



**THE 22ND ANNUAL SARASOTA FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
COMPLETE FILM LINEUP**

**Opening Night Film *DREAM HORSE*
Centerpiece Film *THE ARTIST'S WIFE*
Closing Night Film *THE LAST SHIFT***

***THE LAST SHIFT* STAR RICHARD JENKINS IN ATTENDANCE
FESTIVAL ALSO TO HONOR
CONNIE NIELSEN WITH IMPACT AWARD,
WENDIE MALICK WITH TV COMEDY ICON AWARD**

**SFF Focus Panels Include
Focus on Florida, African-American, & VR Spotlight**

Sarasota, FL (March 9, 2020) - The Sarasota Film Festival (SFF) today announced its full line-up, including its Opening Night, Centerpiece, Closing Night, Spotlight, Narrative Feature Competition, Independent Visions Competition, Documentary Feature Competition, Narrative, Documentary, and Short Films. The Festival also announced its four SFF Focus Panels – African American, Florida, & VR Spotlight sections.

Bleecker Street's **DREAM HORSE**, tells the true story of Jan Vokes, a Welsh cleaner and bartender, who decides to breed and rear a race horse, directed by Euros Lyn (TV's *DOCTOR WHO*, *DAREDEVIL*) and starring Academy Award® nominee and Emmy Award® winner Toni Collette (*KNIVES OUT*, *THE SIXTH SENSE*) and Emmy Award® winner Damian Lewis (*ONCE UPON A TIME ... IN HOLLYWOOD*, TV's *BILLIONS*, *HOMELAND*). The film will screen as the festival's Opening Night Film on March 27, 2020, at the historic Municipal Auditorium.

THE ARTIST'S WIFE, directed by Tom Dolby (*LAST WEEKEND*) and starring two-time Academy Award® nominee Bruce Dern (*NEBRASKA*, *COMING HOME*) and Academy Award® nominee Lena Olin (*ENEMIES*, *A LOVE STORY*, *THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING*, *THE READER*), will serve as the festival's Centerpiece Film. The drama **THE LAST SHIFT**, the narrative directorial debut of acclaimed documentarian Andrew Cohn (*MEDORA*), will be the festival's Closing Night Film. The film stars two-time Academy Award® nominee and Emmy® Award winner Richard Jenkins (*THE VISITOR*, *THE SHAPE OF WATER*, TV's *OLIVE KITTERIDGE*), who will be in attendance at the festival.

During the Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 4th, prior to the Closing Night Film, renowned actress

Connie Nielsen (*WONDER WOMAN, GLADIATOR, WONDER WOMAN 1984*) will receive the festival's Impact Award; and two-time Emmy Award®-nominated actress **Wendie Malick** (TV's *FRASIER, JUST SHOOT ME, DREAM ON*) will receive the festival's TV Comedy Icon Award. The Friday night street party on Friday, April 3rd will be hosted by musician **Fred Schneider**, founding member of The B-52's.

"This year the Sarasota Film Festival is programmed with wonderful films that are sure to please audiences for their engaging and dynamic stories. Our slate brings new voices and vision to filmmaking and we are proud to have them as part of our lineup," said Mark Famiglio, Chairman and President of the Sarasota Film Festival. "We look forward to awarding the legendary Connie Nielsen and Wendie Malick at this year's festival with these esteemed honors, and having the talented Richard Jenkins join us, whose captivating and talented work on the screen has captured our attention for years."

Jenkins, Nielsen and Malick will participate in the festival's popular "In Conversation With..." series.

Nielsen will be receiving the festival's Impact Award for her commitment to environmental and poverty issues around the world. In 2010, Nielsen co-founded the Human Needs Project, a non-profit that provides clean water, infrastructure, and empowerment services to residents of Kibera, Kenya; she is also the founder/president of the Road to Freedom scholarship program for girls in Kibera. Onscreen, Nielsen has starred in the Best Picture Academy Award®-winner *GLADIATOR*, the superhero blockbuster *WONDER WOMAN*, and international films for directors Lars von Trier, Brian De Palma, Olivier Assayas, and Wes Anderson. She'll next be seen in this summer's *WONDER WOMAN 1984*.

Malick will be receiving the festival's TV Comedy Icon Award. A beloved two-time Emmy Award® nominee and Golden Globe® nominee, Malick has been featured in television hits including *FRASIER, JUST SHOOT ME, DREAM ON, HOT IN CLEVELAND, AMERICAN HOUSEWIFE, KATE & ALLIE*, and *THE RANCH*, and films including *SCROOGED, THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, ADVENTURELAND*, and *CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC*.

The Spotlight section will include Elisabeth St. Philip's **9/11 KIDS**, Barbara Kopple's **DESERT ONE**, Michael Showalter's **THE LOVEBIRDS**, Peter Cattaneo's **MILITARY WIVES**, Eliza Hittman's **NEVER RARELY SOMETIMES ALWAYS**, and Lance Oppenheim's, **SOME KIND OF HEAVEN**

Each year the Sarasota Film Festival focuses on social issues to highlight throughout its program. In celebration of the sunshine state on screen, the festival presents **FOCUS ON FLORIDA** including feature films **A WOMAN WHO CLIMBS TREES, FOR FEAR OF KOFI, LIST(e)N, RIDE TILL I DIE, DARKNESS IN TENEMENT 45** as well as various shorts.

To encourage conversation of black history, experience, and identity with invaluable perspective and wisdom, the festival presents **AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPOTLIGHT** including feature films **AMERICAN TRIAL: THE ERIC GARNER STORY, BILLIE, A GIRL FROM MOGADISHU, PIER KIDS, ZOMBI CHILD, 9/11 KIDS**, among others.

The final SFF focus, **VR** will introduce audiences to stories and visions through virtual reality techniques including: **ARTHUR ASHE '68, AFTER THE FALLOUT, ANIMALIA SUM, AZIBUYE - THE OCCUPATION, FLOWERS & A SWITCHBLADE, TV-REVERSE 360°, and VR FREE**.

The Narrative Feature Competition will showcase **ADAM** directed by Maryam Touzani; **ANNE AT 13,000 FT** directed by Kazik Radwanski; **FOURTEEN** directed by Dan Salitt; **FREELAND** directed by Kate McClean & Mario Furloni; **ONCE UPON A RIVER** directed by Haroula Rose; and **THIS IS NOT A BURIAL, IT'S A RESURRECTION** directed by Lemohang Jeremiah Moses.

The Documentary Feature Competition will include **BLOODY NOSE, EMPTY POCKETS** directed by Bill Ross & Turner Ross; **FILM ABOUT A FATHER WHO** directed by Lynne Sachs; **PIER KIDS** directed by

Elegance Bratton; **OLIVER SACKS: HIS OWN LIFE** directed by Ric Burns; **OVERSEAS** directed by Sung-a Yoon, and **US KIDS** directed by Kim Snyder.

The Independent Vision Competition will feature **CLEMENTINE** directed by Lara Gallagher; **THE CARNIVORES** directed by Caleb Michael Johnson; **THE GRAND HOTEL BALLET** directed by Jacques Deschamps; **MURMUR** directed by Heather Young; **SHEDDING** directed by Jake Thomas; and **SPLINTERS** directed by Jon Corum.

The jury for the competition films will consist of the following individuals: Founder of Factory 25, **Matt Grady**; Director, New York Programs and Membership for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Science, **Patrick Harrison**; Co-Founder of Tangerine Entertainment, **Anne Hubbell**; Senior Contributor to AwardsCircuit.com **Mark Johnson**; Sarasota Doctor **Gary Kompothecras**; Promotions & Sponsorships at Showtime Networks, **Jordan Overstreet**; News Editor at Indiewire, **Zack Sharf**; New York Film Critics Circle journalist **Keith Uhlich**; Sarasota County Circuit court judge and filmmaker **Charles Williams**; and Board of Directors President for New York Women in Film & Television, **Jamie Zelmeyer**.

Narrative films in the 2020 slate also include: **1 ANGRY BLACK MAN** directed by Menelek Lumumba; **ABE** directed by Fernando Gostein Andrade; **BEAST, BEAST** directed by Danny Madden; **BRUISER** directed by Jon Mark Nail; **DARKNESS IN TENEMENT 45** directed by Nicole Groton; **EROTIC FIRE OF THE UNATTAINABLE** directed by Frank Vitale; **FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS** directed by Chris Foggin; **GHOST TROPIC** directed by Bas Devos; **A GIRL FROM MOGADISHU** directed by Mary McGuckian; **GOD THE WORD** directed by Eric Schaeffer; **JOAN OF ARC** directed by Bruno Dumont; **LOVE SARAH** directed by Eliza Schroeder; **LUNANA: A YAK IN THE CLASSROOM** directed by Pawo Choyning Dorji; **PACARETTE** directed by Allan Deberton; **SKYMAN** directed by Daniel Myrick; **TEAM MARCO** directed by Julio Vincent Gambuto; **TRIPPING THRU KETA** directed by Julio Bekhor and Fernando Sma; **VITALINA VARELA** directed by Pedro Costa; **WE ARE LITTLE ZOMBIES** directed by Makoto Nagahisa; **WET SEASON** directed by Anthony Chen; **THE WILD GOOSE LAKE** directed by Diao Yinan; **ZOMBI CHILD** directed by Bertrand Bonello; and **ZORO'S SOLO** directed by Martin Busker.

