FILMMAKERS COLLABORATIVE PRESENTS
A Festival for Families of Greater Boston

8TH ANNUAL

BOSTON INTERNATIONAL KIDS FILM FESTIVAL

Films FOR*BY*ABOUT Kids
Virtual edition in partnership with GBH Boston

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY
www.bikff.org
BIKFF is all about KIDS.

FOSTERING CREATIVITY. 
ENCOURAGING EXPRESSION. 
INSPIRING FUTURE FILMMAKERS.

Films FOR Kids Every film is geared towards kids, ages 8-18. Whether feature-length films, short documentaries, or whimsical comedies from around the world—all promise to be entertaining and engaging every step of the way.

Films BY Kids We highlight the talent of the world’s youth in blocks of student-made films! Always a sell-out, this provides a great opportunity for kids to screen work produced by their peers on the big screen and invite family and friends!

Virtual Workshops Workshop offerings include stop-motion animation and filmmaking 101.

Stop-Motion Animation: For our Stop-Motion Animation class students will learn the principles of Animation and produce a short film using objects found around the house and brought to class.

Filmmaking 101: Taught by a professional filmmaker, students will learn key skills in scriptwriting, character development, improvisation, and camera operation. From the comfort of their home, students will write, shoot, and edit a film.

Live Q&A With our festival being virtual this year we have the opportunity to host live Q&As with filmmakers from all over the world! This gives kids the opportunity to hear and ask questions about the filmmaking process, see student like themselves making films, and engage with the films a little bit further!
A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

THE FUTURE OF FILMMAKING TODAY

When Filmmakers Collaborative created the Boston International Kids Film Festival in 2013, it was with a goal of providing a weekend of family-friendly films to the Greater Boston community. In a city that provides ample opportunities for adults to watch independently-made feature films and documentaries, there was nothing geared specifically towards middle-school aged children. We wanted to change that. By screening films from around the globe, both professionally and student-made, we hope to inspire young people to tell their stories and share them with the world. Combine that with special blocks of films geared towards children under 10-years-old and hands-on workshops for the entire family, and you are in for an event that families will be enjoying for years to come!

We hope that you will get involved in educating and empowering youth and joining us as a sponsor.

Laura Azevedo
Festival Director

FILMMAKERS COLLABORATIVE (FC) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization with a national membership that includes some of the best filmmakers in the country. Our mission is to encourage and support the making of great films by people of all ages and levels of experience. Providing media training, showcasing films, and being mentors to the next generation aligns perfectly with our passion, mission and expertise. This is why we created the Boston International Kids Film Festival.

www.filmmakerscollab.org

Contact Us to learn more or discuss how you can get involved and support the Boston International Kids Film Festival.

CALL 781-662-1102   EMAIL laura@filmmakerscollab.org
BIKFF needs your support.

TEACHING STUDENTS.
STRENGTHENING STORYTELLING.
ENTERTAINING FAMILIES.

Why be a BIKFF sponsor?
- Your company will be associated with Boston’s premier film festival for students and their families
- Your support will enable us to demonstrate exceptional storytelling to students throughout New England — a valuable skill they will utilize for years to come no matter which path they follow
- Your participation will allow you to build visibility and reach to a wide and diverse audience

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AND BENEFITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Premiere Festival Sponsor</th>
<th>Presenting Festival Sponsor</th>
<th>Producing Festival Sponsor</th>
<th>Festival Supporter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Your company will be highlighted through our partnership with GBH Boston
- Up to 30 second commercial to be played before each film block
- Company logo on BIKFF official trailer that is shared throughout all our marketing campaigns
- Logo on all marketing material, website and on-screen thank you during screenings
- Festival passes to all screenings, workshops, and live Q&A’s

20 15 10 5

All donations are fully tax-deductible.

Contact Us to learn more or discuss how you can get involved and support the Boston International Kids Film Festival.

CALL 781-662-1102 EMAIL laura@filmmakerscollab.org
BIKFF by the numbers:

In our first 7 years

we have screened 600 films,

representing 35 countries,

offered 30 workshops,

and entertained 8000 audience members.

Contact Us to learn more or discuss how you can get involved and support the Boston International Kids Film Festival.

CALL 781-662-1102 EMAIL laura@filmmakerscollab.org
For some kids, the prospect of summer camp looms like a dreaded rite of passage. Not so for those featured in two documentaries at the Boston International Kids Film Festival (Nov. 15-17). For them it is an opportunity to manage past trauma, to escape loneliness and isolation, and to develop confidence and self-esteem.

