

# WYO Film Festival

## Screening Schedule & Film Info

### Thursday, September 28

- 7:00pm – Thursday Night Feature
  - “The Big Lebowski” (*Channel your inner “Dude” and don your best robe or bowling shirt. Don’t forget to grab a Tito’s Handmade Vodka White Russian before taking your seat!*)

### Friday, September 29

- 7:00pm – Friday Night Feature
  - “Wading for Change” (Documentary Short Film)
  - “Storm Lake” (Feature Documentary) \*

### Saturday, September 30

- 10:30am – Short Film Program: Block #1
  - “A Place of Peace: A Century at the Ranch” (Doc)
  - “Will and Tess” (Narrative)
  - “Heartbreak Country” (Doc)
  - “Leaving Yellowstone” (Narrative)
  - “Chicken Stories” (Doc)
  - The Cowboy Pecan Pie (Narrative)
- 2:30pm – Documentary Feature
  - “Bad Blood” (Future Filmmakers Short Film)
  - “Gotcha” (Future Filmmakers Short Film)
  - “Jesszilla” (Feature Documentary)
- 6:30pm – Saturday Night Feature
  - “Slippers” (Short Film)
  - “Sam Now” (Feature Documentary)
- 9:30pm – Midnight Madness
  - “RINGWORMS” (Short Horror)
  - “Talk to Me” (Feature Horror)

## Sunday, October 1

- 1:00pm – Short Film Program: Block #2
  - My Wild Land: Bischoff Ranch (Doc)
  - SUCK HARD (Narrative)
  - School of Fish (Doc)
  - MONSTR (Animation)
  - Pronghorn Persistence (Doc)
  - The Bad, Bad, Bad Frankie Smalls (Narrative)
- 3:00pm – Closing Feature
  - “One for All” (Short Film)
  - “RETURN” (Feature Documentary)

## Film Synopsis and Image Links

### The Big Lebowski

*Feature Film*

*Directed By: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen*

*1 hour, 57 minutes*

The hilariously twisted comedy-thriller stars Jeff Bridges, John Goodman, Steve Buscemi and Julianne Moore. Join the "Dude" and his bowling buddies on their journey that blends unforgettable characters, kidnapping, a case of mistaken identity and White Russians. Enter the visually unique and entertaining world from the creative minds of the Coen brothers and remember: the Dude abides.

- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

### Wading For Change

*Short Film/Documentary*

*Directed By: Sofia Jaramillo*

*12 minutes, 27 seconds*

For Latino conservationist and angler Jr Rodriguez to become “like the pictures he saw in magazines,” he had to leave behind what he loved the most. This is his story of pursuing his dream to become a fly fisherman and his efforts to make the sport more inclusive. By juxtaposing Jr’s origins in Houston, Texas, and his current home in the world-renowned fly

fishing hub of Jackson Hole, we share his perspective of what it is like to participate in outdoor sports in Western mountain towns as a person of color.

- [Image Link](#)

## **Storm Lake**

*Feature Documentary*

*Directed By: Jerry Risius, Beth Levison*

*1 hour, 25 minutes*

Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Art Cullen and his family fight to unite and inform their rural lowan town through their biweekly newspaper, The Storm Lake Times—come hell or pandemic.

- [Watch Trailer](#)
- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **JessZilla**

*Feature Documentary*

*Directed By: Emily Sheskin*

*1 hour, 30 minutes*

Jesselyn “JessZilla” Silva is a 3x national boxing champion with her sights set on being the best in the sport. Her father, Pedro, navigates what it means to support his daughter’s dreams in an extremely dangerous sport. As Jesselyn is on the cusp of making the Olympic team, an unthinkable diagnosis redefines what it means to fight.

JessZilla is a coming-of-age story about what it means to be a champion.

- [Watch Trailer](#)
- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **The Bad, Bad, Bad Frankie Smalls**

*Short Film*

*Directed By: Joshua M Thomas*

*16 minutes, 57 seconds*

Are bad men born or made?

The baddest man on earth gets even badder when he meets up with the sheriff who killed his boyhood best friend.