Documentary films in the 2020 slate also include: **AMERICAN TRIAL: THE ERIC GARNER STORY** directed by Roe Messinger; **AKICITA: THE BATTLE OF STANDING ROCK** directed by Cody Lucich; **BE WATER** directed by Bao Nguyen; **BILLIE** directed by James Erskin; **BORN TO BE** directed by Tania Cypriano; **BOYS STATE** directed by Jesse Moss & Amanda McBaine; **BREAKING BAD** directed by Beth Elise Hawk; **CAMPESINO** directed by Mia Tate; **DIANA KENNEDY: NOTHING FANCY** directed by Elizabeth Carrol; **DISCLOSURE** directed by Sam Feder; **THE DOG DOC** directed by Cindy Meehl; **DRIVEN TO ABSTRACTION** directed by Daria Price; **FOR FEAR OF KOFI** directed by Marina Petrovskaia; **FLANNERY** directed by Elizabeth Coffman, Mark Bosco, SJ; **GIVING VOICE** directed by James D. Stern; **HAMTRAMCK, USA** directed by Razi Jafri and Justin Feltman; **HE DREAMS OF GIANTS** directed by Keith Fulton and Louis Pepe; **LAND MINE** directed by Tirtza Even; **LIST(E)N** directed by Juliana Tafur; **MARCEL DUCHAMP: THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE** directed by Michael Taylor; **MICROPLASTIC MADNESS** directed by Atsuko Quirk and Debby Lee Cohen; **MY DARLING VIVIAN** directed by Matt Riddlehoover; **NOMAD: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BRUCE CHATWIN** directed by Werner Herzog; **THE PRISON WITHIN** directed by Katherin Hervey; **THE REASON I JUMP** directed by Jerry Rothwell; **REBUILDING PARADISE** directed by Ron Howard; **REVIVAL** directed by Josefina Rotman Lyons; **RUTH WEISS, THE BEAT GODDESS** directed by Melody C. Miller; **RIDE TILL I DIE**; directed by Tony Rammos; **THE STORY OF PLASTIC** directed by Deia Schlosberg; **THE WAR AND PEACE OF TIM O'BRIEN** directed by Aaron Matthews; **WHIRLYBIRD** directed by Matt Yoka; **A WOMAN WHO CLIMBS TREES** directed by Puja Kolluru; and **THE WOMAN WHO LOVES GIRAFFES** directed by Alison Reid.

The festival is also pleased to announce the following Community Screenings: a special presentation of **DARK WATERS** starring Academy Award-nominated actor Mark Ruffalo and based on a true story of

attorney Rob Bilott (Ruffalo) and his environmental lawsuit against a chemical company, with Bilott in attendance at the festival screening; and **A WAY OUT** directed by Charles Clapsaddle, Durand Adams and Charles Williams, a documentary exploring how women get out of dangerously abusive relationships. The film will screen in partnership with Manatee Educational Television.

Tickets for the festival will go on sale for members on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 12:00PM and will be on sale for the public on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 12:00PM. Additionally, in an effort to go green for this year's festival, a limited number of programs with the 2020 slate will be available, audiences are encouraged to utilize the digital guide available online at the Sarasota Film Festival website. For tickets and a complete schedule, visit <http://www.sarasotafilmfestival.com>.

The 22nd annual Sarasota Film Festival, which will take place from March 27th to April 5th, greatly appreciates the support of its corporate sponsors, including The Famiglio Family, Amicus Foundation, Regal Entertainment, Embassy Suites Hilton, Sage, Shore Restaurant, Speaks Clam Bar, Arcos Apartment Homes, Beneva Flowers, Lamborghini Sarasota, Stella Artois, Tamiami Tap, Production Hub, WSLR, Watermark Publishing, Westcoast Woman Magazine, Top 10 Sarasota, Sarasota Scene Magazine, The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Intermedia Productions, Island Visitor Magazine, Jessica's Picture Framing, Mommy Magazine, Moon & Co. Eyewear, Sande Caplin & Associates, SMAA, Family Beautiful Magazine, Hotel Indigo, iHeart Media, SarasotaOUT, SNN, SRQ Magazine, and METV.

About Sarasota Film Festival

Held annually in Sarasota, Florida, the Sarasota Film Festival emphasizes the best in cinema alongside exciting programs and events, with more than 200 films screened each year including features, documentaries, shorts, and kid-friendly picks. Entering our 22nd year, we're proud to bring the best new and established independent filmmakers to our Festival with local and kid-friendly programs that showcase our idyllic Gulf Coast community. The festival is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization and also offers a year-round educational program, which reaches thousands of local students through classic film showcases, film contests, summer camps and instructional workshops. This year the festival will take place March 27th – April 5th, 2020.

Press Contact

FRANK PR | 646.861.0843
Lina Plath | Lina@frankpublicity.com
Clare Anne Darragh | Clareanne@frankpublicity.com
Bess Donoghue | Bess@frankpublicity.com

###

2020 Sarasota Film Festival Slate:

OPENING NIGHT FILM

DREAM HORSE

(United Kingdom)

Director: Euros Lyn

Summary: The film tells the true story of Jan Vokes, (Academy Award® nominee Toni Collette) a Welsh cleaner and bartender, who decides to breed and rear a race horse. She persuades her neighbors and friends to contribute financially to the scheme. The group's unlikely investment plan pays off as the horse rises through the ranks and puts them in a race for the national championship.

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

THE LAST SHIFT

(USA)

Director: Andrew Cohn

Summary: Stanley (Richard Jenkins), an aging fast-food worker, plans to call it quits after 38 years on the graveyard shift at Oscar's Chicken and Fish. His last weekend takes a turn while training his replacement, Jevon (Shane Paul McGhie), a talented but stalled young writer whose provocative politics keep landing him in trouble. The men are worlds apart. A high school dropout who has watched life pass by his drive-through window, Stanley proudly details the nuances of the job. Jevon, a columnist who's too smart to be flipping patties, contends their labor is being exploited. But a flicker of trust sparks during the long overnight hours in a quiet kitchen.

CENTERPIECE

THE ARTIST'S WIFE

(USA)

Director: Tom Dolby

Summary: *The Artist's Wife* centers on Claire, portrayed by Lena Olin (*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*; *Enemies*, *A Love Story*). As the wife of famed artist Richard Smythson, played by Bruce Dern (*Nebraska*; *Coming Home*), Claire was once a promising painter herself, but now lives in the shadow of her husband's illustrious career. While preparing work for a new show, Richard is diagnosed with dementia. As his memories and moods become lost and erratic, Claire attempts to shield his illness from the art community while trying to reconnect him with his estranged daughter and grandson from a previous marriage. Challenged by this turn of events, Claire must decide whether to stand with her husband in the shadows or step into the spotlight herself.

COMMUNITY SCREENINGS

DARK WATERS

(USA)

Director: Todd Haynes

Summary: From Participant (Spotlight, Green Book), *DARK WATERS* tells the shocking and heroic story of an attorney (Mark Ruffalo) who risks his career and family to uncover a dark secret hidden by one of the world's largest corporations and to bring justice to a community dangerously exposed for decades to deadly chemicals. Corporate environmental defense attorney Rob Bilott (Academy Award®-nominee Mark Ruffalo) has just made partner at his prestigious Cincinnati law firm in large part due to his work defending Big Chem companies. He finds himself conflicted after he's contacted by two West Virginia farmers who believe that the local DuPont plant is dumping toxic waste in the area landfill that is destroying their fields and killing their cattle. Hoping to learn the truth about just what is happening, Bilott, with help from his supervising partner in the firm, Tom Terp (Academy Award®-winner Tim Robbins), files a complaint that marks the beginning of an epic 15-year fight—one that will not only test his relationship with his wife, Sarah (Academy Award®-winner Anne Hathaway) but also his reputation, his health and his livelihood.

A WAY OUT

(USA)

Director: Charles Clapsaddle, Durand Adams and Charles Williams

Summary: *A WAY OUT* is a documentary, which explores how women get out of dangerously abusive relationships. It is essentially a documentary which draws upon the portrait of a woman who traveled a

path which took her from nearly being killed by her ex-husband in a brutal attack, through escape, recovery, redemption and heroism. That woman, Kim Donatelle, recounts the details of the day on which she nearly died and describes how her best friend did die when she tried to come to Kim's aid.

SPOTLIGHT FILMS

9/11 KIDS

(Canada)

Director: Elizabeth St. Philip

Summary: The President of the United States wasn't in Washington DC on September 11, 2001. He was in a classroom in Sarasota, at the Emma E. Booker Elementary School. George W. Bush received the news of the 9/11 attacks in a room full of 2nd grade students from Newtown and Bayou Oaks, two of Sarasota's historically black neighborhoods. This documentary catches up with those students, nearly two decades later, and delves into the realities of black and brown life since the dawn of the 21st Century.

DESERT ONE

(USA)

Director: Barbara Kopple

Summary: DESERT ONE, directed by two-time Academy Award-winning filmmaker Barbara Kopple (MISS SHARON JONES!, HARLAN COUNTY, USA) reveals the true story behind one of the most daring rescues in modern US history: a secret mission to free hostages captured during the 1979 Iranian revolution.

