**Patchwork Clam – Chicago Premiere**

Animated TV  
Germany, English  
Directed by Angela Steffen  
4 minutes

Patchwork Clam has a problem: she can´t play because she´s way too shy. Will the Patchwork Pals find a way to make her come out of her shell?

**Screenings:**

- FIRST IMPRESSIONS Pre K & K

**Patchwork Spider – North American Premiere**

Animated TV  
Germany, English  
Directed by Angela Steffen  
4 minutes

Patchwork Spider has a problem: he wants to play music on his web, but the music doesn’t sound quite right! Will the Patchwork Pals find a way to help him?
Screenings:

- FINE AND DANDY Ages 2-5
- ANIMAL ANTICS Ages 2-5

**Patchwork Penguin – Chicago Premiere**

Patchwork Penguin has a problem: he wants to run fast, but he doesn’t know how! Will the Patchwork Pals find a way to help him?

**Screenings:**

- PEAS IN A POD Pre K & K

**Musicanimals – North American Premiere**

Animated Short Film
Germany, Nonverbal
Directed by Stella Raith
2 minutes

Five "musicanimals" are half animal and half instrument, each lives with different beat. What comes next?

Screenings:

- PEAS IN A POD Pre K & K
- ANIMAL ANTICS Ages 2-5

Nest – North American Premiere

Animated Short Film
Germany, Nonverbal
Directed by Sonja Rohled
4 minutes

A slightly naïve paradise bird is going out of his way to attract a mate.

Screenings:

- PEAS IN A POD Pre K & K
- STEM: WORLDS AROUND ME Grades K-2
- ANIMAL ANTICS Ages 2-5
- FAMILY TIME Ages 5-8

Little Big Bear – North American Premiere
Animated Short Film  
Germany, Nonverbal  
Directed by Sarah Schulz  
5 minutes

When a bear thinks he's the biggest, an unexpected adventure helps him to put things in perspective.

Screenings:

- TALES WITH TAILS Grades K-2, Ages 5-8

Tobi and the Turbobus – Chicago Premiere

Animated Short Film  
Germany, English  
Directed by Verna Fels  
8 minutes

One young wolf learns who his real friends are on the school bus one day.

Screenings:

- THE OTHER WAY WOLF Grades K-2  
- WORDS AND DEEDS Grades 3-5
Trude’s Flatmate: “Clickhit” – North American Premiere

Animated TV
Germany, German w/ English Subtitles
Directed by Johannes Weiland
6 minutes

Trude is making a how-to video for proper posture and her roommate helps with silly antics - does this get her more "clicks"?

Screenings:
- STEM: WORLDS AROUND ME Grades K-2
- THE KINDERGARTEN SHOW Grades K-2, Ages 5-8
- STEM: EARTH EXPLORERS Grades 3-5

Mishou – Chicago Premiere

Animated Short Film
Germany, Bulgaria, Nonverbal
Directed by Milen Vitanov
8 minutes
The lives of four lively Arctic hares take a turn after discovering a strange new creature. A humorous animation about friendship and keeping the Earth cool.

Screenings:

- STEM: SPACES & PLACES Grades K-2
- FINDING MY WAY Grades K-2, Ages 5-8
- BEST INTENTIONS Grades K-2, Ages 5-8
- THE KINDERGARTEN SHOW Grades K-2, Ages 5-8
- STEM: HUMAN IMPACT Grades 3-5

**Swim – Chicago Premiere**

![Animated Short Film](image)

Animated Short Film
Germany, Nonverbal
Directed by Maike Mahira Koller
4 minutes

Despite her age, an old woman still wishes to learn how to swim and overcomes her fear of water. But during her attempt to swim she unknowingly awakens the attention of the fish of the deep sea.

Screenings:

- GIRLS GOT THIS Grades K-2, Ages 5-8

**Blank Paper – Chicago Premiere**

![Blank Paper](image)
Live-action Short Film
Germany, Nonverbal
Directed by Bastian Eipert
15 minutes

The school painting competition is a great chance for eleven-year-old Fleur to prove that she is a real artist. However, when she realizes that she has forgotten her favorite paint box, a fight with the blank paper in front of her arises. As if this weren't enough, she must figure out how to sort out a sudden bully situation. Can Fleur escape her pressures using only her own imagination.

Screenings:

- WORDS AND DEEDS Grades 3-5
- MAKERS AND SHAKERS Grades 3-5, Ages 8-10
- DREAMERS WANTED Ages 8-10

The Show with the Mouse: “360 Special” – North American Premiere

Live-action TV
Germany, German w/ English Subtitles
Directed by Katja Engelhardt
28 minutes

How is a 360° picture created? With the help of professional photographers and historians, a time traveler finds out how.

Screenings:

- MAKERS AND SHAKERS Grades 3-5, Ages 8-10

Dear Darkness – Chicago Premiere
Documentary Short Film  
Germany, German w/ English Subtitles  
Directed by Samuel Schwarz  
17 minutes  

While visually impaired, Friday feels confident navigating daily life and taking on new challenges, like swimming.

