:** Born in the north-east region of China mainland in 1994, Handuo Zhang officially started his film/art studies at the age of 18 at Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver, Canada. During the four years' program, he also put the effort into the academic and practical sides of fine art. These experiences are not only a tool for storytelling but a media that has the power to pass on and instinctive information



## Siege

// 15:34  
Deeptanshu Sinha  
India

May 18th. 4:20pm  
Adrian City Chambers

**Synopsis:** After the commander announces a citywide lockdown to make the city crime free, Aaditya, a soldier from the city forces attempts to protect the people of city. Hunted by the commander and his forces, he is unable to cope with the pressure and attempts suicide but lands up in the world of coma. Aaditya must now choose between staying in the world of coma to avoid further bloodshed or to come back and keep his promise to protect the people of the city.

**Director Bio:** Deeptanshu Sinha is a B.Sc. graduate in Filmmaking with specialization in Direction from Whistling Woods International, India. He is currently pursuing his passion for filmmaking at Vancouver Film School, Canada.



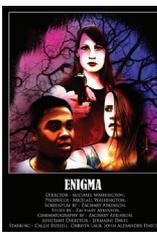
## Broke

// 13:10  
W. Cody Pitts  
United States

May 18th. 4:50pm  
Adrian City Chambers

**Synopsis:** Mara, a disenfranchised former township treasurer turned convict turned cater-waiter, hates the rich. Like, a lot. A night serving hors d'oeuvres to university bigwigs presents her with a unique opportunity to release her pent-up bitterness and deep seated grief on a privileged jazz singer, who unwittingly confesses to be almost everything Mara hates. The night takes a turn when she realizes the evening's guest of honor is her ex high school boyfriend. After five long years apart, they find themselves face-to-face, forcing them to confront their very different circumstances and what might be left of their past relationship.

**Director Bio:** Cody is an actor, director, cinematographer, and editor. They studied Communications at Spring Arbor University, graduating in 2018. While in school, Cody helped produce a number of films and short project, including his directorial debut, Girl on the Grass.



## ENIGMA

// 6:41  
Michael Washington  
United States

May 18th. 5:25pm  
Adrian City Chambers

**Synopsis:** The story of this short film is symbolic of good and evil and a young women that will be torn between the two in a never ending struggle.

**Director Bio:** My filmmaking journey began when I was around the age of six years old when my dad took me to see the re-released Return of the Jedi. I was blown away by that film and ever since then I wanted to be a Director, Producer, and Screenwriter. I have been in school for a while now trying to get my B.A. in film and I realized that it will still take a while to get it so I decided to start my dream and film career now instead of waiting for my degree.



## Audite

// 12:00  
Gage Dansby  
United States

May 18th. 5:45pm  
Adrian City Chambers

**Synopsis:** Audite follows the story of college sophomore Joshua, a programmer who decides to take the success of home-based assistants such as the Amazon Echo and Google Home and build his own version specifically for the needs of college students. He calls his creation an "Audite", which is Latin for "listen". Joshua's creation becomes a huge success, increasing the productivity and GPA of students by large percentages. However, Joshua soon learns that he can also use his Audites to listen in on his peers, blackmail other students, and steal financial records, leaving his victims to fight for their privacy from a force they can't escape.

**Director Bio:** Growing up in Fowlerville, Michigan, Gage Dansby is a Communications major at Adrian College in Adrian, MI, specializing in the areas of radio & video production and marketing. Gage has conducted professional quality video interviews and student documentaries for Adrian College, and is continuing to broaden his horizons in the realm of film.

# FILM MARKET EVENTS

PRESENTED BY CHALONER & CO



## **Minding the Gap**

// 100 Minutes

Director Bing Liu

May 18th. 12:15pm

City Chambers

**Synopsis:** Three young men bond together to escape volatile families in their Rust-Belt hometown. As they face adult responsibilities, unexpected revelations threaten their decade-long friendship.

**Speaker Bio:** Post-Production Supervisor and Kartemquin Film veteran Ryan Gleeson **joins AF 2019 for a Q&A following the screening.** Gleeson has worked as a Production Manager and in the Editorial Department on many highly acclaimed projects such as: All the Queens Horses (2017), Abacus: Small Enough to Jail (2016), and Life Itself (2014).



