

# PANORAMA Series II



**A COLLECTION OF SHORT FILMS  
BY DALTON COFFEY**

**Featuring South Dakota Artists**

**Presented by  
Arts South Dakota  
& The South Dakota Arts Council**

# FILMMAKER STATEMENT

When I set out to make another series of films showcasing South Dakota artists, I had one goal in mind: Don't make films *about* the artists, make films *with* the artists. Seems simple, right? I was mistaken too, but I learned something new about myself as a filmmaker and an artist.

Far too often I find myself stumbling onto artists' work and thinking, "This is amazing! Why doesn't everyone know about this?!" Then I realize, "*I* didn't know before I stumbled onto it." Why is that? I used to think that was bad, but this time I decided to embrace it. I realized I was close enough to stumble, and it tripped me up because it was speaking to me. It had something to say...so I started to listen.

After months of looking, I slowly began to find my artists, one-by-one. I "stumbled" onto their work, reached out, and asked if they would be willing to make a film with me. They all said yes...for some unknown reason, they trusted me. When I would say, "Here's what I'm thinking..." they would reply, "Let's do it!" And whether they know it or not, each one of them taught me something.

*Morgan Fields* taught me it's okay to chase the monster...when you catch it, you have to let it go because it's a part of you.

*Jeff Paul* taught me to listen...not to respond, but to understand and *then* respond. Language is beautiful; it's not only words.

*Sheldon Starr* taught me healing can sometimes be funny...and maybe, more often than not, it should be. Art forms are not to be defined.

*Erin Murtha* taught me to appreciate and embrace textiles and whimsy...and mistakes are great opportunities.

And last, but certainly not least, *Tim Rickett*. Tim taught me to remember the world as it was when I was a kid...to feel what it felt like to know we were almost home because "there's the old Texaco sign".

So I leave you with this: Learn to listen...listen to learn...and don't be afraid to stumble more often.

-Dalton Coffey



# THE ARTISTS

Artists' portraits by Joe Hubers



**MORGAN FIELDS**

HOT SPRINGS, SD



**JEFFREY PAUL**

SIOUX FALLS, SD



**SHELDON STARR**

RAPID CITY, SD



**ERIN MURTHA**

SIOUX FALLS, SD



**TIM RICKETT**

ABERDEEN, SD

# THE FILMS

WIRE

JEFFREY  
PAUL

"LANGUAGE OF MUSIC"

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WE'RE  
STILL  
HERE

ERIN MURTHA  
EXPERIENCES A STRANGE  
PRESENTED BY ERIN MURTHA

ELSEWHERE



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