THE LOVEBIRDS

(USA)

Director: Michael Showalter

Summary: Comedians Issa Rae and Kumail Nanjiani star in this dark comedy, in which a happy couple realizes their love is truly all encompassing when they are met with a supreme challenge. After accidentally involving themselves in the murder of a stranger, the two are led into a series of events that force them to solve this mystery and grow more familiar with one another than they have ever been.

MILITARY WIVES

(UK)

Director: Peter Cattaneo

Summary: MILITARY WIVES centers on a group of women from different backgrounds whose partners are away serving in Afghanistan. Faced with their loved ones' absences, they come together to form the very first military wives choir, helping each other through some of life's most difficult moments, and quickly find themselves on an international stage. Peter Cattaneo (THE FULL MONTY) directs Kristin Scott Thomas and Sharon Horgan in this feel-good crowd-pleaser inspired by true events.

NEVER RARELY SOMETIMES ALWAYS

(USA, UK)

Director: Eliza Hittman

Summary: Eliza Hittman (Beach Rats, It Felt Like Love) returns to the Sarasota Film Festival with a timely and intimate narrative. The film is an intimate portrayal of two teenage girls in rural Pennsylvania. Faced with an unintended pregnancy and a lack of local support, Autumn (Sidney Flanigan) and her cousin Skylar (Talia Ryder) embark across state lines to New York City on a fraught journey of friendship,

bravery and compassion. Winner of the Sundance Special Jury Award for Neo-Realism and winner of the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize at the 70th Annual Berlin Film Festival.

SOME KIND OF HEAVEN

(USA)

Director: Lance Oppenheim

Summary: South Floridan filmmaker and Sundance Ignite Fellow Lance Oppenheim brings his feature debut *SOME KIND OF HEAVEN* to the Sarasota Film Festival. Oppenheim challenges our traditional stereotypes about aging, revealing a lush, heartfelt, and heartbreaking narratives amongst four residents living in the shadows of The Villages, one of America's largest retirement communities and known as "Disneyland for Retirees."

NARRATIVE COMPETITION

ADAM

(Morocco, France, Belgium)

Director: Maryam Touzani

Summary: Abla runs a modest local bakery from her home in Casablanca where she lives alone with her 8-year-old daughter Warda. Their routine of housework and homework is interrupted one day by a knock on the door. It is Samia, a young woman looking for a job and a roof over her head. The little girl is immediately taken with the newcomer, but her mother initially refuses to allow a pregnant stranger into their home. Gradually, however, Abla's resolve softens and Samia's arrival begins to offer all of them the prospect of a new life.

ANNE AT 13,000 FT

(Canada)

Director: Kazik Radwanski

Summary: Anne hasn't been the same since the jump. While skydiving for her best friend Sara's bachelorette party, the 27-year-old felt focused, free, above it all. Back on the ground, the pressures of her daily life threaten to overwhelm her. Her coworkers at the daycare center are constantly questioning the way she connects with the children. At Sara's wedding, she meets a nice guy named Matt, but she can't help bringing him into ever-more-awkward social situations. As the stressful circumstances mount, Anne prepares for another jump.

FOURTEEN

(USA)

Director: Dan Salitt

Summary: Mara and Jo, in their twenties, have been close friends since middle school. Jo, the more outgoing figure, is a social worker who runs through a series of brief but intense relationships. Mara, a less splashy personality than Jo, bounces among teacher aide jobs while trying to land a position in elementary education, and writes fiction in her spare time. She too has a transient romantic life, though she seems to settle down after meeting Adam, a mild-mannered software developer. It soon becomes apparent that Jo, despite her intellectual gifts, is unreliable in her professional life, losing and acquiring jobs at a troubling rate. Substance abuse may be responsible for Jo's instability...but some observers suspect a deeper problem. Over the course of a decade, the more stable Mara sometimes tries to help, sometimes backs away to preserve herself, but never leaves behind her powerful childhood connection with Jo.

FREELAND

(USA)

Directos: Kate McLean, Mario Furloni

Summary: Devi has been breeding legendary pot strains for decades on the remote homestead she built herself. But when cannabis is legalized, she suddenly finds herself fighting for her survival. In a tour-de-force performance, Krisha Fairchild (Devi) brings the timely story of a black-market grower battling to keep her farm to the screen. Featuring a heart-breaking turn by John Craven as an old flame from Devi's commune days, and Frank Mosley and Lily Gladstone as adrift harvest workers, the film is full of standout performances. Shot on off-the-grid pot farms during the actual harvest, directors Mario Furloni and Kate McLean imbue this emotional thriller with a deep and empathetic authenticity.

ONCE UPON A RIVER

(USA)

Director: Haroula Rose

Summary: The year is 1978, and this film finds a 15-year-old native girl, Margo Crane, living with her father in rural Michigan. When tragedy strikes, Margo sets off on a hero's journey down the Stark River, populated at turns with unexpected human connections and Malick-like naturalism. This is an adventurer's tale with a poet's heart.

THIS IS NOT A BURIAL, IT'S A RESURRECTION

(Lesotho)

Director: Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese

Summary: Amongst the pythonic mountains of land-locked Lesotho, an 80 year old widow winds up her earthly affairs, makes arrangements for her burial and prepares to die. But when her village is threatened with forced resettlement due to the construction of a reservoir, she finds a new will to live and ignites a collective spirit of defiance within her community. In the final dramatic moments of her life, Mantoa's legend is forged and made eternal.

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

BLOODY NOSE, EMPTY POCKETS

(USA)

Directors: Bill Ross, Turner Ross

Summary: In the shadows of the bright lights of Las Vegas, it's last call for a beloved dive bar known as the Roaring 20s. That's the premise, at least; the reality is as unreal as the world the regulars are escaping from. Bloody Nose, Empty Pockets is a mosaic of disparate lives, teetering between dignity and debauchery, reckoning with the past as they face an uncertain future, and singing as their ship goes down.

FILM ABOUT A FATHER WHO

(USA)

Director: Lynne Sachs

Summary: Over a period of 35 years between 1984 and 2019, filmmaker Lynne Sachs shot 8 and 16mm film, videotape and digital images with her father, Ira Sachs, a bohemian businessman from Park City, Utah. This film is her attempt to understand the web that connects a child to her parent and a sister to eight siblings, some of whom she has known all of her life, others she only recently discovered. With a

nod to the Cubist renderings of a face, Sachs' cinematic exploration of her father offers simultaneous, sometimes contradictory views of one seemingly unknowable man who is always there, public, in the center of the frame, yet somehow ensconced in secrets. In the process, Sachs allows herself and her audience to see beyond the surface of the skin, inside. As the face opens up wider and wider, Sachs as a daughter eventually sees fragments of herself.

PIER KIDS

(USA)

Director: Elegance Bratton

Summary: Inspired by Black is... Black Ain't, Grey Gardens, and Field Niggas, Pier Kids follows director Elegance Bratton over the course of three years as he films three gay and transgender youth of color as they struggle with life on the margins.

OLIVER SACKS: HIS OWN LIFE

(USA)

Director: Ric Burns

Summary: Grounded by the gentle presence of the film's subject, this documentary turns its focus on neurologist and writer Oliver Sacks' himself, in his lifelong project of understanding the inner workings of consciousness. Complex, thoughtful, and deeply invested in Sacks' writings as well as his biography, this documentary is a snapshot of the polymath mere months before his tragic death from cancer in 2015.

OVERSEAS

(Belgium, France)

Director: Sung-a Yoon

Summary: In The Philippines, women get deployed abroad to work as domestic workers or nannies. To do so, they frequently leave their own children behind, before embracing this big unknown. In a learning center dedicated to the domestic work, several candidates prepare themselves for homesickness and for the abuses that they will possibly endure. In role playing exercises, they play the worker's role as well as the one of the employer. The documentary Overseas brings to light the question of domestic slavery in our globalized world, while emphasizing those women's determination, their sisterhood, and the strategies they find to face the obstacles that awaits them in the near future.

US KIDS

(USA)

Director: Kim Snyder

Summary: Students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida speak out against the national gun-violence epidemic after a mass shooting at their school kills 17 people.

INDEPENDENT VISIONS COMPETITION

CLEMENTINE

(USA)

Director: Lara Gallagher

Summary: A heartbroken woman becomes entangled with a younger girl after breaking into her ex's lake house in the Pacific Northwest. Equal parts psychological drama and sexual coming-of-age story, Clementine is a tense rumination on who to love and how to let go.

THE CARNIVORES

(USA)

Director: Caleb Michael Johnson

Summary: At turns hilarious and horrifying, this surreal film documents the spectacular travails of two queer women as they explore questions of love and family. These main characters descend into a world of madness, jealousy, and meat as they discover the beautiful yet grotesque edges of their own humanity. This is a portrait of love's rediscovery.

THE GRAND HOTEL BALLET

(France)

Director: Jacques Deschamps

Summary: At the foot of the French Alps, students at the renowned Lesdiguières Hotel School are on track to become chefs, headwaiters and housekeepers for the world's most prestigious hotels and restaurants. These young men and women, most from modest backgrounds, have come to this school to learn how to prepare food, serve and tidy what eventually becomes a carefully crafted choreography. In this film at the crossroads of documentary film and musical, these hopefuls dance and sing their way through the demanding training program; but will their rigorous preparation be enough to impress the famous institutions they dream of working for?