- [Image Link](#)

- [Poster](#)

## **Sam Now**

*Feature Documentary*

*Directed By: Reed Harkness*

*1 hour, 26 minutes*

What do two film-obsessed brothers do to solve a family mystery? Using every video format imaginable, they make a movie as they travel thousands of miles looking for their missing mom. Stitching together 25 years of home videos and filling the gaps in the archive with play, SAM NOW is a mosaic of love, longing and loss, as well as an attempt to overcome intergenerational trauma.

- [Watch Trailer](#)
- [Image Link](#) (Credit photo to: Craig Strong)
- [Poster](#)

## **RINGWORMS**

*Short Film*

*Directed By: Will Lee*

*13 minutes, 45 seconds*

After discovering her boyfriend's plan to propose on their weekend vacation, a young girl undergoes a crisis of commitment which attracts the attention of a sinister local cult.

- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **Talk to Me**

*Horror/Thriller Feature Film*

*Directed By: Danny Philippou, Michael Philippou*

*1 hour, 35 minutes*

When a group of friends discover how to conjure spirits using an embalmed hand, they become hooked on the new thrill, until one of them goes too far and unleashes terrifying supernatural forces.

- [Watch Trailer](#)
- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **One for All**

### *Short Film*

*Directed By: Michael Stevens, Spencer Miller*

*19 minutes, 5 seconds*

Tony Drees actually considers himself to have “good fortune,” despite being born into an abusive household, surviving the deadliest bombing of the Gulf War, beating cancer, and having his leg amputated up to his hip. After it all, and through his newly found passion for skiing, Tony sets an ambitious goal for this season.

- [Watch Trailer](#)
- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **RETURN**

*Documentary Feature*

*Directed By: Pete Tolton*

*1 hour, 30 minutes*

RETURN is the story of adventure, struggle and healing that follows Jim Markel Sr., a retired Green Beret, as he voyages from Montana to Vietnam for the first time since the war. In retracing his steps with his adult son, he reflects on his past actions as both soldier and parent. Together, father and son embark on a deep search: for long-overdue family healing, for the roots of PTSD, and for the mountain tribes Markel once lived with, fought alongside, and was eventually forced to abandon 45 years ago.

RETURN is an immersive, intimate, and uplifting exploration into family relationships and intergenerational healing, a reckoning with a troubled past, and a pursuit for long-lost comrades in a foreign land.

- [Watch Trailer](#)
- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **Heartbreak Country**

*Short Film*

*Directed By: Edward Tyndall*

*25 minutes, 30 seconds*

The remains of thousands of undocumented immigrants lie undiscovered in the remote and inhospitable landscape of Brooks County, TX. The bodies that have been found were often buried in poorly marked graves, many interred in trash bags and other makeshift containers, a consequence of one of the poorest counties in the United States being overwhelmed by a migrant death crisis that has been unfolding for decades. Heartbreak Country explores attempts by the non-profit organization Operation Identification and the South Texas Human Rights Center to locate, exhume, and identify the dead from this

heartbreaking humanitarian crises. The film also explores the search and recovery efforts of the Texas State Guard and the apprehension efforts of the Border Patrol Tactical Unit. Through interviews and observational footage, the film adds another important facet to the ongoing discussion about migrant issues and immigration reform in the United States.

- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **My Wild Land: Bischoff Ranch**

*Short Film*

*Directed By: Emily Reed, Patrick Rodgers*

*10 minutes, 1 second*

Keeping a ranch afloat in a volatile market is a story that hits too close to home for Tyrell Bischoff. After a number of rough winters, and low cattle prices, Tyrell's family faced a formidable reality: sell the ranch and lose their way of life forever or find alternate funding to keep the ranch alive. Bischoff Ranch is one young man's story of dealing with his father's death, working with managers to restore sheep populations, and keeping the love of ranching going.

- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **Will & Tess**

*Short Film*

*Directed By: Ray Nomoto Robison*

*14 minutes, 50 seconds*

At 90 years of age, Tess must accept that it is time for roles to reverse. For decades she and her husband Will have been supportive and caring parents and now they need to allow their children to care for them.

Will & Tess stars Marlyn Mason (Elvis Presley's leading lady in *The Trouble with Girls*) and Mark Schneider (*Babylon 5*, *Son of the Pink Panther*).

- [Watch Trailer](#)
- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **Chicken Stories**

*Short Film*

*Directed By: Jonathan Pickett*

*17 minutes*

On a start-up farm outside Oakland, various chicken flocks surmount daily obstacles while the newbie farmers attempt to Google their way to help.

- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **The Cowboy Pecan Pie**

*Short Film*

*Directed By: Paul Cadenhead*

*28 minutes 58 seconds*

When a seven-year-old boy is sexually abused by his neighbor, he transcends reality into the mystic Wild West where he meets a larger-than-life cowboy who teaches him the art of self-reliance.

- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **School of Fish**

*Short Film*

*Directed By: Colin Arisman, Oliver Sutro*

*19 minutes, 3 seconds*

Indigenous people and salmon have been intertwined for thousands of years in Bristol Bay, Alaska. The knowledge of harvesting, preserving and sharing fish is as important here as any lesson in a book. Today, kids must not only learn from their elders how to fish, but also how to fight. For the last century, corporations have sought to extract the wealth of this rich region. Now Pebble Mine threatens to pollute the pristine headwaters of Bristol Bay.

“School of Fish” offers an intimate portrait inside one family's seasonal salmon rituals and their connection to the Bristol Bay Guide Academy, where local youth are empowered through flyfishing to serve as guides and conservationists. Can the next generation step up to defend the most prolific salmon run left on earth?

Visit [WildConfluence.com/School-of-Fish](http://WildConfluence.com/School-of-Fish) and [www.SaveBristolBay.com](http://www.SaveBristolBay.com) to learn more about Bristol Bay watershed conservation.

- [Image Link \(Photo Credit: Colin Arisman\)](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **MONSTR**

*Short Film/Animation*

*Directed By: Tank Standing Buffalo*

*6 minutes, 9 seconds*

How do you go on living when everything is taken from you in the blink of an eye? A young artist confronts his inner demons while apprenticing with a northwest totem carver after the death of his beloved.

- [Watch Trailer](#)
- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **SUCK HARD**

*Short Film*

*Directed By: Eva Neuwirth*

*11 minutes, 36 seconds*

Reeling from an earth-shattering break up, seventeen year old Zoe must confront all that is left of her first love - a cardboard box of stuff. As Zoe prepares to meet up with her ex one last time to return his things, Zoe enlists her three best friends to help her execute a questionable plan.

- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **Pronghorn Persistence**

*Short Film*

*Directed By: Benjamin Kraushaar*

*10 minutes*

A wildlife biologist in Laramie, Wyoming investigates the challenges pronghorn antelope experience on the unforgiving landscape as they embark on their annual migrations.

- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

## **Leaving Yellowstone**

*Short Film*

*Directed By: Kayla Arend*

*22 minutes, 51 seconds*

What starts as a romantic trip in the wilderness, turns ugly as Tessa fights for her life in the winter of Yellowstone National Park.

Tessa is excited to visit Yellowstone National Park with her new boyfriend, Mark. However, when they arrive, Mark changes, aggression and cruelty building as Tessa starts finding disturbing artifacts around his cabin. What begins as an idyllic winter weekend slowly



becomes a nightmare as Tessa realizes she's alone in the woods with a man she really doesn't know at all.

- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

### **A Place of Peace: A Century at the Ranch**

*Short Film*

*Directed By: Jennifer Moore*

*5 minutes, 30 seconds*

In the quiet hills of Montana lies the West Butte Ranch, a place with a deep and meaningful 100-year legacy. This land has been the home of a beloved family for generations. Everyone here finds a sense of peace and belonging, surrounded by nature and each other. Despite financial woes and an ever-changing landscape, the family manages to persevere and protect their legacy. Join the Clark family in a journey through their peaceful haven as they pass the ranch down to the next generation.

- [Image Link](#)
- [Poster](#)

### **Bad Blood (Future Filmmakers Program)**

*Short Film/Student Film*

*Students: JonHenry Justice, Tori Pearce, Aaron Bujans*

*3 minutes, 57 seconds*

Two old friends agree to meet up to make up for lost time, but it turns out that one of them has an unexpected proposal.

- [Image Link](#)

### **Gotcha (Future Filmmakers Program)**

*Short Film/Student Film*

*Students: Victoria Smith, Gabriella Wright, Anastacia Graves*

*4 minutes, 15 seconds*

A young woman receives a mysterious invitation to an old theater, where she discovers the past isn't the only thing that can come back to haunt her.

- [Image Link](#)