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[New movies 2024: 5 new films shot in Indiana \(indystar.com\)](#)

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MOVIES & TV

Five new movies filmed in Indiana



[Domenica Bongiovanni](#)

Indianapolis Star, 8/22/24

Filmmakers from Indiana and beyond have found the Hoosier state to be fertile ground for storytelling. Several projects in the works for years are now coming to fruition, with some playing the festival circuit and others headed to streaming platforms.

The dark comedy "The Duel," starring Dylan Sprouse and Callan McAuliffe, [made waves earlier this summer](#) as it used Indiana locales as sets for Los Angeles, San Diego and Mexico. And plenty more films are spotlighting Hoosier scenery and personalities.

A docudrama takes a fresh look at the infamous Burger Chef murders cold case. A feature filmed at a Columbus ice cream shop explores the bravery of a Jewish business owner. And a short documentary honors the work and perseverance of renowned architect Samuel Plato.

Here are five new documentaries and feature films in which Indiana plays a large role.

'The Ice Cream Man'

After his wife accepted a post in the Netherlands, Robert Moniot found himself exploring a beach near the Hague where the Nazis executed resistance fighters. One victim was Ernst Cahn, a Jewish owner of a popular ice cream shop who became a target for Klaus Barbie, known as the "Butcher of Lyon" for his violent tactics. Moniot knew immediately that he wanted to make Cahn's story into a film.

With six days to write and enter the prestigious [Claims Conference's Emerging Filmmaker Contest](#) — which he ended up winning — Moniot searched the Internet to find an early 20th-century-style ice cream parlor. [Zaharakos](#) in Columbus fit the bill, and Moniot ended up close friends with several Hoosiers, including parlor owner Tony Moravec, a major supporter who died before the film was finished.

What's more, actor Noah Emmerich ("The Truman Show" and "Beautiful Girls"), who plays Cahn, has a connection to the original ice cream shop. His father's family fled Germany for Amsterdam and lived near the parlor.

"This story, it's an example of ... the impact that a single individual can have in their community. Many, many times, people came out of the woodwork that if not for them and their generosity or

their energy or their talent, the movie never would have been finished," said Moniot, who is also the director and a producer for the short feature.

- **Learn more:** [theicecreamman.movie](#)
- **Timeline:** Moniot is working to find a way for the public to see the film starting in the spring of 2025.

'The Speedway Murders'

Australian filmmakers have taken [a new look](#) at the infamous 1978 cold case, when four Burger Chef employees were abducted and then killed, their bodies left in rural Johnson County. More than 40 years later, no arrests have been made.

In the film, which is half documentary and half drama, actors portray the victims and investigate, talking about court records and debunking theories about their deaths.

"We were adamant to show them as kids with their whole lives ahead of them, not merely victims of a senseless crime," the directors said in a [written statement](#).

The Hoosier state sets the scene: [Indiana spots play perfect 'surrealistic' role in 'The Duel,' starring Dylan Sprouse](#)

- **Learn more:** ["The Speedway Murders" on IMDB](#)
- **Watch:** Stream it on [Amazon Prime](#) and [Apple TV](#)

More on the film: ['The Speedway Murders' unpacks theories in 1978 Burger Chef case — and exposes a confession](#)

'The Girl in the Yellow Scarf'

When Sandra Chapman moved to Indianapolis in 1993 as a young Black reporter, people warned her not to go to Martinsville alone. A Black woman named Carol Jenkins had been killed there in 1968 while selling encyclopedias, and not much had been done to find out what happened, they said. Almost a decade later, the case came to Chapman's attention again when Jenkins' stepfather made the rounds on local news stations, asking for help solving the case.

So Chapman, then at WISH-TV, decided to investigate. Thanks to her reporting, a woman came forward and said that her father, Kenneth Richmond, might have committed the crime if Jenkins had a yellow scarf and was killed with a screwdriver. Richmond, 70, was arrested in 2002, but he had cancer and died without going to trial. The case remains partially open because of a possible accomplice, Chapman said.

Chapman wrote a book about the story, which she made into a documentary. [In what Chapman described as a moving 2017 ceremony in Martinsville](#), a memorial stone was dedicated to Jenkins with her family present.

"I remember getting in my car and as I was driving back to Indianapolis, the tears just wouldn't stop," Chapman said. "I just was overwhelmed. It was an overwhelming feeling that it could be possible for a community — no matter what its past had been — that at least a number of people from that community showed up and said, 'We want to be different. We want to be known differently, and we're willing to do this at this time.'"

- **Learn more:** [thegirlintheyellowscarf.com](#)

- **Timeline:** Plans are to show the film on a public platform after it finishes the festival circuit.

'Noble Vision'

In this thriller, a Broadway dancer endures a major nerve injury that a neurosurgeon believes he can repair with a new procedure. But they face a hurdle: approval from the state's health system and a politically motivated governor.

"There's the bureaucracy that gets in the way, and it's about how people in power can sometimes abuse the power that's given to them and use the power for their own political lens, and it can undermine the freedoms (of) the people that they're supposed to represent and work for," said executive producer and screenwriter Gen LaGreca, who is based in the Carmel-Westfield area and previously worked as a pharmaceutical chemist.

The movie's plot is based on her novel of the same name, which embraces the message of individual liberty and freedom of choice, a theme throughout LaGreca's work. Her nonprofit, called the [Winged Victory Foundation](#), supports spreading these ideas through the arts and is the film's sponsor.

Hoosier locations — including the Indiana Statehouse, bus terminal and Paramount Theatre in Anderson — stand in as Manhattan, where the story is set. Dancers from Noblesville's En Pointe Indiana Ballet join Hoosier actors in the movie.

- **Learn more:** wingedvictoryfoundation.org/noble-vision-movie
- **Timeline:** Plans are for "Noble Vision" to be released on to-be-announced streaming platforms this fall.

'Samuel Plato: Preserving a Legacy'

Post offices and World War II-era federal worker housing define Samuel Plato's posthumous architectural legacy nationally. Less known are the gems he designed in and around the city of Marion, like the stately Wilson-Vaughan Hostess House and First Friends Church.

Indianapolis soul: [Unheard demos from legendary Indianapolis band will be released after 50 years](#)

[Swallow Robin Hall](#) at Taylor University particularly struck rising senior Elise Masters. As she began to co-write and direct a short documentary about Plato for a class, she was stunned to find out that one of the most renowned Black architects of the early 20th century had left his mark on her small college.

Masters also learned that Plato's rise to fame was accompanied by a fight against racism in a state where the Ku Klux Klan held great sway. Plato encountered people who stole his plans and didn't want to sit too close to him. Nonetheless, the architect broke barriers and created jobs for Black contractors.

The story "not only needs to be told in the name of honoring Samuel Plato but also, it's an urgent story that needs to be told because some of (his buildings) have already been lost to history," Masters said. "But then there's some that are on the brink of being torn down."

- **Learn more:** Watch [@taylorfilmmedia on Instagram](#) for updates.

- **Timeline:** Filmmakers are working on finding a way for the public to see the documentary after it completes its run on the film festival circuit.

Hoosier backdrops on the big screen:[Indiana spots play perfect 'surrealistic' role in 'The Duel,' starring Dylan Sprouse](#)

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