



MediaMasters series returns

Our popular professional development series is back, and this time, we're offering a three-part workshop to help get your Iowa project greenlit. The new MediaMasters program features our **Greenlight Grant Boot Camp**, which will take you step by step through the process of developing your story and business plan, and submitting a high-quality grant application. It's the perfect way to **kickstart your project** this fall so you can **submit a top-notch plan next spring**. Even if you decide not to apply for a grant, you'll learn the basics for taking your project from script to screen.

Register now for the first class, which begins Saturday, Oct. 22. It's a **\$50 value** that is free to members of our [Media Production Directory](#).

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

Four fall film festivals and a fun fundraiser

Sioux City International Film Festival

Sept. 30–Oct. 2

Sioux City's Hard Rock Hotel & Casino is joining the festival to amplify this year's theme, **"Music in Film!"** The state's longest running film festival continues to rewrite the script with new **Q&As with filmmakers, post-show discussions,**

workshops and filmmaker lounges, all designed to facilitate networking and fun. The festival's central location in downtown Sioux City enables attendees to explore the city in between film events.

SIOUX CITY INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

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Refocus Film Festival

Oct. 6-9

FilmScene in Iowa City is hosting a brand-new film festival that celebrates "the art of adaptation," especially stories that have been adapted for the screen. At the new event in the UNESCO-designated City of Literature, film buffs can see **local art, live performances, conversations and workshops**, in addition to a great slate of films. Heads-up: Organizers are still looking for **volunteers, sponsors and donations**.



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Halloweenapalooza Film Festival

Oct. 7-8

The annual festival in southeast Iowa moves to new location this year, at the grand **Bridge View Center of Ottumwa**, where filmmakers can watch their films on the big screen and participate in panels, discussions and horror convention booths. The spooky fun includes **film awards, costume contests, horror movie trivia, special guests from horror movies** and even a screening of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."



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Muscatine Music & Independent Film Festival

Nov. 3-5

This festival is back and bigger than ever after a after a COVID-related break. With the addition of music to the already hopping film festival, filmmakers can **cross paths with composers, musicians and lots of talent** for scoring their next movies. Bonus: Iowa filmmakers are eligible to receive a **15 percent discount on film submissions** now through Sept. 20 by using the code "produceiowa15." The deadline is soon, so submit now!



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Fundraiser for JDIFF

Sept. 23

Grab your clubs and channel your best Bill Murray or Rodney Dangerfield imitation for the "**Bushwood Classic**," a fun "**Caddyshack**"-themed fundraiser for the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival, which takes place each spring. The fundraising event will take place across the river at the **Lacoma Golf Course in East Dubuque**, Illinois. The 18-hole scramble features a **raffle, silent auction, grab-and-go lunch and cookout-style dinner**.



Not a golfer? No problem. Come for lunch or dinner and watch the golf trick-shot artist [Josh Kelley](#) do some fun shots and meet golfer-turned-Broadway-star [Chris Fuller](#), as well as actors [Brian Thomas Smith](#) and [Richard Pryor Jr.](#)

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For Veronica O'Hern, that's a wrap!

We offer our appreciation and a fond farewell to our colleague **Veronica O'Hern** of the **Iowa Arts Council**. She played a key role in helping us launch "**The Film Lounge**" television series and our successful **Greenlight Grant** program. We'll miss her but wish her well in her next endeavor with a national environmental advocacy organization. She plans to remain in the Des Moines area with her family.



Success Stories

If you have a success story, [share it](#) with us so we can help you celebrate. Here are two that recently came across our desk:

Congratulations to **Greenlight Grant recipient Scott Siepker** whose new film "**Kinnick: The Documentary**" is enjoying a theatrical run at [Fridley Theatres](#) across Iowa. Siepker, right, attended the world premiere at The Palms Waukee in August, before the feature film became the **No. 1 movie at the Palms** and had the highest screen average of

any movie in the Des Moines metro. The film is also available for streaming on [Vimeo](#).

Take a look at our special [MediaMaker video](#), which spotlights this Iowa filmmaker and his important Iowa story, including a first-person account that might have been lost forever if not for funding from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.



VIDEO: SEE HOW & WHY 'KINNICK' WAS MADE

Congratulations are also in order for **Amenda Tate**, who went to Italy last week to screen her dance film, "**Sapient_2.021**," at the **X World Short Film Festival in Rome**. She was a finalist in three award categories and took home the honor for Best Art/Conceptual/Experimental Mid-Short Film. Magnifico!

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Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Sept. 23: [JDIFF Bushwood Classic](#)

Sept. 30-Oct. 2: [Sioux City International Film Festival](#)

Oct. 6-9: [Refocus Film Festival](#)

Oct. 7-8: [Halloweenapalooza](#)

Oct. 7-9: [Filming for Des Moines 48 Hour Film Horror Project](#)

Oct. 14: [Premiere screenings for Des Moines 48 Hour Film Horror Project](#)

Oct. 22: [MediaMasters Part One: Story Development](#)

Oct. 23: [Music University presented by the Des Moines Music Coalition](#)

Nov. 3-5: [Muscatine Music & Film Independent Film Festival](#)

Nov. 12: [MediaMasters Part Two: Business Development](#)

Next Spring: [MediaMasters Part Three: Applying for a Greenlight Grant](#)

VISIT OUR CALENDAR

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