MURMUR

(Canada)

Director: Heather Young

Summary: The lines between kindness, cruelty, and self-destruction are blurred in this vérité character sketch of a middle aged alcoholic. Populated entirely with nonprofessional actors, this film is a raw, dark, and profoundly humane portrait of love and companionship taken to their extremes. Writer and director Heather Young's excellent debut feature will leave audiences haunted.

SHEDDING

(USA)

Director: Jake Thomas

Summary: This stylish piece of magical realism explores complex relationships. Mother and daughter, self and body, and of course, between feline and master. A house cat's sudden Kafkaesque transformation into a human being raises profound questions about how we navigate our own embodied existence, and the role that non-human animals play in our lives.

SPLINTERS

(USA)

Director: Jon Corum

Summary: This character drama's origins as a stage play shine through as director Thom Fitzgerald keeps a tight focus on his actors to emphasize the film's "literary roots." However, the dialogue-heavy action plays out amidst a singular moody Nova Scotia landscape, creating an interesting contrast between the artifice of the performers and the unforgiving realism of the natural world.

NARRATIVE FILMS

1 ANGRY BLACK MAN

(USA)

Director: Menelek Lumumba

Summary: Mike Anderson is a senior at the quintessential New-England liberal arts school, Frost College. And Mike is eight weeks away from graduation. On this particular day he has his African-American Literature class with his favorite professor. But today, Mike is feeling sadness. He's feeling isolated. He's feeling Angry.

ABE

(Brazil)

Director: Fernando Grostein Andrade

Summary: Twelve-year-old Abe (Noah Schnapp) is an aspiring chef who wants his cooking to bring people together--but his half-Israeli, half-Palestinian family has never had a meal that didn't end in a fight. Ditching his traditional summer camp, Abe begins working with Chico (Seu Jorge), an adventurous street chef who encourages him to think outside his old cuisines. But when Abe's deceit is uncovered, he must grapple with his family, his background, and his passions, and whether even the most lovingly-cooked family dinner can heal old wounds.

BEAST, BEAST

(USA)

Director: Danny Madden

Summary: This thriller out of Sundance follows the separate lives of three young people in a small Southern town, as their stories overlap and eventually collide in an explosion of tragic violence. Featuring youth, radicalization, and the second amendment, this film treats its intersecting characters with a sense of nuance and curiosity.

BRUISER

(USA)

Director: Jon Mark Nail

Summary: A crime thriller set in the American South, this film follows a low level enforcer as he fights to keep his family together. When a mix of bad luck and big ambitions sets him out on the biggest job of his life, he starts to examine the relationship between violence and prosperity.

DARKNESS IN TENEMENT 45

(USA)

Director: Nicole Groton

Summary: Sixteen-year-old Joanna has been living with her overbearing Aunt Martha in a low-income NYC tenement building ever since a violent outburst left her fighting a feeling she can only describe as the "darkness." Little did she know that weeks after moving in, a biological threat from the Soviet Union would leave the building boarded up and the tenants locked inside. It's been one month since they were first sequestered. With food dwindling and Martha's controversial role as leader expanding, Joanna realizes that she must face both her darkness and her aunt in order to save the tenants. But can she take on the leadership without letting the darkness take over her entirely?

EROTIC FIRE OF THE UNATTAINABLE

(USA)

Director: Frank Vitale

Summary: This is a film about the love lives of witty, literary New Yorkers. A meditation on love after 60, this romantic comedy follows a social circle of successful islanders as they bounce in and out of each other's lives. Nothing is off limits, as the leads talk about food, fiction, and most of all, each other.

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS

(United Kingdom)

Director: Chris Foggin

Summary: When a fast-talking London music executive heads to small town Cornwall, he doesn't expect to find his next big act. But that's exactly what he finds in this pure-of-heart tale. A small group of fisherman, living in a community seemingly forgotten by modernity, find unexpected stardom in this musical full of sea shanties, fishing nets, and nostalgia for the way things used to be.

GHOST TROPIC

(Belgium, Netherlands)

Director: Bas Devos

Summary: Minimalist, smart, and imbued with more curiosity than danger, this nighttime adventure follows a middle-aged woman's sojourn across New York City, after an ill-advised nap on the city's subway forces her to walk home on foot. This is a film for fans of quiet 16mm compositions, the academy aspect ratio, and the mysterious life of cities in the dead of the night.

A GIRL FROM MOGADISHU

(Ireland, Belgium)

Director: Mary McGuckian

Summary: This film is based on the life of international women's advocate, Ifrah Ahmed. It follows the journey of a woman who escapes civil conflict in Somalia, alive but traumatized, who later transforms herself into one of the planet's fiercest opponents of female genital mutilation. Her daring mission pits her against traffickers and paramilitary soldiers alike. This film contains scenes that depict sensitive material.

GOD THE WORM

(USA)

Director: Eric Schaeffer

Summary: This deadpan exploration of middle-aged disappointment, the life of an artist, and life's continued capacity for surprise focuses on one day in the life of one, Samantha Miller. As she happens upon New York City's unexplored corners and untold stories, Annabella Sciorra's aging singer-songwriter travels deeper into her own psyche in a performance that is both moving and deeply funny.

JOAN OF ARC

(France)

Director: Bruno Dumont

Summary: In the 15th century, both France and England stake a blood claim for the French throne. Believing that God had chosen her, the young Joan leads the army of the King of France. When she is captured, the Church sends her for trial on charges of heresy. Refusing to accept the accusations, the graceful Joan of Arc will stay true to her mission. Bruno Dumont's decision to work with a ten-year-old actress re-injects this heroine's timeless cause and ideology with a modernity that highlights both the tragic female condition and the incredible fervor, strength and freedom women show when shackled by societies and archaic virile orders that belittle and alienate them.

LOVE SARAH

(United Kingdom)

Director: Eliza Schroeder

Summary: A film about loss and possibility, this feature tells the story of a man whose mother has died, and the woman who inspires him to follow his dreams. The story will delight Anglophiles who are in the mood to see not only a love story, but one set in a Notting Hill bakery.

LUNANA: A YAK IN THE CLASSROOM

(Bhutan)

Director: Pawo Choyning Dorji

Summary: Struggling with his profession as a teacher, Ugyen is sent to Lunana in northern Bhutan for his final year of training. The high altitude and the lack of amenities make Ugyen want to leave as soon as he arrives. With a warm welcome the local children try to win him over but they don't have much time as the harsh winter is about to arrive in the glacial parts of the Himalaya.

PACARETTE

(Brazil)

Director: Allan Deberton

Summary: Pacarrete is an old and crazy ballet dancer. Over the years, she works as the teacher for classic dance and ballet in Fortaleza with ambition. After retirement, she goes back to hometown. However, still undaunted, she decides to give a dance performance, as a gift "to the people", on the eve of the city's 200-year anniversary party. But it seems nobody cares.

SKYMAN

(USA)

Director: Daniel Myrick

Summary: A man claims he was visited by an alien when he was a child while camping with his father in the desert. Now, 30 years later, he's convinced that same alien is coming back for a reunion.

TEAM MARCO

(USA)

Director: Julio Vincent Gambuto

Summary: This family-friendly feature focuses on the relationship between sardonic eleven-year-old, Marco, and his widower grandfather, who finds Marco's love of video games to be at odds with his traditional Italian values. A focus on technology, social alienation, and a yearning for family underscores the pair's heartwarming connection, as Marco learns to stop gaming and start playing bocce.

TRIPPING THRU KETA

(Mexico)

Director: Julio Bekhor, Fernando Sma

Summary: Keta, a big girl with even bigger dreams begins selling drugs to her town and discovers exciting people, unexpected scenarios, and trippy experiences. TRIPPING THRU-KETA is a stylish and transgressive look at the taboo.

VITALINA VARELA

(Portugal)

Director: Pedro Costa

Summary: Lisbon has rarely looked as dark, cramped, and foreboding as it does in this docu-fiction. Vitalina Varela is a non-professional actor, playing herself, in a story based on her own life. Celebrated experimental filmmaker, Pedro Costa, returns to Portugal with this tale of perseverance and loss. His static yet muted cinematography emphasizes the film's tight hallways and shadowy compositions, but keep an eye peeled for the transition from darkness to sunlight over the course of the film. Viewers may find that it mirrors the emotional arc of this immigrant tale.

WE ARE LITTLE ZOMBIES

(Japan)

Director: Makoto Nagahisa

Summary: Surreal, kitsch, and inspired equally by video games and pop art disruption, this Japanese-language story follows four orphans on a quest to recover beloved tokens of their past lives from the homes of their deceased parents. Mixed media animation, subjective storytelling, quick cut editing, and a fractured narrative structure all work to create an environment that is both darkly comic and resistant to conventional pathos.

WET SEASON

(Singapore, Taiwan)

Director: Anthony Chen

Summary: It is Monsoon season in Singapore and the city is pouring with rain. Wet Season follows the plight of Ling, a Chinese language teacher, whose marriage and school life are fraying apart because she is unable to bear a child. But an unlikely friendship with a student helps her reaffirm her identity as a woman.

THE WILD GOOSE LAKE

(China/France)

Director: Diao Yinan

Summary: This Chinese neo-noir delivers neon-drenched thrills by the truckload. Somewhere between the likes of Drive, Tokyo Drifter, and Fallen Angels, this tale of competing motorcycle gangs is set in a brooding, rainy Wuhan. The film's pulp thrills also coincide with a well-developed political analysis of Wuhan's social hierarchy, making this a uniquely heady romp in the crime genre.

