

A Celebration of Diverse Voices

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 24 • 2026

Avondale Film Festival - Cincinnati, Ohio

Four screening blocks. One unforgettable day.

WELCOME TO THE FESTIVAL

The Avondale Film Festival is a film festival in the community of Avondale within Cincinnati, Ohio. The mission of this film festival is to provide a platform for filmmakers to express visual stories that reflects their perspective on the world.

Special Guests



Councilmember Scotty Johnson



Vice Mayor Jan Michelle-Kearney



Councilmember Meeka Owens

ONE DAY.
FOUR BLOCKS.
NATION-WIDE COMPETION.

AFF'26
PRESENTED BY CHC

SATURDAY • FULL SCHEDULE

11:30am	**Doors Open + Artist Showcase**	Lobby
12:00pm	**Welcome Remarks**	Main Stage
12:15	**Block 01: STUDENT Short Narrative**	Screening room
12:55	**Block 02: Community Spotlights**	Screening room
1:20pm	**Artist Showcase + Catered lunch**	Conference room A + Screening room
1:45pm	**Block 03: Short Documentary**	Screening room
2:40pm	**Block 04: Short Narrative + Live Performance by Queens Jurnee**	Screening room
4:00pm	**Award Ceremony**	Main Stage
4:30pm	**Closing Mixer**	All rooms

STUDENT NARRATIVE

New Generational Talents



Title: The Session

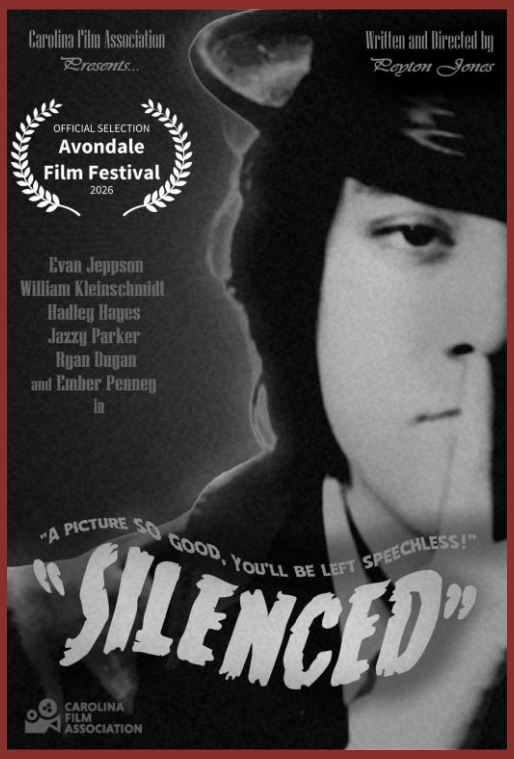
Summary:
A young woman is in a fatal car accident that results in the death of her friend. She then must reckon with the survivor's guilt she carries.

Director: Morgan Cole

Bio:
Morgan is a writer, director, and producer studying at the University of Cincinnati

STUDENT NARRATIVE

New Generational Talents



Title: Silenced

Summary:
In this 1920s-era inspired silent film, Big Boss throws a dinner party for his friends. All is merry...but when someone dares to speak, it becomes evident as to why the film is a silent one.

Director: Peyton Jones

Bio:
Peyton Jones is a writer and director hailing from North Carolina. A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill's Communications, Screenwriting, and Creative Writing programs, she is always on the hunt for the next story, having told her own since her youth. Her previous credits include the animation/live action hybrid short "Drawn to You", for which she wrote the screenplay, and work on various Lightwood Studios projects.

STUDENT NARRATIVE

New Generational Talents



Title: Casting Call

Summary:
Three girls field all sorts of personalities on dating apps in this absurdist comedy.

Director: Lina Ross

Bio:
Lina Ross is a student director located in Northeast Ohio. In 2024, she wrote and directed three experimental short films. The piece “Cooking with Quilts” premiered at the Hiram College Annual Juried Art Show. She graduated in the class of 2026 as an Integrative Studies major with specializations in creative and critical film studies, gender studies, and English at Kent State University. Her upcoming projects align with her track to pursue graduate school.

