

# “Our Priority is to keep people safe” - ME Film Festival President Speaks Out about Festival Changes

EATONTON, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES, October 21, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Festival](#) organizers for the ME [Film](#) Festival have announced the festival will be going virtual. “Putting safety guidelines in place doesn’t save money, time, or extra headaches, but if it helps keep one person from getting sick it’s worth it,” says Jeremiah Bennett, president and chair of the board for the ME Film Festival. “Furthermore, we will only partner with organizations, companies, and communities who are trying to fight this global pandemic not be part of the problem.”

Originally set to take place in Eatonton, Georgia at the Plaza Arts Center, filmmakers from various countries were expected to attend the week-long festival Nov. 15 - 21, 2021. Given the rise of the delta variant, filmmakers, festival donors, and supporters inquired what protocols will be implemented to ensure the safety of all who plan to attend. Based on their concerns and suggestions, The ME Film Festival requested protocols including spaced seating, temperature checks when entering any event, masks worn for all events, and covid vaccination cards or a negative covid test (no more than three days old).

According to the executive director of the Plaza Arts Center, “The list does not comply with the governor’s executive order, and [we] are not comfortable with [these requests].”

Organizers quickly pivoted, making the decision to screen online. “No one’s health should be put at risk for convenience or monetary gain,” remarks Bennett.

The festival formed a partnership with a new streaming platform set to launch in late October



2021. The partnership will provide filmmakers with a new opportunity for their films to be viewed online. Unlike most streaming platforms, the Atlanta-based Stream MOKO features curated uplifting and inspiring content, as well as original shows designed to help viewers live their best lives.

“We want to help support independent filmmakers, for [their films] to get more exposure,” notes founder and CEO Thomas Cantley. “Stream MOKO is about bringing people together and we are super excited to have the opportunity to offer a platform that supports the film community.”

The 9th Season of the ME Festival will happen in May 2022. For information on the festival, upcoming films, or more, visit [www.mefilmfest.com](http://www.mefilmfest.com)

#### ABOUT ME Film Festival

The ME Film Festival, focused on international collections of story-driven films with unique voices, is created by filmmakers for filmmakers from 68 countries. Events include live screenings, industry panels, after-parties, special filmmaker events, a red-carpet awards show with a Golden Globes style dinner, and a Sunday filmmaker’s brunch at the Old Putnam County State Prison. Our festival’s eighth year of great films with Southern Hospitality will be held virtually. Visit [www.mefilmfest.com](http://www.mefilmfest.com) for more information.

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