

Chicago, Illinois — SHRED AMERICA — Documentary about Chicago's cross-country skateboarders to premiere March 24, 2018.

[Shred America - Official Teaser](#)

www.shredamericafilm.com

Who: Arthur Swidzinski, Michael Kosciesza, James Lagen and Anthony Michal

What: Chicago Film Premiere of "Shred America", a film about skateboarding from Chicago to New York City.

Where: Patio Theatre, 6008 W. Irving Park Rd, Chicago, IL 60634.

When: March 24th, 2018 at 7PM.

Why: Youth, adventure and accomplishment.

The story that attracted press coverage everywhere from [Good Morning America](#) to [Fuji TV](#) is about to hit the big screen. "Shred America," a documentary film about four Chicago men who skateboarded from Chicago to New York City, will debut March 24 at the Patio Theater in Chicago.

Michael Kosciesza and Arthur Swidzinski of Niles, IL have been friends since 7th grade. A passion for skateboarding would hold them virtually inseparable into adulthood. One morning in 2007, feeling inspired, Michael called Arthur with a clear message, "Let's do something crazy!" From there, the two 20-year-olds came up with an idea: skateboard from Chicago to New York City and make a documentary. They recruited their friends, James Lagen of Des Plaines, IL and Anthony Michal of Park Ridge, IL to be the bike support and cameramen. Naively anticipating a smooth journey, the group set out from "The Bean" at Millennium Park in downtown Chicago on June 2, 2008.

Shred America takes you on a wild, 36 day, 1000-mile skateboard ride through six states that will make you feel like you're riding along with them; have you reminiscing about your forgotten youth; and, by the end of the film, make you understand exactly how NOT to skateboard across the country. From getting chased by dogs and illegally skateboarding on highways to running from tornadoes, most would say they were lucky to have made it out alive.

Michael and Arthur always intended on finishing the movie with the 100 hours of footage they shot while on the trip but a lack of experience and vision prevented them from doing so. They put the film on the back burner for five years while they were finishing school and establishing careers.

In 2013, Arthur moved to San Francisco to work at the famed video game company, Sega, as a content creator. Michael was 3000 miles away living in Brooklyn, working in post-production on various films for Netflix. One day, Arthur called Mike with words of encouragement to finish the movie, stating that they would work on it whenever they had the time between their daily obligations, a promise that they kept to each other. Although it was a challenge to work bi-coastal, the two managed to create a workflow that suited the film well. Arthur took on the director role while Michael focused on the editing. They chipped away at the film for another four years and completed post production in October of 2017.

Beyond the Sidewalk, a short documentary film about the first cross-country skateboard trip in 1976, will screen prior to *Shred America* with legendary skateboarder Jack Smith in attendance. A Q & A with the filmmakers will follow the screening along with an after party in the theater lobby. Tickets for the premiere are available at the Patio Theater Box Office or online at: <https://www.theportagetheater.com/event/1609019-shred-america-chicago/>