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Greenlight Grant Spotlight: John Richard

For half a century, a club called the Iowa Mountaineers climbed some of the highest mountains in the world.

It sounds like a tall tale, but it's true — and the Iowa City filmmaker John Richard has a garage full of journals, photos and film reels to prove it. He received one of Produce Iowa's Greenlight Grants to dig into the materials and tell the story's ups and ups and ups and downs.

“Some of the legends you heard just seemed too big to be true,” he said. But “as soon as we opened up this garage and started looking around, it was pretty clear there was an amazing story here.”

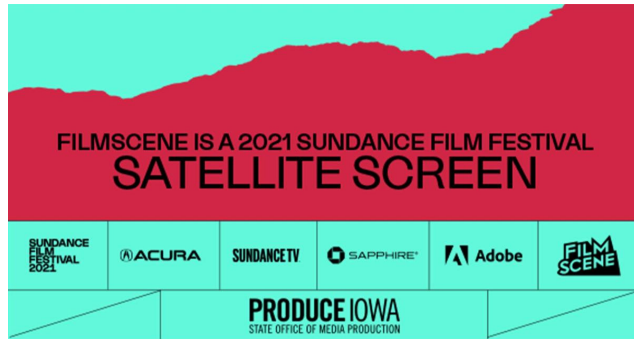
[WATCH A BEHIND-THE-SCENES VIDEO](#)

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Sundance in Iowa City, Jan. 28 through Feb. 1

You won't have to travel to Utah to for the Sundance Film Festival this year. It's coming to Iowa City.

FilmScene has been selected as a Sundance Satellite Screen location for the dispersed festival, opening Jan. 28 with a screening of Nanfu Wang's "In the Same Breath" and continuing through Feb. 1 with Shaka King's "Judas and the Black Messiah."



To maximize comfort and safety, FilmScene will sell raffle tickets for members at 10 a.m. Jan. 14 and for non-members at 10 a.m. Jan. 15.

As a presenting partner, Produce Iowa is teaming up with FilmScene to open up an additional raffle opportunity exclusively for Iowa filmmakers registered with our Media Production Directory. If you're a member of the Iowa film industry, you can claim a free raffle ticket for the 4 p.m. Jan. 29 screening of "**Homerroom**" when raffle tickets go on sale to the public.

Not in the directory? No problem. The Produce Iowa Media Production Directory is open to all resident Iowans in the film and television industry. Create your free listing [here](#).

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'The Film Lounge' Fifth Season Premieres in February

"The Film Lounge" will premiere its fifth season on Iowa PBS with Episode 501 at 11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, and an encore screening at 11 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7. Episode 502 will air Feb. 13-14.

But if you're like us and you just can't wait, join us for a virtual screening and watch party for the first episode at 4 p.m. Feb. 6 and the second episode at 4 p.m. Feb. 13. You'll have a chance to meet some of the contributing filmmakers and see their short films before they air statewide on public television.

Check our **website** and **social media** soon for more information to register for the links to the virtual parties.

The Big 100

Donnabelle Mullenger was born in Denison almost a hundred years ago, on Jan. 27, 1921. Today, the world knows her as Donna Reed, and we've lined up a number of special events to celebrate her remarkable life.

The Academy Award winner died in 1986 but her legacy lives on through the **Donna Reed Foundation for the Performing Arts**, which operates a performing arts center and museum in her hometown. Be sure to stop by and see her Oscar the next time you're in Denison.



Coming Up

"Remembering Donna Reed"

10 a.m. Jan. 27

Join for a virtual birthday tribute on Produce Iowa's Facebook page.

"Iowa History 101: 100 Years of Donna Reed"

Noon March 25

Join Reed's daughter, Mary Owen, as she shares rarely seen family photos during a special online presentation with Donna Reed Foundation board member Kurt Lee and State Curator Leo Landis. This event is organized by the State Historical Society of Iowa as part of **Iowa's 175th Anniversary**. It's free, but **registration** is required.

LEARN MORE ABOUT DONNA REED



LEARN MORE

Call for Talent

YourIowa.com is a new website that hosts news, music, film and play readings, and they're looking for new talent! Think of it as Iowa's version of "A Prairie Home Companion." Please email demo reels, music videos and monologues to **roske@yourIowa.com**.

Behind the Scenes of 'Next of Kin'



In "Next of Kin," a small-town obituary writer named Helena must decide to face her past or run when her own death notice lands on her desk.

'Next of Kin'

Starring: Jamie Morrow and Philip Harder

Director: Marissa Vonn

DP / Editor: Bruce James Bales

Sound / Score: John Hennessey Baker

1st AC / Gaffer: Spencer Michael Smith

2nd AC / Key Grip: Nick Ford

1st AD: Kalena Clarkson

Wardrobe: Destiny Williams



Photos by Nick Ford and Spencer Michael Smith shot on location in Ottumwa and Agency, Iowa.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 21: **JDIFF Winter Film Series**

Jan. 27: **Remembering Donna Reed**

Jan. 28-Feb 1: **Sundance Film Festival hosted by FilmScene**

Feb. 6-7: **The Film Lounge Episode 501 premieres on Iowa PBS**

Feb.13-14: **The Film Lounge Episode 502 premieres on Iowa PBS**

Feb. 18: **JDIFF Winter Film Series**

Feb. 27: **JDIFF Gala**

March 25: **Iowa History 101: 100 Years of Donna Reed**

March 25: **JDIFF Winter Film Series**

Apr. 18-25: **Julien Dubuque International Film Festival**

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