Community Spotlight

Avondale's own



Title: Automated Agenda

Summary:
During a drunken stupor, an unkempt immature guy buys A.I to improve his life, only to realize he has given it full control.

Directors: Alex Meridy & James Hamilton

Editor: Ares Giovanni

Bio:
Ares is a filmmaker born and raised in Avondale as a filmmaker and professor. Ares makes is debut on a Hollywood production in post editing of Automated Agenda. Filmed in Los Angeles, edited in Cincinnati.

Community Spotlight

Avondale's Own



Title: The Big Comeback

Summary:
When a world-ending threat resurfaces decades after his retirement, a washed-up, out-of-shape superhero must dust off his old suit and navigate modern villainy to prove he's still got what it takes for one final hero's journey.

Director: Ike Don

Bio:
Ike is an Avondale based filmmaker actor, and sports announcer. As the founder of Savage Showdown LLC and Ike Don Entertainment LLC, Ike is dedicated to delivering unforgettable experiences while inspiring the next generation of entertainers.

DOCUMENTARY

Real lives. Real questions.



Title: Mall Video Store

Summary:
A nostalgic documentary following Harrison Lange, owner of Static Tape Video, as he rescues forgotten VHS collections and transforms a mall shop into a haven for film lovers. Collectors and movie fans travel from far and wide to experience his retro video oasis, celebrating the enduring magic of physical media and the community it continues to inspire.

Directors: Nick Nummerdor, Andrew J. Morgan

Bio:
Growing up together in the industrial port city of Muskegon, Michigan director's Nick Nummerdor and Andrew Morgan share a penchant to travel the path less walked when it comes to their filmmaking and subject matter. The pair of directors find that in between the cracks and fissures of our culture, there lies the fascinating lives and tales of American experience that are often written off as unimportant, mundane, or obscure.

DOCUMENTARY VOICES

Real lives. Real questions.



Title: It’s Your Story pt. 2

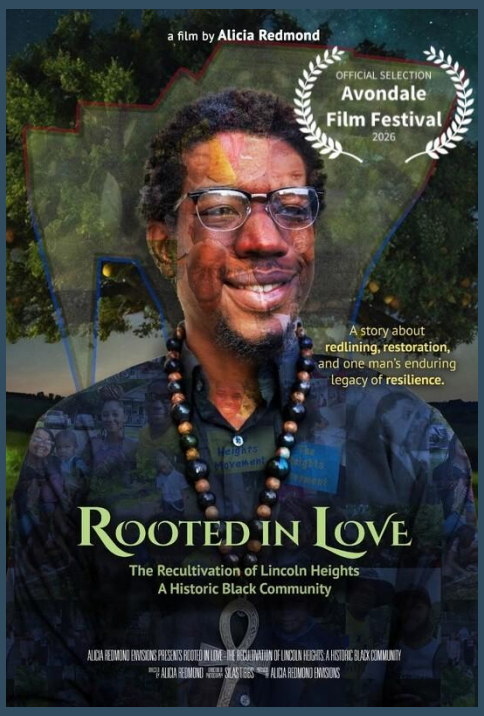
Summary:
This is a continuation of the documentary; It's Your Story Part 1; that follows the events of the surgeries that I had that leads into the Covid Pandemic and how I navigated my training and rehab during that time period.

Director: Joseph Abrahms

Bio:
This is a continuation of It's Your Story Part 1. This follows the events of the surgeries that I had that leads into the Covid Pandemic and how I navigated my training and rehab during that time period.

DOCUMENTARY

Real lives. Real questions.



