

# Film Happenings



## Contact! They're Here! Aliens Have Arrived on Earth!

The 4th Annual Moab SYFY Festival is back for another year. The 2024 Festival is sponsored by the City of Moab and the Moab Sun Times. Nora Shepard and Richard Codd have presented the event each year since they founded it in 2019.

The theme of this year's festival imagines our contact with aliens from outer space. What would happen if some type of spaceship (flying saucer?) landed in Washington or Beijing? Would they be welcomed or destroyed? SYFY writers and filmmakers have thought about this for over 100 years. Destruction or Utopia? What do they bring? Can they be trusted?

The festival, which will be held at the Moab Arts Center (MARC), features three films that examine this subject.

- February 2:** It Came from Outer Space (1953)
- February 9:** The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951)
- February 16:** Arrival (2016)

Each film delves into the human instincts of fear and survival. Do the aliens want to help us? Maybe, eat us? We are taught from an early age to be wary of the unknown. Don't trust strangers. Who or what would be stranger than an alien from a distant part of our galaxy?

Join us at the SYFY Festival as we see how we might treat our "guests."

**Time: 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:30)**

**Place: Moab Arts Center (111 E, 100 North, Moab)**

All films are free! Free popcorn and door prizes! Costumes are encouraged!

## Three Year Soil: A Community Farmstead Documentary About an Organic Farm Growing a Community in Western Colorado

By Sharon Sullivan

When Brian Adams and Dawn Trujillo began farming a plot of land just west of Palisade, Colorado, they didn't realize they'd also be growing a community. However, that's what happened after they moved to an old farmhouse a few years ago on a piece of land they call Green Junction Farmstead.

A 25-minute independent docufilm screening of *Three Year Soil: A Community Farmstead* will take place in Grand Junction, Friday, February 16 at the Grand Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 536 Ouray Ave. The film screening is at 5:30 p.m., followed by a question and answer session with Adams and Trujillo. The film shows footage of the farm against a backdrop of the Book Cliff Mountains.

The film is the third in a series cohosted by the Unitarian church and the Grand Valley-based Junktown Cinema Club, a cinema-based arts organization dedicated to "shed light to topics of humanitarianism, social justice and climate."

Filmmaker Ian Thomas began working with Trujillo and Adams in the spring of 2021, when the couple were embarking on their third season of farming that particular piece of land. In November 2021, *Three Year Soil* screened at the Paonia Film Festival – "a fantastic film festival that highlights a lot of western Colorado issues," Thomas said.

Filmgoers will get to meet Brian and Dawn, learn their history and what they've learned about sustainable agriculture, said Thomas. The documentary also includes commentary from community members who volunteer, or

purchase farm shares from their Green Junction Farmstead Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

This is Thomas's first film. Having done some freelance film work, he said he'd been thinking about doing a documentary but didn't have the right subject until he met Trujillo and Adams.

"Brian and Dawn are the best, most kind people in the whole world," Thomas said.

The film emphasizes the importance of amending the soil—hence its title, and the hard work involved in growing food in a sustainable manner. Adams and Trujillo have adopted the no-till method of farming and do not use any pesticides, herbicides or synthetic fertilizers. They enrich their land by adding compost from plant material and goat manure from their property.

Suggested donation to attend the film screening is \$10, although people

may donate any amount, said organizer Maya Kraushaar. Proceeds go toward keeping the series going, she said. In January, the group screened the film *Docked*, about immigrant shepherders who are abused by their employers. Money raised from the screening was slated for western Colorado's Hispanic Affairs Project, and to the shepherders themselves, said Kraushaar.

For more information about Green Junction Farmstead, or to watch the film online, visit: [www.gjfarmstead.com](http://www.gjfarmstead.com)



# 2024 Moab Events

- February 2, 9, 16 ..... SciFi Fest
- February 24.....Moab's Red Hot Ultra
- March 1 ..... Moab Art Walk
- March 2-3.. Quilting in the Red Rocks
- March 8-10... Moab Run the Rocks
- March 9-12... Moab Skinny Tire Festival
- March 16 .....Canyonlands Half Marathon and 5 Mile Run
- March 21-22 ..... Banff Mtn Film Festival
- March 23..... Behind the Rocks Ultra
- March 23-31....Easter Jeep Safari
- March 28-29.....Jeep Safari Expo
- April 6..... Running Up For Air (RUFA)
- April 6-8 ... Moab Rocks (mountain bike race)
- April 13 ..... Fallen Peace Officer Trail Ride
- April 18-20 .. Green River Dirt Bike Rally
- April 20 ..... Amasa Trail Race (dist running)
- April 17-21..Cruise Moab (Toyota 4x4 event)
- April 26-28 .Moab Rotary Car Show & Rod Run
- April 27..... Thelma & Louise (running long dist)

- May 3 ..... Moab Art Walk
- May 4-5..... Gran Fondo Moab (road cycling) & Gravel Moab Weekend
- May 9-12.... Raptors on the Rocks (4x4 offroad)
- May 25-26....Moab Arts Festival
- May 25/26. .... Barrels 4 Bucks
- Jun /Jul/Aug.... Moab Free Concert Series
- June 1..John Wayne Grit Series (running event)
- June 7..... Arts & Ag Market
- June 7- 9 ...Canyonlands PRCA Rodeo
- June 7-8 .... Kokopelli Relay (road cycling)
- June 15-16 .....The Crystal Festival - Rock, Gem & Mineral Show
- June 16-22....Desert Rats Kokopelli 150
- June 20-22... Moab REDROCK Roundup
- June 22 ..... Bears Ears Ultra (Monticello)
- July 4.....Independence Day Celebration
- July 4-6..... Grand County Fair
- July 5 ..... Arts & Ag Market
- July 24....Pioneer Day Celebration

- August 2 ... Moab Art Walk
- Aug 24-25 Ute 100
- Aug 27-Sept 14 . Moab Music Festival
- Aug 31-Sept 12 . RR4W Labor Day Campout
- Sept 6 ..... Arts & Ag Market
- Sept 20-21....Green River Melon Days
- Sept 21/22 ...Barrels 4 Bucks
- Sept 21-22....Moab Century Tour (road bicycle)
- Sept 27/28....Red Rock Arts Festival
- October 4 .....Arts & Ag Market
- October 4-6....Outerbike (Mountain Bike Expo)
- Oct 5....Arches Marathon & Half, 15k & 50k
- October 11-16 ... Moab 240 Endurance Run
- October 18-20..Moab Celtic Festival Scots on the Rocks
- October 19-20 ....Red Canyon Powwow
- October 24-26...Jeep Jamboree
- October 25-26 .. Softball Tournament
- Oct 26....Canyonlands Ultra (long dist running)

- October 26/27...Barrels 4 Bucks
- Oct 26-Nov 1 ...Moab Folk Camp
- October 27 ....Day of the Dead Celebration
- October 31.....Trunk or Treat
- November 1 ..... Moab Art Walk
- November 1-3 .... Moab Folk Festival
- November 2-3.... Moab Trail Marathon, Half Marathon, 5K & Kids K
- Nov 9 .....Fluffernutter Ultimate Frisbee
- Nov 16.....Dead Horse Ultra (long dist running)
- November 23.....Turkey Trot
- Nov 28...WabiSabi Community Thanksgiving
- December 6. .... Holiday Tree Lighting
- December 6-7 .... Holiday Craft Fair
- December 7. .... Electric Light Parade
- December 7.....Moab Locals 10K