

For KAS!

who in recent years has been screening samples and adding his highly amusing narration.

I attended Zahs' show at a film festival event at Voices in the Millwork District of Dubuque last September.

The show left me exhilarated, not just by seeing some of the oldest movies in existence and by the humor in them, but by the fact that the forgotten treasure was rediscovered just 130 miles from Dubuque.

For details on venues, show times and ticketing, see the previously published schedule or visit julienfilmfest.com.

Because my adorable and hard-working wife was one of the evaluators and watched more than 100 films, I can make a few recommendations.

Among the features, we suggest "Hank & Asha" (an unusual love story), "Sunk-en City" (an offbeat detective yarn) and "Gone Doggy Gone" (a comedy about a kidnapped dog).

Among the documentaries, try the mind-boggling "Cows, Jews and Indians," "Crossroads" and "Everything is Forever."

If your sense of humor is as black as ours, you'll like the short "Fool's Day," which is hilarious once you get over the shocking premise (not for kids).

Any of the dozen films up for cash prizes are good bets. Or make your own discoveries.

Go! You'll be glad you did.

The film festival is here! And so are my recommendations

BY BOB BYRNE
For the TH



The Julien Dubuque International Film Festival is upon us and I am quivering in anticipation. In a few days, we can choose from a menu of 100 unusual and captivating features, documentaries and

shorts that almost certainly would not have come to Dubuque otherwise.

We can meet and interact with filmmakers and actors, some of whom are as unusual and captivating as their films.

The five-day event puts our town on the map in a whole new way. Movie Magazine, for example, voted it one of the "25 Coolest Film Festivals" in the country. Seventeen downtown bars, restaurants, hotels and theaters, almost all of them a short walk from the Hotel Julien headquarters, will enable each film to get at least two screen-

ings. Almost twice as many films were submitted than accepted, and every one was viewed and evaluated up to 10 times by a group of 45 volunteers.

First up is a commemorative showing of "Field of Dreams" 7 p.m. Wednesday at the University of Dubuque's Heritage Center to honor the film's 25th anniversary. On hand to answer questions will be Executive Producer Brian Frankish, Dwier Brown, who played John Kinsella, and Sue Riedel, who was the local location scout.

The opening-night party starts at 7 Thursday at Five Flags, followed by a party at the Julien's Riverboat Lounge. Among the guests will be the festival's honorary chair, 18-year-old Abigail Breslin, star of such films as "Ender's Game" and "Little Miss Sunshine," for which, at age 9, she became the fourth-youngest person ever nominated for an Academy Award.

I'm looking forward to two unusual presentations. One is the Harold Lloyd silent

film "Safety Last" at Five Flags with live music provided by the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra. The scene where Lloyd dangles from the hands of a huge clock high above a city street is thought to be the most widely-recognized screen shot in history. The Lloyd films the last two years made me laugh until my cheeks hurt.

The other special show I'm eager to see is a selection of short films made between 1890 and 1910, part of a rare trove long thought to have been lost. They were accumulated by Frank and Indiana Brinton, of Washington, Iowa. Frank died in 1917 and his wife many years later; the basement of their house was filled with their enormous collection gathering dust. Before it was consigned to the dump in 1981, the whole pile was bought by historian Michael Zahs, of Ainsworth, Iowa.

Zahs is an affable, white-bearded man

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