Maine Film Office News/PR – July 2024

**2024 Maine International Film Festival Features Over 100 Films**

More than 100 films were screened at the [Maine International Film Festival](https://miff.org/) in Waterville during the 10-day festival in July. Full-length features, long-form and short-form documentaries and shorts were all curated to provide a selection of drama, comedy and entertaining options for all audiences.

Several feature films shot extensively in Maine included: ***Lost on a Mountain in Maine***, ***The Ghost Trap*** and ***The Ruse***, while a number of new and repeat filmmakers from Maine and around the globe premiered short films.

***Lost on a Mountain in Maine,*** written by Luke Paradise and directed by Andrew Boodhoo Kightlinger, played to a sold-out audience at the Waterville Opera House. The film is based on the beloved book of the same name that is part of the reading curriculum for most fourth graders in the state. Many teachers were present to see the pages of the book brought to life on the big screen.

The lobstering industry in Maine is worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually and employs more than 5,600 lobstermen, so a feature film focusing on the industry was seemingly inevitable. ***The Ghost Trap*** follows a family’s personal struggles resulting from an accident that caused a traumatic head injury to a young lobsterman’s girlfriend. The film was directed by James Khanlarian, who cowrote it with K. Stephens, based on the novel she wrote in 2009.

***The Ruse***, written and directed by Stevan Mena, was a film that kept you guessing as an in-home caregiver cared for an elderly widow in her seaside home amongst some strange happenings. ***The Ruse*** received the Maine Film Office-sponsored Tourmaline Award for best Maine-made feature length film.

The Tourmaline Award for best Maine-made short film went to Tom Bell for his documentary about independent radio station, WMPG in Portland. ***An Extraordinary Place*** included a series of interviews with the unique personalities who host radio shows on the station. This was just one of many short Maine films in different genres including documentaries, music shorts and narrative shorts.

The Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) was founded in 1998 as a project of the Maine Film Center. The festival represents the best of American independent and international cinema, and spotlights some of Maine and New England’s most exciting and innovative filmmakers. It provides a welcome respite for moviegoers seeking alternatives to the usual collection of nationally released films.

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