For boys who have escaped the war zones of Syria, Iraq, and other embattled regions, more obstacles await them when they find refuge in the West. In “New Homeland” (Nov. 15, 7 p.m. Capitol Theatre, Arlington; there will be a Q&A with producer Eric Forman after the screening) veteran filmmaker Barbara Kopple visits the all-boy Camp Pathfinder, in Ontario’s Algonquin Park. Kopple is a two-time best documentary Oscar winner, for “Harlan County, USA” (1976) and “American Dream” (1990).

Canada, unlike the United States, welcomes thousands of asylum seekers every year and provides volunteer sponsors to ease their transition to a new life. Mike Sladden, the camp director, an American who decries his own country’s response to the refugee crisis, has established a program for refugee boys to have fun and bond with American and Canadian kids in a wilderness environment.

Kopple joins five of these boys at the camp, where they swim, build campfires, paddle canoes, participate in rousing if corny mess-hall singalongs, and engage in all the rituals of the camping experience. They make friends with kids who never met a refugee before and find that they are almost without exception open-minded, curious, and sympathetic. Near the end of their stay they undertake a long-distance portage trek which tests their stamina and capacity for teamwork.

Not all fare well. Omer, a teenager who witnessed carnage in Iraq, has trouble adjusting to the new environment. He behaves erratically, threatens other boys, breaks the rules, and defies the counselors. What will become of him is uncertain. Some wounds can’t be healed by a couple of weeks at camp.

On the Film "My Beautiful Stutter"

Stuttering might not seem like a big deal compared to dodging bullets and surviving suicide bombings in Baghdad. But for the millions of kids growing up with this incurable genetic disorder (fluency treatments often bring frustration and little improvement) it can mean bullying, loneliness, stigmatization, even despair.

Take Malcolm for example, one of the subjects featured in Ryan Gielen’s heartbreaking and uplifting “My Beautiful Stutter” (Nov. 16, 1 p.m., Somerville Theater). When he was 4 he was traumatized after he witnessed his father shooting and wounding his mother and then killing himself. Now in grade school, he is constantly tormented for his stuttering by other students who tease, humiliate, and assault him. Though smart, talented, and athletic, he has retreated into a dark, silent, and lonely place.

Luckily for Malcolm and hundreds of others like him, there is the Stuttering Association for Youth (SAY), a New York-based, interactive arts program for kids ages 9 to 18. Founded by Taro Alexander, himself a stutterer, the program invites kids from across the country every year to Camp SAY in Hendersonville, N.C. There, in addition to the usual summer camp activities, they are taught that stuttering is OK, that it is part of who they are, and they should embrace it.

The camp provides a refuge where stutterers can have fun with others like themselves. They can share their stories, achieve some of their potential without being stifled by those who mock or try to change them. For a few brief weeks they can be themselves and not feel alone. But as the end of the session nears some grow anxious and tearful knowing that, though they are stronger, they will be returning to places where such acceptance and empowerment are rare. As Alexander says, “There is a lot of sadness in this world.

Contact Us to learn more or discuss how you can get involved and support the Boston International Kids Film Festival.

CALL 781-662-1102     EMAIL laura@filmmakerscollab.org
High School Seniors Put Out 1st Documentary On Merrimack Valley Gas Explosions

Teenagers aren’t “bums who sit on our phones,” says Alouette Batteau. “We’re not just on social media. We’re on the streets striking because we are trying to save the Earth and our lives.” Batteau is part of a team of 30 high school seniors who made a documentary that’s raising tough questions about fossil fuel dependence.

“Under Pressure” focuses on the Columbia Gas pipeline explosions that rocked the Merrimack Valley in September 2018, but it’s at least three films in one. A summary of the disasters (three explosions, some 80 fires, 23 injuries, and one death) is followed by an effective, mini lesson on how natural gas is harvested and distributed.

Then more than two dozen sit-down interviews (full disclosure: the film includes WBUR reporters Quincy Walters and Bruce Gellerman) unfold with the visual story of what happened mostly told in cutaways to still images and news footage. In these situations, the connection between what’s being said and what’s being seen can be unclear. Savvy audiences will also notice lapses in sound recording and mixing.

