

Film Happenings

Moab International Film Festival Announces Film Selections for 2019

The 2019 Moab International Film Festival is coming up, no joke, March 1st and last through the weekend of March 3rd, 2019. Films start at 7pm nightly through the weekend at the Star Hall at 159 E Center Street. Tickets are \$5 per show or \$20 for a full festival pass for the entire weekend and if you buy three, you get one free for either passes or tickets. Tickets and passes are available at the show or on the website at moabfilmfestival.org.

This is the festival's 6th year. It was started 6 years ago as a completely grassroots film idea to bring films to Moab which would otherwise not be seen in theaters and which enrich our community. "Feedback from past years films indicates that our audience appreciates being introduced to something they otherwise would not have known about," said, Nathan Wynn, One of the festival's founders along with Denise Felaar "We recognize that our community is already informed on a lot of issues to the point that it forces us to really scrutinize and dig deeper to find something that's going to actually be enlightening in some way. We've got a smart audience, and when we do find something we think will be new, it can be very satisfying." Felaar has been sure to point out that, although a primary goal of the festival is to inspire, they will also be showcasing films which range from ridiculously comedic to cinematically dramatic. "We also make sure every year to include an artistic and strong drama story each year." Said Felaar, "The important thing is not the film itself but that which the film provoked."

This year's festival opener fits that bill and organizers are thrilled to present an important and eye-pleasing heartwarming story with what might be the most renowned indie film of the year; *Shoplifters*. *Shoplifters* has been nominated for a 2019 Academy Award for best non-english film and has already received worldwide acclaim from critics. It won the Palme d'Or - the highest prize awarded at the Cannes Film Festival in 2018 along with 22 other wins and at least 66 nominations from the most prestigious festivals world wide at the time of this writing since its premiere in November. *Shoplifters* is from the director of *Still Walking*, *Like Father Like Son*, and *Nobody Knows*, Mr. Hirokazu Koreeda, and was called "the work of a master in full command of his art" by Justin Chang of the L.A. Times.



Fiona Oakes in *Running for Good*.

From the film's synopsis: "On the margins of Tokyo, a dysfunctional band of outsiders are united by fierce loyalty, a penchant for petty theft and playful grifting. When the young son is arrested, secrets are exposed that upend their tenuous, below-the-radar existence and test their quietly radical belief that it is love—not blood—that defines a family."

Shoplifters will be playing at 7pm on Friday March 1st. This year the festival will be hosting filmmaker, Keegan Kuhn, who is an award winning filmmaker for his films *Cowspiracy* and *What the Health*. *What the Health* was showcased at last year's festival, and through connections made last year with Keegan, the festival is excited to be able to bring Keegan to Moab to present his latest film, *Running for Good The Fiona Oakes Story*. Keegan offered to come with along with an "I love Moab," which Moabites are accustomed to hearing. He will be traveling from Sedona, Arizona to present some of his latest work he did with Executive Producer James Cromwell in his latest: *Running for Good*. *Running for good* will screen at 7pm on Saturday March 2nd.

Fiona Oakes is a 4x world record marathon runner from the UK. She operates Tower Hill Stables Animal Sanctuary caring for more than 450 rescued animals everyday. As a lifelong vegan and animal activist, Fiona's

mission in running is to promote a compassionate way of living and break the stereotype that veganism holds you back from anything.

The feature-length sports documentary narrated by Rich Roll (*Finding Ultra*), following world record marathon runner Fiona Oakes in her attempt not only to set a new global record in endurance racing, but to compete in the "toughest footrace on earth," the Marathon Des Sables, a 250km race through the Sahara Desert.

Fiona Oakes has made a name for herself as a unique endurance runner. She is the fastest woman in the world to run a marathon on all seven continents, and the north pole, in both cumulative and elapsed time. Fiona's achievements are made even more astounding due to the fact that she was told at age 14 that she would never walk properly, let alone ever run. She would undergo more than 17 radical knee surgeries which ultimately led to having her entire right kneecap removed. The process was agonizing, the rehab worse, the records she's gone on to set even more astounding.

With overcoming her own adversity, Fiona's true drive to achieve incredible feats of speed and human endurance are motivated by a deep desire to raise awareness for the plight of animals. Her achievements help fund a 450+ animal sanctuary that she takes care of every day.

More films are being selected as the festival dates approach. Typically organizers are adding selections right up until the festival dates and all films are announced as they are selected on the website at moabfilmfestival.org and on their Facebook page.



Keegan Kuhn

6th annual
Moab International Film Festival 2019

March 1st-3rd
Shows start @ 7pm
at the Star Hall at 159 E Center Street

\$5 ticket or \$20 Festival Pass
buy 3 get 1 free

Full festival program & film info:
moabfilmfestival.org