Title: Rooted In Love

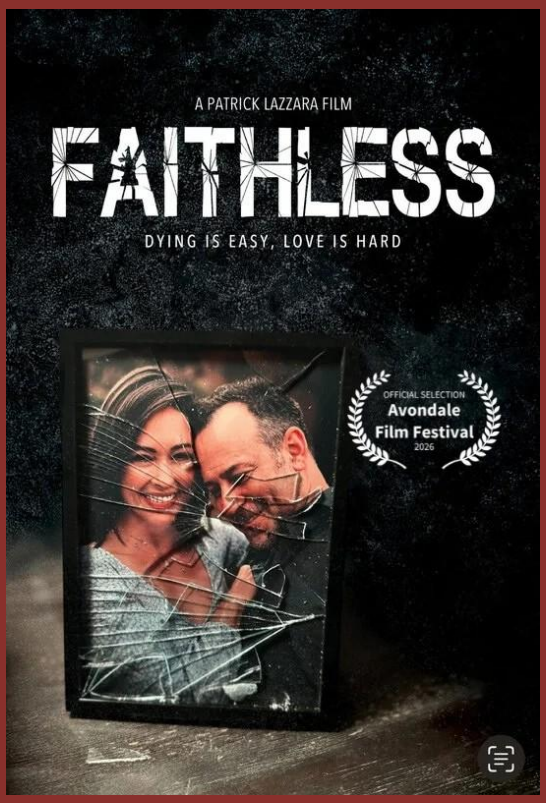
Summary:
Rooted in Love: The Recultivation of Lincoln Heights is a short documentary exploring the legacy and resilience of one of America's historic Black communities.

Director: Alicia Redmond

Bio:
At the helm of Alicia Redmond Envisions, her focus is to deliver compelling, inspirational, and family-friendly entertainment. Recognized as a local filmmaker, she has been featured on FOX19's Women Breaking Through series, and in 2023, Alicia received the Catalano Film Festival's Independent Filmmaker Award. She is also a proud recipient of the ArtsWave Black and Brown Project Grant for 2024 and 2025

Professional Narrative

Emerging Filmmakers



Title: Faithless

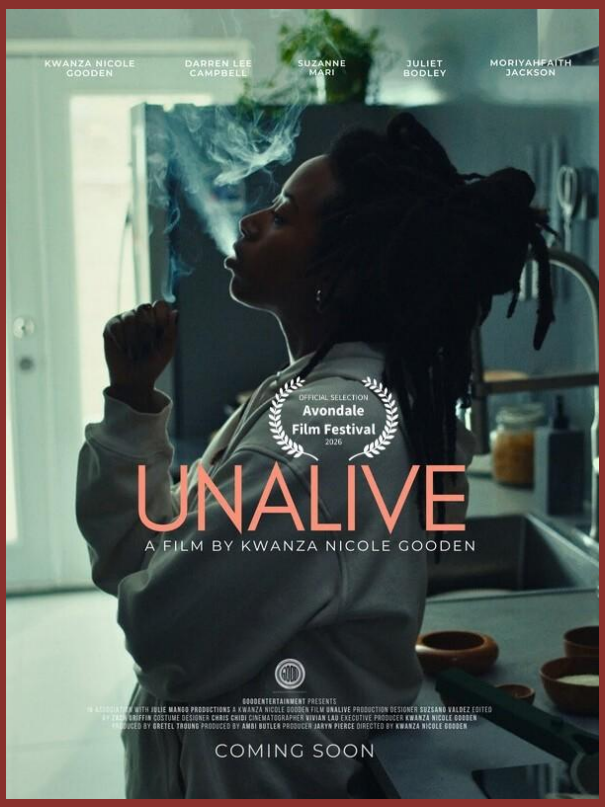
Summary:
A man tries to piece together his wife's disappearance, finding out she may have been keeping secrets from him

Director: Patrick Lazzara

Bio:
Patrick Lazzara is a writer-director and actor born in Buffalo, NY and grew up in Las Vegas, NV. He attended the University of Nevada Las Vegas where he took theater, film and screenwriting courses. In the summer of 2003, he moved out to Los Angeles, CA to pursue his dream of becoming a filmmaker and actor. In 2018, he wrote the screenplay for the Producers Guild of America Make Your Mark award winning short film LOOSE ENDS, awarded $45,000 in production prizes. He directed and produced the feature film now streaming on major platforms such as Prime Video and Tubi. He wrote, directed, and starred in Faithless.

