

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 8, 2014

Berks Arts Council's Hidden River Film Initiative announces fall line-up

Films with ties to Berks County and southeastern Pennsylvania will be screened this fall for Hidden River Film Initiative's "Night of Independent Film" series Oct. 29, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17.

From director, to actor and executive producer, to film-shoot location, the films slated for the series all have local connections. All films will start at 7 p.m. at Reading Movies 11 & IMAX in downtown Reading.

"One of the Hidden River Film Initiative's primary goals is to support local filmmakers," said co-chair Dr. Harry Serio. "Berks County and the surrounding area are rich with talent. We're excited to showcase these films for the Berks County audience."

Pottstown native Jim Mickle's film ***We Are What We Are*** opens the series on Wednesday, October 29. Mickle's 2013 horror film centers on the Parkers, a reclusive family who follow ancient customs and find their secret existence threatened as a torrential downpour moves into their area. Daughters Iris and Rose are forced to assume responsibilities beyond those of a typical family. With the tagline "Blood is the strongest bond," the film is a natural fit for Halloween week.

Mickle is scheduled to participate in a post-screening discussion with audience members via Skype. *We Are What We Are* took home awards from the Toronto After Dark Film Festival (Best Horror Film, Best Director); the Austin Fantastic Fest (Best Actress); and was nominated for Fangoria's 2014 Chainsaw Award for Best Screenplay. Mickle's directorial credits include *Mulberry Street*, *Stake Land*, and *Cold in July*, featuring Michael C. Hall.

Filmmaker Jenny Deller's ***Future Weather***, shot on location in neighboring Montgomery and Bucks counties, will screen on Wednesday, November 19. The film centers around Lauduree, a 13-year-old loner passionate about nature and obsessed with ecological disaster. When Lauduree is abruptly abandoned by her dreamer single mom, she decides to take survival into her own hands, forcing her and her grandmother Greta, a fiery nurse jaded by alcohol and disappointment, to learn to trust each other.

On December 17, the Hidden River Film Initiative will host the Berks County premier of Leesport native Scott Jemison's ***Sand Castles***. Set in rural Indiana, the film tells the story of Noah and his impoverished family as they wrestle with the mysterious return of his now mute sister Lauren, who was kidnapped and held captive for over a decade. Jemison plays the role of Detective Jeffery Cloud and is an executive producer for the film.

Born and raised in Berks County, Jemison moved in 2009 to Los Angeles, where he later met *Sand Castles* director Clenet Verdi-Rose. *Reading Eagle* correspondent Jennifer Hetrick reported on Jemison's story in April of this year. [Click here](#) to read the full story.

For more information about the films or to purchase tickets, please visit the Hidden River Film Initiative page of the Berks Arts Council website at [www.BerksArts.org](http://www.BerksArts.org) or follow the initiative on [Facebook](#) by searching for Greater Reading Film Festival.

The mission of Berks Arts Council is to cultivate, support, and promote the arts in our community through collaboration, education, and presentation. In addition to the Hidden River Film Initiative, Berks Arts Council presents the Berks Jazz Fest, Bandshell Concert Series, Hidden River Film Initiative, Fast Lane Art, and Pagoda Awards, administers the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Re-Granting Program, and provides art exhibition and marketing opportunities for member artists.