



WINNER - BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM (2026)

The North Film Festival - New York City

A PRODUCTION OF FISCHEYE FILMS

DIRECTED BY STEVE FISCHER

A PLACE CALLED HOME

A Documentary Short Film



As young performers rehearse a new musical, they discover confidence, connection, and what it means to find a place to call home.



FESTIVALS & AWARDS

- **The North Film Festival - New York City** - *WINNER: Best Documentary Short Film*
- **KIDS FIRST! Film Festival** - *Official Selection*
- **Atlanta Children's Film Festival** - *Official Selection*
- **Hello From Fargo Film Festival** - *Official Selection*





SYNOPSIS

“A Place Called Home” follows a vibrant cast of young performers as they bring a new holiday musical to life at Stages Theatre Company.

For these young artists, the production becomes a journey of firsts—learning puppetry, building confidence, and discovering their voices as part of an ensemble. As rehearsals unfold, missed cues, uncertainty, and small breakthroughs reveal the personal growth taking place within each performer.

Centered on themes of kindness and belonging, the film captures a formative experience where friendships are built, courage is tested, and each performer discovers what truly makes a place a home.

Title: A Place Called Home

Genre: Documentary Short

Country: United States

Production Year: 2026

Language: English

Duration: 15:15

Aspect Ratio: 16x9

Frame Rate: 23.98

Shooting Format: Canon C70, 4K

Exhibition Format: DCP, ProRes

Sound: Stereo





DIRECTOR

Steve Fischer is an award-winning videographer and editor with over two decades of experience in documentary and non-fiction storytelling. His work includes projects for PBS, ABC's 20/20, Discovery Channel, The History Channel, and The Travel Channel.

His work has been recognized with a Peabody Award, multiple Emmy Awards, a New York Festivals Award, and the CINE Golden Eagle Award. Through Fischeye Films, he focuses on character-driven stories that explore human connection, creativity, and real-world experiences.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For more than twenty years, I have worked in broadcast television and documentary film as a videographer and editor, helping shape and tell other people's stories. This film marks a personal milestone—the first time I have stepped forward to tell a story that intersects so closely with my own life.

I was initially drawn to documenting the creation of a world premiere musical at Stages Theatre Company as a story about process. But as filming unfolded, something deeper emerged. I witnessed young performers learning how to listen to one another, take creative risks, navigate failure, and celebrate each other's successes. In a world that often feels increasingly divided, I saw children practicing empathy, collaboration, and resilience in real time.

Stages Theatre Company has also shaped my own family in profound ways. It has been a place where my children found confidence, belonging, and a sense of identity rooted in acceptance and kindness. That connection guided my perspective. I approached this film not only as a documentarian, but as a parent who understands the quiet transformation that happens in rehearsal rooms long before the curtain rises.

This film is ultimately about possibility—the possibility that creative spaces can help young people discover their voices, build community, and grow into themselves. After two decades of telling stories for others, this project feels like coming home: to my craft, to my community, and to the belief that storytelling can bring us closer to one another.



WHY THIS FILM MATTERS FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

- Encourages confidence and self-expression
- Highlights teamwork and empathy
- Shows real kids navigating challenges and growth
- Promotes creativity and arts participation



CREDITS

Director

Steve Fischer

Videography

Steve Fischer

Editor

Steve Fischer

Music

Jeff Zahn

Joe Troiano

Sound Design

Gretchen Katt

Sound Board

Maycee Klein

Puppetry Consultant

Gordon Smuder

Puppet Builder

Bil DeLong

Filmed at

Stages Theatre Company, Hopkins, MN

Special Thanks

Holiday Hill Farm Enterprises, LLC

Stages Theatre Company





PRESS

★★★★★ 5 out of 5 Stars — *KIDS FIRST! Film Critics*

“An exceptional film that goes way beyond standard ‘how-it’s-made’ documentaries.”
— *KIDS FIRST! Film Critics*

“It beautifully paints a picture of the creative process.”
— *KIDS FIRST! Film Critics*

“The film carries many inspiring messages about collaboration, belonging, kindness, family, and finding your sanctuary.”
— *KIDS FIRST! Film Critics*

“A fascinating window into puppetry and stage production.”
— *KIDS FIRST! Film Critics*

“The power of creative spaces to help young people discover their voices, build community, and grow into themselves.”
— *KIDS FIRST! Film Critics*



CONTACT

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