ZOMBI CHILD

(France)

Director: Bertrand Bonello

Summary: In an exploration of Haitian voodoo lore, this is the tale of a man who dies (or appears to die) and is forced from his grave as a zombie. But, rather than haunting shopping malls or eating people, this character is subjected to another kind of living death—plantation slavery. Both a modern character drama and a surreal, time-jumping exploration of colonialism, this ambitious film is stylish, ambiguous, and devastating all at the same time.

ZORO'S SOLO

(Germany)

Director: Martin Busker

Summary: A fish out of water story about a 13 year old refugee from Afghanistan. This film documents the struggles of an often brash and confrontational young boy and his struggle to succeed in a new country. Funny and ultimately uplifting, this movie will appeal to anyone who's ever been the new kid at school.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

AMERICAN TRIAL: THE ERIC GARNER STORY

(USA)

Director: Roe Messinger

Summary: What if, instead of a grand jury indictment, New York City Police Officer Daniel Pantaleo had undergone a criminal trial for the highly publicized death of Eric Garner? This film creates a realistic legal setting, and depicts that imagined trial through unscripted improvisation between nonprofessional actors and two criminal legal teams. The results are at once cathartic and informative, as the film explores the details of the case in painstaking detail.

AKICITA: THE BATTLE OF STANDING ROCK

(USA)

Director: Cody Lucich

Summary: In the shadow of the largest Native American occupation since Wounded Knee, thousands of Water Protectors descend upon the Standing Rock Reservation to resist construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Told through a Native lens and with unprecedented access, Akicita captures the spirit of a movement and its people.

BE WATER

(USA)

Director: Bao Nguyen

Summary: Rejected by Hollywood, Bruce Lee returned to Hong Kong to complete four films. Charting his struggles in two worlds, BE WATER explores questions of identity and representation through rare archive, intimate interviews, and his writings.

BILLIE

(United Kingdom)

Director: James Erskine

Summary: For over a decade, journalist Linda Kuehl gathered interview material for her latest book project—the life story of the famously troubled jazz songstress, Billie Holiday. When Kuehl was found dead in 1979, the tapes went unheard for decades. Those audio interviews form the basis of this documentary; filled with raw, intimate, and sometimes uncomfortable commentary from the people in Holiday's life that knew her best.

BORN TO BE

(USA)

Director: Tania Cypriano

Summary: The Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery Wing at the Mount Sinai Hospital is one-of-a-kind, to say the least, and extremely forward looking. The center provides cutting edge treatment to the specific subset of the trans population that desires some form of reconstructive surgery to express their gender identity; research that is still relatively rare in the medical world This documentary follows

the lives of patients and staff that form the center's community, and shares the story of what it's like to undergo the sometimes radical procedures that the clinic provides.

BOYS STATE

(USA)

Director: Jesse Moss & Amanda McBaine

Summary: The sensational winner of the Grand Jury Prize for documentary at this year's Sundance Film Festival is a wildly entertaining and continually revealing immersion into a week-long annual program in which a thousand Texas high school seniors gather for an elaborate mock exercise: building their own state government. Filmmakers Jesse Moss and Amanda McBaine closely track the escalating tensions that arise within a particularly riveting gubernatorial race, training their cameras on unforgettable teenagers like Ben, a Reagan-loving arch-conservative who brims with confidence despite personal setbacks, and Steven, a progressive-minded child of Mexican immigrants who stands by his convictions amidst the sea of red. In the process, they have created a complex portrait of contemporary American masculinity, as well as a microcosm of our often dispiriting national political divisions that nevertheless manages to plant seeds of hope. An Apple release.

BREAKING BREAD

(USA)

Director: Beth Elise Hawk

Summary: Dr. Nof Atamna-Ismaeel - the first Muslim Arab to win Israel's MasterChef - is on a quest to make social change through food. And so, she founded the A-Sham Arabic Food Festival, where pairs of Arab and Jewish chefs collaborate on dishes like kishek (a Syrian yogurt soup), and qatayef (a dessert typically eaten during Ramadan). Breaking Bread illustrates what happens when people focus on the person, rather than her religion; on the public, rather than the politicians.

CAMPESINO

(USA)

Director: Mia Tate

Summary: An amateur photographer, who works as a skycap at Salt Lake City Airport, documents for the last 15 years the disappearing way of life of Cuba's Campesino farmers, forging friendships and capturing dignity and sacrifice while introducing us to an unforgettable cast of characters.

DIANA KENNEDY: NOTHING FANCY

(USA, Mexico)

Director: Elizabeth Carrol

Summary: Master chef, teacher, writer, and activist Diana Kennedy has become one of the most celebrated culinary legends of Mexican cuisine but has also been fighting unapologetically for change in the environment to produce and sustain fresh food for future generations.

DISCLOSURE

(USA)

Director: Sam Feder

Summary: DISCLOSURE is an unprecedented, eye-opening look at transgender depictions in film and television, revealing how Hollywood simultaneously reflects and manufactures our deepest anxieties about gender.

THE DOG DOC

(USA)

Director: Cindy Meehl

Summary: A founding father of integrative veterinary medicine, Dr. Marty Goldstein and his colleagues in South Salem, NY have created a mecca for holistic care, offering hope to scores of previously hopeless animals (and their owners). Combining conventional medical training with cutting edge alternative therapies, Dr. Marty's deeply empathetic philosophy offers a vital example of how improving overall health rather than merely treating disease is transformative for all living things.

DRIVEN TO ABSTRACTION

(USA)

Director: Daria Price

Summary: M. Knoedler & Co. was once the oldest and most respected art dealership in New York City. Founded in 1846, the institution's dramatic 2009 demise shook the art world to its core, creating lingering questions on not only the validity of our ideas around authorship—but also the role that high end forgery plays in the booming industry of art dealership. This documentary delves into that mysterious world and litigates the compelling case involving gallery president Ann Freedman, her wealthy clients, and a cash of forged abstract expressionist paintings.

FOR FEAR OF KOFI

(USA)

Director: Marina Petrovskaia

Summary: For Fear of Kofi investigates the circumstances of a police shooting that took place on March 2, 2010, at the University of Florida. University Police responded to a 911 call from graduate housing: a student stating concern about her neighbor, Kofi, a fellow Ph.D student from Ghana. According to her report, he was having a mental breakdown and she could hear him yelling. 90 minutes later, police forced their way into his apartment and shot him repeatedly, nearly killing him. The University tried to contain the story using non-disclosure agreements. However, not everyone agreed to remain silent. Those involved recount their roles in the shooting, and the film invites the viewer to examine how this traumatic event could have been avoided.

FLANNERY

(USA)

Director: Elizabeth Coffman, Mark Bosco, SJ

Summary: Winner of the first-ever Library of Congress / Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film, Flannery is the lyrical, intimate exploration of the life and work of author Flannery O'Connor, whose distinctive Southern Gothic style influenced a generation of artists and activists. With her family home at Andalusia (the Georgia farm where she grew up and later wrote her best known work) as a backdrop, a picture of the woman behind her sharply aware, starkly redemptive style comes into focus. Including conversations with those who knew her and those inspired by her (Mary Karr, Tommy Lee Jones, Lucinda Williams, Hilton Als and more), Flannery employs never-before-seen archival footage, newly discovered personal letters and her own published words (read by Mary Steenburgen) alongside original animations and music to elevate the life and legacy of an American literary icon.

GIVING VOICE

(USA)

Director: James D. Stern

Summary: A new generation of performers is discovered in "Giving Voice," about the annual August Wilson Monologue Competition which highlights the work of the often under appreciated playwright. The national event brings Wilson's work ("Fences," "The Piano Lesson" etc.) to students, encouraging them to explore themselves and the world around them. Through the film, we discover the influence words can have and the voices that can be ignited to inspire change.

HAMTRAMCK, USA

(USA)

Director: Razi Jafri, Justin Feltman

Summary: Focusing on the city's diverse mayoral run, Hamtramck, USA looks at the intersection of race relations, immigration and political progress, and shows a glimpse of the potential future for other cities in the United States.

HE DREAMS OF GIANTS

(USA)

Director: Keith Fulton, Louis Pepe

Summary: For 30 years, legendary filmmaker Terry Gilliam struggled to make a screen adaptation of Don Quixote, including an abandoned attempt chronicled in Keith Fulton and Louis Pepe's 2002 documentary Lost in La Mancha. Gilliam never gave up and neither did the documentarians. HE DREAMS OF GIANTS is an epic and stunning culmination of all their efforts, and one of the most intense meditations on the nature and horror of making art ever seen on screen.

LAND MINE

(USA)

Director: Tirtza Even

Summary: This experimental documentary is best described as a biopic—not of a person, but of a building. Focused on Director Tirtza Even's childhood home, the film uses lyrical camera work and a series of in-depth interviews to explore how the last half century has affected the Israeli residents of an apartment building nestled in the Givat Ram neighborhood of West Jerusalem.

LIST(E)N

(USA)

Director: Juliana Tafur

Summary: With hatred and polarization on the rise around the world, LIST(e)N (84 mins) invites people in the U.S. with opposing viewpoints on some of our most divisive issues – guns, abortion and immigration — to listen to each other. The documentary features participants whose personal lives deeply intertwine with these topics, including one of the survivors of the Parkland, FL school shooting. As the exchanges unfold, moments of unexpected and intense emotional connection and understanding arise.

