



EXPANDED 815HORTS SHORT FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS THIS WEEKEND

Five Featured Guests, 25 Short Films and Global Brand Integrations Highlight Year Three

ROCKFORD, Ill., December 12, 2024: A production of Plus Seven Company, the third annual **815HORTS: A SHORT Film Festival** returns this Friday-Saturday, December 13-14, 2024, with an expanded line-up highlighted by: four film screening blocks (totaling 25 acclaimed short films), five featured guests, two global film brand integrations, and a venue in City Stage Studios that embodies and amplifies the film industry. Here are some **815HORTS Quick Facts** to help guests prepare for this weekend's festivities:

- **New Venue and Experience:** As one of Rockford's most unique event spaces, **City Stage Studios** is one of the Midwest's best sound stages servicing the film industry. From aspiring filmmaker workshops, to corporate brand marketing video shoots, to television commercials for global brands, City Stage is a home for film – and it will also provide a **best-in-class cinematic backdrop for the third annual 815HORTS**.
- **Global Film Brand Integrations:** For the third-straight year, 815HORTS will screen the **Sundance Film Festival Short Film Tour** at 5 p.m. Saturday. In addition to the Sundance Shorts Tour's return to the line-up, we're excited to welcome the world-renowned **Tribeca Festival** brand to the weekend platform through the expertise of **Madison Egan**, Tribeca's shorts programmer. Egan will headline the 5HORT Panel 2 at 1 p.m. Saturday, when she will be joined by 815HORTS emcee and moderator **Peter Hawley**, director of the Illinois Film Office.
- **Panels, Talks and Audience Engagement:** A strong line-up of guest speakers are helping build out wide-ranging interactive content, including: the **5SHORT Talk 1** (approximately 8:30 p.m. Friday) interview with Academy Award nominee **Edgar Barens**; **5SHORT Panel 1** (11 a.m. Saturday) with Barens and award-winning indie filmmaker **Colleen Griffen** in a discussion centered on indie film fundraising and budget-friendly filmmaking; **5SHORT Panel 2** (1 p.m. Saturday) with Tribeca Festival shorts programmer **Madison Egan** in a live Zoom discussion centered on being seen and screened by festival brands like Tribeca; and **5SHORT Talk 2** (approximately 8:30 p.m. Saturday) interview with local filmmaker and creative entrepreneur **Davarion Jarvelle** in a discussion centered on juxtaposing short filmmaking with becoming a viral social influencer. All sessions will be moderated by **Peter Hawley**, director of the Illinois Film Office, who will also engage with the audience for questions.
- **Onsite Food and Drinks:** Light food (walking tacos, fruit, candy and snacks by Jaliscoast Rayo) will be available for sale. In addition, there will be adult beverages (beer, wine, seltzers, pop/soda) available for purchase from 6-10 p.m. each night. A complimentary light lunch (pizzas and salad; first come, first served) will be available at 12 p.m. Saturday only (festival passes required). Special thanks to **District Bar & Grill!**
- **Parking:** This year's festival address is [City Stage Studios, 821 1stAve., Rockford, IL 61104](#). Street parking is available around the venue, while lot parking is available in the Trinity Church lot directly across 1st Ave. to the north. And parking is free!
- **And the Winner Is...:** The **5SHORT Awards** will close the festival Saturday night by recognizing 2024 winners for **Best 5SHORT (Best in Show)** and **Best Animated Short!**
- **5SHORT After-Party:** Guests are encouraged to stay at City Stage Studios on Friday and Saturday after each night's 5SHORT Talk interview for a 5SHORT After-Party networking hour. Mingle with industry colleagues, enjoy music curated by DJ Vic Monsta, and purchase beverages from District Bar & Grill onsite until 10 p.m.

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- **Get Your Tickets!:** Online ticket sales close at 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 12. After then, tickets (Friday, Saturday or weekend passes) will be available for purchase at the door. Cash or Square will be accepted at the main entrance (at the north side City Stage front door along 1st Ave.).

For more information, visit www.815HORTS.com, and follow Plus Seven Company on social.

815HORTS PARTNERS

Plus Seven Company would like to thank the following entities and individuals for supporting 815HORTS:

- **Champion Partner:** City of Rockford
- **Premier Partner:** Illinois Film Office
- **Supporting Partner:** Ron Clewer
- **In-Kind Partners:** District Bar & Grill, Independent Film Alliance Chicago, Luxe Productions, Rockford Film Office
- **Venue Partner:** City Stage Studios
- **Special Thanks:** Edgar Barends, Madison Egan, Colleen Griffen, Don Hatton, Peter Hawley, Davarion Jarvelle, Jerry LaBuy, Susan Moran, Josiah Sjöström

ABOUT PLUS SEVEN COMPANY

Plus Seven Company (P7c) delivers winning sports and entertainment. Through its properties and services divisions, P7c's expertise covers events, branding, partnerships, public relations and tourism advisory. For more information, visit www.PlusSevenCompany.com.

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