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Culinary Events

Chow Down, the IFS Food Film Festival, to debut October 9-13

By [Samantha Alviani](#) Tue., Oct. 1 2013 at 12:01 PM

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Lori Midson

Eric Skokan will introduce *Now, Forager*, a film about love and funghi.

Julia Joun had been doing volunteer publicity for the International Film Series, working closely with IFS director Pablo Kjolseth, for over a year when she realized that IFS was missing a major opportunity. "Boulder is such a vibrant food city," says Joun. "I wanted to create a sense of excitement around food -- not just from a film perspective, and not just a few films in isolation. I wanted a real festival. I go to Telluride Film Festival every year, and that's what I had in mind as a first-rate film-festival experience -- it's about showcasing Boulder's food scene and the IFS."

Kjolseth liked the idea, and wound up collaborating with Joun on food-film research -- and the result of this merging of personalities, ideas and films about food can be tasted at the inaugural Chow Down: IFS Food Film Festival, which opens on October 9 and runs through October 13.

See also: [A Place at the Table documents hunger in Colorado](#)

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Glass act: A scene from *Somm*.

Chow Down will present local industry figures like [Black Cat's Eric Skokan](#) and [Frasca Food & Wine Master Sommelier Bobby Stuckey](#) in the bigger picture of food culture through film and curated tastings and events, including a "Hummus Throwdown" that will pit fifteen participants against each other to create the "Best Hummus in Boulder."

The festival will feature six full-length films and one short, all of which approach the food landscape and the various ways in which food culture (and eating) has a place in our lives. The kickoff, a free showing of Les Blank's gastro-obsessed documentary *Garlic Is as Good as Ten Mothers*, chronicles the history of garlic through footage of a garlic festival and cultural storytelling. The acclaimed film was selected for preservation in the United States' National Film Registry by the Library of Congress in 2004: We can already smell the garlic.

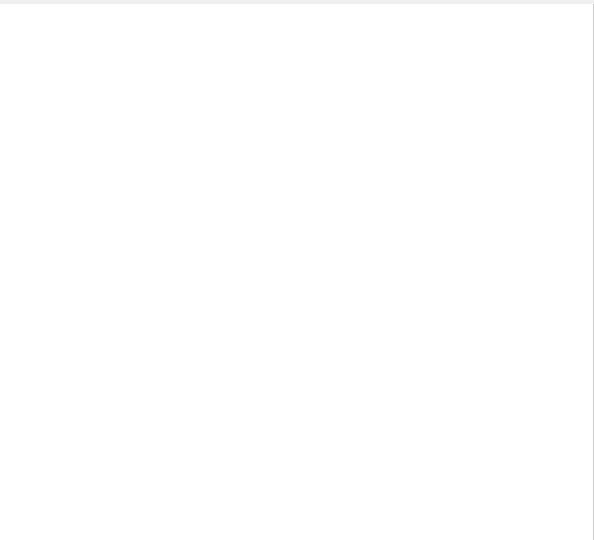
Other screenings include *Jadoo*, a film about rival brothers who own restaurants on the same street, and *Artisan Baker*, a short film that profiles Maurizio Negrini, a third-generation master baker at [Udi's Artisan Bakery](#).




Now, *Forager* official website


Shroom service: A scene from *Now, Forager*.


Skokan, chef-owner of Black Cat Farm Table Bistro and [Bramble & Hare](#), will introduce



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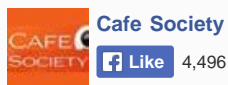
Now, *Forager*, the tale of a professional mushroom forager and his chef wife. *Somm*, which follows the complex (and difficult) process that Master Sommelier candidates undergo as they pursue their certification, features a former Frasca employee and will be introduced by Frasca co-owner Stuckey. On the other end of the spectrum is *A Place at the Table*, which explores the political implications of American hunger by putting a face to the 25 percent of American children without food security, including those living in a small town on the Western Slope.

"While I hope that movie-goers enjoy all of the festival films, speakers and events as much as I have, I also have additional aims for some of the films," explains Joun. "One goal, for example, is informed outrage as a logical reaction to *A Place at the Table* and its subject matter of hunger in America."

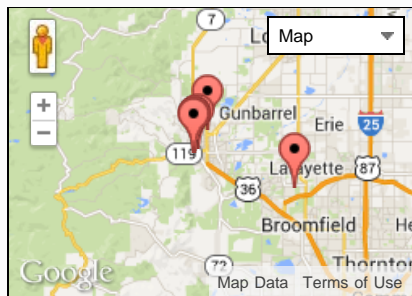
The films will be screened at the University of Colorado's [Muenzinger Auditorium](#) and the [Canyon Theater at the Boulder Public Library](#). For a complete schedule, visit [chow-down.com](#). Film tickets are sold individually, but festival passes can be purchased at any IFS screening and at [Absolute Vinyl Records and Stereo](#) in Boulder.



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Location Info



Black Cat Restaurant
1964 13th St., Boulder, CO
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