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3rd Annual Bridge Student Film Festival Returns December 2 with Free Student Screenings, Visiting Filmmakers, Panels, and Awards at Bridgewater State University

Contact:

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Bridgewater, MA — The 3rd Bridge Student Film Festival will take place Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at Moakley Auditorium at Bridgewater State University, featuring free, public screenings of New England student films, a student filmmaker Q&A, an industry filmmakers panel, networking with refreshments, and an awards presentation.

Founded as a festival for students, by students, The Bridge Student Film Festival is organized and produced by undergraduates in the Film Festival Production course in the Department of Communication at BSU. Students curate the program, manage logistics, design promotional materials, run social media, and execute show operations under the guidance of Festival Director and Associate Professor Dr. Michele Meek.

“Being able to work on the video team for The Bridge Student Film Festival has given me the opportunity to branch out of my comfort zone and work on projects I never thought I’d be able to,” says BSU student and Video Team member Maxwell Grant.

Alison Hupper, BSU student and member of the Graphic Design & Social Media Team describes how the festival is a “unique and wonderful experience” that fosters building professional skills, adding, “The behind-the-scenes of a film fest are rarely talked about and it takes a lot of hard work and creativity to pull one off.” And as Scott Aubin, BSU Student and member of the Video Production Team puts it, “It’s great working with fellow students as passionate about making and showcasing films as I am, it forms a real sense of community.”

This year’s festival will welcome two visiting documentary filmmakers: Lisa Olivieri, whose award-winning films include *Blindsided* and *Recovery City*, and Tim O’Donnell, an Emmy-nominated director whose work has appeared on ESPN, NBC, PBS, CNN Films, and at Sundance. Both guests will engage with attendees during the morning intro session for BSU and visiting high school students as well as the professional filmmaker panel.

Event Schedule — Tuesday, December 2, 2025 (Moakley Auditorium, BSU)

9:30 am High school students arrival & greeted by faculty & students

9:30-10:45 am BSU and high school students will have the chance to attend a workshop with our two visiting filmmakers in Moakley Auditorium. Light snacks will be available.

11:00 am – Screening & Student Filmmaker Q&A with remarks by Dean Brian Payne
Gather in Moakley Auditorium to watch submitted films and hear a student filmmaker Q&A afterwards.

1:00 pm – Food Break + Tours + Photo Ops. (Downtime)
Hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and lunch food will be served for attendees, event workers, and invited filmmakers. Visitors can take selfies at our photo station and take tours of The Moakley Production Hub.

1:30 pm – Professional Filmmaker Panel
An industry panel discussion featuring professional local filmmakers.

2:30 pm – Award Ceremony & Closing with remarks by Provost Arnaa Alcon
Awards like Best in Show and Best Online Film will be presented.

3:00 pm – Festival Wraps!

Supporters and Sponsors

The Bridge Student Film Festival is made possible by the BSU Film Studies Program, Department of Communication, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Bridgewater State University. In addition, the 2025 festival has been partially funded by a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant.

About the Bridge Student Film Festival

The Bridge Student Film Festival is an annual, student-run celebration of short fiction and documentary films made by students at public high schools and colleges/universities across New England. The festival is produced by BSU students enrolled in the Film Festival Production course in the Department of Communication and is overseen by Festival Director Dr. Michele Meek.