However technically unpolished, the 47-minute film shows maturity by including voices that are both critical of and satisfied with Columbia Gas’s response. It’s seemingly the first documentary released about the explosions that happened a little over a year ago. The film also suggests that this response was felt differently by the three affected communities, Lawrence, Andover and North Andover have highly variable socioeconomic realities. (“Not everyone can stay at a hotel and eat out at restaurants” says the voice over.)

The film’s no-bones narration frequently takes a stand. “Upgrading the current infrastructure only perpetuates the use of fossil fuels and sentences us to decades of reliance on natural gas,” pronounces a student voice early on.

“Under Pressure” ends as a call to action, advocating for renewable energy and transparent governance. With nods to the Parkland anti-gun violence activists and Malala Yousafzai, the narration concludes, “You have power to change the system. We must act now.”

Each year for six years running, the 30 or so members of the senior class at Four Rivers Charter Public School in Greenfield, Massachusetts, collaborate on a documentary about energy. In fall 2018, the Merrimack Valley gas explosions topped their list because it was “a super current thing,” says Batteau. She served on the film’s edit and script committees. By quickly mobilizing to shoot interviews in the aftermath, she says, “We got raw experiences of people who still didn’t know what their lives were going to be like.”

It was difficult to get Columbia Gas to speak on the record, says Grace Cabral, now a first year student at Sarah Lawrence College. She also served on the script committee. When the company finally offered a spokesperson, she says it was sobering to realize that “his whole job is to be the news face in the wake of disasters like this.”

As for the film’s overt political stance on climate change, Batteau says that some of the film team wanted to keep it neutral, but “science isn’t something you can believe in or not. Climate change is a real thing. Our planet’s going to die and we’re the generation that’s going to deal with it.

The film’s facts — and opinion — feel about right to Boston University Earth and environment professor Nathan Phillips. He appears as an expert voice in the film and has spoken on panels after it screens. For him, “Under Pressure” helps make an invisible, or literally buried problem, visible. “We’re at an energy crossroads and know things about the natural gas supply chain that aren’t living up to the billing,” he says. Phillips himself has conducted research on gas infrastructure and advocated policies in Massachusetts for nearly a decade.

While he praises the student filmmakers for helping to bring questions around natural gas infrastructure to more light, Phillips also acknowledges a recent groundswell of public concern. He cites Berkeley, California, as the first U.S. city to ban natural gas in new construction and how other cities, like nearby Brookline, are considering similar measures. “I feel like we’re on the threshold and cusp of widespread understanding that it’s not the simple narrative,” he says of natural gas being considered a clean, sustainable “bridge” fuel.

Four Rivers social studies teacher Alex Wilson has advised students on this project since its inception. In his experience, “Climate change is the issue on kids’ minds.” That lends itself to energy analysis, however, “there’s no perfect energy source. There’s no perfect way to do it,” he says. Above all, he wants his students to grasp the complexity and make the film they want to make. Four Rivers’ current class of seniors has already started tackling a documentary on the electrification movement.

Cabral says making the documentary was a wakeup call that “there’s no really better or worse [fossil fuel]. It’s all contributing to this irreversible effect on our planet.” She may not be certain about her college major but Cabral knows 30 people who can make a movie. “I’m going to keep that in my back pocket,” she says.

Click here for trailer

Contact Us to learn more or discuss how you can get involved and support the Boston International Kids Film Festival.

CALL 781-662-1102 EMAIL laura@filmmakerscollab.org
“The entire event was first class and I was extremely honored to be a part of it. I was even more proud to receive the Peggy Charren Award for Excellence...that was icing on the cake. Thank you so much!”
Marc Colagiovanni, filmmaker

“Many thanks again for what you and your colleagues have created. The enjoyment experienced and knowledge acquired shows in the tweens and teens that have participated.”
Patricia Dolan, parent

“The Boston International Kids Film Festival is a terrific event, bringing together families, filmmakers and educators. I can’t think of a better way to teach essential media skills than by exposing kids to great films and workshops taught by great teachers. This will be around for a long time to come.”
Garen Daly, Independent Producer & Director

“Well-told stories that capture the imagination help young people figure out their place in a complicated world. The films showcased in this festival are the perfect vehicle for learning about identity as well as developing essential media literacy skills.”
Micheal Flaherty, President, Walden Media
Contact Us to learn more or discuss how you can get involved and support the Boston International Kids Film Festival.

SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

CALL
781-662-1102

EMAIL
laura@filmmakerscollab.or

www.bikff.org

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Laura Azevedo
781-662-1102
laura@filmmakerscollab.org