Professional Narrative

Emerging Filmmakers



Title: Unalive

Summary:
Xoe is a rising Hollywood star who finally gets her big break after ten years of continuous hustle and trying rejection. Her workaholism has left her without any real connections so she has no one to share her big debut with except her distant Jamaican-American family, who are all too caught up in their own antics and dysfunction to give her the presence and emotional connection she so desperately craves.

Director: Kwanza Gooden

Bio:
Kwanza Nicole Gooden is a Caribbean-American writer/director based in Los Angeles with directing, producing, and editing credits at Netflix, Amazon Prime, BET Networks, Black Love Inc/Confluential Films, Merry Jane Media, BuzzFeed and more. She is called to share nuanced, evocative, and socially conscious stories through both narrative and documentary filmmaking.

Professional Narrative

Emerging Filmmakers



Title: Happy Sorrows

Summary:
In therapy with his distant wife, a man fights to hold their relationship together, but as he wrestles with hidden wounds and flickers of forgotten joy, he begins to open up a deeper truth threatening to unravel everything.

Director: Cam Marshall

Bio:
Cam Marshall, is a Chicago-born filmmaker and award-winning director and editor. After attending Ball State University media school in Muncie, Indiana, he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 2015, where he later founded Hear And See Productions in 2017. His portfolio includes writing and directing various short films. Cam strive to incorporate an element of faith and utilize storytelling techniques to highlight and elevate Black characters.

Professional Narrative

Emerging Filmmakers



Title: tAInted Love

Summary:
In a near-future Los Angeles where AI companions have become a luxury solution for loneliness, traditional matchmaker Stella hosts an elegant dinner party for friends and neighbors.

Director: Lisa Steadman

Bio:
Lisa Steadman is a Los Angeles-based writer, brand storyteller, and first-time director with a background spanning entertainment, publishing, and strategic communications. A USC School of Cinematic Arts graduate and bestselling relationship author, Lisa has spent her career exploring how people connect, disconnect, reinvent themselves, and search for love in an ever-changing world. Her work has crossed film, television, books, keynote stages, and brand storytelling, giving her a deep understanding of audience, emotion, and positioning.

ARTIST Showcase

MEET THE MAKERS

A wide variety of art from different mediums available on display and for sale



Jue Amman

Poet • Painter • Designer



Lauryn Campbell

Mural • Painter • Designer



Queens Jurnee

Poet • Spoken word

11:30am – 5pm • Conference Room A. Highlighted during all intermissions.

Judges + AWARDS



Michael Flack
Filmmaker, Flack Productions



Danny Hayden
Winner of Avondale Film Fest 2025



Aaron Almashy
Film Professor, University of Cincinnati



Donna Winston
Filmmaker, Winosier Productions

AWARD CATEGORIES

- ✦ **Best STUDENT Short Narrative**
- ✦ **Best Short Documentary**
- ✦ **Best Short Narrative**
- ✦ **Audience Award**

WINNERS ANNOUNCED • 4:00 PM • MAIN STAGE

MAKE IT A MEMORY

TICKETS

Tickets registration in the lobby. Save now with online specials at:

https://capitalheightsfilms.com/avondale-film-festival/

ARRIVAL

Doors open 30 minutes before the first screening. Bring your digital ticket at the registration table in the lobby.

Network + Mixer

Keep the fun going at our mixer after the award ceremony. Make a new friend or collaborate on your next big film!

FOOD + DRINK

Catering provided by the delicious Magnificent Morsels!

FREE PARKING

Use the venue lot or within the Avondale Town center

PHOTOS + SOCIAL

Share your memories with Instagram: #avondalefilmfestival and tag @capitalheightsconsulting.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

CAPITAL HEIGHTS CONSULTING℠

Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio

city of CINCINNATI

Clifton Cultural Arts Center

Life Itself
Self-love, Self-care, Self-evolve

AFF'26
PRESENTED BY CHC

Contact: admin@capitalheightsfilms.com

THANK YOU FOR COMING.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.

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AVONDALE FILM FEST '26

AVONDALE FILM FESTIVAL • CINCINNATI, OHIO • 2026