Dam Short Film Fest brings virtual reality to Boulder City

By Christopher Lawrence/Las Vegas Review-Journal
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For a four-day celebration of cinema with the word “short” in its title, the Dam Short Film Festival certainly takes a long time to produce.

“It’s not quite like doing it with a blank canvas,” admits Lee Lanier, who co-founded the festival with his wife Anta. “But we love it. We do it because we’re passionate about it.”

Lanier’s schedule is not something you’d find on a typical “to do” list. For the past three years, he’s been spending roughly 20 hours each week in front of his computer, often late into the night. “I basically spend Monday through Thursday working on the Boulder Theatre, which is at 2836 Antone Street in Boulder City,” Lanier said.

“It’s a schedule that’s a bit different,” Lanier said. “I’m not alone in that I’ve seen someone else with whom I work. It’s not something I’d take on if I didn’t love it.”

Lanier and his wife Anta Lanier are the founders of the Dam Short Film Festival, which is held each year in Boulder City. The festival features short films, both live-action and animated, that are less than 10 minutes long.

The festival began in 2014 as a way for the couple to showcase their passion for cinema. In 2015, they decided to turn it into a non-profit organization.

The festival typically takes place over four days, with screenings held at the Boulder Theatre and other venues throughout the city.

“Virtual reality is the future of film,” Lanier said. “And we’re excited to bring it to Boulder City.”

For more information, visit damshortfilmfestival.com.