

# Synopses of Films at 2009 Wild Rose

## **And the World Goes Round** (short) (NJ) Marie-Juliette Steinsvold

A New York Fairy Tale...a whimsical quest to find mysterious silver coins in a city where magical things always happen.

## **A War for II** (short) (IA) Braden Boe

While battling in 1944 France, a U.S. soldier is left for dead. He awakens and captures a German soldier...but what happens when these two enemies are forced to save each other to save themselves?

## **Chance of a Lifetime** (short) (doc) (UK) Sandy Crichton

Wildlife photographer George Chance spent the 1970's following and studying the endangered New Zealand Falcon; now some thirty years later he is suffering from ill health and going blind. Filmmaker Sandy Crichton gets ever closer to a remarkable wild population of falcons as he attempts to realize George's dream by adding movement to his photographs.

## **Dark Heart** (short) (MI) Robert Joseph Butler

Inspired by Edgar Allen Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart", *Dark Heart* follows an isolated writer who struggles with his environment, writer's block, and the unbearable sound of a heart beat.

## **Death Ranch** (short) (CA) Aaron Naar, Seth Cuddeback

A dissolute older cowboy and his adolescent protégé go head-to-head in a mysterious western landscape, where nothing is as it seems.

## **Every Other Week** (short) (CA) Genevieve Mc Carty

A little girl whose parents are separated and fighting escapes to her imagination to bring back gifts that make a difference.

## **500 Buckets of Blood** (short) (IA) Jack Bequeaith

Housemates reluctantly agree to attend a party in the woods, but unfortunately the zombies get there first and plans suddenly change.

**Foxglove** (short) (CA) Kincaid Walker

A young wife struggles with her recent miscarriage and gets an unlikely revenge on her unfaithful husband.

**Ghost Player: Relive the Magic** (feature) (doc) (IA) Joe Scherrman

Baseball, tomfoolery and good old-fashioned family fun...this documentary chronicles the adventures of an unlikely team of middle-aged comic ambassadors of baseball who followed their dreams by performing and touring internationally for 18 years; bringing humor and comfort to their fans after the Hollywood movie, *Field of Dreams*, shot in Dyersville, Iowa.

**Good Night, Victor** (short) (TX) Andrew Grissom

What if childhood fears were more real than parents believed?

**Haunting Villisca** (feature) (IA) Kimberly Busbee, James Serpento

The Villisca Axe Murders of 1912- to this day the worst mass murder in Iowa history - remain unsolved. Now, nearly 100 years later in the infamous Villisca Axe Murder House where the crime took place, paranormal investigators are convinced that the victims' spirits desperately cry out for justice and the exposure of their killer - whose own spirit is said to be trapped in the small white house. Against this disturbing historical backdrop, we follow David Salt, a college professor with a guilty secret of his own who travels to Villisca to seek forgiveness. A mystery, a ghost story, and a tale of man's search for redemption and peace...

**Hitmom** (short) (IA) Joseph Clarke

An assassin turned housewife is forced to come out of retirement after an old client seeks revenge.

**Lilium** (short) (live/anim.) (French w/subtitles) (CA) Derek Page

Lilium is convinced by a dark creature to do harm to her family, but when the creature doesn't come through with his end of the bargain, the girl vows revenge and summons the power to be rid of the creature.

**My Dearest Love** (short) (CAN) Marc Wiskemann

Family... tradition... freedom... love. A bride ponders her future as she remembers her past.

**No Good Reason** (short) (doc) (MI) Michael Mierendorf

Musicians and singers who are or were homeless gather in Boston to record a song written by a 15-year homeless girl. Natalie Merchant has less than three days to arrange and record the song while working with artists who have never set foot in a recording studio. Despite challenges, the track winds up on a new CD featuring (among others) Bruce Springsteen, Jewel and Bonnie Raitt

**Putting Down Puffy** (short (CA) – Hugh Scott

A single, successful career woman, Janet is happily pregnant. When Janet's mother, Alice, calls to tell her that the family pet, Puffy, must be put down, Janet's world begins to unravel and she must reexamine her life.

**Sara's Portraits** (short) (IA) Jill Jones

A small girl's artistic eye captures real life through the lens of her new Christmas gift; a Polaroid camera.

**Sharing** (short) (IA) Nick Wilson

Friends. Teamwork. A briefcase full of money. Sharing.