MARCEL DUCHAMP: THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE

(USA)

Director: Michael Taylor

Summary: Explores the life, philosophy and impact of one of the most influential early 20th century modernists, Marcel Duchamp. The film breaks down Duchamp's legacy, applying it to historical events

and trends in modern day conceptual art, internet and meme culture. Featuring leading artists and thinkers in today's art world, the documentary reveals how Duchamp's vision forever shifted public consciousness, and our understanding of aesthetics, art, and the world we live in.

MICROPLASTIC MADNESS

(USA)

Director: Atsuko Quirk, Debby Lee Cohen

Summary: With stop-motion animation, heartfelt kid commentary, and interviews of experts and renowned scientists who are engaged in the most cutting edge research on the harmful effects of microplastics, this alarming, yet charming documentary, conveys an urgent message in user-friendly terms with a take action message to spark youth-led plastic free action in schools everywhere.

MY DARLING VIVIAN

(USA)

Director: Matt Riddlehoover

Summary: From Alice Coltrane to Yoko Ono; the public loves to hate the wives of famous male musicians. Vivian Liberto, Johnny Cash's first wife, is no exception. Portrayed in popular media as perpetually discouraging to Cash and his musical ambitions, or not portrayed at all, Liberto steered clear of the spotlight for years. Elegant, beautiful, and largely forgotten by the historical narrative around Cash's career, Liberto's story is finally told in this intimate documentary.

NOMAD: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BRUCE CHATWIN

(United Kingdom)

Director: Werner Herzog

Summary: Nomad: In The Footsteps Of Bruce Chatwin chronicles the life of British travel writer Bruce Chatwin and includes interviews with Chatwin's widow, Elizabeth Chatwin, and biographer Nicholas Shakespeare, as well as detailing Herzog's own friendship and collaboration with the man.

THE PRISON WITHIN

(USA)

Director: Katherin Hervey

Summary: Prisoners incarcerated for murder inside San Quentin Prison transcend the punitive prison system by working with victims of violent crime to unearth the root cause of their violence. Each character undergoes a radical transformation, revealing how everyone, on both sides of the wall, can break free from their own personal prisons.

THE REASON I JUMP

(USA)

Director: Jerry Rothwell

Summary: An immersive cinematic experience of nonspeaking autistic people across the world, The Reason I Jump is based on a book written by Naoki Higashida when he was just 13. The film follows a young Japanese boy on a journey through an epic landscape. As a maelstrom of thoughts, feelings, impulses, and memories affects his every action, he gradually discovers what his autism means to him, how his perception of the world differs from others', and why he acts the way he does—the reason he jumps.

REBUILDING PARADISE

(USA)

Director: Ron Howard

Summary: In November, 2018, the town of Paradise, California faced absolute devastation in the wake of a forest fire that consumed the town. Now faced with rebuilding, the town but work to cope, to repair, rebuild and redefine what it means to have a home.

REVIVAL

(USA)

Director: Josefina Rotman Lyons

Summary: In the spring of 2017, four older choreographers, once seminal participants in the modern dance world and Broadway, started the monumental task of choreographing dances with a diverse group of New York seniors, most of whom had never danced on stage before. Over a few intense months, these choreographers, including the first black artist to have won a Tony award for choreography and a 92-year old former dance partner of pioneer Martha Graham, brought to life their ideas and sparked immense joy in the senior dancers. The film documents this unlikely event and, in the process, reveals the heroic dedication and determination of the choreographers and dancers, for whom age does not impede but molds.

RUTH WEISS, THE BEAT GODDESS

(USA)

Director: Melody C. Miller

Summary: This biopic focuses on an under-appreciated female poet from the Beat generation; interspersed with interviews, traditional documentary footage, and collaborative video interpretations of weiss's work. Dance, animation, and live music are all used to underscore weiss's poetry, grounded by the 90 year old writer's undeniably charismatic presence.

RIDE TILL I DIE

(Canada)

Director: Tony Rammos

Summary: For Ricky Ringer, bull riding was always his life, but he could never win a championship. Twenty-five years later, along with his son, Lil' Ricky, and fellow rider Ernie Courson, Ricky continues to ride and despite warnings from his wife, mother and his ailing body, Ricky is determined to chase that elusive title or die trying.

THE STORY OF PLASTIC

(USA)

Director: Deia Schlosberg

Summary: The Story of Plastic is a seething expose uncovering the ugly truth behind the current global plastic pollution crisis. Striking footage shot over three continents illustrates the ongoing catastrophe: fields full of garbage, veritable mountains of trash; rivers and seas clogged with waste; and skies choked with the poisonous runoff from plastic production and recycling processes with no end in sight.

THE WAR AND PEACE OF TIM O'BRIEN

(USA)

Director: Aaron Matthews

Summary: "The War and Peace of Tim O'Brien" follows O'Brien on his journey writing his next and last book. What makes wars worth fighting? How do we write about war? What are the obligations of citizens with respect to war? What are the after-effects of war on individuals and families? This intimate film about the struggles of a world-renowned war writer illuminates the everyday ties between duty, art, family, and the trauma of war.

WHIRLYBIRD

(USA)

Director: Matt Yoka

Summary: Soaring above the chaotic spectacle of '80s and '90s Los Angeles, a young couple revolutionized breaking news with their brazen helicopter reporting. Culled from this news duo's sprawling video archive is a poignant L.A. story of a family in turbulence hovering over a city unhinged. A pioneer of helicopter reporting, Zoey Tur, along with then-wife Marika Gerrard, forever changed broadcast news with their action-packed live coverage of monumental moments in the history of L.A., including the 1992 riots and the O.J. Simpson Ford Bronco chase in 1994. This intense work delivered a needed daily dose of adrenaline for Zoey (known then as Bob), but the thousands of hours spent chasing breaking news eventually took its toll. Through the meticulous digitization and restoration of Zoey and Marika's sprawling video tape archive, this documentary brings to life the candid memories and reflections delivered by Zoey and Marika - as well as their kids, including their daughter, MSNBC host and author Katy Tur. In Matt Yoka's feature debut, WHIRLYBIRD, he delivers an immersive L.A. epic through the intimate story of a relationship.

A WOMAN WHO CLIMBS TREES

(USA)

Director: Puja Kolluru

Summary: A Woman Who Climbs Trees is about a woman so passionate about becoming a scientist nothing in life could stop her. Her journey is a lesson and an inspiration to many young men and especially women struggling through a never-ending battle of career and family hurdles. We not only learn about her achievements but her resilience and the sleepless nights that got her there.

THE WOMAN WHO LOVES GIRAFFES

(USA)

Director: Alison Reid

Summary: In 1956, four years before Jane Goodall ventured into the world of chimpanzees and seven years before Dian Fossey left to work with mountain gorillas, 23-year-old biologist Anne Innis Dagg made an unprecedented solo journey to South Africa to study giraffes in the wild. In THE WOMAN WHO LOVES GIRAFFES Anne (now 86) retraces her steps, and with letters and stunning, original 16mm film footage offers an intimate window into her life as a young woman, juxtaposed with a first hand look at the devastating reality that giraffes are facing today. Both the world's first 'giraffologist', whose research findings ultimately became the foundation for many scientists following in her footsteps, and the species she loves have each experienced triumphs as well as setbacks. THE WOMAN WHO LOVES GIRAFFES gives us a moving perspective on both.

VIRTUAL REALITY FILMS

ARTHUR ASHE '68

(USA)

Director: Brad Lichtenstein

Summary: Previewed at the 2018 US OPEN, The Ashe '68 Virtual Reality Experience brings viewers into the intimate moments right before Arthur Ashe's historic 1968 US Open win, weaving together 360° video re-creations, archival material and evocative, never-before-seen 360° stop-motion and animation to tell the story. From his walk through the halls of the West Side Tennis Club, to his historic pre-match press conference to his winning match point, the viewer is right there, all presented in Virtual Reality. From the internal pressures he felt during the tumultuous cultural shift of '68 while walking down the halls of the West Side Tennis Club, to his historic pre-match press conference to his winning match point, the viewer is right there, immersed in Arthur's historic day, witnessing his defining moment as an athlete and his emergence as an activist on the world stage.

AFTER THE FALLOUT

(Switzerland/USA)

Director: Sam Wolson, Dominic Nahr

Summary: This unforgettable 360-degree experience pushes past traditional documentary tropes to evoke the reality and emotional gravity of life in Fukushima, ten years after the 2011 nuclear disaster. After the Fallout is an immersive mosaic that takes us through surreal environments in the exclusion zone, relives the struggle of the heroes who worked to prevent the meltdown, and explores the lives of families as they navigate a new world which they have had to adapt to.

ANIMALIA SUM

(Germany/Brazil/Iceland)

Director: Bianca Kennedy, Felix Kraus

Summary: A riff on the classic British nature documentary, this optimistic interactive VR experience takes on the future of evolution and the apparent inevitability of insects becoming humanity's main food source. Fashioned out of animated, watercolored, handcrafted miniatures, ANIMALIA SUM is a peculiar and surreal rabbit hole that takes audiences through a lesson of the medicinal and nutritional values of insects, as well as what it means to be an insect in the new food economy.

