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Sixth Annual PBS Online Film Festival Features Two Independent

Films from Vermont PBS

The Festival Returns to PBS and Its Digital Platforms July 17-28



Colchester, Vt. – July 11, 2017 – Vermont PBS announced today that two of the 25 films featured in the [PBS Online Film Festival](#) were submitted by the station. The sixth annual, Webby Award-nominated film festival takes place on July 17-28. *The Collinwood Fire* by Middlebury filmmaker Daniel Houghton and *State Trooper* by South Burlington filmmaker Michael Fisher are among those featured in this year’s Festival.

Beginning July 17, the festival will be available via PBS and station digital platforms, including PBS.org, YouTube and PBS social media channels. The films will also be available via the PBS app on iOS, Android, Apple TV, Roku and FireTV devices.

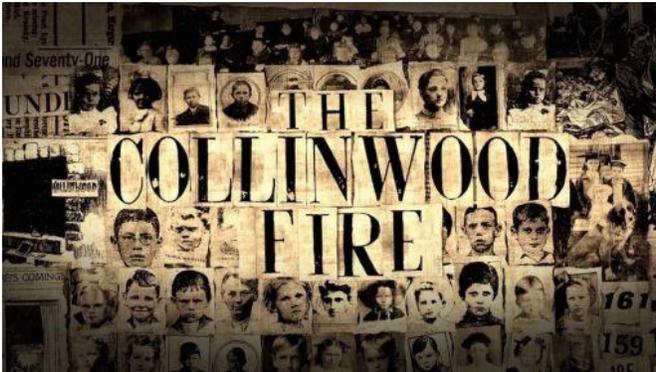
Viewers are encouraged to watch, vote and share their favorite film by going to pbs.org/filmfestival. The film with most votes will receive the “Most Popular” award. Additionally, for the first time ever, a distinguished panel of eight jury members will select their favorite film of the festival for the “Juried Prize”. For updates on the festival, follow #PBSFilmFest on Twitter.

“We’re thrilled to work with talented Vermont filmmakers to help bring their creations to a national audience through the PBS Online Film Festival,” said Eric Ford, Senior Manager of Local Content at Vermont PBS. “Vermont PBS’ [Made Here](#) series is all about showcasing films like *The Collinwood Fire* and *State Trooper* that give viewers a window on the world, but with a unique, local point of view.”

“PBS and its member stations are thrilled to kick off another year of excellent independent films,” added Ira Rubenstein, Chief Digital and Marketing Officer, PBS. “The PBS Online Film Festival provides PBS and its member stations the opportunity to provide a diverse group of independent filmmakers a chance to share their stories with a highly engaged audience. This year brings another impressive lineup of powerful and moving films that will transform perspectives and encourage important conversations.”

The two films from Vermont PBS are:

The Collinwood Fire



On March 4, 1908, the Collinwood Elementary School in Ohio burned to the ground, trapping and killing 172 school children, two teachers and one rescuer. The Collinwood Fire reanimates the inferno through the sensationalist newspaper headlines of the day and the silent moving picture images of an aspiring young filmmaker cranking his camera at the blaze.

Another film by Daniel Houghton, [11 Paper Place](#), was the Most Viewed film of the 2015 PBS Online Film Festival.

State Trooper



Evocative music/dance video starring dancer E-Knock. Track: Bruce Springsteen "State Trooper", Trentemoller Remix.

The PBS Online Film Festival showcases powerful and engaging stories from filmmakers across the country. The festival has become a popular annual online event, attracting more than 4.5 million views since the first festival in 2012.

This year's lineup features films from the [Center for Asian American Media \(CAAM\)](#), [Latino Public Broadcasting \(LPB\)](#), [National Black Programming Consortium](#), [Pacific Islanders in Communications \(PIC\)](#), [POV](#), and [Vision Maker Media](#), as well as PBS local member stations Vermont PBS and [Alaska Public Media](#), [South Dakota Public Broadcasting](#), [South Florida PBS](#), [WHRO](#), [ITVS](#), [Detroit Public TV WTVS](#), [KTTZ Texas PBS](#), [WPT Wisconsin](#), [KLRU-TV Austin PBS](#), [KQED \(San Francisco\)](#), [Louisiana Public Broadcasting](#), [Twin Cities Public Television](#). Promotional partners for the PBS Online Film Festival include [Independent Lens](#) and [World Channel](#).

Vermont PBS is Vermont's statewide public media provider and visual storyteller, with a commitment to cultural enrichment and civic engagement. More information is available at vermontpbs.org.