

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Local Independent Film *The Pugilist* Part of Movie Night @ BMO Studio



SAINT JOHN – Following the success of the Fundy FRINGE Festival, the SJTC is getting ready to roll out its September line-up starting with the local independent film, *The Pugilist*.

Written and directed by Jeffrey Kelley, the film tells the heartbreaking story of a boxer, past his prime, who finds himself

suffering from brain damage in the form of CTE. A life of prize fighting has left the boxer alone and financially ruined. The local film is based on the short story *The Gatekeeper*.

"It was important to me to tell this story to raise awareness of CTE in a way that does not damage the sport I love," adds playwright and director Jeffrey Kelley. *"It was not just the sport or the illness that was needed to reach the audience, but also the characters had to be believable, the protagonist needed to be an underdog the audience could root for, and the emotional resonance needed to be genuine."*

The Pugilist will run at the BMO Studio Theatre on September 11 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$11.50 and must be purchased in advance by calling the SJTC box office line at 506-652-7582 ext. 236.

Please note there are limited single tickets available due to the revised configuration of the venue for social distancing measures. Audiences are encouraged to purchase tickets for everyone in their party at the same time to ensure they are seated with those in their social bubble.

Proper distancing, capacity and cleaning protocols are in effect at the BMO Studio Theatre. All audience members are required to have their temperature checked upon arrival for live performances and wear a mask until seated. A full refund will be issued to anyone feeling unwell.