

## SOU Student Film Festival celebrates 20th year

The 2025 SOU Student Film Festival will be presented this year on June 4 at 6 PM at the Varsity Theatre in downtown Ashland (66 E Main St), with a reprise screening on June 11. Southern Oregon University has produced an annual student film festival showcasing the creativity of its current and former students since 2005; this year marks the festival's 20th anniversary. The 95-minute program features 16 student-produced films in a variety of categories such as comedy, drama and animation.

This year, the student programmers added a horror/sci-fi category as well as a new "best production design" awards category. Awards for best films in each category and top craft awards will be presented in a ceremony after the screening. Limited tickets are available at the door on June 4. Tickets to the June 11 screening are available through the Varsity website.

This festival is produced by students in SOU's Film Distribution and Festivals course at SOU, taught by Professor Christopher Lucas, with support from SOU's Student Film Club. The festival's student director is Digital Cinema senior Ellie Blount, one of the students in the class. Students worked in teams to fill all the roles required to produce a festival: programming, publicity, design, ticket sales, operations, and event production.

Professor Lucas has taught the course since 2022. "I don't think the students who founded this festival in 2005 could have imagined we'd still be doing it 20 years later," Lucas said. "We're proud to continue this tradition of celebrating student creativity and visual storytelling." Lucas added, "This year's festival really shows off how far the Digital Cinema program has come. Our students are collaborating like never before, telling more ambitious stories, and have more professional level tools than ever."

Ellie Blount was an award-winning filmmaker in the 2024 festival with her short, "The Silent Counselor." "I'm so honored to be the film festival director this year," Blount said. "From learning the insides of how a professional festival runs to the selections we've made, me and the entire class have worked so hard for this event. We have an incredible line-up of films to show, and I couldn't be more proud of the filmmakers involved." Blount added, "This course has taught me so much in terms of teamwork and collaboration; I've become much more confident as a director and leader because of this experience. Very excited to see this festival finally come to life!"

Media Inquiries

Christopher Lucas

lucasr@sou.edu