Screenings:

- NO LIMITS Grades 6-8, Ages 11-13  
- VIEW FINDERS Ages 11-13  

Winter – Chicago Premiere  

Animated Short Film  
Germany, Nonverbal  
Directed by Gurli Bachmann  
6 minutes  

It's not always easy to let go of old friends and memories, but thoughtful reflection makes it better.

Screenings:

- GATE CHECK Grades 6-8  
- POSTCARDS TO MYSELF Grades 9-12, Ages 13+  
- MOVING FORWARD Ages 13+
Monsters – Chicago Premiere

Animated Short Film  
Germany, German w/ English Subtitles  
Directed by Müge Bulazar  
6 minutes

Abby feels pressure from those around her to look a certain way.

Screenings:

- COME TOGETHER Grades 6-8

Day X – North American Premiere

Live-action Short Film  
Germany, German w/ English Subtitles  
Directed by Katharina Rivilis  
20 minutes

Frida's small birthday celebration goes awry when she learns her parents are participants in a resistance movement.

Screenings:

- GERMAN PERSPECTIVES Grades 6-8, Ages 11-13  
- GIRLS RULE Ages 11-13
Gravedad – Chicago Premiere

Animated Short Film
Germany, Spanish w/ English Subtitles
Directed by Matisse Gonzalez
11 minutes

Sometimes we need to "touch base" to keep us grounded with the rhythm of the day - and our dreams.

Screenings:

- POSTCARDS TO MYSELF Grades 9-12, Ages 13+
- MOVING FORWARD Ages 13+

Arshan – The Little Soprano – North American Premiere

Short Film
Germany, English
Directed by Andre Hormann
25 minutes

Looking to join the community musical group, Arshan must learn how to balance school work, chores, and the hard work of first auditioning, then landing a role, and finally... practice. Dad always says that only 25% is talent, the rest is responsibility. Boy, is he right!
Screenings:

- DREAMERS WANTED Ages 8-10

**Pumpers Paradise – Chicago Premiere**

Animated Short Film
Germany, Nonverbal
Directed by Eddy Hohf
3 minutes

In a world populated with fitness-addicts, we confront them with their biggest challenge: boring, everyday situations!

Screenings:

- LAND HO’! Ages 8-10

**C4RE – Chicago Premiere**

Germany, Nonverbal
Directed by Alice Reily de Souza
11 minutes
A robot is set to take care of a sick boy in a hospital room. As they learn from each other, the robot becomes more and more human.

Screenings:

- ROAD MAPS Ages 8-10

In Germany – North American Premiere

Live-Action Short Film
Germany, Guinea, Susu w/ English Subtitles
Directed by Christoph Rath
15 minutes

Ouakam and Semah are the best of friends, from playing soccer to sharing adventures. But one day, after a beach outing, they have to make a decision. When it comes down to it, what is the price of friendship?

Screenings:

- TELL ME A SECRET Ages 11-13


Live-Action TV
Germany, German w/ English Subtitles
This episode explores the story of young voices for change using the tools they have to be heard. Following the example of teenage Swedish climate change activist, Greta Thunberg, thousands of German school children are now taking Fridays off. They take to the streets to demand governmental action to stop global warming. The news magazine asks both the leaders of the student protests along with the politicians they hope to reach, important questions that get to the heart of the matter and find a solution.

**Screenings:**

- **GIRLS RULE Ages 11-13**

**Moonjump – Chicago Premiere**

Live-Action Short Film  
Germany, German w/ English Subtitles  
Directed by Lasse Holdhus  
6 minutes

Major Luna jumps towards the moon. In a swimming pool she explores her fantasy to float weightlessly in space.

**Screenings:**

- **PERSONAL BEST Ages 11-13**

**Nö! – North American Premiere**
Animated Short Film
Germany, Nonverbal
Directed by Christian Kaufmann
6 minutes

A determined loner looks to build a small hut for himself on a desolate outpost, only to meet continued defeat. If he keeps at it, can he pull it off?

Screenings:
- DETERMINATION STATION Ages 11-13

Study in Relations – North American Premiere

Animated Short Film
Germany, Nonverbal
Directed by Jan Oprach
4 minutes

This abstract, analogy animated film explores harmonic ratios in movement, relations between word-picture and sound.

Screenings:
- EXPERIMENTAL STATION Ages 13+

Matter and Motion – Chicago Premiere
Animated Short Film
Germany, Nonverbal
Directed by Max Hattler
2 minutes

Ready to get energized?

Screenings:

- EXPERIMENTAL STATION Ages 13+

Ties – Chicago Premiere

Animated Short Film
Germany, Gibberish
Directed by Dina Velikovskaya
8 minutes

When a young woman leaves home, can she finally break the family ties that bind or will she unravel?