**Slice of Pie** (short) (CA) Tim Reischauer

Gleaned from Rick Hall's collection of small town stories called "spellbinding" by the New York Times, this film follows an unlikely hero, Carter; a shy middle-aged divorcee from a Mid-West farm town who finds love with some 'bumps' along the way...but still remembers to always save room for a slice of pie.

**Son of the Sunshine** (feature) (CAN) Ryan Ward, Paul Fler

Immersed in the dingy world of low-income housing and diagnosed at age 11 with Tourette's Syndrome, Sonny Johnns cries out to a world that has left him by the wayside. With money saved from years of government disability, he undergoes an experimental surgery promising to rid him of his violent outbursts. But, as his symptoms fade, so does his strange ability to heal the sick and dying. A story about staying who we are in a world that would have us do anything but. (ages 17 and up)

**Shoot** (short) (IA) Lucas Baty

A fledgling hit man struggles to help the housemates pay the rent. A few phone calls later, the rent gets paid.

**Skylight** (short) (anim.) (CAN) David Baas

An animated mock documentary about the ecological plight of penguins in the Antarctic, possibly foretelling cataclysmic results for the rest of the world.

**That March** (short) (IA) Patrick Tape Fleming

A 25 year old contemplates the upper-limits of his own potential versus his Main Street Ames, Iowa location...a lyrical and imaginative glimpse into the head of a puppeteer whose strings are being pulled in diverse directions. Shot in documentary-style, with a poetry slam-like voiceover and an edgy original score by Iowa's indie-rock darlings, The Poison Control Center.

**The Beneficiary** (short) (CA) Theodore Melfi

Three lives are tragically altered when an ordinary event ignites a chain reaction of paranoia and murder.

**The Guy Chronicles** (short) (CA) Aaron Riggs, Ryan Kohler

Guy Aston has just moved back to his hometown in the Midwest after losing his wife and job in the big city. While searching for a new job, his old high-school friends catch wind of his homecoming, causing their different priorities to interfere with Guy's own.

**The Hands** (short) (CA) Charise Studesville

A daughter explores her relationship with her dying father and becomes fixated upon his hands as a representation of who he was as a man.

**The Line** (short) (CA) Richard Sabatte

Waiting isn't eternity, it just feels like it. The agony, the ecstasy, the waiting, the line. A musical set in an unusual location...

**The Lullabye** (short) (IA) Aly Merschman, Jessie Hixenbaugh

A friends' social gathering takes an unexpected turn when the stories at the campfire seem all too real.

**The Marina Experiment** (short) (doc) (NY) Marina Lutz

A shocking, one of a kind documentary about a father's voyeuristic obsession with his daughter. (ages 17 and up)

**The Nine Thirty** (short) (WI) Scott Thompson

The nine-thirty appointment at a psychiatric halfway house leaves us wondering who's more in need of help -- the patient or the doctor.

**The Things We Carry** (feature) (CA) Ian McCrudden, Athena Lobit

When her drug addict mother dies, Emmie returns home, traveling through the underbelly of suburbia, looking for a package her mother has left behind and reconnecting with her estranged sister, Eve, along the way.

**The Magic Rabbit** (short) (Japan) Tatsuhiro Kimijima

A blind girl faces many difficulties in her daily life with her only friend being an imaginary white rabbit. One day, she finds she can see things clearly. The rabbit doll is gazing at her on the street.

**Throwing Plates: A Portrait of a Woman Ceramicist** (short) (doc) (IL) Deirdre Lee

The journey of a woman becoming an artist, making choices and finding her passion in the medium of ceramics.

**20 Mississippi** (short) (NY) Michael Brettler

Years after her brother goes missing in action, a young woman continuously recreates how she thinks he may have died in order to find out what really happened to him, but instead, finds out something about herself.

**We Are All Here** (short) (anim.) (NJ) Yonghwa Choi

This is a story about Global Warming and the fragile earth on which we live.

**Willful Entrapment** (short) (CAN) Francois Driessen

When is a pastime a psychotic addiction and when is it innocent fun? Alan Gerd has a brush with online pornography, and soon finds himself progressively haunted by an invisible force that seeks to destroy him and those he cares about.

**Vamoose** (feature) (IA/TX) Jose and Francisco Rodriguez

Sex for Hire. Betrayal. Murder. All for the Harvest...  
Some people will do anything for a heart. (ages 17 and up)