## **The Fiddling Horse**

Director CJ Wallis

Producer Mallory Kennedy

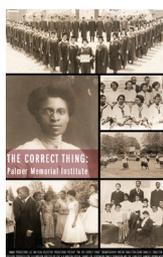
May 18th. 6:30pm

Croswell Opera House

**Synopsis:** 'The Fiddling Horse' is a dark comedy following Leslie Heart, a woman who inherits a racehorse, and in an attempt to elevate her failing status within her high society circle, teams up with an ex-celebrity jockey to secretly execute a long-con to cash in on the monetary and social winnings at the racecourse. The film stars stand-up comedian Andy Kindler (Everybody Loves Raymond, Bob's Burgers, I'm Dying Up Here) and J. Elvis Weinstein (Mystery Science Theater 3000, Freaks and Geeks).

**Director Bio:** Margrette Bird Pictures (founded by Kennedy and Wallis) is based out of New Orleans, Louisiana where Wallis also works as the creative director for Jet Life Records and is well known as FortyFPS for his album designs, visuals and collaborations with major hip-hop artists. Coming off the success of their latest documentary, 'Perfect Bid: The Contestant Who Knew Too Much,' the Director/Producer duo return to the Adrian International Film Festival to offer a sneak peek of their newest project!

**Stick around for a Q&A following the screening.**



## **The Correct Thing: Palmer Memorial Institute** // 30 minutes

Vincent Singleton United States

May 18th. 6:15:pm // Adrian City Chambers

**Synopsis:** Chronicle of the establishment of Palmer Memorial Institute by Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown in 1902 and closing in 1971. Over 2000 African Americans attended this iconic boarding school which was considered to be the gold standard in black education during its existence.

**Director Bio:** Vincent Singleton teaches film production and design at various colleges and institutions throughout Chicago and has been the recipient of faculty development grants throughout his fifteen-year teaching career. Additionally, Vincent has secured fellowships for documentary with Kartemquin Productions and is a McNair Scholar. Dr. Eric V. A. Winston is a retired Vice President of Institutional Advancement (Wilberforce University in Wilberforce and Columbia College) He retired in 2013 and changed his retirement career trajectory to become involved in the film industry by producing documentaries. He has produced three documentaries "Taking Park City", "Taking Israel" and "The Correct Thing: Palmer Memorial Institute".

**Winston and Singleton join AF 2019 for a Q&A following the screening.**

# ADRIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Drop your completed trivia/audience judging cards in the designated boxes located at the **Armory Events Center** and **Croswell Opera House** by **Saturday, May 18th at 8:15pm.**

## OFFICIAL FESTIVAL PASS



**ADRIAN**  
international  
**FILM**  
festival

**MAY 18/19**

ADRIAN, MICHIGAN

## AUDIENCE JUDGING FORM

Name // \_\_\_\_\_

### JUDGING CRITERIA

*Minimum three films screened for ballot to be eligible*

#### 1. Plot //

Does the film have a plot that tells both an intriguing and unique story?

#### 2. Editing //

Does the editing support and illuminate the message of the film?

#### 3. Anticipate a Resolution //

Does the film keep the audience on edge and make them eagerly anticipate a resolution?

#### 4. Creativity and Innovation //

Does the film offer creativity and innovation in one or more ways?

#### 5. Characters, Setting and Themes //

Are the characters placed in a setting that contributes to their actions and interactions while also emphasizing the themes and moods of the film?

#### 6. Soundtrack //

Does the soundtrack both compliment the visuals, and help convey the intent of each scene?

Films Screened

- 1// \_\_\_\_\_  
2// \_\_\_\_\_  
3// \_\_\_\_\_  
4// \_\_\_\_\_  
5// \_\_\_\_\_

Audience Choice  
Selection// \_\_\_\_\_

# OFFICIAL FESTIVAL PASS

Name // \_\_\_\_\_

*Create together*



**ADRIAN STEEL**

Cargo Management Solutions for Commercial Vehicles

Kapnick Insurance Group  
The Farver Foundation  
The Hickman Foundation

## TRIVIA CARD

Name // \_\_\_\_\_

### TRIVIA QUESTIONS

#### 1 // Question

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2 // Question

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3 // Question

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4 // Question

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5 // Question

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6 // Question

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 7 // Question

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 8 // Question

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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TAKE