Screenings:

- GENIUS LOCI Ages 15+
THE ELFKINS – BAKING A DIFFERENCE – North American Premiere

Animated Feature Film, Germany
Directed by Ute von Müenchof-Pohl
78 minutes
English dubbed

Back in the Olden Days in Cologne, the elves learned not to trust humans, being ousted by a malevolent tailor’s wife more than 200 years ago. Since then, they have been hiding underground in their own fantastical world. But Elfie can’t stand this restricted life any longer and climbs to the surface to find her true calling. She’s tried many times to find out just what she’s good at, but so far, no luck. Together with two companions, she ends up in the bakery of a grumpy but talented pastry chef Theo, who is feuding with his profit-hungry brother. At first, the Elfkins cause a lot of chaos, but Elfie is committed to help her new friend and mentor. Elfie is also determined to attain her Elf Hat by doing this good deed. After all, the Elfkins true purpose in life is to help others. Who would be better suited to “bake” Theo happy than the Elfkins?

Screenings:

- WEEKDAY FEATURES Grades 1-5
- WEEKEND FEATURES Ages 5+

Live-action feature film, Germany  
Directed by Christian Teede  
95 minutes  
German, with English sub-titles

An unbeatable team of five tweens, The Peppercorns, unite once again to find out who is behind the kidnapping of a missing oceanographer who discovered a means of getting rid of our oceans’ plastic waste. A race against time begins! The team must come together, this time with new members in order to save this world-class expert’s life and the future of our planet. Set in the lush landscapes of the Baltic coast and Northern Ireland, these sleuths must join forces using everything they’ve got. The latest technology, their incisive deduction skills, and most of all, courage. Action-packed and full of suspense, the characters take initiative, an inspiration for today’s audience where the voices of the next generation need to be heard.

Screenings:

- WEEKDAY FEATURES Grades 6-8  
- WEEKEND FEATURES Ages 10+

MAX AND THE WILD BUNCH – North American Premiere

Live-action Feature Film, Germany  
Directed by Winfried Oelsner  
84 minutes
Max and his mother have just moved into a castle—well, a retirement home in a castle. Living in a senior citizens' home when you're a kid - can you imagine anything more boring? It doesn't help that Max is the new kid and just wants to fit in, and find friends. His mom is a nurse, working nights. But Max soon finds friends among the residence's elderly retirees; actress Vera, soccer coach Horst and researcher Kilian, together better known as the Wild Bunch. They are the quirky friends who sit with each other at Table 7 each night in the elegant dining hall of the castle. They each have incredible life stories—and it's fun to hang out with them – even if they are already collectively over two-hundred years old. Soon, clever Max notices something weird is going on in the old castle walls. There seems to be a mysterious thief up to no good, stealing valuables from the residents' rooms in broad daylight. Then, Max's mother unfairly comes under suspicion, and is threatened with losing her position. Max joins forces with Vera, Horst and Killian – can the Wild Bunch bring the real thief to justice?

**Screenings:**

- **WEEKEND FEATURES Ages 8+**

**VEINS OF THE WORLD – Chicago Premiere**

Live-action Feature Film, Germany/Mongolia  
Directed by Byambasuren Davaa  
96 minutes  
Mongolian, with English sub-titles

Set in the vast Mongolian steppe, idealistic and gifted Amra is the son of a nomad herder who dreams of acclaim on the television show, “Mongolia’s Got Talent.” Singing folk hymns have been a long tradition for the nomads and for Amra’s family, in particular. Meanwhile, his father, Erdene, is the leader of a group of nomads defending their land from global mining corporations that strip the landscape bare in their search for gold. On the way home from the singing competition audition, Amra and his father get into an accident, killing Erdene. Though Amra is broken-hearted at his loss, he is also thrust into the position of breadwinner for his mother and younger sister. To compound the weight of his responsibility, Amra now does grueling mining work with
bandit workers to earn ready cash. With household responsibilities thrust on him, Amra sidelines his own education, his singing dreams, and puts himself physically at risk, as well. Can Amra be honest with his mother, should he honor his father and their ancient ways? Can he be true to himself, his community or must he set these feelings aside? What is the cost of being a responsible steward of our environment at the personal level?

**Screenings:**

- WEEKEND FEATURES Ages 11+

**RINGSIDE**

![Image of two boxers and their coach]

Documentary Feature Film, Germany/USA
Directed by André Hoermann
93 minutes
English language

"Ringside" looks at the volatile world of Chicago’s South Side from the perspective of two remarkably gifted young boxers and the fathers who train them. As one begins a rising career in the ring, the other serves an eight-year-prison sentence for criminal trespassing and burglary. Their fathers have sacrificed everything in the interest of achieving the same goal: making their sons into boxing champions and thus breaking the vicious circle of poverty and violence that has burdened their families. It’s a fight against overwhelming odds and there are a host of disappointments along the way. Kenny Jr. is crushed by his failed Olympic bid. With the help of Kenny Sr., he redoubles his efforts and starts winning amateur bouts drawing the attention of a well-known boxing promoter. A parallel story follows the boxing career of Destyne Jr., sidelined for a momentary bad decision. With the help of his father, he gets into a program, after which he could then restart his boxing career. Filmed over the course of many years, "Ringside" is told from the point of view of these two young men and their fathers as their story unfolds.

**Screenings:**

- WEEKEND FEATURES Ages 15+