

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

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Press Release

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36th Annual Insect Fear Film Festival



The 36th Annual Insect Fear Film Festival (IFFF) will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2019 and will be hosted by the Department of Entomology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. **Doors open at 6 pm in Foellinger Auditorium on campus, with film introductions starting at 7:15 pm.** Admission is free. We will feature a live insect petting zoo, exotic insect displays from around the world, face painting, balloon-insects, many hands-on activities, and a display of entries from local schools for the annual IFFF art contest, with prizes to be announced at 7:00 pm.

The theme for this year's festival is "Termites." Most people associate these insects as being troublesome wood-eating pests that can destroy homes and wreak havoc. However, with over 3,100 species described, only a select few have been given this infamous reputation and all provide vital roles in ecosystems world-wide. We would like to celebrate termites, their influence on humans and the environment, and the movies they have inspired. **The night starts with a series of kid-friendly short films inspired by termites, followed by our feature film "Alien Apocalypse" (2005).** This movie follows the astronaut doctor Ivan Hood (Bruce Campbell) and his fellow astronaut Kelly (Renée O'Connor) as they return from their mission in space to find the world has been invaded by alien termites seeking to pillage the Earth of its wood. It is rated TV-14 for moderate violence and mild exclamations. Before and during the films there will be termite exhibitions including **displays of exotic termites from around the world, termite puppets, and live termites you can manipulate by mimicking their pheromones.** Child and adult-size T-shirts featuring this year's logo will also be available for purchase.

We look forward to seeing you on February 23! For more information, please visit the IFFF website (<https://publish.illinois.edu/uiuc-egsa/iff/>), our Facebook page, follow us on Twitter, or contact Scott Clem (carlc2@illinois.edu) or Jon Tetlie (jtetlie2@illinois.edu).