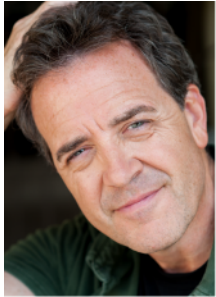


July 17–20, 2025 | AMC Williamsport 11 | Williamsport, PA

Meet the Jury:

A Powerhouse of Storytelling and Creative Vision



Tom Woodruff Jr.

Academy Award-Winning Creature Creator & SFX Artist

A native of Williamsport, Tom is known for his iconic work on *Death Becomes Her* (Oscar winner), *Aliens*, *Predator*, and *The Santa Clause* series. Co-founder of Amalgamated Dynamics Inc., he recently returned to his hometown and is actively shaping the region's growing film scene.



Ethan Alter

Entertainment Journalist, Adweek

With 20+ years in media, Ethan covers TV and film for outlets like Yahoo, Indiewire, and The Daily Beast. He was named Online Journalist of the Year by the LA Press Club in 2023 and is the author of *Film Firsts*.

Photo credit: BUILD Studio



John Shableski

Publishing Industry Maverick, Otto Bookstore Manager

A national expert in graphic novels and literary advocacy, John brings decades of storytelling savvy. From Brodart Co. to the Eisner Foundation, he champions creativity across mediums and now helps lead the Lycoming Arts Film Office.

Photo credit: Williamsport Crosscutters



Megan McLachlan

Co-Founder, The Contending

Formerly of Awards Daily, Megan tracks the indie film and awards landscape with sharp insight. She's a member of the Critics' Choice and Pittsburgh Film Critics Associations, and co-hosts *Contending* at the Water Cooler, with 500+ episodes to date.

Photo credit: SCAD TVFest



Emily Flake

Cartoonist, Illustrator, Founder of St. Nell's

A *New Yorker* regular and WGA-nominated creator, Emily's work spans publishing, comedy, and live performance. She fell for Williamsport during the pandemic and launched St. Nell's residency for women and nonbinary artists in the heart of the city.

Photo credit: Mindy Tucker



About the Festival

The River Valley Film Festival is presented by Lycoming Arts, a nonprofit dedicated to enriching life in north central Pennsylvania through the arts.

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