AZIBUYE - THE OCCUPATION

(South Africa)

Director: Dylan Valley

Summary: This provocative documentary explores the intersection of art, activism, and social justice in Johannesburg. When artists/activists Masello and Evan take up residence in an abandoned mansion in an affluent part of Johannesburg, they proclaim their occupation to be an artistic and political act in defiance of inequalities in land ownership in South Africa. Is it illegal squatting, or political protest? Do these disenfranchised individuals have a valid claim to land that centuries ago was stolen?

FLOWERS & A SWITCHBLADE

(USA)

Director: Nic Koller, Weston Rio Morgan

Summary: Flowers & a Switchblade is a real-life conversation between two millennial women who meet in the park for the first time. Advancing the form of 360-degree-video production, Nic Koller and Weston Rio Morgan create an immersive experience collaged together from iPhone footage, including videos shot on

a handheld rig that captures movement as a collage, to form a fractured, hyperstimulating, 360-degree cubist world. The result is a fascinating experience of the digital texture of everyday life.

TX-REVERSE 360°

(Austria/Germany)

Director: Martin Reinhart, Virgil Widrich

Summary: What is behind the cinema screen? What if the auditorium dissolves and with it the familiar laws of cinema itself? In the 1990s, Martin Reinhart invented a film technique called "tx-transform," which exchanges the time (t) and space (x) axes in a film. tx-reverse 360° shows this collision of reality and cinema and draws its viewers into a vortex in which the familiar order of space and time seems to be suspended.

VR FREE

(Italy)

Director: Milad Tangshir

Summary: There is conclusive research that indicates that VR not only aids memory recall but it can also create false memories. VR Free explores the proposition of what it means to give VR headsets to prisoners in an Italian prison, enabling them to virtually participate in a measure of spatial respite beyond their prison walls and thereby compensating for what some prisoners miss the most: new memories.

SHORTS PROGRAMS

ANIMATED COMPETITION SHORTS

EXT

(Canada)

Director: Adrian Bobb

Summary: In the snow-covered ruins of 24th century Toronto, AEGIS, a humanoid war machine, leads a team of five robotic digital-humans into the real world (aka the "E-X-T") to retake an enemy-occupied server installation vital to the survival of their digital homeworld.

FAITHY, HEY

(USA)

Director: Emily Hubley

Summary: Artist/filmmaker Faith Hubley drew a self-portrait in her journal every day for the last decades of her life. Decades later, her daughter revisits specific memories and dreams, and considers a relationship altered by death. Music by Georgia Hubley.

GRAB MY HAND: A LETTER TO MY DAD

(USA)

Directors: Camrus Johnson, Pedro Piccinini

Summary: In this retelling of his dad's relationship with his best friend, GRAB MY HAND is Camrus Johnson's gift to his grieving father and a message to all to cherish every second you have with the ones you love while you still can.

INTERMISSION EXPEDITION

(Netherlands)

Director: Wiep Teeuwisse

Summary: During a sunny holiday, a flock of tourists struggle to let go of their busy city lives, and the absence of daily tasks leaves them lost in an uncomfortable and frightening place. Once they learn to slow down, they may find some beauty in the here and now.

IRMARIA

(USA/Virgin Islands)

Director: Christopher Lawerence

Summary: Set in the Virgin Islands, A young girl and her mother, experience one of the world's most powerful hurricanes.

SEASON

(Spain, France)

Director: Giovanna Lopalco

Summary: A procession of men in white clothing walk a young woman in a strange procession. In this obscure landscape, a perpetual biological universe will transform her body.

SHADOWLAND

(Switzerland)

Director: Bellopropello

Summary: The diverse communication options offered by cell phone influence our social and consumer behavior. Excessive use changes the design of <head-down people's> life and lifestyle habits.

STAGE FRIGHT

(USA)

Directors: Lauren Jacobsen, Zachary Morawiec

Summary: A young boy, at his high school talent show is trying to play the piano when suddenly he comes face to face with his stage fright. It is now up to the boy to try and find the confidence to overcome his fears.

THERE WERE FOUR OF US

(USA)

Director: Cassie Shao

Summary: In a room, there are four people.

WARM REGARDS

(USA)

Director: Daniel Dinh

Summary: One cold winter day, a little girl decides to make a new scarf for her friend, the local mailman, but she soon discovers what is truly troubling him deep inside.

WATERS OF MARCH

(Canada)

Director: Elizabeth Lewis

Summary: Waters of March is the classic written by Tom Jobim and performed by jazz singer Stacey Kent. The delicately rendered animated drawings move at a rollicking pace transitioning back and forth from real to abstract images telling the ever changing story of loss and hope.

WHY SLUGS HAVE NO LEGS

(Switzerland)

Director: Aline Hochli

Summary: Slugs have a hard time keeping up with the pace of life in the city of insects. When a financial crisis hits, the industrious bees only see one solution.

UMBRELLA

(Brazil)

Directors: Helena Hilario, Mario Pece

Summary: While visiting a home for children, a little girl meets Joseph, a boy whose only dream is to have a yellow umbrella. This unexpected encounter awakens his memories of the past.

NARRATIVE COMPETITION SHORTS

BALLOON

(USA)

Director: Jeremy Merrifield

Summary: School can be tough and kids can be even crueler, Sam attempts to fly under the radar with both his sexuality and any attention he receives. This is all changed after he is beaten in a viral video and must decide if striking back is the right answer.

THE CHEF

(USA)

Director: Hao Zheng

Summary: In a future where robots blend in with humans to perform tasks like cooking, a restaurant brings in one of them for assistants to the dismay of the other employees. As the head Chef begins to grow close with William the robot he learns what being a human truly means.

THE GEEBLE SHOW

(USA)

Director: John Jeffery Martin

Summary: The very innocent and kind Geeble earns extra money to provide for his sister back home in his foreign country, while struggling to understand American society. When a burger order is made incorrectly it will be a test for the sensitive Geeble.

HE LEFT INSTRUCTIONS

(USA)

Director: Zeke Farrow

Summary: After the loss of their brother two estranged sisters show up to collect his belongings. What they find is his inspirational last instructions for them.

MY DINNER WITH WERNER

(USA)

Director: Maverick Moore

Summary: Actor Klaus Kinski and Oscar award winning director Werner Herzog made movie after movie together until one day it stopped. Now Kinski will stop at nothing short of setting up a fake date for Werner to get his revenge in this comedic reimagining of actual events.

PARACHUTE

(USA)

Director: Katherine Tolentino

Summary: Mei Ling a Chinese transfer to student to the US is met with frustration from Wendy another transfer student who has become Jaded by the experience. Tensions come to a violent head when

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION SHORTS

ALL CATS ARE GREY IN THE DARK

(Switzerland)

Director: Lasse Linder

Summary: Christian who calls himself Catman lives alone with his two cats Marmelade and Katjuscha and frequently takes them on walks as they perch on his shoulder. He now yearns to be a father so he decides to have his "daughter" Marmelade fertilized by an exotic over seas cat setting into motion an ordeal.

LAS VEGAS BENDER

(USA)

Director: Danny Corey

Summary: The story of Leticia Maldonado a neon light bender from Las Vegas who dreams big of one day creating the lights on the Las Vegas Strip. Inspired by her performer mother and the town she grew up in she will stop at nothing to reach her dreams.

LOVE BIRDS

(USA)

Director: Ashley Mosher

Summary: A filmmaker discouraged by her marriage and life back home meets Noe and indigenous amazonian painter who captures birds and to paint them. Inspired by the life and passion Noe has she begins to discover true belonging might be more internal and connected with nature.

STALLIONS

(USA)

Director: Elise Coker

Summary: A family living in the West Bank does their absolute best to raise Prized and award winning Arabian horses. The challenge is that being located in the West Bank all the facilities that would benefit the raising of a horse such as Vets are always out of reach.

A SYRIAN WOMAN | HUMAN STORIES FROM JORDAN

(Jordan, USA)

Directors: Louis Sayad DeCaprio, Khawla Al Hammouri

Summary: Years of conflict in Syria have left many of their women widowed and alone, now refugees many of them end up in places like Jordan. Discover how difficult of a situation, and the resilience that these women carry with them first hand.

WAX PAUL NOW

(USA)

Directors: Val Bodurtha, Rebecca Shaw, Sophie Mann

Summary: Paul Giamatti is an Oscar nominated actor who has appeared in many famous films, however why isn't he in Madame Tussauds Wax Museum. Three women campaign to change that and get Paul into the museum where he belongs.

NARRATIVE SHORTS 1

101 YEARS

(USA)

Director: Brett Dameron

Summary: When two women move into the same house 101 years apart, their collective experiences are shared. As they both slip further into depression their shared experiences bring them together in beautiful ways.

AVA IN THE END

(USA)

Director: Ursula Ellis

Summary: After dying in a very embarrassing way, a woman wakes up thousands of years in the future to find she is the last human. Brought back by artificial intelligence Ava must come to grips with her new nightmare.

THE BAKER

(USA)

Director: Austin Everett

Summary: A contract killer spends her day baking poisoned cupcakes to poison her victims. When her next big hit happens to be on the guy she is falling for she begins to question everything.

THE BALL METHOD

(USA)

Director: Dagmawi Abebe

Summary: Alice Ball, a 23 year-old African American Chemist living in 1915 Hawaii fights against racial and gender barriers to find an effective treatment for leprosy before Kalani, a 10-year-old patient is exiled into the leper colony of Molokai.

