

# Capital City Film Festival launches Fortnight Film Contest

By Mike Hughes

For the Lansing State Journal

The masses will soon be converging on Lansing.

Some will have cameras; some will have violins and oboes and such.

All will be part of the Capital City Film Festival, which:

» Starts its Fortnight Film Contest. People can still join it, entering online and then catching the start-up meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday. Then they'll have two weeks to make a short.

» Has a new twist -- a Lansing Symphony concert, April 11 in the Lansing Center. "This is the full orchestra -- all 80 pieces --

backing a compilation of classic film scenes," said Dominic Cochran, a festival co-founder.

That's one of the few free events in a four-day festival that sprawls across four locations for screenings and two (The Loft and Mac's) for music.

There were almost 400 entries, Cochran said, and about 70 films will be shown, including "Slow West" (starring Oscar-nominee Michael Fassbender) and "An Honest Liar" (about The Amazing Randi).

First is the film-making contest, which keeps growing. "It used to be a tremendously expensive endeavor to make a film," Cochran said. "Now most point-and-shoot cam-

eras have HD video."

The contest drew 17 teams its first year, 23 its second and 34 its third; this year, entries will be closed if the total hits 40.

Films can range from 10 minutes to 34.1 seconds.

That minimum length is tongue-in-cheek, Cochran grants. The shortest winner has been about three-and-a-half minutes. And any genre is available; "last year, we had our first musical."

There are only four prize-winners, but the top 15 films will be shown at the festival.

"That's always our best-attended screening," Cochran said. "So it's a good chance to be seen by 500 people."

## FORTNIGHT FILM CONTEST

» Capital City Film Festival, April 9-12, in several Lansing locations

Go to [www.capitalcityfilmfest.com](http://www.capitalcityfilmfest.com) for details about how to enter the Fortnight Film Contest. Also films and tickets information will be available.

» Fortnight entries are \$100 per team; each team gets two \$50 all-festival passes. Prizes are \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$500; also, another film gets a \$500 prize voted by the audience.

» Teams have ranged from one person to entire companies. After entering online, they should have someone at the meeting at 6:30 p.m., Thursday at 2500 S. Washington Ave. That's when the required elements for the film will be announced.

» Last year, each film needed to include a bus stop, a silhouette shot, a door-slam and (spoken or shown) the words "Lansing" or "Michigan."

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