

Film Happenings

Moab SYFY Returns for a 5th Year! The Aliens Are Back!

The 2025 Moab SYFY Film Festival has returned for its 5th year! This year's films include two classic SYFY films from the 1950's and 60's and a thrilling film from 2013 about the search for life on other heavenly bodies.

This year's films are: **The Day of the Triffids (1963)**, **When Worlds Collide (1951)**, and **Europa Report (2013)**.

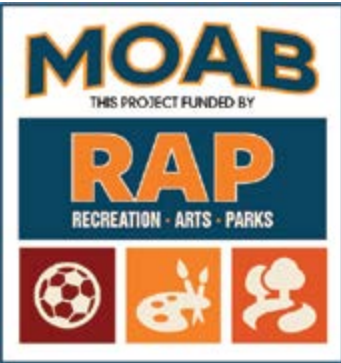
The films were selected by Festival Promoters, Nora Shepard and Richard Codd. Shepard and Codd have organized the festival since its inception in 2019.

The festival, which is funded by the **City of Moab's RAP Tax Program** and co-sponsored by the **Moab Sun News**, will take place at the Moab Arts Center on three consecutive Friday evenings in February 2025. The schedule for the films is as follows:

February 7 **The Day of the Triffids**
February 14 **When Worlds Collide**
February 21 **Europa Report**

The films will begin at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM. All the films are free to attend! Popcorn and door prizes are also given away at each film. Costumes are encouraged. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. Get creative!

This year's films feature two films from the heydays of science fiction.



The **Day of the Triffids** was released in 1963. It was produced by George Pitcher and Philip Yordan and directed by Steve Sekely. The film, which is partially based on the novel by John Wyndham, deals with a meteor shower that blinds most of the people in the world. The meteors release plant spores that grow into man-eating killers and begin taking over the world. The movie's stars, Howard Keel and Nicole Maurey, figure out a way to eliminate the Triffids and help save civilization.

When Worlds Collide was produced by George Pal. Released in 1951, the film is about the discovery of two wandering bodies headed for Earth by a South African astronomer. He tries to convince the United Nations that the Earth is doomed. One planet will collide with Earth while the other planet will enter into orbit near Earth. How will humans survive? Who gets chosen to migrate to the new world? Will the rocket escape Earth before it is too late? When Worlds Collide will answer those questions.

The third film at the festival is **Europa Report**. The 2013 film was directed by Sebastian Cordero and written by Philip Gelatt. The

movie is presented as a found footage film. It details the story of a crewed space mission to Jupiter's moon, Europa in search of life on the moon. The harrowing tale of the eighteen-month journey to Europa and the discovery of extraterrestrial life are documented in the crew's final transmissions to Earth.

Presented by Nora Shepard, Richard Codd & the Moab Sun News

With support from the City of Moab and the Moab to Monument Valley Film Commission



Moab's 5th Annual Film Festival celebrating the weird & unknown!

February 7
Day of the Triffids
(1963)

February 14
When Worlds Collide
(1951)

February 21
Europa Report
(2013)

Films start at 7:00 p.m. at the Moab Arts building (111 E. 100 North)

FREE - DOOR PRIZES - POPCORN - COSTUMES ENCOURAGED

For more information, email coddrc@gmail.com



Other Movies

Showing in Moab and Castle Valley

Feb 14 Classic Movie Night: Alfred Hitchcock's North by Northwest • A New York City advertising executive goes on the run after being mistaken for a government agent by a group of foreign spies, and falls for a woman whose loyalties he begins to doubt. Starring Carrie Grant, Eva Marie Saint and James Mason (1959). Hot drinks, cookies and popcorn provided! 7pm. Free at the Moab Library Branch, 257 E Center St.

Feb 20 Castle Valley Movie Night: Little Miss Sunshine • A family determined to get their young daughter into the finals of a beauty pageant takes a wild cross-country trip in their VW bus. Rated R. 7pm. Free at the Castle Valley Library Branch, 2 Castle Valley Dr. For more info visit www.moablibrary.org, or call 435-259-1111

Banff Mountain Film Tour Stops in Grand Junction for Four Nights of Breath-Taking Film Screenings

By Sharon Sullivan

The prestigious Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour is coming to western Colorado for not one, but four evenings of compelling films featuring stunning cinematography, exploration of topical environmental issues, and adrenalin-packed action sports. The film festival takes place Feb. 12, at Colorado Mesa University's Asteria Theatre; Feb. 13 and 14, at the Avalon Theatre in downtown Grand Junction; and at the Delta Egyptian Theater in Delta, on Feb. 15. Doors open at 6 p.m., shows start at 7 p.m.

The Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival takes place each fall in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Award-winning films and audience favorites are chosen from more



photos from *River Mama*; Sarah Hamilton Film

than 400 entries submitted to the festival each year. The Banff Centre Mountain Film World Tour then goes on the road, stopping in approximately 550 communities, and more than 40 countries across the globe to "celebrate amazing achievements in outdoor storytelling and filmmaking worldwide."

Presented by the Rotary Club of Grand Junction, the event raises money for a variety of outdoor-related not-for-profit organizations. This year's beneficiaries are COPMOBA (Colorado Plateau Mountain Biking Association), Colorado Canyons Association, CMU International Student and Outdoor Recreation Program, Colorado National Monument Association, and Western Colorado Conservation Corps.

Over the past nine years "We've given more than \$240,000 to local not-for-profits," said local Banff committee member Barb Bowman.

Bowman cited several of her "favorite" films this year, including *Jamrock: The Birth of Jamaican Rock Climbing* - about Kai Lightner, 12-time national U.S. climbing champion and founder of Climb for Change.

Another film, *For Winter*, is a "poignant" National Geographic Society Impact Study Lab film, where an international team of scientists embark on a 10-day climb of Canada's tallest peak. The team camps for 16 days, while drilling ice in frigid conditions to collect thousands of years of climate data in one "record-breaking" ice core.

The Last Observers is another favorite of Bowman's—about a Swedish couple, who for decades, would watch the weather every third hour every day of the year—an observation now done digitally.

Festivalgoers will get a chance to meet the subject of one film—Elisha McArthur, the river rafting guide and single mother—in *River Mama*. The film explores McArthur's relationship with her "goth" daughter who has no interest in rivers at all. Filmgoers will have an opportunity to meet McArthur and ask questions during intermission after the film showing, both Feb. 12 and 13.

Tickets are \$25 for each night. For more information about the films, and for tickets visit: <https://banff-gj.com>.