EXTRA SAUCE

(Germany)

Director: Alireza Ghasemi

Summary: Right before an actor is set to go on stage he has committed suicide. Now he talks with the Angel of Death over a meal about the events leading up this, and a potential second chance.

FOR HEMINGWAY

(USA)

Director: Peter Zachwieja

Summary: An uncle communicates with his estranged niece through old cassette tapes after he has passed away. Providing both closure for her and her mom who is responsible for the estranged situation.

I ONLY MISS YOU WHEN I'M BREATHING

(USA)

Director: Ashley Wren Collins

Summary: Inspired by tragically true events. A Husband and Wife struggle with rejoining society after the devastating loss of their son to a school shooting.

NO TRAVELER RETURNS

(USA)

Director: Ellie Foubi

Summary: A young African Immigrants experiences in America bring him to the edge of extremism. An intimate look into the pressures and fear that leads to violent acts.

THE RECEPTION

(USA)

Director: Sean Peter Sakamoto

Summary: After a wedding for two men is violently attacked by a hateful militia the fathers of grooms are now bunkered up underground. They discuss the lives of their son's and what could've been done to stop the rising hate.

SIGNAL PROBLEMS

(USA)

Director: Adam Volerich

Summary: Public transportation, especially subways, are notoriously unreliable. Watch as the voice actor for the subway tries and succeeds at making it even more confusing in this comedy.

STILL HAPPY

(USA)

Director: Fred Berner

Summary: One man makes it a quest to seek out George "Happy" Haliday the last signature he needs from the 1962's New York Mets. He journeys to Delray Beach with the baseball his father has caught so many years ago to obtain the only missing signature from the roster who played that day in 62.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS 1

A CUT ABOVE

(USA)

Director: Kate Houle

Summary: Logging is a big part of the culture of the Midwest, so much so that games and competitions have arose around it. Watch the diversity in the world of competitive logging and the families and cultures that have grown from it, and the heros it has created!

FAR FAINT LIGHTS

(Spain)

Director: Paolo Aguilar Boschetti

Summary: Tradition is tradition and for the 4 elderly brothers of a small spanish town that has long since been abandoned. Helping eachother to survive in this ghost town the brothers stick together for their ancestral home which has now become and ancestral town.

INTO THE LIGHT

(United Kingdom)

Director: Michael Volpe

Summary: Three British Forces Veterans find peace and escape from the PTSD they struggle with daily through Opera. Through the Opera they are able to find escape and passion in this heavily inspiring documentary

MOTORCYCLE MAN

(USA)

Director: Daniel Lovering

Summary: Dave Roper has become a Hero in the world of Motorcycle racing since starting in 1972. Now 48 years later we look at the life and accomplishments in retrospective of a man who truly never slowed down.

THE TALL BIKE JOUST

(USA)

Director: Sam Frazier, Jr.

Summary: Every year a local Bicycle shop puts on the the TALL BIKE JOUST an event just as insane as it sounds. Multiple contestants sit on top of high mounted bikes to joust each other all in an effort to provide benefit for the at risk kids in their town.

MIDNIGHT SHORTS

CONSPIRACY CRUISE

(USA)

Director: Brad Abrahams

Summary: On a conspiracy theory themed cruise the host begins to question that maybe the grand conspiracy is the lack of one at all. As tension rises and mysterious events start to go on in the background the passengers of the cruise start to accuse the host of being in on all the "conspiracies".

THE KING CRAB

(Brazil)

Directors: Enock Carvalho, Matheus Farias

Summary: A corrupt brazilian businessman begins to find crabs everywhere as he begins development on a new building. Warned of the crabs being a bad omen associated with death he continues, crabs beginning appearing literally everywhere as he begins to take on a mutation.

THE HELPING HAND

(USA)

Director: Brenden Hubbard

Summary: Parents have become to reliant on the raising of children using technology. When a new baby monitor begins speaking to their child they are too oblivious putting to much faith on the new technology to notice anything insidious occurring.

THE HISTORY OF MONSTERS

(USA)

Director: Juan Pablo Arias Munoz

Summary: In a Post apocalyptic world overrun by horrifying monsters a women who has already delt with abuse struggles to accept a new man into her house. Caught between desire for human touch and a bit more, and the distrust that have built up over the years she must figure out the right approach.

LYCANTHROPY (2020)

(UK)

Director: Alexander Black

Summary: Struggling everyday against the forces of evil in the world gives Detective Mark Kessler a reason to go on despite losing everything else. Now that he is searching for a missing girl in the dark

streets of london he begins to realize that his assumptions of evil in the world might be spot on and that might be a bit more evil than he thinks.

WAFFLE

(USA)

Director: Carlyn Hudson

Summary: In a society that has become isolated, Kerry the heiress to a Waffle company based fortune hires friends to attend sleepovers with. The friendships she purchases are never deep enough, and Kerry takes it into her own hands to create something "meaningful".

WASH

(Sweden)

Director: Kiggs

Summary: A demonic force in this guise of a stuffed rabbit tricks a mother into doing the unthinkable. But has she finally solved her problem or is this just another truly horrific trick on her at the expense of the most important thing in the world.

NYU SHORTS

THE ARTISAN

(Cuba)

Director: Adrian Cardenas

Summary: A year after his wife's death, Daniel sees her impact on every place and face in his small Cuban community.

DESEO

(USA)

Director: Chloe Wallace

Summary: Does Selene want to selflessly be WITH a woman in need, or selfishly beCOME her?

FRIENDS LIKE THAT

(USA)

Director: Francesca de Fusco

Summary: Familiarity and proximity reignite chemistry when Maia stays at an ex-girlfriend's after a breakup.

REAL TALK

(USA)

Director: Artemis Shaw

Summary: Despite #MeToo, a victim's courageous confrontation is hijacked to fuel an abuser's self-aggrandizement.

WHITE WEDDING

(USA)

Director: Daliso Leslie

Summary: Racial injustice and cultural erasure weigh on a black man marrying into a white family.

YOUTHFEST SHORTS

THE CHEF

(USA)

Director: Hao Zheng

Summary: In a future where robots blend in with humans to perform tasks like cooking, a restaurant brings in one of them for assistants to the dismay of the other employees. As the head Chef begins to grow close with William the robot he learns what being a human truly means.

WARM REGARDS

(USA)

Director: Daniel Dinh

Summary: One cold winter day, a little girl decides to make a new scarf for her friend, the local mailman, but she soon discovers what is truly troubling him deep inside.

FLORIDA SHOWCASE SHORTS 1

AND-1139

(USA)

Director: Parker Alexander Meyers

Summary: Can personality be programmed? Chemistry coded? Or are feelings not born of biology less real?

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

(USA)

Director: Dylan Redford

Summary: Dylan spirals into a paranoid white-male victim/hero fantasy while developing an Active Shooter EAP.

HER PLACE

(USA)

Director: Kathryn Parks

Summary: A modern couple's reality is disparately narrated with the words of "The Good Wife's Guide".

OUT LAST CHANCE: PRESERVING CAPE CANAVERAL

(USA)

Director: Jared Brown

Summary: USF and the 45th Space Wing work together to preserve historical NASA launch sites.

PIE CAR

(USA)

Director: Sage Hall

Summary: Filmed inside a historic Sarasota train car, "Pie Car" imagines the storied circus melodramas its walls would have once housed.

RECONCILE

(USA)

Director: Austin Gorski

Summary: Can a priest reconcile the requirements of confessional privilege with the demands of his conscious?

T

(USA)

Director: Keisha Rae Witherspoon

Summary: A documentary-form narrative about mourners at Miami's annual "T Ball" remembering lives lost.

TINGLE MONSTERS

(USA)

Director: Alexandra Serio

Summary: Anonymous male viewers dismiss the gravity of a female vlogger's peril, instead baselessly sexualizing her predicament.

WETMAN

(USA)

Director: Cameron Greco

Summary: He's the superhero you never knew you needed and soon won't want to live without!

FLORIDA SHOWCASE SHORTS 2

iCOME! (eat)

(USA)

Director: Lizette Barrera

Summary: A Latinx student yearns for homogeneity until an educator teaches her to embrace her cultural uniqueness.

ALL THE WRONG THINGS

(USA)

Director: Chelsea Gonzalez

Summary: Despite kind intentions, endearingly awkward Willy says literally all the wrong things when talking to Lucy.

DIVA & ASTRO

(USA)

Director: Angel Barroeta

Summary: Shot from atop a telephone pole, this one-take wonder watches a neighborhood's day unfold.

LA VISITA

(USA)

Director: Pedro Cohen

Summary: Despite hard fought battles, will Sergio lose the war for his stability to Lucifer himself?

LANDLESS

(USA)

Director: Joshwa Walton

Summary: "Immigrating"... "returning home"... Marco wonders if those he departs from just see him as "leaving".

MAN ON THE BEACH

(USA)

Director: Zachary Murray

Summary: What hopes daily draw a homeless man's gaze from his beachside camp out to the water?

SAVING PARADISE: ARTISTS WITH A CAUSE!

(USA)

Director: Lynn Marvin Dingfelder

Summary: Protesting with paintbrushes, three women infuse activism with art to preserve Florida's historic cottages.

(YOU'LL MAKE IT IN) FLORIDA

(USA)

Director: Phil Chernyak

Summary: When a magazine ad comes to life, a depressed English teacher (and her dog) embark on a wild ride through the wonders of the Sunshine State.