



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Kristen Corrado
616.988.5402, ext. 5438
kcorrado@grpl.org

MOTIONPOEMS Film Festival Opens at Wealthy Theater October 14, 2016

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GRAND RAPIDS (October 6, 2016) MOTIONPOEMS, a Minneapolis-based company that partners poets and filmmakers, will screen its work on Friday, October 14, 2016 at 7:30 pm at Wealthy Theatre - 1130 Wealthy Street SE. Tickets are \$5.

MOTIONPOEMS broadens the audience for poetry by turning great contemporary poems into multimedia experiences. After animator/producer Angella Kassube first animated one of Todd Boss's poems in 2008, the duo started introducing other poets to other video artists—and a new hybrid form was born. MOTIONPOEMS partners with top-quality for-profit and non-profit publishers, film companies, and literary organizations to create opportunities for artists to meet and work together. The mission of the Minneapolis-based arts organization is to render contemporary poetry into cinematic shorts.

The poems featured in the festival have been nationally recognized, appearing in *The Best American Poetry* series, *The Believer*, *McSweeney's*, *Tin House*, and in volumes published by Graywolf Press, Copper Canyon Press, Milkweed Editions, Wave Books, and Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Following the screening, Grand Rapids Poet Laureate L.S. Klatt will host a panel discussion to explore the artistic choices in both the poems and the films, the synergies sparked, and the challenges involved in creative partnerships.

Panelists include poet and founder of MOTIONPOEMS Todd Boss, Grand Rapids Poet Laureate L. S. Klatt, filmmaker Geert Heetebrij, film scholars Carl Plantinga and Toni Perrine, and poet Susanna Childress. Audiences will be invited to ask their own questions following the panel discussion.

MOTIONPOEMS FILM FESTIVAL will be held at Wealthy Theatre on Friday, October 14, 2016. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Screening begins at 7:30. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the Wealthy Theatre Box Office (1130 Wealthy Street SE) and by phone ((616) 459-4788 x131) Monday-Friday 2-7 p.m., or online (<https://grcmc.org/theatre>).

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