



Film goers wait to retrieve their True/False Film Festival passes on Wednesday at the Sager Reeves Gallery in Columbia. The "March March" parade that kicks off the film festival will be this Friday.

Long-time participants excited for festival

STORY BY SAM WILLS AND PHOTOS BY MINH CONNORS • Missourian

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also temporarily help block off the parade route, said Arin Lieberman co-custodian of the Ragtag Film Society.

A map to the parade route can be found on the True/False website.

Attendees may continue to pick up passes and tickets at the True/False box office, located at Sager Reeves Gallery, 1025 E. Walnut St., throughout the festival.

The six different passes range from the \$995 Super Circle Pass to the \$50 Stay Up Late Pass. The \$135 Classic Pass allows attendees access to all films. More information about what is included in each pass can be found on the True/False website.

Tickets must be purchased more than 30 minutes before to the film's scheduled time. Purchases can be

made online or at the box office. Tickets per film are \$15.

People without tickets can wait in the Q, a line that begins an hour before each movie. Waiting in the Q does not guarantee entrance into a film. Guests pick up a Q number from the Q queens, the flamboyantly dressed True/False staff working the venue. Those in the Q are free to roam about the festival, but 15 minutes before the film begins, the queens will begin letting people in in numerical order based on the number of available seats. Pass holders may get into films via the Q for free, but people without passes will have to pay the \$15 ticket fee.

Volunteers and attendees alike have attended the festival for several years.

Josh Oxenhandler, a volunteer who is also the special operations lead and legal advisor to the festival, has par-

ticipated in True/False for 19 years. Over the years, he said he's seen the fest both expand and contract with the limitations imposed by the pandemic.

"People are getting exuberant again, and people are feeling excitement and the energy of crowds again," Oxenhandler said. "For me, it's a special thrill to be in a theater when a band is playing and watch the theater fill up."

This year is Tommy Fieser's fifth year volunteering on the set up/break down team.

"I like to go to whatever the first movie is and talk to people in line to see what they are excited about," he said.

This word of mouth aspect is appealing to Columbia native Rich Frieden, who was also unfamiliar with this year's lineup of films.

"It's easy to sit at the theater and

strike up a conversation," Frieden said. "It usually starts, like, 'what movies have you seen?'"

Even for locals, like Frieden, the experience still has something to offer.

"When we're at the festival, we try to treat it like a festival. (We) go out to eat (at) places we usually don't go out to eat. Try to see the art exhibits."

Damon Wray, who volunteered at the pass pickup Wednesday, moved to Columbia four months ago. It's his second time attending True/False.

"I've gotten everything I could have asked for with regards to seeing the city and meeting new people and more," he said.

More information can be found by contacting the box office at 573-442-8783 or boxoffice@truefalse.org, or by visiting the True/False website.



Production assistants Fergus Moore, left, and DJ Burton set up a sign pointing to the box office for the True/False Film Festival on Wednesday at the Sager Reeves Gallery in Columbia. The film festival runs March 2-5.



Josiah Scott combs through passes for a film-goer attending the True/False Film Festival on Wednesday at the Sager Reeves Gallery in Columbia. The first True/False Film Festival in 2004 sold more than 4000 tickets.



Robin Kaufman retrieves a True/False Film Festival pass for Jeff Slade on Wednesday at the Sager Reeves Gallery in Columbia. Slade has been attending True/False for more than a decade.