For Immediate Release February 10, 2021

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## Hoosier Films Annual Festival moves online for a second year

The 2021 Hoosier Films Annual Festival will be online for a second year, due to the pandemic. Although the festival was originally planned as an in-person event where local filmmakers and film fans could gather, health concerns have prompted the organizers to move to a virtual format for the festival's first two years.

"Since we are a multi-day festival, and there are a lot of concerns about the duration of exposure being a factor in the spread of Covid-19, we're not comfortable asking everyone to come and spend so much time together over the course of multiple days," says Hoosier Films co-founder and CEO Meredith McGriff.

This annual March festival was postponed to September last year when the first case of Covid-19 was reported in the state just two weeks before the festival was scheduled to begin. "We were glad we were able to pivot to an online platform and still bring so many incredible films to our audience last year. One benefit of being online is that more people can participate without having to travel. It definitely made us realize that offering online screening options could be a good idea every year. But we're also really looking forward to having everyone together in person eventually," says McGriff.

The Hoosier Films Annual Festival is open to any films with strong Indiana connections, including films with central cast and crew from the state, or documentaries with an exclusively Indiana-based topic. Seven awards and prizes will be given to the best films selected for the festival. Films have been selected for 2021, and the schedule will be announced soon. The 2020 festival included from all over the state of Indiana, and the films covered a range of genres, including comedy, drama, sci-fi, horror, and more.

Hoosier Films is a multi-platform distribution company exclusive to Indiana-based filmmakers. Distribution through Hoosier Films is neither required nor contingent upon submission to the festival.

Further details about the festival can be found at <u>https://festival.hoosierfilms.com/</u>.

Hoosier Films can also be found on Facebook (<u>www.facebook.com/HoosierFilms</u>), Instagram (<u>www.instagram.com/HoosierFilms</u>), and Twitter (<u>www.twitter.com/Hoosier\_Films</u>), and by following the festival hashtag, #HFAF2020.